Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Applying for a Student visa (subclass 500)

From 2 October 2026, new rules change who can apply for a Student visa in Australia, and whether family members can be included.

YOU MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY IN AUSTRALIA OR ADD FAMILY MEMBERS TO YOUR VISA



If you already have a Student visa

There are new rules on who can apply for another Student visa while in Australia.

Unless you are exempt, you must apply from outside Australia, and be outside Australia when the visa is granted.



If you hold a different temporary visa

There are new rules on who can apply for a Student visa or Student Guardian visa while in Australia.

You may need to apply from outside Australia, and be outside Australia when the visa is granted.



If you want to include family

New rules mean you can no longer include family in your application, unless an exemption applies.

No one, including current Student visa holders, can add family after a Student visa has been granted.

CHECK WHAT APPLIES TO YOU

Some people can still apply for another Student visa while in Australia and/or add family members to their visa application.

You can check whether you are affected or if an exemption applies to you. Find out what you need to do next at Subclass 500 Student visa.