

Frequently asked questions about the return of international students

When will I be able to return to Australia for my studies?

Quarantine requirements in Australia are determined by State and Territory Governments. From 15 December 2021, fully vaccinated student visa holders can come to the following states in Australia without needing to apply for a travel exemption and without any quarantine:

Victoria / New South Wales / Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

When will I be able to return to Western Australia for my studies?

The State's borders will be open to all fully vaccinated domestic and international arrivals without the need to quarantine once 90% of Western Australians (aged 12+) are fully vaccinated. This is expected to occur by late January or early February 2022, before the start of the first semester in 2022. We are constantly seeking clarification and updates and will share further information with you as soon as it becomes available.

When will I be able to return to Queensland for my studies?

The State's borders will be open to all fully vaccinated domestic and international arrivals without the need to quarantine once 90% of Queenslanders (aged 12+) are fully vaccinated. This is expected to occur by early February 2022, before the start of the first semester in 2022. We are constantly seeking clarification and updates and will share further information as soon as it becomes available.

When will I be able to return to South Australia for my studies?

The State's borders will be open to all fully vaccinated domestic and international arrivals without the need to quarantine once 90% of (aged 12+) are fully vaccinated. This is expected to occur by mid-December 2021. We are constantly seeking clarification and updates and will share further information with you as soon as it becomes available.

Will I have to quarantine?

No, students will not be required to quarantine upon entering Australia.

Who will book my flights to come to Australia?

Students will be responsible for booking and paying for their own flights.

What are the conditions of entry into Australia from overseas?

To enter Australia you must:

- hold a valid student visa;
- be fully vaccinated with a completed dosage of a [vaccine approved or recognised by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) ;
- provide proof of your vaccination status with an [International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate \(ICVC\)](#) or [foreign vaccination certificate](#) ;
- provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test undertaken within three days of departure;
- complete and submit an online [Australia Travel Declaration](#) at least 72 hours before your flight.
- You must also comply with any specific quarantine requirements in the state or territory of your arrival, and any other state or territory to which you plan to travel.

Will it be compulsory for international students to receive a COVID-19 vaccine prior to entering Australia?

Yes.

Australia requires international arrivals to be fully vaccinated with a [TGA-approved or recognised vaccine](#). This is to help protect your safety and that of the Australian community. A list of vaccines currently recognised and approved in Australia can be found [here](#).

How do I know if my vaccination certificate meets Australia's requirements?

Travellers vaccinated outside Australia will be required to present certificates that meet the following criteria:

- Issued by a national or state/provincial-level authority or an accredited vaccination provider
- Written in English or accompanied by a certified translation

Must contain:

- Name as it appears on traveller's passport
- Either date of both or passport number
- The vaccine brand name, and
- The date of each dose or the date the full course of immunisation was completed.
- Both paper and digital certificates are acceptable.

What evidence do students need to provide to show they have been fully vaccinated?

International travellers will be required to submit an [Australian Travel Declaration](#) online with a copy of your vaccination certificate before your flight. This needs to be completed at least 72 hours before your flight.

You will then need to provide an [International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate \(ICVC\)](#) or [foreign vaccination certificate](#) when you board your flight and again, on arrival in Australia. Further information can be viewed at the [Smartraveller website](#).

If an international student's vaccine isn't recognised by the TGA but it is in their home country, can they be considered for entry?

No. Only students who are fully vaccinated with a vaccine recognised by the [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#) can enter Australia.

Will I need a current student visa to return to Australia?

Yes, you will need to hold a valid student visa to enter Australia. Students can check their current visa status and the expiry date of their visa through [VEVO](#) or their [ImmiAccount](#).

Students can also use their [ImmiAccount](#) to apply for a new visa if theirs has already expired or is close to expiring. For further information, please visit the [Department of Home Affairs website](#).

Do I still need a travel exemption to come to Australia?

Not for the following Australian states effective December 15, 2021:

Victoria / New South Wales / Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Other Australian states (Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia) are expected to follow once 90% of the population (aged 12+) are fully vaccinated. This is expected to happen around January or February 2022. This is to help protect you and the Australian community. While you do not require an exemption, when returning to Australia you will be required to complete and submit an Australian Travel Declaration online with a copy of your vaccination certificate before your flight. This must be completed at least 72 hours before your scheduled flight departure.

What can international students do to prepare to come to Australia?

Enrolled students:

- Ensure they are fully vaccinated with a [TGA approved vaccine](#);
- Contact their travel agent and start looking into their travel arrangements to Australia;
- Understand their local COVID-19 testing arrangements;
- Understand how to get relevant travel exemptions (if required).

Prospective Students:

- Select their course and institution (link to Navitas site?);
- Apply directly to their chosen institution;
- [Apply for a student visa](#).

How do I arrange a COVID-19 PCR test prior to departure?

The Australian Government does not maintain a list of approved international facilities or laboratories that provide COVID-19 PCR testing for pre-departure testing purposes.

International travellers to Australia should contact the local health authority of the country that they are in for information on the nearest COVID-19 PCR testing facility or laboratory. This information is generally advertised on the local health authorities' websites.

Is there a check list I could follow to prepare for travel to Australia?

Yes. The Australian Government's Department of Home Affairs provides a [checklist of information and steps you will need to follow](#).

Who will inform current international students if they are eligible to return to Australia?

Current students can return from 15 December (for NSW, ACT and Victoria), and then for other states we will advise students when they are able to return without quarantine. This will be prior to Semester 1 2022.

Where do I need to take my Covid test upon arrival in Australia?

International arrivals are required to undertake COVID-19 tests once they arrive in Australia.

What if I get Covid-19 in Australia?

If you get tested for the virus, or you have symptoms, you need to stay at home. You will need to do this until you either have a negative test result or your symptoms have gone – whichever is longer. It may take a day or 2 for your test results to come back.

If your doctor says you are well enough to go home while you wait for your test results, you should [protect yourself and others](#).

If you meet certain criteria, you may be considered a suspect case and be required to [isolate](#).

People who are required to [quarantine](#) will need to continue to do so, regardless of a negative test result. For further information read [guidance for people tested for COVID-19](#).

For questions about testing or patient welfare, call the National Coronavirus Helpline. Please also inform your college immediately.

Can International students and their families remain confident that they can stay safe and protected from Covid-19 once they recommence their studies in Australia?

In the uncertainty of these times, Australia's focus on minimising the risks of COVID-19 means international students can be more confident of their experience here than anywhere else in the world.