

Visa Information for Overseas Conference Participants

The following information is provided to assist international participants, attendees, speakers, and presenters in identifying the appropriate Australian visa options for attending the 15th Regional SOMP Meeting in Kalgoorlie, Australia.

Visa eligibility and requirements are determined by the Australian Department of Home Affairs and are subject to change.

The organising committee has already contacted the International Event Coordinator Network (IECN) of the Australian Department of Home Affairs. IECN can support visa processing but does not guarantee visa grant. All applicants must meet legislative visa requirements.

Accordingly, we can offer an invitation letter for visa application purposes but we will also require additional information for the IECN Biodata sheet:

- First and middle names (as they appear on passport)
- Last name (as it appears on passport)
- Date of birth (dd/mm/year)
- Gender
- Passport number
- Country of passport:
- Current country of residence
- Contact details (email or telephone)

All information provided will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988 and used solely to facilitate visa processing.

A scanned copy of your bio-data passport page would also be helpful to avoid typo mistakes when conducting the invitation letters.

1. Visa Options for Participants Not Receiving Payment

Participants, attendees, and speakers who will not be working, performing, or receiving payment for their contribution to the event may be eligible for one of the following visas:

Eligible visa options:

- Visitor Visa (subclass 600) – Business stream visa
For details:
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/visitor-600/business-visitor-stream>
- Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) (subclass 601)
Available to eligible passport holders:
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601>
- eVisitor Visa (subclass 651) – Business stream visa
Available to eligible passport holders:
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/evisitor-651>

Please note:

Eligibility for the ETA (subclass 601) and eVisitor (subclass 651) visas is determined by the country of passport held by the applicant.

2. Visitor Visa (Subclass 600) – Supporting Documentation

Applicants for the Visitor Visa (subclass 600) – Business Visitor stream are strongly encouraged to submit a complete and well-documented application.

In addition to standard requirements, applicants should include:

- Evidence of previous international travel, such as copies of visas and passport pages showing entry and exit stamps
- Evidence of attendance at similar international events, including invitations, registrations, or programs

A document checklist is available on the Department's website:

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

(See *Step by step* → *Gather your documents* → *Genuine visitor documents* and *Business visitor documents*.)

3. Visa Options for Paid Speakers or Contributors

Speakers, presenters, or contributors who will be working or receiving payment for their participation may be eligible for one of the following visas:

a) Temporary Activity Visa (subclass 408) – Invited Participant

(Where there is an inviting Australian organisation)

- More information:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-activity-408/invited-for-other-social-and-cultural-activity>

Important:

A support letter from an Australian organisation is a legislative requirement for this visa.

b) Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) Visa (subclass 400)

(Where there is no inviting Australian organisation)

- More information:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-work-400>

4. Biometrics Requirement

Applicants outside Australia may be required to provide biometrics depending on:

- The visa applied for, and/or
- The country of citizenship or country where the application is lodged

Further information on Australia's biometrics program is available at:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/biometrics>

5. Health and Character Requirements

Health Requirements

Most visa applicants must meet minimum health standards. Health checks may be required as part of the visa application process.

More information:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health>

Character Requirements

Applicants must be of good character and meet Australia's character requirements.

More information:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/character>

6. Visa Processing Times and Application Advice

Visa applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and processing times vary depending on individual circumstances, including:

- Whether the application is complete and all supporting documents are provided
- How quickly the applicant responds to requests for additional information
- Time required for health, character, and security checks
- Global visa processing volumes and Ministerial Directions

Processing times information:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/overview>

We strongly recommend lodging visa applications at least 6–8 weeks before the intended travel date.

7. Genuine Visitor Requirement (Visitor Visas)

When assessing a Visitor visa application, decision-makers must be satisfied that the applicant genuinely intends to stay temporarily in Australia. Considerations may include:

- Personal circumstances and incentives to return home
- Financial situation and ability to support oneself in Australia
- Employment, professional, and economic ties to the home country
- Previous travel history and compliance with visa conditions

Applicants are encouraged to provide comprehensive supporting evidence, including (but not limited to):

- Evidence of financial support or sponsorship (airfares, accommodation, meals)
- Personal bank statements (typically covering the last 3 months)
- Employment confirmation letters and approved leave
- Evidence of property ownership or major assets

- Evidence of family, educational, or professional ties
- Details explaining the relevance of attending the conference
- Evidence of attendance at similar international events
- Explanation where certain documents cannot be provided

Please note:

This list is not exhaustive. Applicants must demonstrate strong incentives to return to their home country and compliance with Australian visa conditions.

8. Entry to Australia

Participants should familiarise themselves with Australia's border and entry requirements before travel:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/entering-australia>

If you require further assistance or clarification, please feel free to contact the IECN team.

The 15th Regional SOMP Meeting organising committee is at your disposal for any help you may need during the application process.

We strongly recommend lodging visa applications at least 6–8 weeks before the intended travel date.