VISA INFORMATION

Marine Biology and Terrestrial Ecology
University of Queensland, Spring 2012

VISA OPTIONS

There are a few different options to consider when applying for your visa. Since your program is less than three months long, you do not need a student visa. You will, however, need a tourist visa. Review the options for the tourist visa carefully and choose the best option for your travel plans.

If you are a non-U.S. Citizen

Visit the website for the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship and do some research to determine if there are any special entry requirements that apply to your country of citizenship. As entry requirements can differ greatly by country of citizenship, start your research early to find out what you need to do. Contact the Australian Embassy in Washington D.C. if you are uncertain about your ability to enter Australia (scroll to end).

Staying after the program? Traveling before it? Apply for the Tourist Visa (subclass 676)

If you plan to travel in Australia before or after the program you are advised to obtain the Tourist visa (subclass 676), which is a tourist visa lasting six months. This visa will cost $110 (AUD). Visit the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship at http://www.immi.gov.au/ and browse the relevant chapters on their website for detailed information. To read specifically about applying for the six month tourist visa,
- select “Visas, Immigration, and Refugees” from the menu on the home page
- select “Visitors” from the drop down menu
- select “Tourists” at the top of the Visitors page
- select “Visa Options” following the overview
- select “Tourist visa (subclass 676)” on the visa options page
- read the instructions and follow the prompts to begin your application

Staying for the UQ program only? Choose the Electronic Travel Authority (ETA)

If you do not plan to travel in Australia before or after your program, meaning you plan to arrive in Australia on your program start date and leave immediately after, you can apply for an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) rather than the six month tourist visa.

All you will need for the ETA is your credit card and passport information. Application for the ETA is available at http://www.eta.immi.gov.au/. Read through the links carefully; they provide information on the cost of the ETA, conditions, process, and eligibility. Once you have read the information thoroughly and feel confident that you understand the procedure, apply for your ETA. Most ETAs can be approved within a day, or you can come back to the website later to check the status. Your ETA info will also be sent electronically to your airline. When you check in at the airport, the staff will be able to verify that you are approved to enter Australia.

Some students prefer to obtain the ETA from the travel agent who booked the flight. If your travel agent does this for you, be sure to show the agent your passport. The agent will need to enter your passport details into the computer reservation system.

What about extending your visa once you get to Australia?

If you get an ETA rather than the six month tourist visa, but decide you would like to stay in Australia after the program is over, you still have the option to extend your stay. However, take note that extending your visa from within Australia will cost you $260 Australian dollars, while getting the six month tourist visa now will only cost you $110 Australian dollars. Visit the Department of Immigration and Citizenship at
http://www.immi.gov.au/ and browse the relevant chapters on their website for detailed information. To read specifically about extending your visa,

- select “Visas, Immigration, and Refugees” from the menu on the home page
- select “Visitors” from the drop down menu
- select “Tourists” at the top of the Visitors page
- from there you will see a bold heading “Extending Your Stay”, click the link below labelled “Tourist (e767) Visa - Online Applications”
- on this page you will find a chart under the bold heading “Start an Application”
- follow the prompts to the “Extending your stay in Australia” link and begin your application.

**Arrival in Brisbane**

When you arrive at the airport you will be asked to provide your residential address. You will receive your homestay assignment and address from the on-site staff in Queensland just prior to your departure, so carry this information with you and be ready to present it upon arrival.

**Further questions?**

If you still have visa questions after searching the above websites, please direct them to the Australian Embassy in Washington DC:

Embassy of Australia
Visa Section
1601 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington DC, 20036-2273
Toll Free: (202) 797-3000  Fax: (202) 797-3168
Visa Information: (905) 280 1437