



GS Visa Requirements

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Genuine Student (GS) requirement, and why is it important?

The Genuine Student (GS) requirement is a crucial part of the visa and admissions process for international students. It is designed to uphold the integrity of Australia's education system by ensuring that applicants:

- Have a genuine intent to study in Australia.
- Possess the academic, financial, and personal capacity to successfully complete their studies.

This requirement helps maintain the quality and credibility of Australia's education sector by ensuring that students are genuinely committed to their studies.

2. What factors are considered in a GS assessment?

- **Academic Qualifications:** Consistency between previous studies and the intended course, with evidence of academic performance.
- **English Proficiency:** Proof of meeting the education provider's English language requirements (e.g., IELTS or TOEFL scores).
- **Financial Capacity:** Ability to pay tuition fees, living expenses, and travel costs for the duration of the course.
- **Commitment to Study:** Motivation to study, alignment of the course with career goals, and explanations for any study gaps.
- **Personal Circumstances:** Ties to the home country, likelihood of returning after studies, and legitimate transition plans if pursuing other visa pathways.

3. What types of evidence can students provide to meet the GS requirements?

Students will need to provide:

- Academic transcripts and certificates.
- Proof of English proficiency (e.g., test scores).
- Financial evidence, such as bank statements, sponsor letters, or proof of income.
- Personal documentation, including relationship evidence (e.g., birth certificates).

4. Why would an application require a closer review?

Applications may be reviewed further if:

- The Information provided is inconsistent.
- There are unsupported claims.
- Applications are incomplete.
- Fraudulent documents are provided.
- Unverified financial evidence is given.
- There are unexplained study gaps.
- There are frequent changes in study fields or education providers without a valid reason.
- Statements on the GS forms are generic or AI-generated.

5. Can agents assist students in completing GS forms?

Agents may guide students through the GS process but must not complete the forms on their behalf, provide a template, or offer generic responses. Students must write their own responses in English, using their own words, and support their statements with appropriate evidence. It is essential that students adhere to the 150-word limit per question and avoid using templated or generic responses, as this may impact the assessment outcome.

6. What financial evidence is required to meet GS criteria?

Students must demonstrate their financial capacity to support their studies and living expenses, including:

- Tuition fees and living costs for at least 12 months.
- Travel expenses.
- If applicable, funds for any accompanying family members.

Acceptable evidence may include:

- Scholarship evidence – Official documentation confirming the scholarship.

- Sponsorship (maximum of three sponsors) – Immediate family members only, with an affidavit or signed letter confirming the availability of funds.
- Government or bank loan – A maximum of 80% of costs can be loaned, with supporting evidence of collateral used for loan approval.
- Income Tax Returns (ITR).
- Evidence of property ownership.
- Proof of land sale proceeds.
- Property rental agreements – If rental income is available to the student, with 12 months of income evidence.
- Sponsor's personal and business bank accounts.
- Proof that the sponsor's business is currently operational – Including 12 months of bank statements.
- Employment evidence of the sponsor.
- Sponsor's payslips – Last six months.

7. How do GS requirements differ between UNDA and UHE?

Both providers have the same questions on their GS form, the wording is slightly different. However, the use of hyperlinks differs:

- **UNDA** allows hyperlinks on their GS form to support claims.
- **UHE** does not allow hyperlinks and all evidence should be provided as separate documents.

8. What role do agents play in the GS process?

Agents are responsible for:

- Screening and ensuring that students meet the GS criteria prior to application.
- Submitting complete and authentic application documents to education providers and the Department of Home Affairs.
- Ensuring that students' responses are genuine and aligned with their profiles.

Agents should avoid using templated or AI-generated content and must ensure that all submitted information is accurate, verifiable, and truthful.

9. What are some examples of acceptable and unacceptable GS evidence?

Acceptable evidence includes:

- Evidence of research comparing the same course in home country and Australia (course structure and content).
- Evidence of research comparing institutions in home country and Australia.
- Evidence of jobs they may apply for upon return, indicating return on investment.
- Identity documents of the student and family members, including the family tree.
- Memberships in clubs or organisations
- Evidence of community work (e.g., volunteering).
- Recent academic or sporting accolades.
- Evidence of promotion opportunities after completing a course.
- Screenshots (not links) to demonstrate research into housing options, costs, and locations.
- Evidence supporting the demand for the student's skills or qualifications in their home country.

Unacceptable evidence includes:

- Fraudulent documents
- Unverifiable (financial) claims and documents.
- Generic or AI-generated responses.
- Mismatched or inconsistent information.

10. What should students do if their application is flagged for further investigation?

If an application is flagged, students should provide additional evidence promptly, such as:

- Detailed explanations for study gaps, visa refusals, or course changes.
- Verifiable documentation supporting their claims.
- Clear reasoning for their decision to study in Australia rather than in their home country.

Students (or their agent) should also ensure they respond to requests from the Department of Home Affairs in a timely and professional manner.

11. Can students combine savings and fixed accounts to meet financial requirements?

Yes, students must provide evidence of access to all claimed financial sources.

12. How are dependent visas handled for married students?

- It is advised that both the student and spouse apply together if the spouse is accompanying the student.
- The financial matrix form must be completed, showing the additional amount needed for dependents.
- Recent marriages of less than one year may be subject to further investigation.