

Citizenship document requirements – when applying for a VET Student Loan

Please Note: Documents provided to support your eligibility for Government subsidised training may not necessarily be suitable to support your application for a VET Student Loan. Please check the following information carefully as you will be required to provide this evidence before you will be eligible to access a VET Student Loan.

Am I eligible for a VET Student Loan?

VET Student Loans is an Australian Government loan scheme for the Vocational Education and Training sector that is part of the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP).

To be eligible for VET Student Loan assistance for a unit of study, you must be either:

- An Australian citizen, or
- The holder of a permanent humanitarian visa who will be resident in Australia for the duration of the unit you are seeking VET Student Loan assistance, or
- A qualifying New Zealand citizen (see below) AND
- Be enrolled into a course eligible for a VET Student Loan (to establish which courses are eligible go to studyassist.gov.au/sites/StudyAssist), AND
- have a FEE-HELP balance that is more than \$0, AND
- be 18 years of age or older or
- have a parental consent form signed by a responsible parent or
- have received youth allowance on the basis that the student is independent within the meaning of Part 2.11 of the Social Security Act 1991 (Provider's should receive from the student evidence of this assessment in the form of their Centrelink Income Statement noting this assessment.), AND
- have been assessed by the approved provider as academically suited to undertake the approved course on the basis of either:
 - providing their Australian Year 12 Certificate OR
 - providing evidence of successful completion of an Australian Qualifications Framework Certificate IV or higher qualification (where the language of instruction is English) OR
 - displaying competence at Exit Level 3 in the Australian Core Skills Framework in both reading and numeracy through an approved Language, Literacy and Numeracy test, AND
- meet the Tax File Number (TFN) requirements, AND
- have a Unique Student Identifier (USI) or be otherwise exempt

What evidence do I need to provide if I am an Australian Citizen?

An Australian Passport is suitable evidence of Australian citizenship.

Otherwise, the evidence required to demonstrate that an applicant is an Australian citizen may differ depending on whether the applicant was:

- born overseas
- born in Australia before 20 August 1986
- born in Australia on or after 20 August 1986.

Applicants born overseas and acquired Australian citizenship by application

Applicants will need to provide one of the following documents as evidence of their Australian citizenship:

- an Australian passport
 - an Australian citizenship certificate
 - a Citizenship by Descent extract
 - an Adoption in accordance with the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption or bilateral arrangement extract
- If an applicant does not have one of the above citizenship documents they will need to apply for a replacement certificate by lodging Form 119 Application for evidence of Australian citizenship with certified copies of the required documents and the application fee with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP).

Applicants born in Australia before 20 August 1986

Applicants may provide their Australian Passport.

Alternatively, applicants will need to provide their full birth certificate issued by an Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM).

An exception to this is where the applicant's parents were in Australia as diplomats or consular officers at the time of the applicant's birth. In these circumstances, the applicant will need to provide a citizenship certificate as evidence that they are an Australian citizen.

If the applicant does not have a citizenship certificate they will need to lodge Form 119 Application for evidence of Australian citizenship with certified copies of the required documents and the application fee with DIBP.



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Applicant was born in Australia on or after 20 August 1986 and one of their parents was an Australian citizen at the time of their birth

Applicants may provide their Australian Passport. Alternatively, where one (or both) of the applicant's parents was an Australian citizen at the time of their birth, the applicant will need to provide their full birth certificate issued by an Australian RBDM and one of the following documents to show that one of their parents was an Australian citizen at the time of their birth:

- their parent's Australian citizenship certificate or
- if their parent was born in Australia before 20 August 1986, their parents full birth certificate issued by an Australian RBDM or
- if their parent was born in Australia on or after 20 August 1986, their parent's full birth certificate issued by an Australian RBDM and their grandparent's Australian birth certificate issued by an Australian RBDM.

If the applicant cannot provide this they must apply for their own evidence of Australian citizenship by lodging Form 119 Application for evidence of Australian citizenship with certified copies of the required documents and the application fee with DIBP.

Applicant was born in Australia on or after 20 August 1986 and one of their parents was a permanent resident of Australia at the time of their birth

Where one (or both) of the applicant's parents was a permanent resident of Australia at the time of their birth, they will need to provide **both** of the following documents to prove their Australian citizenship:

- their full birth certificate issued by an Australian RBDM
- their Australian citizenship certificate.

They can apply for an Australian citizenship certificate by lodging Form 119 Application for evidence of Australian citizenship with certified copies of the required documents and the application fee with DIBP.

The following documents are not acceptable as proof of a parent's permanent residency for VET Student Loan applications:

- parent's foreign passport with a visa label
- Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) printout
- visa grant notification letter
- Certificate of Evidence of Resident Status (CERS)
- Certificate of Status for New Zealand Citizens in Australia (CSNZCA)
- ImmiCard
- Freedom of Information (FOI) letter from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

These documents only provide proof of a person's visa status on the day they are issued / printed and are not sufficient proof of a parent's resident status at the time the applicant was born.

Applicant or their parent was born in Papua New Guinea prior to 16 Sep 1975

Papua New Guinea became a sovereign nation on 16 Sep 1975 (PNG Independence Day). Assessing Australian citizenship status of people born in PNG prior to 16 Sep 1975 can be complex. DIBP is aware that in the past this cohort of people has been incorrectly issued with an Australian passport based on an incorrect assessment of their citizenship status. As such, the citizenship status of some applicants born in PNG prior to 16 Sep 1975 must be checked and verified with DIBP.

The applicant should be referred to DIBP to obtain evidence of Australian citizenship by lodging Form 119 Application for evidence of Australian citizenship if:

- evidence of citizenship was issued before 1 Jan 2009 and the applicant was born in PNG prior to 16 Sep 1975; or
- citizenship was acquired by descent before 1 Jan 2009 where the parent(s) was born in PNG before 16 Sep 1975.

A citizenship certificate can be accepted as evidence that the applicant is an Australian citizen if the evidence of citizenship was issued on or after 1 Jan 2009 regardless of the acquisition date or date of birth.

Applicants need to take DIBP's application processing times into account before applying for a VET Student Loan.

What evidence do I need to provide if I am holder of a Permanent Humanitarian Visa?

When you applied for your course and your eligibility was assessed you will have provided the documents required to confirm your status as a Humanitarian Visa holder.

What evidence do I need to provide if I am a New Zealand citizen?

Eligible New Zealand Special Category Visa (SCV) holders who meet the requisite criteria will be able to access Vet Student Loans. To be eligible, you will have:

- to be a New Zealand citizen who holds a Special Category Visa (SCV); and
- first entered Australia as a dependent minor aged under 18 years; and
- been residing in Australia for the previous 10 years (that is, you have been present in Australia for at least eight out of the past 10 years) at the time of application for the loan; and
- been residing in Australia for the past 18 months out of the last 2 years at the time of application for the loan; and
- to meet the other eligibility criteria for a HELP loan under the Higher Education Support Act 2003 (HESA).

You will be required to provide the following documents as part of your application:

- Copy of the SCV which can be obtained from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website border.gov.au/vevo
- Copy of current passport



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