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Australia's migration system continues to shift, with several updates that may affect your plans to study, work, or settle in the country. Staying informed and planning early is now more important than ever.

Recent changes to student visa processing mean that appeals are now decided based only on written documents, without interviews or hearings. This makes it essential for applicants to submit strong, well-prepared applications from the start, as there is less opportunity to explain or clarify information later.

Visa costs have also increased significantly this year. Student visa application fees are now around \$2,000 AUD, while Temporary Graduate visa fees have risen to approximately \$4,600 AUD. In addition, applicants must show higher financial capacity, which may impact budgeting and planning for many international students.

There are now stricter limitations on switching visas while inside Australia. Some pathways, such as moving from a visitor visa to a student visa, are no longer easily available. This means applicants should carefully consider their long-term visa strategy before arriving in Australia.

For skilled migrants, new salary thresholds will come into effect from July 2026. These changes aim to align migration with workforce needs and ensure fair wages. While this may raise eligibility requirements, skilled workers in high-demand occupations may benefit from stronger opportunities and faster processing.

The government has also introduced new powers to manage entry during global events or emergencies. This means that even valid visa holders may face travel restrictions in certain situations, making it important to stay updated before making travel arrangements.

Overall, these changes highlight a clear direction towards stricter requirements, higher costs, and a stronger focus on skilled migration. Careful planning, accurate applications, and professional advice are key to navigating this evolving system successfully.

For personalised advice or assistance with your visa application, please contact our office:

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