AUSTRALIA

- Guide for researchers and PhD students when planning a stay in Australia while being employed at AU

**Note:** A good place to start is to check whether your host university/institution has an international centre or contact person, where you can receive help and guidance. The information below covers the most central issues to deal with when doing a research stay abroad.

**Disclaimer:** The International Academic Staff Services does not assume responsibility for any incorrect or outdated information in this guide. Please refer to the listed references for the most recent information.

**Visa**

Do I need a visa?

The general rule is that a visa is mandatory in order to be allowed entrance to Australia. There are only few exemptions from this rule, for citizens from Australia and New Zealand as well as for certain transit passengers. In many cases your host university/institution will be part of the visa application process.

**Visa type and application**

The Visa Finder is a guide on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website that can help you find the Australian visa most likely to meet your specific circumstances.

There are a number of visas that visiting PhD students and researchers from AU might be eligible for. The most important are:

**Subclass 400: Temporary work (short stay activity) visa**
This visa is for applicants who want to travel to Australia for up to three months to do short-term, highly specialised, non-ongoing work or participate in non-ongoing cultural or social activities at the invitation of an Australian organization or, in limited circumstances, participate in an activity or work related to Australia’s interests.

You must apply for this visa before going to Australia. As it is a short term visa, the application process is relatively straightforward. At first, you should gather all relevant documents. This includes the application form, personal information about yourself, personal information about your partner, children and other dependents travelling with you, and information about your activity in Australia. It is important to make sure that you provide all necessary documents when you apply for the visa. You will also have to pay an application fee. A detailed document checklist can be found at the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website.

For citizens from a number of countries, including Danish citizens, it is possible to apply online. For citizens from so-called low risk countries, which include Denmark, there is a visa processing time service standard of 5
Information about the Subclass 400 visa from the Australian Government

Subclass 401: Temporary work (long stay activity) visa
This visa type is divided into a number of different streams. The most important for researchers is the exchange stream. The exchange stream is for applicants who come to Australia on a temporary basis to work in a skilled position under a staff exchange arrangement. The visa will be valid for the duration of the position, with a maximum of two years.

You can apply for this visa both before coming to Australia or when you are in the country.

The first step in this visa process is that your Australian host applies to become a long-stay activity sponsor. Following this, the sponsor has to nominate you to undertake an activity. You will then be able to apply for the visa. It is important to make sure that you provide all the necessary documents when you apply. A detailed document checklist can be found at the [Department of Immigration and Border Protection website](https://www.immi.gov.au). You will also have to pay an application fee.

If you apply from Denmark, your visa application can be submitted at the immigration office in Berlin.

For citizens from so-called low risk countries, which include Denmark, there is a visa processing time service standard of 2 months.

Information about the Subclass 401 visa from the Australian Government

Subclass 402: Training and research visa
This is the visa most likely to be relevant for researchers from AU who are planning a research stay in Australia. This visa is divided into three separate streams:

- Occupational trainee stream: This visa allows you to take part in structured workplace-based training to enhance your skills in your current occupation, area of tertiary study, or field of expertise. This visa is for students, in some cases also PhD students.

- Professional development stream: This visa allows you to participate in a professional development training program in Australia after being invited to do so. Please note that you are not allowed to bring relatives on this stream.

- Research stream: This visa allows you to observe or participate in an Australian research project after being invited to do so. This visa is for visiting academics. The visa is primarily for researchers who are above the level of PhD student.

The Training and Research visa will be issued for the duration of the applicants stay at the Australian university/institution. It is a sponsored visa, which means that the host university/institution in Australia will play an active part in the visa application process. The application procedure and the required documents vary to some extent according to which stream you apply for. A detailed document checklist can be found at the [Department of Immigration and Border Protection website](https://www.immi.gov.au).

For citizens from so-called low risk countries, which include Denmark, there is a visa processing time service standard of 2 months.

Information about the Training and Research visa from the Australian Government

The Australian Embassy in Copenhagen does not handle applications for visas. As a resident in Denmark, you are welcome to contact the European Service Center in London by telephone or e-mail if you have questions regarding visas. Contact information can be found at the [website of the Australian Embassy in Copenhagen](https://www.embassyofaustralia.com). If you are in doubt about which visa is the most appropriate for you, please check with your Australian host and/or the European Service Center.
How much time should I expect to spend on obtaining a visa?

It is important to allocate sufficient time to apply for a visa. The Australian Government has a list of visa processing time service standards. It is only indicative, but gives an impression of how much in advance you ought to apply for your visa. The processing time depends on your nationality, the type of visa you apply for, and whether you apply in or outside Australia. You will also have to allocate sufficient time to gather and possibly translate all relevant documents for your application. It is recommended not to make travel arrangements before you have your visa, and it is therefore preferable if you receive your visa at least a few weeks before your travel date in order to have time to buy plane tickets.

Information from the Australian Government on visa processing times can be found here.

eVisitor

If you are travelling to Australia for tourism or business for up to 90 days, you might qualify for the eVisitor visa (subclass 651). This is a significantly easier process, compared to applying for a subclass 401/402 visa.

You can apply for the eVisitor visa online, and your eligibility to enter Australia will be linked to your passport. Most eVisitor applications are processed quickly, but some will take longer. For citizens from so-called low risk countries, which include Denmark, there is a visa processing time of 1 working day. If you apply for an eVisitor visa, you will not receive a visa sticker in your passport.

Danish citizens, along with citizens from a long list of other countries, are eligible for eVisitor visas. There is no charge for an eVisitor application.

More information about applying for an eVisitor visa can be found at the Australian Government’s Website.

What about visa for spouse and children?

If you apply for a subclass 400, 401 or 402 (occupational trainee stream and research stream) visa, your partner (married or de facto), your or your partner’s dependent children and other dependent relatives may be included in your visa application.

If you apply for an eVisitor visa and want to bring your partner, children or other dependent relatives, every individual will have to apply for an individual eVisitor visa.

Chapter on visa revised 29.09.2015

Insurance

Aarhus University has travel insurance covering travels on official business. To be covered by this insurance, you have to apply for a personal insurance card. Information about this procedure can be found here: www.ias.au.dk/goingabroad/insurances/.

You will most likely be requested to document the specific insurance conditions for Aarhus University’s insurance covering travel on official business. The insurance conditions can be found on this website: http://tjenesterejser.europaeiske.dk. Enter customer number: 31119103 and password: 30191113. Click on “Betingelser” → “English conditions” → download the Insurance Conditions.

If the host university/institution asks for further proof of the insurance terms, please contact Europæiske. The phone number for Europæiske can be found on your insurance card.
Tax

This section will describe the current tax rules for researchers employed at Aarhus University but working in Australia. However, please be advised that binding tax answers can only be given by SKAT. A fee of DKK 400 is charged for a binding ruling and the response time to get an answer may be up to three months. Hence, it is recommended that you contact your local tax office before departure.

If you live abroad, you may be subject to either full or limited tax liability, or you may not be liable to pay tax at all in Denmark. The decisive factor in determining your tax liability, if any, is whether you still have the right of disposal of your year-round accommodation in Denmark.

- If you keep the right of disposal of your accommodation in Denmark, you will, as a general rule, be subject to full tax liability and thus liable to pay Danish tax on your entire income.
- If you live abroad and stay in Denmark for a period of less than six consecutive months, you will, as a general rule, not be liable to pay tax in Denmark. However, you may receive income on which you must still pay tax.
- Denmark has entered into double taxation agreements with a number of countries to prevent that the same income is taxed twice.

If you sell your property or terminate the tenancy agreement of your rented home, your full tax liability in Denmark will cease. If you rent out your home, you must enter into a non-terminable three-year tenancy agreement with your tenant in order for your full tax liability to cease.

If you still own property or have income from Denmark when moving abroad, and if SKAT has assessed that you are no longer subject to full tax liability, you will become subject to limited tax liability in Denmark.

Limited tax liability means that you only need to pay tax on certain income from Denmark. This may, for example, be:

- Rental income from Danish property
- Salary/wages from an employer in Denmark
- Pension, state pension, fee for board membership and other A-income (income taxed at source)
- Dividends
- Income from Danish property
- Property value tax based on the public property assessment of a holiday home or second home in Denmark

When you leave Denmark to move abroad, you must notify SKAT by completing and submitting form no. 04.029 (Information about residence and other relevant information when leaving Denmark to stay abroad).

As a researcher, if you are a Danish citizen, employed by a Danish institution and you are expatriated to a foreign institution (salary paid from Denmark), you will be subject to full tax liability to Denmark according to the Act on Taxation at the Source (Kildeskatteloven) section 1, (4) whether or not you still have the right of disposal of your year-round accommodation in Denmark.

According to section 33 A (1) of the Tax Assessment Act (Ligningsloven), a person who is fully tax liable to Denmark can apply for a tax exemption if he or she is working abroad. The stay abroad must last no less than 6 months.
According to section 33 A (2) (2) of the Act, section 33 A (1) does not apply if the salary is determined according to a collective agreement unless the collective agreement clearly states that the salary has been determined in view of an exemption according to section 33 A (1).

The salary for public employees in Denmark is normally determined by the collective agreements. As a researcher, you are still covered by the collective agreement when you are expatriated in connection with your employment at Aarhus University. Hence, section 33A (1) cannot be used and you are not eligible for tax exemption. You may however be eligible for deductions for double housekeeping or for food and accommodation (see section 4.2).

The Danish Confederation of Professional Associations (Akademikerne) and the Agency for the Modernisation of Public Administration are currently negotiating the possibility of individual salary negotiations between the employer and the employee which would make it possible for public employees to apply for tax exemption even though they are covered by a collective agreement. However, the status of these negotiations is unknown at this time (September 2015).

If you are a non-Danish citizen and you leave Denmark to work abroad for a period of time, SKAT will assess whether you are still tax liable to Denmark. Please contact SKAT directly and ask for an assessment of your situation.

Denmark and Australia have entered a Convention for the avoidance of double taxation (dobbeltbeskatningsoverenskomst). The purpose of the convention is to prevent both double taxation and tax evasion on income taxes. The convention can be read on the Danish Ministry of Taxation website (in Danish only).

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Address

Do I have to deregister my address in Denmark?

If you are moving abroad for more than 6 months, you must inform the Danish CPR register. This can be done online by contacting the municipality where you live. If you are abroad for less than 6 months and retain your accommodation in Denmark, it is usually possible to keep your address registered in Denmark.

You are entitled, though not required, to have your new address registered in the Danish CPR register if you move from one address to another while living abroad.

Information about deregistering your address

Non-EU/EEA citizens: Please note that if you cancel your address in Denmark, your residence and work permit will most likely be terminated. It is, however, possible under certain circumstances to get a dispensation for the termination of your residence and work permit. You should contact the Danish Immigration authorities or International Academic Staff Services for further information and assistance. Read more about the termination of your residence and work permit.

Do I have to register my address in Australia?

There is no compulsory resident registration in Australia. Therefore you do not have to formally register your address in Australia.
Driving permit

In Australia, laws and driving regulations differ from state to state. Some states require you to carry an International driving permit with your current foreign license. Other states request that you carry your current foreign driver’s license together with a formal translation of your license into English.

As a general rule, you are able to drive in Australia, as a visitor, on a valid overseas driver’s license that covers the same vehicle class for a maximum of three months after arriving in Australia. For specific information for each of the states, please go to the website of the Australian Government.

You can obtain an international driving permit at Citizen Service (Borgerservice) in your municipality in Denmark if you have a valid Danish driving permit.

Accommodation

How do I find accommodation in Australia?

Your host university/institution may have an international centre or similar, where you can receive help and guidance when it comes to finding accommodation.

When looking for accommodation in Australia, here are some of the main housing portals:

- www.domain.com.au/?mode=rent
- www.gumtree.com.au/ - accommodation, furniture, etc.
- www.craigslist.org – accommodation, furniture, etc.

Living costs

In general, living costs in Australia and Denmark are comparable. According to the OECD, the price level in Australia is approximately 5 pct. lower than the price level in Denmark (2014).

At the website http://numbeo.com average living costs for some of the major cities in Australia can be found. At the website it is also possible to compare average prices in Denmark and Australia.

Restrictions on bringing food and other goods

Live animals and plants, plant material, animal products and some food items from overseas could introduce pests and diseases into Australia. In order to limit the risk of pests and diseases, the border authorities in Australia requires travellers to declare items that could be a potential risk.

Before arrival in Australia you will therefore be given an Incoming Passenger Card. This is a legal document. You must mark YES on your card if you are carrying plant material animal products or certain food. Declared items will be assessed by a Department of Agriculture and Water Resources officer during your border clearance. Whether you declare items or not, your baggage may be assessed by x-ray, detector dog or inspected by a departmental officer. If you fail to declare or dispose of any biosecurity risk items prior to inspection, or make a false declaration:

- you will be caught
• you could be fined $360 on-the-spot, or
• you could be prosecuted, fined more than $66000 and risk 10 years jail and a criminal record.

You will not be penalised if ALL items are declared, even if they are not allowed into Australia.

Information from the Australian Government about declaring goods

Chapter on Restrictions on bringing food and other goods revised 29.09.2015
Links

General information on planning a stay abroad for studying, work or research purposes: http://ias.au.dk/goingabroad

The website of the Australian Embassy in Copenhagen: www.denmark.embassy.gov.au

The website of the Australian Embassy in Berlin: www.germany.embassy.gov.au

The website of the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection: www.border.gov.au

Information about the Subclass 400 visa: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/400-

Information about the Subclass 401 visa: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/401-

Information about the Subclass 402 visa: hwww.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/402-

Information about the eVisitor subclass 651 visa: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/651-

Information about the Convention for the avoidance of double taxation (in Danish): www.skm.dk/love/internationalt/dobbeltbeskatningsoverenskomster

Information for non-EU/EEA citizens about the termination of a residence and work permit: www.nyidanmark.dk/en-us/coming_to_dk/if_you_leave_denmark/work_and_studies

Information about deregistering your address: https://lifeindenmark.borger.dk/Pages/Practical-matters-before-leaving.aspx (in English) and www.borger.dk/Sider/Flyt-til-udlandet.aspx (in Danish)

Information from borger.dk about how to obtain an international driving permit (in Danish): www.borger.dk/sider/koerekort-i-udlandet.aspx


Information from The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources about how to declare items of biosecurity risk: www.agriculture.gov.au/travelling/to-australia/arriving-in-australia-declare-it

Info about Aarhus University’s travel insurance covering travel on official business: http://tjenesterejser.europaeiske.dk. Enter the customer number: 31119103 and password: 30191113.

For information about bringing a pet to Australia: www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/cat-dogs

Information about living costs: www.numbeo.com

Australia’s official tourism website: www.australia.com