



Visa Options for Study, Research & Internships

Study

Scenario	Most Appropriate Visa	Notes
General study (over three months)	570-576 Student visa (various subclasses)	Option to work: 40 hours every two weeks after course starts; unlimited hours out of session (40 hour limit does not apply to work/activity that is an academic course requirement). 574 holders: unlimited work after course has started for masters by research or doctorate course. Visa validity: Generally, one month after course ends if study is less than ten months; two months if more than ten months; until 15 March (of the next year) if study has ended November-December (regardless of course length).
Short-term study (less than three months)	600 Visitor Visa – Tourist Stream	No work option. No more than three months study.

I'm planning to study at an Australian university and intern part-time, what is the best visa for me?

A student visa would allow an internship of up to 40 hours every two weeks while pursuing full-time studies and unlimited hours when out of session. Please note 40 hour limit does not apply to work or activity that is an academic course requirement.

Can I study in Australia for one semester then stay in Australia to intern for an additional 6-8 weeks on a student visa?

Students normally have a month after their studies to remain in Australia and can work for 40 hours every two weeks during studies and unlimited hours when out of session.

To remain in Australia to undertake an internship beyond the period of a student visa, the subclass 600 Tourist visa would be an option for a short unpaid internship if the applicant is a student at a foreign university and is gaining credit for the internship at their home university. The subclass 402 Research and Training visa in the Occupational Trainee stream could provide an option for paid positions (see Internship/Post-Study for details).

The subclass 400 Short Stay Activity visa is generally not appropriate for persons to undertake training in Australia as their main activity.
 A subclass 600 Tourist visa does permit the visa holder to work as a genuine unpaid volunteer, but only if an Australian resident would not otherwise be paid to do the work.

Academic Research/Training

Scenario	Most Appropriate Visa	Notes
Academics (Unpaid research and training - generally more than three months)	402 Training and Research - Research Stream	Requires Australian sponsor. Visa validity: The period of the position or up to 12 months.
Academic (Unpaid research as part of course lasting less than three months)	600 Visitor Visa – Tourist Stream	No work option. No more than three months research/study
Academic (undertaking unpaid research in field of expertise while not performing any “work”)	600 Visitor Visa - Business Stream	No work option. No more than 3 months research/study
Academic (Short term paid research or training/less than three months)	400 Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa	Not suitable where research is part of a course. Visa validity: Normally 42 days; three month maximum in exceptional circumstances.

What does General Research and Training include? Does it matter if they are paid by an Australian or US university?

General Research and Training includes all academic based research and training; individuals are not eligible to be paid a salary (living and travel expenses can be covered).

What about Endeavour Postgraduate Fellows?

Programs such as the Endeavour Postgraduate Fellow program would require a Student Visa.

Could unpaid research as a part of a course that is less than three months include PhD students?

Yes.

What if someone wants to perform research for more than three months? What visa do they apply for?

Graduates may be eligible for a subclass 402 Training and Research – Occupational Trainee Stream; this subclass may be suitable if the applicant has graduated within 12 months of their application’s lodgement.

Chaperoning

Scenario	Most Appropriate Visa	Notes
Chaperone (General)	400 Short Stay Activity (Temporary Work) visa	Visa validity: Up to three months. Stays of 42 days or more may require a higher level of scrutiny.
Chaperone (By teachers who are NOT teaching)	600 Visitor Visa - Business Stream	Stay Duration: Generally for the duration of the intended visit.

What about faculty who accompany a study abroad group who don't teach but who act as advisers and are paid by their US university?

This would be considered paid chaperones who are working. The SC400 Temporary Work visa would be the preferred visa for all chaperones.

Does it matter if chaperones are being paid by their US university or receive payments from an Australian education provider?

Chaperones that are being paid, whether in the US or in Australia, are considered to be working and should apply for a subclass 400 Short Stay Activity visa.

A subclass 600 Business visa would be appropriate only where a chaperone is not being paid and does not engage in teaching activity in Australia for remuneration

Volunteering

Scenario	Most Appropriate Visa	Notes
Volunteering	600 Visitor Visa – Tourist Stream	Volunteering = No remuneration, except meals, accommodation, and reimbursement. Stay Duration: Normally three months. Longer in exceptional circumstances up to 12 months.

Could this category apply to unpaid internships?

In addition to meeting the definition of volunteering set out in the notes above, the internship would have to comply with all Australian Labour Laws. More information is available at: <http://www.fairwork.gov.au/resources/fact-sheets/employer-obligations/pages/internships-vocational-placements-and-unpaid-work.aspx>

Internship/Post-Study Research/Training

Scenario	Most Appropriate Visa	Notes
Occupational Training (training or practical experience in the workplace required for you to obtain registration for employment in your occupation in Australia or in your home country; a structured workplace training program to enhance your existing skills in an eligible occupation; structured workplace training to enhance your skills and promote capacity building outside Australia)	402 Training and Research - Occupational Trainee Stream	Requires Australian Sponsorship. Visa validity: Period of the position; may be up to two years.
Training and Research (professionals, managers or government officials to undertake a professional development training program in Australia that has been arranged by an employer outside Australia)	402 Training and Research - Professional Development Stream	Requires Australian Sponsorship. Visa validity: The period of the position; may be up to 18 months.
Work/Paid internship or research for up to six months with a single employer/Study for up to four months	462 Work and Holiday Visa	USA and other eligible citizens; aged 18-30; one time use visa. Visa validity: 12 months from first date of entry.
Training incidental to a short stay for work purposes and does not lead to formal education qualifications	400 Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa	Visa validity: Up to three months. Stays of 42 days or more may require a higher level of scrutiny.