



Resident Return visa (subclasses 155 and 157)

Application Checklist (Thailand)

Who should apply for a Resident Return visa?

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 return to Australia as permanent residents. You might be able to be granted this visa if you are:

- 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.

A 'former Australian permanent resident' includes anyone who was recognised as a permanent resident of Australia under the migration arrangements that applied at the time they were in Australia.

Subclass 155 Resident Return visa

You might be able to be granted this visa if you:

- have spent a period totalling two years in the last five years in Australia as either an Australian permanent resident or citizen (the 'residence requirement').
- have not spent two of the last five years in Australia as a permanent resident or citizen, but can satisfy the processing officer that 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;
 - you were a permanent resident or citizen in the last 10 years and can show compelling reasons for absence(s) over five years;
- have not spent two of the last five years in Australia as a permanent resident or citizen, but are the partner or dependent family member of a person who holds a subclass 155 visa, or who has also applied for a Resident Return visa and satisfies criteria for grant.

Subclass 157 Resident Return visa

You might be able to be granted this visa if you:

- have lawfully spent at least one day in the past five years in Australia
- have spent less than two years in the past five years in Australia
- have been a permanent resident or an Australian citizen for the entire period spent in Australia
- can show a compelling and compassionate reason for having to leave Australia or, if you are outside Australia, for leaving when you did

If you have been living outside Australia for more than three continuous months immediately before applying, you must also show that you were absent for a compelling and compassionate reason.

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).

Where do I lodge my application?

All applications should be lodged in person at an Australian Visa Application Centre (AVAC) in Thailand or online at <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/155->

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

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

Once you have lodged your application at AVAC, it is forwarded to the Australian Embassy in Bangkok. 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?

The time taken for applications to be assessed fluctuates based on the number of applications received at any one time by the department.

The current service standard for all Resident Return visa applications lodged through an AVAC, online or by mail is **2 weeks**.

What will help me get my application processed faster?

You should ensure you lodge a complete visa application. A complete visa application is one that provides all the information necessary for a decision to be made.

While the department may ask you to provide more information in order to determine whether you meet the criteria for grant of the visa, a decision on the visa application may be made solely on the information provided at the time of application.

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.

Travel facility

If you have lived in Australia for at least two years of the past five years and are granted a subclass 155 Resident Return visa it will have a five year travel facility from date of grant. If you are granted a subclass 155 Resident Return visa on the basis of your substantial ties of benefit to Australia, then your travel facility will be for a year from the date of the grant. If you are granted a Subclass 155 Resident Return visa because you are a family member of a person who holds a subclass 155, or who has also applied for Resident Return visa and satisfies criteria for grant, then your travel facility will be for either a year or less than a year from date of grant. If you are granted a subclass 157 visa the travel facility will be for three months from date of grant.

Can I ask another person to deal with the Embassy 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 should indicate this by using a Form 956 or 956A which **must be** signed by both applicant and authorised person.

Without a Form 956 we cannot talk about your case to anyone else, including your partner or family members.

See: <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Usin/Getting-help-to-apply-for-a-visa>

Online applications

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

If you are requested to provide more supporting documentation for your application, you should submit (upload) supporting documents online via your ImmiAccount. To attach documents to your visa 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.**

For more information on ImmiAccount, please visit <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Immi>

Additional information regarding the attachment process can be found here:

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

Application Document Checklist

This application document checklist details the information and supporting documents required to assist with the lodgement of a complete application with the department. You may also need to provide additional information and documentation after you have made your application if the department requires it.

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: <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Fees>
- 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.

Other important things to note:

- **Do not** provide original documents unless requested. You should provide 'certified copies' of original documentation.
- **Do not** book airline tickets for travel to Australia unless your visa has been granted. The Department cannot assume responsibility for meeting deadlines imposed by your proposed travel arrangements.

For further detailed information, please also visit the Department's main website:
<http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/155->

Department of Immigration and Border Protection

Australian Embassy, Bangkok

www.thailand.embassy.gov.au