



Visa Options for the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023)

Overview:

This fact sheet is a general guide and explains the most common visa options for participants travelling to Australia to participate in the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023).

There are many visa options available to people wishing to visit Australia. The appropriate visa option will depend, amongst other things, on the person's purpose for visiting Australia.

The visa options provided below are based on the activities or roles identified by the organiser of the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023) for conference participants.

Attendees and speakers:

Attendees and speakers that ***will not be working, performing or otherwise be paid to contribute at the congress*** may be eligible to apply for the following visa options:

Visitor (subclass 600)(Business stream) visa. For more information see:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/visitor-600/business-visitor-stream>

- Online visa application
- AUD\$150 visa application charge (VAC)
- Permits a stay up to 3 months in Australia
- Applicants must have a supporting letter from the International AIDS Society or conference organisers providing the reasons for the visit
- Applicants must satisfy visa criteria and requirements. For information regarding supporting documents to be provided with this visa application see the information provided at the end of this document under the heading 'Supporting documents'.

Electronic Travel Authority – ETA (subclass 601). For more information, including eligible passport holders, see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601>

- Apply for an ETA using the Australian ETA app. For more information, see the 'step by step' guide on the ETA webpage as provided above
- AUD\$20 service provider charge
- There is no VAC Permits a stay up to 3 months in Australia
- Applicants must have an eligible passport to apply for an ETA.

eVisitor (subclass 651)(Tourist Stream) visa. For more information, including eligible passport holders, see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/evisitor-651>

- Online visa application
- There is no VAC, or service provider charges
- Applicants must have a supporting letter from the International AIDS Society or conference organisers providing the reasons for the visit
- Permits a stay up to 3 months in Australia
- Applicants must have an eligible passport to apply for an eVisitor visa.

Attendees and speakers that ***will be working, performing or otherwise be paid to contribute at the congress*** may be eligible to apply for the following visa options:

Temporary Activity (subclass 408)(Invited Participant) visa (where there is an inviting Australian organisation). For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-activity-408/invited-for-other-social-and-cultural-activity>

- Online visa application
- AUD\$325 VAC
- Permits a stay up to 3 months in Australia
- Applicants must be invited by an Australian organisation to participate in an event, and must provide a letter of support from an Australian organisation

Temporary Work (subclass 400)(Short Stay Specialist) visa (where there is no inviting Australian organisation). For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-work-400>

- Online visa application
- AUD\$325 VAC
- Applicants must have a contract or other proof of their engagement
- Applicants must have access to enough money to support themselves and any dependents who travel with them during their stay in Australia

Foreign Government Representatives:

Foreign government representatives may be eligible for the Visitor visa options as provided for conference delegates.

The visa application charge (VAC) for the Visitor visa (subclass 600) may be waived for an applicant who applies in the course of acting as a representative of a foreign government and provides the department with supporting evidence. In most cases, such persons will identify themselves at time of application by presenting a diplomatic, or official, passport, however applicants can also provide other types of supporting evidence, such as a third person note of support from their government.

Exhibitors and Retail Vendors:

As the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023) is a specialised conference that is not open to the general public, international exhibitors may be eligible to apply for the following visa options:

Visitor (subclass 600)(Business stream) visa. For more information see:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/visitor-600/business-visitor-stream>

- Online visa application
- AUD\$150 visa application charge (VAC)
- Permits a stay up to 3 months in Australia
- Applicants must have a supporting letter from the International AIDS Society or conference organisers providing the reasons for the visit
- Applicants must satisfy visa criteria and requirements. For information regarding supporting documents to be provided with this visa application see the information provided at the end of this document under the heading 'Supporting documents'.

Electronic Travel Authority – ETA (subclass 601). For more information, including eligible passport holders, see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601>

- Apply for an ETA using the Australian ETA app. For more information, see the 'step by step' guide on the ETA webpage as provided above
- AUD\$20 service provider charge. There is no VAC
- Permits a stay up to 3 months in Australia
- Applicants must have an eligible passport to apply for an ETA.

eVisitor (subclass 651)(Tourist Stream) visa. For more information, including eligible passport holders, see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/evisitor-651>

- Online visa application
- There is no VAC, or service provider charges
- Applicants must have a supporting letter from the International AIDS Society or conference organisers providing the reasons for the visit
- Permits a stay up to 3 months in Australia
- Applicants must have an eligible passport to apply for an eVisitor visa.

Overseas Event Organiser:

Overseas event organisers, including International AIDS Society staff ***that will be working, or otherwise be paid to manage or contribute at the event, and where there is no inviting Australian organisation,*** may be eligible to apply for the following visa option:

Temporary Work (subclass 400) Short Stay Specialist visa. For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-work-400>

- Online visa application
- AUD\$325 VAC
- Applicants must have a contract or other proof of their work engagement for the conference
- Applicants must have access to enough money to support themselves and any dependents who travel with them during their stay in Australia
- Applicants must satisfy other criteria and requirements for this visa.

Temporary Activity (subclass 408)(Invited Participant) visa (*where there is an inviting Australian organisation*). For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-activity-408/invited-for-other-social-and-cultural-activity>

*Please note that a the letter of support from an Australian organisation is a legislative requirement for the **Temporary Activity (subclass 408)(Invited Participant) visa.***

Contract Worker:

A contract worker or specialist, including those required to build exhibition booths, or to set up specific technology, may be eligible to apply for the following visa option:

Temporary Work (subclass 400) Short Stay Specialist visa. For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-work-400>

- Online visa application
- AUD\$325 VAC
- Applicants must have a contract or other proof of their work engagement for the conference
- Applicants must have access to enough money to support themselves and any dependents who travel with them during their stay in Australia
- Applicants must satisfy other criteria and requirements for this visa

Media:

Journalists or other media personnel travelling to Australia to cover an event, at the invitation of an Australian organisation, **and where the production or broadcast is intended for Australian audiences** may be eligible to apply for a:

Temporary Activity (subclass 408)(Entertainment) visa. For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-activity-408/entertainment-activities>

- Online visa application
- AUD\$325 VAC
- Applicants must have a contract or other proof of their engagement
- Applicants must provide evidence that their sponsor or supporter has consulted with the relevant union or unions before engaging the applicant
- Applicants must have access to enough money to support themselves and any dependents who travel with them during their stay in Australia

Journalists or other media personnel travelling to Australia to cover an event, **where the production/broadcast is not intended for Australian audiences** may be eligible to apply for a:

Temporary Work (subclass 400)(Short Stay Specialist) visa. For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-work-400>

- Online visa application
- AUD\$325 VAC
- Applicants must have a contract or other proof of their work engagement
- Applicants must have access to enough money to support yourself and any dependents who travel with you during your stay in Australia
- Applicants must satisfy other criteria and requirements for this visa

Visas for Accompanying Family Members:

Accompanying family members of congress delegates may be eligible to apply for the following visa options:

- **Visitor (subclass 600)(Tourist stream) visa.** For more information see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/visitor-600/tourist-stream-overseas>
- **Electronic Travel Authority – ETA (subclass 601).** For more information, including eligible passport holders see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601>
- **eVisitor (subclass 651)(Tourist Stream) visa.** For more information, including eligible passport holders see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/evisitor-651>

Visas for minors or persons under 18 years of age:

The Department of Home Affairs must be satisfied when assessing visa applications for minors (applicants under the age of 18 at time of visa application) of parental consent from all responsible parent(s) or guardian(s) to the grant of an Australian visa. **Form 1229 - Consent to grant an Australian visa to a child under the age of 18 years**, will be required to be submitted as part of the application for a visa as evidence of this consent. **Form 1257 – Undertaking declaration**, will also be required for a person nominated as a person responsible for the support and general welfare of a person under 18 years of age.

Minors who are travelling without their parent and/or guardian may need to provide additional documentation with their visa application, even if they are travelling with other family members. For further information please see <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/form-listing/forms/1229.pdf>, and <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/form-listing/forms/1257.pdf>

Biometrics:

Visa applicants outside of Australia will need to provide biometrics when they apply for a visa that is part of the Australian biometrics program, and are from a country, that is part of the Australian biometrics program.

For information regarding Australia's biometric program including visas and countries that are part of the program, please see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/biometrics>

Visa Application Process and Processing Times:

Processing times may be impacted by changes in application volumes, seasonal peaks, complex cases, and incomplete applications.

Visa applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and actual processing times can vary due to individual circumstances including:

- whether the applicant has lodged a complete application, including all necessary supporting documents and paid associated visa application charges
- how promptly the applicant responds to any requests for additional information
- how long it takes to perform required checks on the supporting information provided
- how long it takes to receive additional information from external agencies, particularly in relation to health, character, and national security requirements
- when the application is lodged taking the current global visa processing times into account

Visa applications should be lodged at least 6 to 8 weeks prior to an event participant's intended date of travel to Australia.

Obligations of visa holders:

Visa holders must comply with their visa validity and visa conditions while in Australia. When granted an Australian visa, they are issued with a visa grant notice that explains the conditions of the visa, including the approved period of stay in Australia and entry requirements.

A visa may be cancelled if the visa holder breaches any of the conditions of the visa. Visa holders should carry a copy of their visa grant notice when travelling for their own reference.

It is the visa holder's responsibility to be aware of, and abide by, any conditions of the visa as explained in the visa grant notification. This includes the number of entries to Australia permitted under their visa, and the period of time they can remain in Australia. If the visa ceases while the holder is still in Australia, the holder will become an unlawful non-citizen and may be detained and removed from Australia. The visa holder may also be subject to an exclusion period, which could prevent further travel to Australia for a specified time.

Supporting Documents:

Please note that it is the responsibility of the applicant to lodge a complete visa application including all required documents. The department may decide a visa application without requesting further information from the applicant.

Applicants must include as much information as possible to support their applications including:

Genuine visitor documents:

Applicants should provide as much proof as possible to show they are visiting Australia as a temporary visitor only:

- proof they have enough money for their stay, and to leave Australia, such as:
 - itemised personal bank statements showing a 3 month period
 - pay slips
 - audited accounts
 - tax records
 - term deposits
 - credit card statements
- the applicant's plans while in Australia.

Applicants should show the department that they are a genuine visitor and have reasons to return home by providing:

- a letter from their employer stating they expect them to return to their job
- proof they are enrolled at a school, college or university in their home country
- proof they have close family members in their home country
- evidence of their right to return to their home country
- proof they own property or other assets in their home country

Business visitor documents:

Applicants should tell the department what business visitor activities they plan to do in Australia by providing:

- an invitation from a host organisation
- conference registration details
- a letter from your employer stating why you are visiting
- your plans for your stay and details of your Australian business contacts
- proof of your current employment and professional qualifications
- evidence your company is an active business, such as an annual report
- evidence of prior contact with Australian businesses

Conference participants applying for the **Visitor (subclass 600) Business stream visa** should provide additional information and documents to support their visa applications including, but not limited to:

- evidence of any international travel outside of their own country (for example, copies of visas and passport pages containing entry and departure stamps)
- information and evidence of attendance at similar events, conferences, or congresses of this type
- evidence of family composition overseas
- information and evidence of any property or assets they have in their own country.