



# Your Lodgment Buddy

August 2019

## Pretoria Processing Times

- The good news – Pretoria post has reduced the processing times for subclass 600 tourist applications to 24 days.
- This is now in line with the 90% global average processing time frame listed on [www.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au).
- Subsequent Entrant applications do not have a time frame for processing. Priority is given to student applications.

## Timely Lodgement of Applications

This is a reminder to applicants about the importance of lodging an application as soon as the need to travel is identified. The global average processing time should not be taken as a lodgement target date. During peak periods our processing time frames will increase. The times listed at the page shown below are updated monthly to reflect changing demands. Clients should review this information on a regular basis. We stress to call applicants that a ticket that has been purchased is not a reason for us to expedite an application.

We understand that business meetings may be scheduled at short notice. However, if we note that tickets or conferences have been booked but an application has not been lodged until the last minute we cannot expedite. We will prioritise business applications that are of benefit to Australia.

For Subclass 500 applicants please check your streams. The time frames do vary substantially. There isn't a time frame for subsequent entrant visas as priority is given to applicants who have course dates to meet.

Click [here](#) for Global Average Processing time frames.

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## New Visa Application Charges for the period July—December 2019

	AUD	ZAR
<b>Visitor</b>	145	1,540
<b>Student</b>	620	
<b>Short Stay specialist—400, 408</b>	310	3,280
<b>Partner</b>	7,715	81,410
<b>Child</b>	2,665	28,130

# Biometrics Collection

Each applicant is required to provide their PIDs (personal identifiers) as part of the visa application process. This requirement is linked to every application submitted by clients who reside in a biometric collection country. Regardless of the timeframes between applications we require one application one biometrics collection.

The biometric request letter includes a time frame for the biometrics to be collected. If an applicant does not provide their biometrics within this time frame a case officer is entitled to refuse the application. We would appreciate if you could advise your clients that there is a time frame that they need to meet. We encourage all applicants to contact us if they will not meet this time frame so that a note can be made on their application. We are not able to issue multiple extensions but we can accommodate genuine reasons for appointments being made outside the initial time frame.

## Who needs to provide their biometrics?

Every applicant is required to provide some form of biometric collection. Applicants aged 0 to 5 yrs only provide a facial photograph. From 5 yrs upwards a facial photograph and a full set of finger prints are required.

## If your face or fingerprints are injured.

If you have a temporary injury to your fingertips or your face please wait until your injury has healed.

Some applicants may have lost fingers, in which case your remaining fingertips will be collected.

## If I lodge an application that is processed in Pretoria do I need to provide biometrics?

The place of processing does not dictate whether you need to provide biometrics. If you normally reside in a country that collects biometrics you will need to provide biometrics. If you reside outside of South Africa, Zimbabwe or Nigeria you will not be asked to provide biometrics.

For example, if you are a South African passport holder and reside in Namibia or Botswana you will not be asked to provide biometrics. We may ask for evidence that you usually reside outside of a biometrics collection country such as residence visas or entry stamps in your passport.

## What if I am temporarily outside of South Africa, Zimbabwe or Nigeria.

If you are temporarily residing outside of these countries but would usually reside there please contact us. You may be on an extended holiday, on a temporary work contract or on a student exchange and not able to attend an ABCC in your usual country of residence. In these cases we can make a decision to waive the requirement or can direct you to another ABCC in a different country. You must contact us to discuss your circumstances.

**IMPORTANT: If you do not contact us we will make a decision to refuse the application based on lack of PIDs.**



## SPOTLIGHT — Sporting Activities

There are a number of visa options available to applicants who need to travel to Australia for sporting related activities. We assess the applicants on their circumstances and the sporting event they will be attending and one subclass does not fit all applicants.

Below is a table which is designed to address the most common reasons for attending a sporting event and then suggest the most appropriate visa subclass.

You are a paid full time professional sports person	<b>400</b>
You will be representing your country as part of a national team—you may or may not be a paid professional	<b>400</b>
You play amateur sports for a local club—you do not get paid for competing	<b>600</b>
You are a school or university sports person	<b>600</b>
You are an umpire, referee or sporting event judge	<b>408—invited participant</b>
You are a paid professional physio, manager or trainer for a professional team	<b>400</b>
You are a parent wanting to watch a child /adult compete	<b>600</b>
You are accredited media covering the event for viewing outside Australia	<b>400</b>
You are accredited media covering the event for viewing inside Australia	<b>408—entertainment activities</b>
You have been contracted to an Australian sporting organisation/ club for a season	<b>408—sporting activities</b>
You will be a trainee participating in high level structured sports training programmes	<b>408—sporting activities</b>

The biggest advantage to smooth and quick processing is time. If you are part of an organising committee, or are responsible for a group wishing to travel, we encourage you to contact us as soon as possible. We would find it very useful to have a list of applicants, with their application details as soon as applications have been lodged. This way we can ensure that we do not miss someone.

When it comes to school children travelling it is very important to provide the unabridged birth certificate as soon as you can, preferably at the time of lodgement. Travel and visa agents—please raise this with parents, or school organisers, as soon as they contact you for quotes or provisional bookings. We cannot grant a child a visa without an unabridged birth certificate.

## STUDENT VISAS

One of the most common errors made on student applications concerns sponsorships. To be eligible for a nil fee subclass 500 visa you need to have received a scholarship from an **Australian government** agency only. A scholarship from an educational institution does not meet the criteria for a nil fee.

Accepted government scholarships include Australia Awards, Destination Australia Program, Australian Government Research Training Program or Australia APEC Women in Research Fellowship. If a nil fee option is selected for a student that does not meet the government scholarship definition their application will be closed as invalid and a new application will need to be lodged. This will require the student to provide biometrics again.

The validity of a student visa will allow you to complete your course, but may expire before the student has attended their graduation. In this case you may be eligible for a visitor visa to enter for the graduation. The student must include a letter from the education provider which shows the dates of the graduation. If a student fails and is required to complete a further period of study then a new student visa will need to be applied for. While the visa is still valid the student may enter and leave Australia as often as they want.

If the student has any questions about their visa while they are in Australia they should contact their local immigration office for advice. They should do this before their visa expires as in some cases they may be eligible for a bridging visa. The closest visa office will provide advice based on their circumstances.

### Web links & email addresses



Listed below are a number of web links and contact numbers to assist locating commonly needed information or for general assistance.

[Department of Home Affairs](#)

Tempentry.pretoria@dfat.gov.au

[Australian High Commission, Pretoria](#)

Students.pretoria@dfat.gov.au

[VFS Global](#)

Immigration.pretoria@dfat.gov.au

[Panel Physicians](#)

[ImmiAccount Technical Assistance](#)

Global Service Centre—+61 2 6196 0196

[Visa finder](#)