



A-UKFTA



AUSTRALIA

## Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement

### Australia- United Kingdom Innovation and Early Careers Skills Exchange Pilot (IECSEP)



Innovation is vital to the economies of Australia and the UK as it stimulates competition, increases productivity, encourages investment, and promotes international trade. Mobility of skilled individuals between Australia and the UK supports knowledge exchange and skills development. Building on the strong cultural ties between Australia and the UK, the IECSEP will provide an opportunity for UK citizens who are early in their career, or those who have made contributions to innovation, to live and work in Australia.



Australian Government



AUSTRALIA

February 2023. More information on the  
Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement is available at

[dfat.gov.au/aukfta](https://dfat.gov.au/aukfta)

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has developed this background information for agencies of the Australian Commonwealth and State and Territory governments.



## There are two application streams under the IECSEP:

- **Early Careers stream** – tertiary qualified UK citizens aged 21-45 can undertake a placement, secondment or intra-corporate transfer for up to a year in Australia in a position relevant to their field of work.
- **Innovation stream** – highly experienced and skilled UK citizens with a demonstrated contribution to innovation, can undertake employment opportunities for up to three years in Australia.

## Eligibility requirements

To be eligible, all applicants must demonstrate that they have an employment opportunity for the planned duration of their stay, either through a letter of employment offer or a signed employment contract from an Australian employer. All applicants must demonstrate UK citizenship and demonstrate they have adequate financial means to support themselves during their stay.

In addition, specific stream criteria must also be met.

Under the **Early Careers stream** applicants must:

- Be aged between 21 and 45 years at the time of application;
- Have tertiary qualifications; and
- Have worked for a minimum of three months in their current organisation, including as a graduate trainee.

Under the **Innovation stream** applicants must:

- Demonstrate skills and experience equivalent to ANZSCO Skill Level 1. This is commensurate with a bachelor degree or higher qualification. At least 5 years of relevant experience may substitute for the formal qualifications. In some instances, relevant experience and/or on-the-job training may be required in addition to the formal qualifications.
- Demonstrate a contribution to innovation. Contributions can be in areas such as research and development, renewable energy, artificial intelligence, medical technology, FinTech, AgriTech, audio-visual and cultural industries.

Successful IECSEP applicants will need to comply with any Australian licensing, registration, or certification requirements necessary to undertake the specified employment in Australia. Applicants can come from any sector.

## How can I apply?

The IECSEP will open within one year of the entry-into-force of the A-UKFTA.

To live and work in Australia, successful IECSEP applicants will need to be granted a visa by the Department of Home Affairs. Applications will be lodged online and will be processed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will provide successful IECSEP applicants with a Letter of Support to present to the Department of Home Affairs to support their visa application. IECSEP applicants will apply for a Temporary Work (International Relations) Government Agreement stream subclass 403 visa and will need to meet the requirements of the visa. More information about the subclass 403 visa can be found at [immi.homeaffairs.gov.au](https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au).

## More Information

Contact [aukfta.iecsep@dfat.gov.au](mailto:aukfta.iecsep@dfat.gov.au) for more information, including updates on application round opening dates, or scan here:

