XIPHIAS Immigration

PROGRAMME BROCHURE



SKILLED MIGRATION | AUSTRALIA

Subclass 858 – National Innovation Visa (formerly Global Talent)

Permanent residency for people with an internationally recognised record of exceptional and outstanding achievement. No points test, no age limit — but a nominator and a government invitation are mandatory.

TIMELINE
6 months (XIPHIAS average)

JOB OFFER
Not required

FAMILY
Spouse, children up to age 23

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Updated 1 October 2026
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At a glance

COUNTRY **Australia**	ROUTE **Skilled Migration - Talent**
TIMELINE **6 months (XIPHIAS average)**	FAMILY MEMBERS **Spouse, children up to age 23**
LANGUAGE **Functional English (IELTS 4.5 overall or equivalent)**	JOB OFFER **Not required**
LAST UPDATED **1 October 2026**	

Overview

The **National Innovation visa (subclass 858)** is a permanent residency route for people with an **internationally recognised record of exceptional and outstanding achievement** in a profession, a sport, the arts, or academia and research. There is **no points test, no occupation list and no age limit**.

This visa used to be called the Global Talent visa. It was renamed and restructured on **6 December 2024**, when the Migration Amendment (National Innovation Visa) Regulations 2024 commenced. The old Global Talent Independent programme no longer exists, and the old Home Affairs page now redirects to the National Innovation visa.

The two things that actually decide your case

- **A Form 1000 nominator.** Someone with a **national reputation in your field** must attest to your record. They must be an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident, eligible New Zealand citizen, or an Australian organisation. This is the real gate.
- **An invitation.** You cannot apply unprompted. You submit an expression of interest, the Department invites you, and you then have **60 days** to lodge.

Why choose subclass 858

- **Permanent residency on grant** — live, work and study anywhere in Australia
- **No points test, no occupation list, no age limit**
- **Faster than most PR routes** — 6 months for half of applications, 7 months for 90%
- **Family included** with full work and study rights
- **Pathway to Australian citizenship**

A note on the Global Talent Employer Sponsored scheme

The **GTES** still exists, but it is not a subclass 858 product. It is an employer agreement scheme — Established Business and Startup streams, up to 20 positions a year — that lets an employer sponsor workers under the **Skills in Demand (subclass 482)** visa, with a permanent residency pathway after two years and age-cap concessions.

Visa application charge

The Home Affairs visa application charge for the primary applicant is **AUD 6,235** (as displayed on 29 September 2026). Additional charges apply for each family member included in the application, and a second instalment applies to applicants aged 18 or over without functional English.

Requirements

- An internationally recognised record of exceptional and outstanding achievement in a profession, a sport, the arts, or academia and research — and you must still be prominent in that field.
- A nominator who has a national reputation in the same field must attest to your record on Form 1000. The nominator must be an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident, eligible New Zealand citizen, or an Australian organisation.
- You must be invited by the Department before you can apply. Submit an expression of interest first, then apply within 60 days of invitation.
- Be an asset to the Australian community and able to establish yourself in Australia.
- Functional English if you are 18 or over, or pay the second instalment.
- If you hold or last held a subclass 491 or 494, you must have held it for at least 3 years when you apply.

When this route may not fit

- Lack of evidence of international recognition or achievement.
- No eligible nominator from Australia.
- Failure to demonstrate ongoing prominence or future potential in the field.
- Non-compliance with health or character standards.

Skills, language and points

ACCEPTED TESTS

IELTS, PTE, TOEFL iBT

MINIMUM LEVEL

Functional English (IELTS 4.5 overall or equivalent)

Job offer: Nomination by an eligible Australian individual or organization is required, not a job offer.

Costs and government fees

Programme costs

Item	Amount	Notes
Visa application charge (primary applicant)	AUD 6,235	Home Affairs VAC as displayed on 29 September 2026. Additional applicant charges apply.

Government fees

Fee	Amount	Notes
Subclass 858 — primary applicant visa application charge	AUD 6,235	

How the process works

1. **Expression of Interest (EOI)**
   Submit an expression of interest to Home Affairs outlining your record of achievement.
2. **Nomination approval**
   Provide nomination from a qualified Australian individual or organization.
3. **Invitation and visa application**
   Once invited, lodge the Subclass 858 application within 60 days, with supporting documents.
4. **Health and character checks**
   Complete all required examinations and police verifications.
5. **Decision and PR grant**
   Receive Australian permanent residency upon successful assessment.

Document checklist

Identity & Civil

- Passport and national ID
- Birth certificate

Achievements & Recognition

- Portfolio of internationally recognized work or publications
- Awards, patents, or citations

Nomination

- Form 1000 — nominator's attestation of your record
- Letter of support from recognized nominator

English & Health

- IELTS/PTE results (if applicable)
- Health examinations and police certificates

Questions clients ask

Is the Global Talent visa still available?

Not under that name. On 6 December 2024 it was renamed and restructured as the National Innovation visa (subclass 858). The old Global Talent Independent programme is gone, and the old Home Affairs page now redirects to the National Innovation visa.

Is there a points test?

No. There is no points test and no occupation list for this visa.

Do I need a nominator?

Yes, and it is the hardest requirement. Someone with a national reputation in your field — an Australian citizen, permanent resident, eligible New Zealand citizen, or an Australian organisation — must attest to your record on Form 1000.

Can I just apply?

No. You submit an expression of interest, and the Department must invite you. Once invited, you have 60 days to lodge the application.

Is there an age limit?

No age limit. But if you are under 18, or 55 or over, you must also show you would be of exceptional benefit to the Australian community.

How long does it take?

Home Affairs processes 50% of National Innovation stream applications in 6 months and 90% within 7 months.

Important notes

- The Form 1000 nominator is the real gate. Without someone nationally recognised in your field willing to attest to your record, there is no application.
- You cannot apply unprompted. The Department must invite you, and once invited you have only 60 days to lodge.
- There is no age limit, but applicants under 18 or aged 55 and over must additionally be of exceptional benefit to the Australian community.
- The old Global Talent Independent programme no longer exists; the National Innovation visa replaced it on 6 December 2024.

Compliance

- Home Affairs published service standard for the National Innovation stream: 6 months for 50% of applications, 7 months for 90%. Legacy Distinguished Talent and Global Talent (Independent) applications lodged before 6 December 2024 run at 16 and 24 months. The headline timeline on this page is XIPHIAS's own observed average, which includes the nominator and invitation stages.
- This visa was renamed and restructured on 6 December 2024, when the Migration Amendment (National Innovation Visa) Regulations 2024 commenced. 'Global Talent visa' is no longer a valid name for it.
- There is no points test and no occupation list for this visa.
- Applications are processed in the order set by Ministerial Direction No. 120.
- There is no government charge for the Form 1000 nomination.
- The Global Talent Employer Sponsored scheme still exists, but it is not a subclass 858 product. It is an employer agreement that feeds the Skills in Demand (subclass 482) visa.



XIPHIAS Immigration

NEXT STEP

Plan your Australia application with our Dubai team

Tell us about your profile, family and timeline. We will confirm whether **Subclass 858 – National Innovation Visa (formerly Global Talent)** fits, set out the full cost in writing and manage the application with you from start to finish.

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CREDENTIALS

- Advising clients on global mobility since 2009; XIPHIAS Immigration DMCC in Dubai since 2017.
- Named Best Immigration Consultant by The Times of India in 2022.
- Canada files handled by a CICC-licensed Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant, licence R516194.
- Australia files handled by a registered migration agent, MARA 1680615.

This brochure is produced from the programme information published at www.xiphiasimmigration.ae/skilled/australia/national-innovation-visa-858 as at 1 October 2026. Rules, fees and processing times are set by the relevant government and can change, and approval is always the authority's decision. Please confirm the current position with us before you apply. XIPHIAS provides immigration consulting and documentation support. It is not a law firm, and nothing in this brochure is legal advice.