



Resident Return visa (subclass 155 and 157)

Application Checklist (Thailand and Laos)

Who should apply for a Resident Return visa (RRV)?

The Resident Return visa (subclasses 155 and 157) is for current or former Australian permanent residents and former Australian citizens who want to travel overseas and retain their permanent resident status. This is a permanent visa that has a travel facility of up to five years from the date of grant (subclass 155) or 3 months from the date of grant (subclass 157).

You must be:

- an Australian permanent resident;
- a former Australian permanent resident whose last permanent visa was not cancelled;
- a former Australian citizen who lost or renounced your citizenship.

Departing Australia without a RRV may impact your permanent residency requirements for citizenship.

See: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/resident-return-visa-155-157>

Subclass 155 Resident Return visa

You might be able to be granted this visa with a 5 year travel facility if you have spent a total of at least two of the last five years in Australia as an Australian permanent resident or citizen (the 'residence requirement') (5 year travel facility).

You might be able to be granted this visa with up to 1 year travel facility if:

- you have substantial business, cultural, employment or personal ties of benefit to Australia, and:
 - you were a permanent resident or citizen when you last departed Australia and can show compelling reasons for any continuous absence from Australia of more than five years; or
 - you were a permanent resident or citizen in the last 10 years and can show compelling reasons for absence(s) over five years;
- you are a member of the family unit of a person who holds a subclass 155 visa, or who has also applied for a Resident Return visa and satisfies criteria for grant. To be a member of the family unit of another person you can be: his or her partner; his or her dependent child; his or her partner's dependent child.

Subclass 157 Resident Return visa

You might be granted a subclass 157 visa with a 3 month travel facility if all of the following apply to you:

- you lawfully spent at least one day but less than two years in the past five years in Australia immediately before you apply for this visa
- you were an Australian permanent resident or an Australian citizen the whole time you were in Australia
- there is a compelling and compassionate reason for leaving Australia.

If you have been outside Australia for more than three continuous months immediately before you apply, you must have a compelling and compassionate reason for the absence.

My family also need Resident Return visas; can they be included in my application?

You cannot include your family as depends on your application; they must apply for a visa in their own right and pay the applicable visa application charge (VAC).

How do I lodge my application?

Online lodgement

You can lodge your application online through ImmiAccount, which you can access via <https://online.immi.gov.au/lusc/login>.

If you lodge your application online through ImmiAccount, you **must** upload all supporting documents into the system **at the time** of lodgement.

Australian Visa Application Centre (AVAC)

Applications can also be lodged at an Australian Visa Application Centre (AVAC) in Thailand, operated by VFS Global, where your biometrics (generally photo and fingerprint) can be collected simultaneously. Applicants should make an appointment for the lodgement of a visa application or collection of biometrics at VFS Global.

Bangkok	Chiang Mai
The Trendy Office Building 28th floor, Sukhumvit Soi 13, Klongtoey-Nua, Wattana, Bangkok 10110 (NANA BTS station, exit 3) Telephone: 02 118 7100 Email: info.auth@vfshelpline.com	Siriphanich Building 6 th floor, 191 Huaykaew Road, Suthep, Muang, Chiang Mai (opposite MAYA Lifestyle Shopping Centre) Telephone: 02 118 7100 Email: info.auth@vfshelpline.com
Further information on the Australia Visa Application Centres in Thailand, please see: www.vfsglobal.com/Australia/Thailand	

Lodging from Laos

If you are lodging a visa application from Laos, you can lodge your application online through ImmiAccount. Some visa applications can be posted to the AVAC in Thailand, or you can visit the AVAC in person. More information about posting your application from Laos can be found on the VFS Global website here: www.vfsglobal.com/australia/Laos

How much will this visa cost?

There is a charge for this application. This will not be refunded if your application is unsuccessful, or if you decide to withdraw your application after you have lodged it.

For Australian Government fees, see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/visa-pricing-estimator>

What happens after I have lodged my application with an Australian Visa Application Centre (AVAC)?

Once you have lodged your application an AVAC, it is forwarded to the Department for assessment. The AVAC issues you with a receipt of your payment and tracking number so you can track your application.

Who will assess my application and how long will it take?

Applications lodged online are processed in Australia and not by the Embassy in Bangkok. We cannot assist with enquiries related to applications lodged online.

Global visa and citizenship processing times will be updated monthly, providing you with an indicative timeframe for processing applications. Processing times are impacted each month by changes in application volumes, seasonal peaks, complex cases, and incomplete applications. Processing times include applications lodged online and by paper.

For current processing times, please visit: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times>

If you wish to travel during a peak period such as February, March or April, we strongly encourage you to apply for your visa as early as possible, at least one month before your intended travel date.

Please note that we are unable to provide any updates on the progress of your application if it is within the global processing time.

Do not make arrangements to travel to Australia until you are advised in writing that you have been granted a visa. We are unable to expedite visa applications on the grounds of pre-booked travel commitments.

Should I provide original documents?

Do not provide original documents unless specifically requested. You should provide 'certified copies' of original documentation. Documents not in English must be accompanied by accredited English translations. 'Certified copies' are copies authorised, or stamped as being true copies of originals, by a person or agency recognised by the law of the country in which you currently reside.

For further information on certifying translating documents see: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/on-paper/certified-copy>

What will help me get my application processed faster?

You should ensure you lodge a complete application with all relevant information and supporting documents.

A decision on your application may be made without further requests for information.

Note: the Visa Application Charge (and any other associated service fees) will not be refunded if a decision is made to refuse to grant the visa because you did not satisfy the criteria for grant of the visa.

About your visa

We electronically record all visas issued to non-citizens providing them permission to travel, enter and/or remain in Australia. The Australian Government does not provide visa labels.

When you receive your Australian visa you are issued with a visa grant notification letter that explains the conditions of your visa including period of validity and entry requirements. You should retain this for your own reference and may wish to carry it with you when you travel as it contains important information about your visa. The information contained within the visa grant notification letter will help you check your visa details online using the Department's Visa Entitlement Verification Online service, known as VEVO.

Can I ask another person to deal with the Department on my behalf?

Australian privacy law prevents the Department from responding to enquiries from people not authorised by the visa applicant. This includes the person providing support to the application. If you want to authorise another person to be able to discuss your application with this office, or receive correspondence about your application, you must do so in writing. If you have not advised of an authorised recipient appointment in your visa application form you can:

- Submit a completed Form 956 or 956A which **must be** signed by the both applicant and authorised person, or,

- Advise the Department in writing (for example, by email or letter) and include the name and address of the authorised recipient.

For further information on appointment an authorised recipient visit: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/overview>

For more information on appointing a Migration Agent visit: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/using-a-migration-agent>

Application Document Checklist

You must provide all relevant documents when you apply. Some documents could take time to obtain. You should have them ready and submit them when you apply. We can make a decision using the information you provide when you lodge your application. It is in your interest to provide as much information as possible with your application.

This application document checklist details the information and supporting documents (personal, health and character) required to assist with the lodgement of a complete application.

You may also need to provide additional information if the Department requests it.

If you lodged online, you should submit (upload) additional documentation online via your ImmiAccount. To attach documents to your application, please login to your ImmiAccount, find the application details page and click on the Attach Document button on the right hand side of the screen. **The maximum size for each file you attach is 5MB.** Additional information regarding the attachment process can be found here:

<http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Atta>

If you lodged your application at the AVAC, we will advise you how you can submit additional documents at the time it is requested.

Applicants that have spent at least a total of two years in the last five years in Australia as an Australian permanent resident:

- Form 1085 Application for a Resident Return visa (RRV) – please ensure that the application form is completed in English and signed by you, the applicant.
- Visa Application Charge. See: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/visa-pricing-estimator>.
- If your name has changed since you were last a permanent resident; a certified copy of evidence of the change of name.
- Evidence of current or former permanent visa.

Applicants that have spent more than one day but less than two years in the last five years in Australia as an Australian permanent resident:

- All of the above* AND
- Documents to demonstrate that you have substantial ties to Australia. These could be business, cultural, employment or personal ties.
- A statement outlining the documents you have attached and a description of the nature of the ties and how they are of benefit to Australia
- Examples of documents that may demonstrate business ties with Australia;
 - company reports defining your role and authority
 - business transactions
 - partnership or joint venture agreements
 - contracts showing your signature
 - business or personal records.
- Examples of documents that may demonstrate cultural ties with Australia;
 - publications written by you
 - contracts
 - evidence of membership of cultural associations
 - newspaper articles about you
 - programs listing your artistic or cultural performances.
- Examples of documents that may demonstrate employment ties with Australia;
 - letter of offer from employers
 - employment contracts
 - recent official documents such as group certificates
 - employee identification or security pass.

- Examples of documents that may demonstrate personal ties with Australia;
 - birth certificates, citizenship certificates or evidence of permanent residence of close family members who reside in Australia
 - proof of children attending school in Australia, such as school reports
 - proof of relationships with those close family members who reside in Australia
 - evidence of ownership of property in Australia, such as rates notices or property
 - contracts

Applicants that have been absent from Australia for a period of more than five years:

- All of the above* AND
- A statement demonstrating a compelling reason for any continuous absence of more than five years.

Immediate family members of a family group where the family head holds, or has applied for, a Resident Return (subclass 155 or 157) visa;

- current proof of relationship
- certified copy of the family member's valid Resident Return (subclass 155 or 157) visa or evidence that the family has lodged an application for a Resident Return (subclass 155 or 157) visa.

Department of Home Affairs

Australian Embassy, Bangkok

www.thailand.embassy.gov.au