



Australian Government

**Department of Immigration
and Border Protection**

Applying for an International Relations visa (subclass 403) under the Memorandum of Understanding on Trainees between Australia and Switzerland

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Australia and Switzerland allows for the exchange of trainees between 20 and 30 years of age to visit the other country to gain professional and trade skills and to improve their linguistic knowledge.

The visa application process has two parts. The Labour Market and Training and Workplace Relations requirements as part of the MoU are assessed by the Department of Employment. The remaining visa requirements are assessed by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP). If you are eligible under this MoU arrangement you will need to apply for an International Relations visa (subclass 403) in the Government Agreement stream.

How to apply

Part 1

Meet the labour market, training and workplace relations requirements:

- (i) Your prospective Australian Host Employer completes the statutory declaration and sends this information to the Australian Department of Employment.
- (ii) The Australian Government Department of Employment will advise your Host Employer whether the statutory declaration meets the Labour Market, Training and Workplace Relations terms of the MoU.
- (iii) Your Host Employer will provide a copy of this advice to you in writing.

For more information on the requirements for employers, including eligible occupations, please email migration@employment.gov.au.

Should you have any questions about the labour market, training and workplace relations requirements of the MoU you may contact the Department of Employment at migration@employment.gov.au.

Part 2

Upon receipt of advice that your position meets the relevant labour market requirements, you can proceed to apply for an International Relations visa (subclass 403).

To make an application, download and complete the form 1403 from www.border.gov.au and send it to the Australian Embassy Berlin with the required Visa Application Charge. Contact details for the Australian Embassy Berlin can be found at this link: www.border.gov.au/about/contact/offices-locations/germany

Documents to include with your visa application

- Completed application form 1403 and the required Visa Application Charge
- A copy of the letter from the Department of Employment confirming that your position meets the Labour Market, Training and Workplace Relations requirements of the MoU
- A copy of your passport
- A copy of the letter of support for your application provided by the Swiss Government
- Evidence that you have made adequate arrangements for health insurance for your stay in Australia.
- Evidence that you have adequate means to support yourself for the duration of your stay in Australia

You will also be required to meet certain health, character and other requirements. More information can be found on the DIBP website at: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/403-

Other visa options

If you are not able to meet the Labour Market, Training and Workplace Relations requirements of this MoU, you may wish to consider one of the following visa options:

Student visas

To be eligible for an Australian Student visa, applicants will need to be enrolled in a registered course and meet requirements relating to English language ability, financial capacity, academic achievement and age. Applicants will also need to meet other eligibility requirements relating to health and character, and demonstrate a genuine intention to study in Australia.

It is important to note that it is a condition of a Student visa that when a course is in session, students and their dependents are permitted to only work up to 40 hours per fortnight. Postgraduate research students are permitted to work unlimited hours when their course is in session. Students may also not commence work until their course of study has commenced. Further information on the Student Visa Program can be found on the DIBP website at: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Stud

Training and Research visa (Subclass 402)

The Occupational Trainee stream of the Training and Research visa (subclass 402) allows for people to undertake structured occupational workplace-based training to either enhance their skills in their current occupation, area of tertiary study or field of expertise.

Applicants are able to participate in a structured training program provided by an Australian organisation or government agency. The training programs should be for a minimum period of 30 hours a week. At least 70 per cent of this training is required to be workplace-based. Further information on the subclass 402 can be found on the DIBP website at: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/402-



Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457)

The Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) visa is designed to enable employers to fill genuine vacancies by bringing in skilled workers where they cannot find an appropriately skilled Australian. The subclass 457 visa is the most commonly used program for employers to sponsor overseas workers to work in Australia on a temporary basis. Businesses can employ overseas workers for up to four years in skilled occupations only. Occupations which are eligible for sponsorship under the subclass 457 program are listed on the Consolidated Sponsor Occupation List (CSOL), which can be found on the DIBP website at:

www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/Work/Skills-assessment-and-assessing-authorities/skilled-occupations-lists/CSOL

There are several requirements which prospective visa applicants must meet to be granted a subclass 457 visa, and further information can be on the DIBP website at:

www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/457-