

AIDS 2014
Visa Information for Delegates

All visitors to Australia must have a valid visa before boarding their plane regardless of the length of stay.

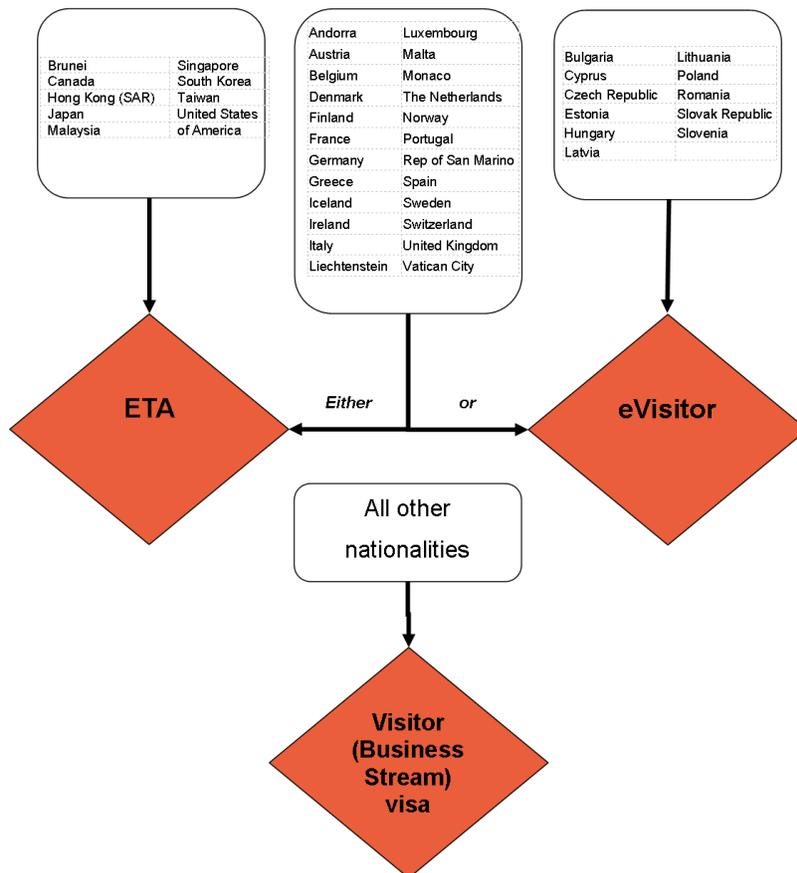
The conference organizers strongly recommend that potential delegates visit the website of the Australian embassy/consulate in their country as soon as possible to learn about the specific Australian immigration processes and timing that will apply to them. It is the delegate’s responsibility to obtain the appropriate visa and the conference is unable to intervene in the process.

Delegates should apply for the visa at least two months before travelling to Australia (i.e. mid-May 2014).

Various processes are available depending on your nationality, purpose of travel and eligibility:

- [eVisitor](#)
- [Electronic Travel Authority \(ETA\)](#)
- [Visitor \(Business Stream\) visa \(subclass 600\)](#)

To determine which visa is correct for you please consider the following:



To find out which process you should follow you can use the Find a Visa:
<http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/Find-a-visa.aspx>.

The conference will share registration details with the immigration authorities to facilitate the visa application process. Delegates can also obtain a letter of invitation from the conference which can be submitted with their visa application. More information is available at: <http://www.aids2014.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=627>.

This document also includes information regarding:

- [Health requirements](#) (full information is available [here](#))
- [Character requirements](#)
- [Visa approval and denial](#)
- [Arriving in Australia – Immigration](#)
- [Arriving in Australia – Customs and Border Protection](#)
- [Travelling with Medication](#)
- [Yellow Fever Certificates](#)
- [Questions](#)

eVisitor

The eVisitor allows visitors to travel to Australia for short term business or tourism purposes for up to three months. eVisitor applications are free and are available to passport holders from the European Union and a number of other European countries.

Individuals holding citizen passports of the following countries are eligible to use the eVisitor process:

Andorra	Lithuania
Austria	Luxembourg
Belgium	Malta
Bulgaria	Monaco
Croatia	The Netherlands
Cyprus	Norway
Czech Republic	Poland
Denmark	Portugal
Estonia	Romania
Finland	Republic of San Marino
France	Slovak Republic
Germany	Slovenia
Greece	Spain
Hungary	Sweden
Iceland	Switzerland
Ireland	United Kingdom – British*
Italy	Citizen
Latvia	Vatican City
Liechtenstein	

Notes:

* Holders of British National Overseas (BNO), British Dependent Territories Citizen, British Overseas Citizen, British Protected Person and British Subject passports are not eligible to apply for an eVisitor. More information on appropriate tourist visas is available at <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visit/Pages/Visit.aspx>.

Australian citizens who hold dual or multiple nationalities are not eligible to apply for an eVisitor and should use an Australian passport to enter or leave Australia, even if they use a foreign passport overseas.

The online eVisitor application form is available at:

http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visita/evisitor.htm.

An eVisitor is an electronically stored authority for travel to Australia. You can apply for an eVisitor online and do not need to visit a departmental office. You will not receive a stamp or label in your passport, however you will be provided with a confirmation email for your records.

Your eVisitor is linked to the passport number you use in your application and you must use the same passport to travel to Australia.

Conditions of this authority include:

- You must not engage in any studies or training for more than three months;
- You must be free from tuberculosis at the time of travel to, and entry into, Australia;
- You must not have any criminal convictions, for which the sentence or sentences are for a total period of 12 months duration or more (whether served or not), at the time of travel to, and entry into, Australia.

A breach of these conditions may result in your eVisitor being cancelled and you may have to leave Australia.

If you apply for an eVisitor for business visitor purposes, you must not work in Australia other than:

- making general business or employment enquiries;
- investigating, negotiating, signing or reviewing a business contract;
- activities carried out as part of an official government-to-government visit;
- participating in conferences, trade fairs or seminars, as long as you are not being paid by the organizers for your participation.

If you apply for an eVisitor for tourist purposes:

- You must not work whilst in Australia. Limited volunteer work may be acceptable.

There is no fee applicable for this type of visa. For updated information on fees please see: <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/990i.pdf>.

It is recommended that you take out health insurance as you will not be covered by Australia's national health scheme, unless your country has a reciprocal health care agreement with Australia. Additional information on health care for visitors to Australia is available at: <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/>.

More information is available at:

- Eligibility: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/651.aspx>.
- Application Form: http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/evisitor.htm.

Electronic Travel Authority (ETA)

The ETA allows people to visit Australia for short term tourism or business purposes of up to three months. An ETA is available to passport holders from over 30 countries, regions and locations. For full information see:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/601.aspx>

The following countries are able to apply for an ETA while outside Australia

Andorra *	Malaysia
Austria *	Malta *
Belgium *	Monaco *
Brunei	The Netherlands *
Canada	Norway *
Denmark *	Portugal *
Finland *	Republic of San Marino *
France *	Singapore
Germany *	South Korea
Greece	Spain *
Hong Kong (SAR)**	Sweden *
Iceland *	Switzerland *
Ireland *	Taiwan * ***
Italy *	United Kingdom - British Citizen *
Japan	United Kingdom - British National (Overseas) *
Liechtenstein *	United States of America
Luxembourg *	Vatican City *

Notes:

- * Individuals from these countries are not able to apply directly online but can apply through a travel agent, airline, specialist service provider or an Australian visa office.
- ** A Hong Kong Document of Identity (HKDI) cannot be used to apply for an ETA. Residents of Hong Kong require a citizen passport to apply for this visa.
- *** Holders of Taiwan passports in Taiwan can apply through an approved ETA travel agent in Taiwan.

The online ETA is available at: www.eta.immi.gov.au.

You are advised to apply for your ETA at least two weeks before your proposed date of travel.

Conditions of this authority include:

- You must not engage in any studies or training for more than three months;
- You must be free from tuberculosis at the time of travel to, and entry into, Australia;

- You must not have any criminal convictions, for which the sentence or sentences (whether served or not) are for a total period of 12 months duration or more, at the time of travel to, and entry into, Australia.

A breach of these conditions may result in your ETA being cancelled and you may have to leave Australia.

If you apply for an ETA for business visitor purposes, you must not work in Australia other than:

- making general business or employment enquiries
- investigating, negotiating, signing or reviewing a business contract
- activities carried out as part of an official government-to-government visit
- participating in conferences, trade fairs or seminars, as long as you are not being paid by the organizers for your participation.

If you apply for an ETA for tourist purposes:

- You must not work whilst in Australia. Limited volunteer work may be acceptable.

Please check the website of the Australian Embassy in the country where you plan to lodge your application, as additional local requirements may apply.

There is an AUD20 service fee only for an online application for each ETA applicant. There is no fee applicable for this type of visa if applied through a travel agent, airline, specialist service provider or an Australian visa office, although these agents may charge the applicant for their service.

If you have had any criminal convictions in any country, you may want to consider applying for a Visitor visa (subclass 600), rather than an ETA. If arriving on an ETA with criminal convictions, you could be refused entry into Australia.

It is recommended that you take out health insurance as you will not be covered by Australia's national health scheme, unless your country has a reciprocal health care agreement with Australia. Additional information on health care for visitors to Australia is available at: <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/>.

More information is available at:

- Eligibility: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/601.aspx>.
- Application Form: <http://www.immi.gov.au/e visa/eta.htm>.

Visitor (Business Stream) visa (Subclass 600)

Passport holders not eligible for an eVisitor or an ETA can apply for the Visitor (Business Stream) visa (Subclass 600).

Full information is available at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/600.aspx>.

Application: Passport holders from a number of countries are eligible to apply online:

Afghanistan

Guyana

Papua New Guinea

Albania	Haiti	Paraguay
Algeria	Honduras	Peru
Andorra	Hong Kong (British National	Poland
Antigua and Barbuda	(Overseas))	Portugal
Argentina	Hong Kong SAR	Qatar
Austria	Hungary	Republic of Korea
Azerbaijan	Iceland	Romania
Bahrain	Iran	Saint Lucia
Barbados	Iraq	Samoa
Belarus	Ireland	San Marino
Belgium	Israel	Serbia
Belize	Italy	Singapore
Bolivia	Jamaica	Slovak Republic
Brazil	Japan	Slovenia
Brunei	Jordan	Solomon Islands
Bulgaria	Kazakhstan	Spain
Canada	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	St Kitts and Nevis
Chile	Kiribati	St Vincent and Grenadines
Colombia	Kuwait	Sudan
Costa Rica	Latvia	Suriname
Croatia	Lebanon	Sweden
Cuba	Libya	Switzerland
Cyprus	Liechtenstein	Taiwan*
Czech Republic	Lithuania	The Bahamas
Denmark	Luxembourg	The Dominican Republic
Dominica	Macau	The Marshall Islands
Ecuador	Malaysia	Timor Leste
Egypt	Maldives	Tonga
El Salvador	Malta	Trinidad and Tobago
Estonia	Mexico	Tunisia
Federated States of	Moldova	Turkey
Micronesia	Monaco	Tuvalu
Fiji	Montenegro	Ukraine
Finland	Morocco	United Arab Emirates
Former Yugoslav Republic of	Nauru	United Kingdom (British
Macedonia	Netherlands	Citizens)
France	Nicaragua	United States of America
Georgia	Norway	Uruguay
Germany	Oman	Vanuatu
Greece	Palau	Vatican City
Grenada	Panama	Venezuela
Guatemala		Yemen

*Must not purport to be an official or diplomatic passport.

Form: Online application: http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visas/e600.htm.

If you are not eligible to apply online, you should use Form 1415:
<http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1415.pdf>

The completed application form and documentation must be lodged at your nearest Australian overseas mission. Service Delivery Partners (SDP) provide visa application services in some countries: www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm.

Note that you may need to send your application and documentation to an office outside of your country.

Process: Full information: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/600.aspx>.

The current application fee is AUD130. Additional fees may be charged if an Australian Visa Application Centre (AVAC) or a Service Delivery Partners (SDP) is used.

You may need to pay other costs, such as the costs of health assessments and police certificates, or any other certificates or tests. You are responsible for making the necessary arrangements yourself.

Biometrics: You may be requested to provide biometrics as part of your visa application. This will involve you providing a 10-digit fingerprint scan and a facial photograph at collected at an Australian Visa Application Centre (AVAC) or an Australian Biometrics Collection Centre (ABCC). This is a quick, five minute process, but should be taken into consideration when applying.

For more information see:
<http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/biometrics/offshore/countries.htm>.

Documents: A checklist is available at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/600.aspx>. Original documents are **not** usually requested and visa applicants should only supply original documents if asked to do so. Instead you should provide '**certified copies**' of original documents, including your passport, with the visa application. 'Certified copies' have been authorized (or stamped) as being true copies of originals, by a person or agency recognized by the law of the country in which you live. All departmental offices outside Australia have a person who can certify or witness documents. You may have to pay for this service.

Delegates are recommended to hold a passport which is valid for **at least six months** from the date of entry into Australia.

Visa processing officers take a range of factors into account when assessing an application. The decision maker needs to be satisfied that the visa applicant is a genuine visitor to Australia, and that their personal circumstances encourage them to return home at the end of the proposed visit.

The visa processing officer also needs to be sure that the applicant has adequate funds for personal support during their stay in Australia. This requirement is to ensure the visa applicant is not be forced to break their visa conditions by seeking to work illegally in Australia. In assessing this requirement the processing officer may ask for evidence of funds, such as bank statements, letters from banks or other financial institutions or pay slips.

Scholarships, allowances, accommodation, food and transport can also be considered by the processing officer when they are assessing the visa application.

Delegates should submit their **letter of invitation** from the conference and any **other letters of support** from the conference secretariat (scholarship award letter, invitation to present, etc) and from their organization, institution or community.

The visa officers will have access to the AIDS 2014 registration database to verify delegates' registration to the conference.

Timing: The processing time will depend on what country you are applying from.

It is recommended that for both paper and online applications that you **apply at least 8 weeks in advance of travelling.**

Applicants may also be asked to attend an interview and to provide additional documentation. This information is outlined at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/visas/visitor/600/applicants.htm>.

Contacts: www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm.

More information: www.immi.gov.au/visas/visitor/600/applicants.htm.

Health Requirements

A specific factsheet regarding the Health Requirements can be accessed [here](#).

Character Requirements

For each of the visa categories there are certain 'Character Requirements'. Everyone who wishes to enter Australia must be assessed against the character requirements. A person will not pass the character test where:

- they have a substantial criminal record*
- they have been convicted of any offence that was committed while in immigration detention, during an escape from immigration detention, during a period where a person escaped from immigration detention, or if the person has been convicted of the offence of escaping from immigration detention
- they have, or have had, an association with an individual, group or organization suspected of having been, or being, involved in criminal conduct;

- having regard to the person's past and present criminal conduct, the person is found not to be of good character;
- having regard to the person's past and present general conduct, the person is found to be not of good character;
- there is a significant risk that the person will engage in criminal conduct in Australia, harass, molest, intimidate or stalk another person in Australia, vilify a segment of the Australian community, or incite discord in the Australian community or in a segment of that community, or represent a danger to the Australian community or a segment of that community.

* A person will fail the character test if they have a substantial criminal record where they have been:

- sentenced to death or life imprisonment;
- sentenced to a term of imprisonment for 12 months or more; or
- acquitted of an offence on the grounds of either unsoundness of mind or insanity and, as a result, the person has been detained in a facility or institution.

When deciding whether it is appropriate to refuse or cancel a visa, the decision-maker takes into account a wide range of information relating to the case, including:

- the protection of the Australian community;
- the nature and seriousness of the criminal record or the conduct of the person;
- and/or
- the impact of possible cancellation or refusal on the person and their family.

Further information: <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/79character.htm> and <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/character-requirements/>.

Visa Approval and Denial

If you apply **online** and your visa is approved, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection will send a notification of grant by letter or email. Please keep this notification with you when you travel to Australia as it provides:

- your visa grant number
- the validity date of your visa
- the visa conditions.

You will not have a visa label placed in your passport. Your visa and passport details are electronically recorded. When you check in to fly to Australia, the airline staff will electronically confirm that you have authority to travel to Australia.

Your visa is linked to the passport number you submitted with your application; therefore you must use the same passport to travel to Australia. If you do obtain a new passport, you must advise the department of the new passport details before you travel to Australia. Otherwise, you will experience significant delays at the airport and could be denied permission to board your plane.

If you apply **by mail** or **in person** and your visa is approved you may request to have a visa label placed in your passport detailing the visa conditions, however you will be

charged a fee. For more information on visa labels see <http://www.immi.gov.au/Help/Pages/Visa-Labels.aspx>

If your visa is **not approved**, the department will send you a notification letter or email advising you of:

- the reasons for the refusal
- your review rights
- the time limit for lodging an appeal.

You may be able to request a review of the decision by the Migration Review Tribunal. For more information see: <http://www.mrt-rrt.gov.au/>.

The AIDS 2014 registration fee minus a handling fee of USD 65 will be refunded after the conference if the visa was applied for in time and proof is shown that a visa could not be granted even though all requested documents were submitted. A refund for any additional items ordered can not be made. Refund requests must be made in writing and sent to the AIDS 2014 Registration Department, by email, no later than 25 July 2014. More information is available at: <http://www.aids2014.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=661>.

Arriving in Australia - Immigration

Everyone who arrives at an Australian airport must present their travel documents and Incoming Passenger Card (IPC) to officers in immigration clearance.

All travellers other than Australian and New Zealand citizens need to present the following documents to officers in immigration clearance:

- a valid passport or other acceptable travel document;
- a valid visa or authority to enter Australia (including electronic visas);
- a completed and signed Incoming Passenger Card, including health and character declaration. The Incoming Passenger Card will be given to you on the plane or be available at the entrance of the immigration area of the airport on arrival.

Anyone who arrives without a valid travel document, visa or authority to enter Australia, may be refused entry to Australia or delayed until their identity and claims to enter Australia have been confirmed. If a person does not meet immigration clearance requirements, they may be refused entry to Australia.

Further information about Incoming Passenger Cards is available at:

- <http://www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/border-security/travel/passenger-cards/>.
- Example passenger card: <http://www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/border-security/travel/passenger-cards/samples.htm>.

As part of immigration clearance processing, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service clearance officers will examine your travel documents and authority to enter Australia. Once your identity and authority to enter Australia are confirmed and any other information required is provided, the clearance officer formally clears you for entry to Australia.

If there are any issues surrounding your identity or authority to enter Australia, the matter is referred to immigration staff at the airport to resolve. Immigration officers may speak briefly with you to make enquiries about your travel plans, travel history, contacts in Australia, or other related details. This is very common and you should be prepared to be asked a few questions about yourself and your stay in Australia.

In some cases, a formal interview may be required to ascertain further information about your immigration status. The interview is conducted by immigration staff in immigration offices at the airport, and may be recorded. Non-English speaking travellers may be interviewed with the help of an interpreter. If a person does not meet immigration clearance requirements, they may be refused entry to Australia and removed as soon as practicable.

Arriving in Australia – Customs and Border Protection

After passing through immigration clearance, baggage can be collected, which may be checked by Customs and Border Protection or Quarantine officers.

On the Incoming Passenger Cards passengers need to declare all food, plants, animals, biological goods and medicines. This includes prescription medications, alternative, herbal and traditional medicines, vitamin and mineral preparation formulas. Some products require a permit or quarantine clearance and/or a letter or prescription from your doctor describing your medication and medical condition. A complete list of restricted and prohibited items is available at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/border-security/travel/>.

Your Incoming Passenger Card is a legal document. There are penalties for not filling in your Incoming Passenger Card properly and for making a false declaration. REMEMBER – IF IN DOUBT, DECLARE IT!

Your baggage may be x-rayed or examined by Customs and Border Protection or Quarantine to detect prohibited, restricted or dutiable goods and you may be questioned by officers.

In the passenger hall and quarantine area there are often dogs working to search for drugs and other prohibited or restricted goods as well as food, plant or animal material.

Further useful information is available in the Know Before You Go guide: <http://www.customs.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/GuideforTravellers-WEB2.pdf> (available in different languages at <http://www.customs.gov.au/knowbeforeyougo/default.asp>).

Tips

1. Complete your Incoming Passenger Card while you are on the aircraft – this will save you time when you land.
2. Have your passport and completed Incoming Passenger Card ready to give to a Customs and Border Protection officer at all times.

3. Declare on your Incoming Passenger Card all drugs and medicines, food, plants and animal products or other goods listed as restricted goods:
<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/travel/entering-australia/cant-take>.
4. Make sure you know Customs and Border Protection's duty-free concessions before you go shopping: <http://www.customs.gov.au/site/page4352.asp>.

Travelling with Medication

The Incoming Passenger card includes the question: *Are you bringing into Australia goods that may be prohibited or subject to restrictions, such as medicines, steroids, illegal pornography, firearms, weapons or illicit drugs?*

You need to declare medicines and substances which may be subject to misuse, abuse or dependence, for example steroids, opioid analgesics, cannabis or narcotic based medications. These products may be restricted or require a permit in order to be imported.

Further information regarding this will be available soon.

Some traditional medicines may contain endangered plant or animal products and these should be declared to Customs and Border Protection.

If you are carrying medications such as aspirin, paracetamol or Australian over-the-counter medications you do not need to declare these items to Customs and Border Protection when you arrive in Australia.

If you are carrying prescription medication you do not need to declare these provided you import no more than three months' supply. It is advisable that you carry a letter of prescription from your doctor in English describing your medical condition.

Additional information can be found through:
<http://www.customs.gov.au/site/page4224.asp>.

Information about OST and ARV provisions in Australia will soon be made available at:
www.aids2014.org.

Yellow Fever Certificates

The Incoming Passenger card includes the question: *Were you in Africa, South/Central America or the Caribbean in the last 6 days?* This is to ascertain whether you should provide a yellow fever certificate for inspection, or not.

Information on yellow fever can be found at:
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-publth-strateg-communic-factsheets-yellow.htm>.

The Australian Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA) is aware that the yellow fever vaccine is not recommended for people on some HIV medication and have assured the conference that not having the vaccination will not restrict individual's entry into Australia

(<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pubhlth-strateg-communic-factsheets-yellow.htm#10>). If you are arriving in Australia from a yellow fever declared country but do not hold a vaccination certificate you will still be permitted to enter Australia without one. On arrival in Australia, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) Biosecurity officers will reinforce the seriousness of the disease to you and provide you with a Yellow Fever Action Card. The card provides instructions on what you should do if you develop any symptoms of yellow fever in the six-day period following your departure from a yellow fever declared country.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding Australian immigration or customs please contact the embassy or visa office for your country: www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm.

Alternatively, please send your queries to: Visa@aid2014.org.

A webinar on immigration processes will be held by the conference secretariat on Thursday 27 March 2014. More information is available at: <http://www.aid2014.org/Default.aspx?pageld=699>.

Disclaimer

This publication has been produced by the International AIDS Society, acting as the conference secretariat, for the purposes of AIDS 2014. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection has reviewed the immigration related components of this publication, but notes information relating to visa products may change from time to time without notice. Please refer to the department's website for the most up to date information www.immi.gov.au/Pages/Welcome.aspx.