

Including family in your Student visa application



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

NOTE: Student visa applications lodged before 2 October 2026, including applications that included family, will continue to be assessed under the rules that were in place when they were lodged. You do not need to use this assessment tool.

Step 1: Which situation applies to you?

You *already* hold a Student visa and want to add family members to it.

You cannot add family members to your Student visa after it has been granted. **There are no exemptions.**

You are *applying* for a Student visa, and want to include family members as dependants when you lodge your application.

Step 2: Does one of these exemptions apply to you?

- You are studying for a PhD degree
- You are sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) or Defence
- You are an eligible student from a Pacific or ASEAN member country

- You are receiving a foreign government scholarship
- If you already have family members included on your current Student visa, and are eligible to apply in Australia (for example, you have completed your main course and are progressing to further study).

Yes

You may be able to include family members in your Student visa application when you apply (but not after a Student visa has been granted). You and your family members must apply in the same location. Before lodging, check the exemption criteria on the [Department of Home Affairs website](#).

No

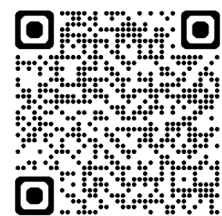
You cannot include family members as dependants when you lodge your Student visa application.

Important: This decision tree does not provide a complete summary of all the exemptions that may be available to an individual and makes no recommendations regarding pathways that are appropriate for that individual.

Before lodging an application or making study, travel or financial commitments, check the [Department of Home Affairs website](#).



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Student visa](#)



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