Introduction to the Australian Student Visa
As a UCEAP participant in Australia, you must apply for and be granted a student visa, which must be valid for the duration of your program. The Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) offers online visa applications for U.S. citizens participating in a one- or two-semester academic exchange program.

Non-U.S. Citizens
If you are a non-U.S. citizen, read the DIAC website carefully and contact the Australian Embassy in Washington D.C. immediately to check your particular requirements to enter Australia and study there. The entry process for non-U.S. citizens may take much longer than for U.S. citizens, so allow ample time to research the requirements and complete them. As a UC exchange student who is not pursuing a degree from an Australian university, you are probably eligible for streamlined processing, but check with the DIAC to be 100% sure.

Cost of the Visa
It’s very expensive to apply for the Australian student visa. At the time of this posting, the application fee for the student visa described above was listed as $535 Australian dollars (approx. $585.00 in U.S. dollars at today’s exchange rate). Remember to include this item when budgeting your out-of-pocket expenses for time abroad. The most convenient way to pay your visa application fee is by credit card.

Special Note from the DIAC regarding Nov. 22 changes
The Australian Department of Immigration has added the following note to their website. This will not affect the majority of you, as most of you at the time of this posting do not have your “CoE” yet (see next page) and, therefore, cannot yet apply for your student visa.

“Changes to online lodgement services“

“We are making changes to our online lodgement services from 22 November 2013. The changes will affect all current un-submitted saved online visa applications. After this date, you will not be able to retrieve any un-submitted saved online visa applications and you will need to commence a new application. If you do not want to lose your saved applications you are encouraged to submit your online visa applications before 22 November. Please ensure you meet the relevant criteria for your visa application before submission“.

IF you have begun a visa application and cannot complete it/submit it before November 22, you may need to begin your visa application again after Nov. 22. We anticipate that this will apply to a very few of you, if any.

Timeline
For U.S. citizens -
U.S. citizens applying online should not apply too early. Under normal circumstances, and providing you are not required to complete a health exam, the online visa process does not usually take more than a couple of weeks from beginning to end. Applying the first week of December or even at the beginning of January should be adequate (unless you are planning a very early arrival in Australia for personal travel).

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To determine the dates of your arrival and departure, see the pull-down calendar tab on the relevant Participant’s page of the UCEAP website. Find the “Last Date to Arrive” and the semester end date (last exam date) at your host university.

You may begin the application process as soon as you have received the Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) from your host university (see below for an explanation of the CoE). Be aware, however, that applications lodged too far in advance of the start date will not be processed (begin no more than 124 days prior to the start of your program).

Terms and Acronyms

“CoE”
To use the online application you will FIRST need an electronic “Confirmation of Enrolment” (CoE) number, which will be issued to you by your host University. How do you get a CoE? You will be issued a CoE by your host university once you have a) received an offer of place (an acceptance letter) from your host University and have b) accepted this offer by returning an acceptance form to your Australian University.

“TRN”
After submitting your student visa application online, you’ll be assigned a transaction number (TRN). Keep track of the TRN, because this number, along with your passport number, allows you to check the status of your online visa application.

“OSHC”
You may come across references to the OSHC policy. This stands for the Overseas Student Health Cover. The OSHC is a requirement for all international students studying in Australia. Unless you are going to UNSW, this fee is already included in your EAP fees. (Students accepted to UNSW will need to actually enroll in this Australian insurance plan and submit the receipt to UNSW as proof of enrollment in the OSHC). Your host university will include a statement in your CoE saying that you will be covered by the OSHC while studying in Australia.

Assessment Level
The Assessment Level is based on what type of program you are going on and what country you are from. If you are a U.S. citizen going on EAP, then you are Assessment Level I. If you are not a U.S. citizen, read the immigration website carefully to understand your assessment level and your requirements to enter Australia and study there (consult the Australian Embassy in Washington, DC, if necessary). Dual citizens should also consult DIAC and/or the Embassy for details.

“GTE” Genuine Temporary Entrant Requirement
The Australian government has a need to know whether applicants are truly coming to study or are using student visas to achieve other purposes. The requirements for the “GTE” are outlined on this page of the Immigration Department’s website: http://www.immi.gov.au/students/_pdf/2011-genuine-temporary-entrant.pdf.

Student Subclass
Your Student Subclass is non-award (non-award/575 to be exact). What does that mean? In this context, a “non-award” type of educational program is one in which you will not be awarded a degree from an Australian University; your degree will ultimately come from UC. Non-award is your “main course of study”, when asked.

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Financial Requirements
The Australian government wants to be sure that international students coming to study Down Under have adequate financial resources during their studies. The amount of money that students are expected to have access to while abroad is shown in the chart on this page: [http://www.immi.gov.au/students/students/575-0/financial.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/students/students/575-0/financial.htm). You will only have to DECLARE that you have access to adequate funds (unless contacted by DIAC with a special request for verification). Review the linked chart above in case you have to enter an amount while applying.

The Application Checklist
The great majority of you will use the online application, and much of the documentation in the checklist will not be required (if applying online, ignore the checklist’s mention of the need to complete form 157A). Do be aware, however, that the visa processors at DIAC may, at any time, request more information if they think a case requires it. The checklist can be found at: [http://www.immi.gov.au/students/checklists/visa_575_1.pdf](http://www.immi.gov.au/students/checklists/visa_575_1.pdf).

If you do not need to submit the hard copy materials in the checklist, then what are you actually required to submit? What you must actually have in hand to begin your online application is:

- Your CoE number (see CoE description above)
- Credit card information for the visa processing fee
- A valid passport (you will enter your passport number in the online application)
- Your arrival and departure dates

Begin the Online Application
When you have your CoE, are ready to charge the visa application fee on your credit card, have established your program dates, and have your valid passport information ready to enter, you can begin your online visa application. Go to [http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/students.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/students.htm).

- You are applying outside Australia.
- Select “First student visa” from the right hand column of the chart.
- Once you begin, the steps are fairly self-explanatory.

When your e-visa is granted, we highly recommend that you print out a copy of the approval notification, keep it with your passport, and take it with you when you travel.

😊 THE POSSIBLE SNAG:

The Health Clearance Procedure
During the e-visa application process it is possible, though rare, that you could be notified to complete a health clearance. This is unrelated to the EAP Health Clearance, and the EAP clearance and forms are not accepted for this purpose. If you find out that you have been notified, you must take action to get the exam and/or chest x-ray completed and submitted as quickly as possible. The required medical forms are available on the DIAC website. These forms can be filled out by any certified MD and should be sent to the address specified in the DIAC notice. Most students will not encounter this obstacle; however if you are notified that you must submit the health clearance and if you have problems with the medical forms, please contact UCEAP and we will try to help.

Review the health requirements on the DIAC site. If you suspect that you will be required to submit the health clearance, begin your application early!

*Edited October 2013*
Working while Studying
Your student visa will allow you to work part-time in Australia. You may work 40 hours every two-week period (a “fortnight”) while your courses are in session and unrestricted hours during any scheduled course break. More information can be found here: http://www.immi.gov.au/students/students/575-0/how-the-visa-works.htm.

Further Questions?
The instructions above outline the basics. You will need to read the DIAC website carefully. If you cannot find the answers to your questions on their website, direct questions about your student visa application to the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship at 1-613-216-7603. Complete contact information can be found here.

You may also contact the Australian Embassy in Washington D.C.

The Embassy of Australia in Washington D.C.
1601 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington DC, 20036-2273
Tel: (202) 797-3000