

# Working in Australia

## Permission To Work

You will automatically receive permission to work with your visa grant. Please note that you will NOT be able to work in Australia until the first official day of classes when the education provider will confirm your study commencement. Your education provider may do this automatically on the first official day of classes, or you may need to request that they do.

## Working While Studying

1. You are not permitted to start work until you have commenced your course of study
2. You can work a maximum of 40 hours every fortnight during the term and unlimited hours when your course is **not in session**.
3. The Department of Home Affairs considers your course to be **'in session'**:
  - o for the duration of the advertised semesters (including periods when exams are being held)
  - o if you have completed your studies and your Confirmation of Enrolment is still in effect
  - o if you are undertaking another course, during a break from your main course and the points will be credited to your main course. (Source: Department of Home Affairs)

For a full list of **mandatory** and **discretionary** student visa conditions please visit <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/stud>

## Finding Work

You may find it difficult to find work in Australia as you will be joining the general Australian population in your search; therefore you should not rely on income from employment when budgeting to pay for living expenses. There is no guarantee that employment companies will find work for you.

There are many different ways to find a job in Australia including Newspapers, Campus Job Boards or Online. Try these online companies:

	<a href="http://www.seek.com.au">www.seek.com.au</a>
	<a href="http://www.careerone.com.au">www.careerone.com.au</a>
	<a href="http://www.getjobs.com.au">www.getjobs.com.au</a>
	<a href="http://www.mycareer.com.au">www.mycareer.com.au</a>
	<a href="http://www.jobsinoz.com.au">www.jobsinoz.com.au</a>
	<a href="http://www.jobsearch.com.au">www.jobsearch.com.au</a>

# Earning an Income

## Taxes

Taxes are managed through the **Australian Taxation Office (ATO)**. The tax you pay depends on how much you earn.

## Getting a Tax File Number

You must obtain a Tax File Number to be able to work in Australia. A tax file number (TFN) is your unique reference number to our tax system. When you start work, your employer will ask you to complete a tax file number declaration form. If you do not provide a TFN your employment will be taxed at the highest personal income tax rate, which will mean less money in your wages each week.

**You can apply for your TFN online at [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au), or phone **13 28 61**, 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. For the ATO translating and interpreter service phone: **13 14 50**.**

## Taxation Returns

If you pay too much tax you are entitled to a refund. To get a refund you will need to lodge a tax return. You can lodge online using **e-tax** (free), by mailing a **paper tax return**, or by paying a **registered tax agent** to complete and lodge the return for you. If you lodge by e-tax your refund will normally be issued within 14 days.

- Lodge online using e-tax at [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)
- For a registered tax agent visit [www.tabd.gov.au](http://www.tabd.gov.au)
- Tax returns are lodged at the end of the Australian tax year – (1 July to 30 June).

## Superannuation

If your monthly wage is more than AU\$450, your employer must contribute an additional sum equal to 9.5% of your wage into a superannuation (pension) account for you. In most cases, you can access your contributions when you leave Australia permanently, although the contributions will be taxed. To check your eligibility to claim your superannuation and to apply for your payment, visit: [www.ato.gov.au/departaustralia](http://www.ato.gov.au/departaustralia) You will need to provide the details of your superannuation fund. (Source: Australian Taxation Office)

## Employment rights and conditions

For information and advice about your workplace rights and obligations, please refer to <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/>. It is important that you understand the obligations of the employer and your obligations as an employee. As an international student, it is very important that you understand your rights and obligations while on a student visa. Please refer to <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/visa-holders-and-migrants> for more information.

If there are any workplace issues, the Fair Work Ombudsman can assist. Refer to the information here <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/how-we-will-help/how-we-help-you/help-resolving-workplace-issues>

## Go Study Australia – Job Support

Go Study Australia offers students effective tools to find employment. To find out about this service visit:

<https://www.gostudy.com.au/work/job-support/>