

Citizenship document requirements when applying for a VET Student Loan

Please Note: documents provided to support your eligibility for Victorian Government subsidised training may not necessarily be suitable to support your application for a VET Student Loan. Please check the following information carefully as you will be required to provide this evidence before you will be eligible to access a VET Student Loan.

Am I eligible for a VET Student Loan?

VET Student Loans (VETSL) is an Australian Government loan scheme for the Vocational Education and Training sector.

You may be eligible for VETSL if you are:

- An Australian citizen, or
- A permanent humanitarian visa holder who is usually resident in Australia, or
- A qualifying New Zealand Citizen

AND you also:

- Are seeking to enrol in a VETSL eligible course
- Are assessed as academically suited to undertake the eligible course
- Have not already accessed 100% of your lifetime HELP balance
- Have not already accessed 100% of your course's VETSL cap
- Are 18 years of age or older, OR have a parental consent form signed by a responsible guardian, OR have received youth allowance on the basis that you are independent
- Meet the Tax File Number (TFN) requirements
- Have a Unique Student Identifier (USI).

What evidence do I need to provide if I am an Australian Citizen?

A current Australian Passport is suitable evidence of Australian citizenship. Otherwise, the evidence required to demonstrate that an applicant is an Australian citizen may differ depending on whether the applicant was:

- born overseas
- born in Australia before 20 August 1986
- born in Australia on or after 20 August 1986.

Applicants born overseas and acquired Australian citizenship by application

Applicants will need to provide one of the following documents as evidence of their Australian citizenship:

- a current Australian passport
- an Australian citizenship certificate
- a Citizenship by Descent extract

If an applicant does not have one of the above citizenship documents and they do not wish to acquire a new copy of the required document, they can lodge **Form 119 Application for evidence of Australian citizenship** with the Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs).

Applicants born in Australia before 20 August 1986

Applicants will need to provide one of the following documents as evidence of their Australian citizenship:

- a current Australian passport
- an Australian citizenship certificate

An exception to this is where the applicant's parents were in Australia as diplomats or consular officers at the time of the applicant's birth. In these circumstances, the applicant will need to provide a citizenship certificate as evidence that they are an Australian citizen.

If an applicant does not have one of the above citizenship documents and they do not wish to acquire a new copy of the required document, they can lodge **Form 119 Application for evidence of Australian citizenship** with the Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs).

Applicant was born in Australia on or after 20 August 1986

Applicants will need to provide one of the following documents as evidence of their Australian citizenship:

When at least one parent was an Australian citizen at the time of the applicant's birth and born before 20 August 1986:

- a current Australian passport OR
- a full Australian birth certificate

When at least one parent was an Australian citizen at the time of the applicant's birth and born on or after 20 August 1986:

- a current Australian passport OR
- a full Australian birth certificate AND one parent's full Australian birth certificate

When at least one parent was a permanent resident of Australia at the time of the applicant's birth:

- a current Australian passport
- an Australian citizenship certificate

When neither parent was an Australian citizen nor an Australian permanent resident but the applicant spent the first 10 years of their life in Australia:

- a current Australian passport
- an Australian citizenship certificate

The following documents are not acceptable as proof of a parent's permanent residency for VET Student Loan applications:

- parent's foreign passport with a visa label
- Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) printout
- visa grant notification letter
- Certificate of Evidence of Resident Status (CERS)
- Certificate of Status for New Zealand Citizens in Australia (CSNZCA)
- ImmiCard
- Freedom of Information (FOI) letter from the Department of Home Affairs.

These documents only provide proof of a person's visa status on the day they are issued / printed and are not sufficient proof of a parent's resident status at the time the applicant was born.

If the applicant cannot provide any of these documents they must apply for their own evidence of Australian citizenship by lodging **Form 119 Application for evidence of Australian citizenship** with Home Affairs.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants not registered and birth by the relevant State/Territory Authority

Applicants may provide their current Australian Passport or submit a Statutory Declaration as provided by The Gordon via the Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business.

Statutory Declarations are not acceptable forms of proof of Australian citizenship for any applicants other than Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders whose birth was not registered by the relevant State/Territory authority.

Applicant or their parent was born in Papua New Guinea prior to 16 Sep 1975

Papua New Guinea became a sovereign nation on 16 Sep 1975 (PNG Independence Day). Assessing Australian citizenship status of people born in PNG prior to 16 Sep 1975 can be complex. Home Affairs is aware that in the past this cohort of people has been incorrectly issued with an Australian passport based on an incorrect assessment of their citizenship status. As such, the citizenship status of some applicants born in PNG prior to 16 Sep 1975 must be checked and verified with Home Affairs.

The applicant should be referred to Home Affairs to obtain evidence of Australian citizenship by lodging **Form 119 Application for evidence of Australian citizenship** if:

- evidence of citizenship was issued before 1 Jan 2009 and the applicant was born in PNG prior to 16 Sep 1975; or
- citizenship was acquired by descent before 1 Jan 2009 where the parent(s) was born in PNG before 16 Sep 1975.

A citizenship certificate can be accepted as evidence that the applicant is an Australian citizen if the evidence of citizenship was issued on or after 1 Jan 2009 regardless of the acquisition date or date of birth.

Applicants need to take Home Affairs' application processing times into account before applying for a VET Student Loan.

What evidence do I need to provide if I am holder of a Permanent Humanitarian Visa?

When you applied for your course and your eligibility was assessed you will have provided the documents required to confirm your status as a Humanitarian Visa holder.

What evidence do I need to provide if I am a New Zealand citizen?

Eligible New Zealand Special Category Visa (SCV) holders who meet the requisite criteria will be able to access Vet Student Loans.

To be eligible, you will have:

- to be a New Zealand citizen who holds a Special Category Visa (SCV); and
- first entered Australia as a dependent minor aged under 18 years; and
- been residing in Australia for the previous 10 years (that is, you have been present in Australia for at least 8 out of the past 10 years) at the time of application for the loan; and
- been residing in Australia for the past 18 months out of the last 2 years at the time of application for the loan.

You will be required to provide the following documents as part of your application:

- Copy of the SCV
- Copy of current passport
- Copies of your international movement records from the Department of Home Affairs.

If you require any further information in relation to citizenship requirements for VET Student Loans, please email fees@gordontafe.edu.au or contact Customer Service on 5225 0500.