XIPHIAS Immigration

PROGRAMME BROCHURE



SKILLED MIGRATION | AUSTRALIA

Subclass 189 – Skilled Independent PR Visa

Permanent residency with no employer or state sponsor — invitation via SkillSelect.

TIMELINE	POINTS THRESHOLD	JOB OFFER	FAMILY
12 months (XIPHIAS average)	65	Not required	Spouse, children up to age 23

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At a glance

COUNTRY **Australia**	ROUTE **Skilled Migration - Points**
TIMELINE **12 months (XIPHIAS average)**	FAMILY MEMBERS **Spouse, children up to age 23**
LANGUAGE **Competent English (IELTS 6.0 each or accepted equivalents)**	JOB OFFER **Not required**
POINTS THRESHOLD **65**	LAST UPDATED **1 October 2026**

Overview

The **Skilled Independent Visa (Subclass 189)** is an **Australia PR pathway** for **qualified professionals** who want to **live and work permanently** in Australia **without employer or state sponsorship**. It operates under a **points-based system** that values **age, education, English skills, and work experience**, offering a **transparent and merit-based** route to permanent residency and citizenship.

Why Choose Subclass 189

- **No sponsorship needed** — apply independently through SkillSelect
- **Permanent residency** from visa grant
- **Points-based selection** — 65 is the floor, but most professional occupations were invited at 80-100 points in 2026
- **Freedom to live and work anywhere in Australia**
- **Family inclusion** with full work and study rights
- **Clear PR-to-citizenship pathway** after residency period

Visa application charge

The Home Affairs visa application charge for the primary applicant is **AUD 6,135** (as displayed on 29 September 2026). Additional charges apply for each family member included in the application.

{/ restored from the 2019–2026 site /}

Sub Class 189 skilled Immigration

This is a Permanent Residency Visa. This is points-tested stream. Under this VISA stream, you don’t need any kind of nomination. It doesn’t need you to have a job offer from any Australian employee. You need to first Submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) online through Skill Select. EOI is not an application. It is only an indication that you would like to be considered for skilled immigration into Australia.

to be eligible to apply under this stream you need to

- Have relevant occupation experience

- Have your skills assessed which proves that you have the skills and qualifications required for the work in that occupation.
- Have English Competency levels as is needed
- Be invited by the Australian skill select to apply

Benefits

- You can stay in Australia indefinitely.
- You can Work and study in Australia.
- You can Enroll in Medicare, Australia's scheme for health related care and expenses
- You can Sponsor eligible relatives for permanent residence.
- You can Travel to and from Australia for five years.
- You can apply for Australian citizenship, if eligible.

What XIPHIAS Immigration will do for you

- Profile assessment
- Submission of application and documents
- Application preparation
- Guidance about the applications and documents required
- Language proficiency tests
- Help till the point of getting your PR Visa
- Post landing counseling
- Post landing Job search assistance

When this route may not fit

- Occupation not listed or missing a valid skills assessment.
- Points below your occupation's invitation cut-off. 65 is the minimum, not a competitive score.
- Aged 45 or above at invitation — ineligible for GSM subclass 189.

Skills, language and points

ACCEPTED TESTS
IELTS, PTE, OET, TOEFL iBT

MINIMUM LEVEL
Competent English (IELTS 6.0 each or accepted equivalents)

Job offer: Independent GSM pathway — no employer or state nomination required.

Points factor	Maximum	Notes
Age	30	
English language	20	
Skilled employment (overseas/Australia)	20	

Points factor	Maximum	Notes
Qualifications	20	
Other factors (Aust. study, specialist education, partner, regional, CCL)	25	

Common eligible occupations (examples)

- Software Engineer (ANZSCO 261313)
- Civil Engineer (ANZSCO 233211)
- Registered Nurse (ANZSCO 254418)
- Electrician (General) (ANZSCO 341111)

Costs and government fees

Programme costs

Item	Amount	Notes
Visa application charge (primary applicant)	AUD 6,135	Home Affairs VAC as displayed on 29 September 2026. Additional applicant charges apply.

Government fees

Fee	Amount	Notes
Subclass 189 — primary applicant visa application charge	AUD 6,135	

How the process works

1. **Skills Assessment**
   Get your occupation assessed by the relevant authority before applying.
2. **English Test**
   Take IELTS/PTE/OET and achieve at least **Competent English**.
3. **Expression of Interest (SkillSelect)**
   Submit an EOI online and wait for invitation. EOIs remain valid for 2 years.
4. **Invitation & Visa Application**
   Receive invitation, lodge your visa, and pay the VAC.
5. **Health, Character & Biometrics**
   Complete medical exams and submit police clearances.
6. **Visa Decision**
   Once approved, your PR visa is granted — travel and activate your residency.

Document checklist

Identity & Civil

- Passport valid for at least 6 months.
- Birth/marriage certificates or name change evidence.
- National ID or address proofs (if applicable).

Skills & Education

- Positive skills assessment from a recognized assessing authority.
- Academic transcripts and degree/diploma certificates.
- Professional licenses (if required for your occupation).

Employment

- Reference letters detailing job duties and duration.
- Payslips, tax statements, or contracts.
- Statutory declarations where applicable.

English & Tests

- IELTS/PTE or accepted equivalent results meeting minimum score.

Health & Character

- Medical exam results from approved panel physicians.
- Police clearance certificates for each country resided in 12+ months.

Questions clients ask

What is the pass mark for subclass 189?

65 points is the minimum to be invited. In practice it is far from enough — in the 4 June 2026 round, only 15 construction trades were invited at 65, while most professional occupations were invited between 80 and 100 points.

Is a job offer required?

No. Subclass 189 is fully independent — no employer, no state nomination, no sponsor.

How long does it take?

Home Affairs processes 50% of points-tested applications in 61 days and 90% within 8 months (figures published 29 September 2026, based on data to 31 August 2026).

How long is my EOI valid?

Two years from submission. If you turn 45 during that period you can no longer be invited.

Are invitation rounds still running?

The last round was 4 June 2026, when 10,000 invitations were issued. No invitations were issued in July, August or September 2026. XIPHIAS tracks each round and confirms the latest position before you lodge an EOI.

Can I include family members?

Yes. Your partner and dependent children can be included in the same application.

Important notes

- 65 points is the entry threshold, not a realistic target. In the 4 June 2026 round only 15 construction trades were invited at 65; most professional occupations sat between 80 and 100.
- No invitations were issued in July, August or September 2026, the first three months of the 2026-27 programme year. XIPHIAS tracks each round and confirms the latest position before you lodge an EOI.
- Invitation cut-offs are set per occupation, not nationally. Your score competes only against other candidates in the same occupation.
- An expression of interest stays valid for 2 years. Turning 45 between lodging your EOI and being invited makes you ineligible.

Compliance

- Home Affairs published service standard for the Points-tested stream: 61 days for 50% of applications, 8 months for 90% (published 29 September 2026, data to 31 August 2026). That covers the visa decision only. The headline timeline on this page is XIPHIAS's own observed end-to-end average from our case files, which includes the wait for an invitation.
- Your occupation must be on the Medium and Long-term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL, ANZSCO 2013). That list was last re-issued effective 28 March 2026.
- Applications are processed in the order set by Ministerial Direction No. 122. Home Affairs warns that published timeframes may temporarily move backwards during the transition to it.
- Current queue positions published by Home Affairs: November 2025 for priority sectors (construction, healthcare, teaching, agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, resources, law enforcement and defence), June 2026 for onshore applicants, November 2025 for offshore.
- You must be under 45 at the time of invitation. You may still apply if you turn 45 after being invited.
- All claimed points must be backed by verifiable documentation.
- A second instalment of the visa application charge may be payable for family members aged 18 or over who do not have functional English.



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 189 – Skilled Independent PR Visa** 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/skilled-independent-189 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.