

Asylum Seeker VET Program

August 2023

What is ASVET?

The Asylum Seeker VET (ASVET) program provides people seeking asylum and refugees an exemption from the usual citizenship and residency criteria required for Skills First-funded training in Victoria.

This means people seeking asylum can enrol at the subsidised rate for skills first funded courses. It also includes the concession rate where available - **no healthcare card or additional proof of concession required**

Eligible people may enrol in Skills First subsidised certificates in:

- Foundation Studies (for example EAL, VCE)
- VET Certificate levels I to IV
- Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas
- Skill sets

Can enrol at TAFEs, Learn Locals and government contracted RTOs.

Doesn't affect AMEP and SEE funding

Other initiatives available for those eligible for ASVET funding

Reconnect

<https://www.vic.gov.au/reconnect-program>

Free TAFE for Priority Courses subsidies

<https://www.vic.gov.au/free-tafe>

ACFE - Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE)

<https://www.vic.gov.au/asylum-seeker-vet-program>

Who is eligible - New visa eligibility

From 1 July 2023, eligibility to participate in the Asylum Seeker VET program is for **individuals or dependants of individuals**, who

- **hold** any humanitarian, protection, or refugee visa in Australia, or
- have **applied** for a humanitarian, protection or refugee visa and hold a **bridging visa** for this purpose,
- have made an application under s.417 or s.48b of the Migration Act 1958 (Cth) which is yet to be determined and hold a bridging visa.

Other eligibility requirements

Individuals must have study rights, and work rights are required for programs that include work placement.

All applicants must:

- have a proficient level of English to participate in the chosen course
 - be able to pay for: course concession fees (where applicable), course materials, student amenity fees, and transport costs
- ASRC cannot pay any fee gaps**
- live in Victoria

For any further eligibility requirements or limitations please check your Skills First contract, or contact your contract manager at the DJSIR.

What is 'seeking asylum'?

Refugees are people who have been forced to flee their homes and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country. - UNHCR

In Australian law a person is 'recognised' as a refugee when they legally apply for protection and are granted it by the federal government.

In contrast a person seeking asylum is someone who has sought legal protection as a refugee, but whose claim has not yet been assessed or finalised.

However, under international law, a person is a 'refugee' as soon as they meet the definition of refugee, whether or not their claim has been assessed by the Australian Government. - Refugee Council of Australia

Refugee and Humanitarian visas

Permanent

- Protection Visa (XA 866)
- Refugee Visa - Refugee (XB 200)
- Refugee Visa - In country Special Humanitarian (XB 201)
- Refugee Visa - Global Special Humanitarian (XB 202)
- Refugee Visa - Emergency Rescue (XB 203)
- Refugee Visa - Women at Risk (XB 204)
- Resolution of Status (CD 851)

Temporary

Humanitarian (Temporary) (UJ 449)

Temporary Humanitarian Concern (UO 786)

Temporary Protection Visa (XD 785)

Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (XE 790)

This list may change or be incomplete. If you are unsure about a visa type please contact the [Department of Home Affairs](#)

Bridging Visas

Visa given while waiting the outcome of a substantial visa

Not exclusive to people seeking asylum - will need to check which visa they have applied for - see evidence of application

Bridging visa A (WA 010)

Bridging visa B (WB 020)

Bridging visa C (WC 030)

Bridging visa D (WD 040)

Bridging visa E (WE 050 and WE 051)

Bridging Visa F (WF 060)

Can sometimes be holding this visa for 5+ years

This list may be incomplete. If you are unsure about a visa type please contact the [Department of Home Affairs](#)

Enrolment

- Can enrol directly with a training organisation as an ASVET student
- ASRC can provide a letter of referral to support enrolment if requested
- Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) enrolment directly

Enrolment process

Documents needed:

1. Identification document to run a VEVO check
2. A VEVO check to show current study and work rights, run either by the training provider or by the student
3. If a student has a bridging visa the training provider needs to sight additional evidence that they are applying for a humanitarian, protection, or refugee visa or making an application under s.417 or s.48b of the Migration Act 1958 (Cth)

Running a VEVO check

Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) allows visa holders, employers, education providers and other organisations to check visa details and conditions.

Used to check study rights, work rights and current visa

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/check-conditions-online>

Can be run by an organisation or by the visa holder

VEVO checks may look slightly different depending on whether it is run by a training provider, lawyer or the individual

VEVO check by organisation

What you will need:

A copy of one of the following documents:

- Immicard
- Passport
- Titre de voyage
- DFTTA
- PLO56 (M56)

1. Login in with your organisation's ImmiAccount username and password (**Organisation holder VEVO login**)
<https://online.immi.gov.au/lusc/login>

When the login is successful, click on the "**continue**" button

2. Fill in the details required to match the document
3. Download/print the document as a PDF for your records

Consent is always required

VEVO Check by student

You can accept a VEVO record that a student has generated themselves.

You will need to sight the document used to run the VEVO check (Immocard, passport etc), checking the following details match:

- Name
- date of birth
- document number

Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO)

Visa Details Check

This document contains the result of a Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) Visa Details Check and is valid as at [REDACTED] (AEST) Canberra, Australia (GMT +1000).

Important information about VEVO

A VEVO check shows the visa details and conditions associated with a particular visa holder, such as work or study rights.

VEVO Visa Details Checks are only current at the time conducted and should only be considered valid when received directly from the VEVO system.

Not all visas allow people to work. Some Australian visas have work conditions which may include not being able to work at all or only being able to work with a certain employer or a specific number of hours.

Foreign nationals who do not have a valid visa are not allowed to work in Australia. This might include a person whose visa has expired or been cancelled.

Employers are strongly encouraged to conduct their own VEVO Visa Details Check as it is a criminal offense to hire or refer illegal workers in Australia.

Employers who hire, or refer workers without the right to work, face serious penalties including fines or imprisonment.

With the permission of the visa holder, registered employers may conduct a VEVO Visa Details Check to confirm the visa details and conditions of employees. For more information about employing a visa holder, please go to: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/legal/workers>

Want to know more about VEVO?

For more information about VEVO, including how eligible organisations can register to conduct VEVO Visa Detail Checks, please go to: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/VEVO>

Visa Detail Check

Valid as at [REDACTED] Canberra, Australia (GMT +1000)

Family name	[REDACTED]
Given name(s)	[REDACTED]
Visa description	BRIDGING
Document number	[REDACTED]
Visa class / subclass	WA / 010
Visa applicant	Primary
Visa grant date	[REDACTED]
Location	Onshore
Visa status	In Effect
Entries allowed	[REDACTED]
Period of stay	Indefinite
Visa type	Bridging visa

Reading a VEVO check

Visa Detail Check	
Valid as at Friday [REDACTED] AEST) Canberra, Australia (GMT +1000)	
date VEVO check was run	
Enquiry details	
Family name	[REDACTED]
Given name(s)	
Date of birth	
ImmiCard number	
Current visa details as per departmental records	
Category selected	Study entitlements
Family name	[REDACTED]
Given name(s)	[REDACTED]
ImmiCard number	[REDACTED]
Visa class / subclass	WE / 050
Visa grant date	[REDACTED]
Location	Onshore
Study condition(s)	No limitations on study.

code corresponding to visa type

Common that the VEVO check doesn't list an expiry date

VEVO check alternative 'look' run by student

Visa Detail Check

Valid as at [REDACTED] AEST) Canberra, Australia (GMT +1000)

Family name	[REDACTED]
Given name(s)	[REDACTED]
Visa description	BRIDGING
Document number	[REDACTED]
Visa class / subclass	WA / 010
Visa applicant	[REDACTED]
Visa grant date	
Location	
Visa status	
Entries allowed	
Period of stay	
Visa type	Bridging visa

These screenshots are from a longer VEVO check spread over two pages

Work entitlements

The Visa Holder has unlimited Work Entitlements

Workplace rights

All employees in Australia are protected by workplace laws, including visa holders, for further information see:
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/work-rights-and-exploitation>

Study entitlements

The Visa Holder has unlimited Study Entitlements

What to look for

- bridging visas may or may not have study or work rights - always check
- common phrases:
 - no limitations on study/unlimited study entitlements
 - This work right check is valid for three months only. The visa holder has unlimited work rights in Australia. If you wish to employ the visa holder their work rights must be checked every three months.
 - CAN work, unlimited work rights, but the VEVO check expires 3 months after the 'valid' date listed at the top.
 - no study entitlements

VEVO issues

If you cannot run a VEVO check

- check whether they have any other identification documents: for example if a person with an Immicard is granted a Titre De Voyage, it may be only one of these documents works for VEVO checks
- Ask if the person can run a check themselves in their ImmiAccount to give to you, or has someone who can provide one on their behalf (caseworker, lawyer)
- Speak with ASRC

If the individual does not have study rights

Do not enrol them **but** encourage them to speak with ASRC and/or their lawyer as they can make a request for study rights

If the individual does not have work rights

Unable to immediately enrol in a course with a work placement component however can request work rights

ASRC may be able to assist

Evidence of application for protection for bridging visa holders

As VEVO checks only show a person's current visa, extra documents are needed to prove they have applied for a protection type visa

Some examples are:

- Bridging visa grant notice
- Acknowledgement of application
- Receipt in ImmiAccount

Needs to be:

- From an official source
- Clearly show they are linked to a protection, humanitarian or refugee visa application

Documents can be requested by the individual through an ImmiAccount or ask them to speak with their caseworker or lawyer to obtain

Acknowledgement of application letter



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Dear [REDACTED]

We received your Protection (subclass 866) visa application on [REDACTED] June 2023.

Application status

Protection (subclass 866) visa: **Received**

Application summary

Primary applicant	[REDACTED]
Visa	Protection (subclass 866)
Date of application	[REDACTED] June 2023
Application ID	[REDACTED]
Transaction reference number	[REDACTED]

Visa type and class match that in the list on slide 8

Providing documents

We may make a decision on your application without requesting additional information. You should provide us with all the information you feel is relevant.

As you lodged your application online, you should log in to your ImmiAccount to see the documents required for your application.

Do not send us original documents unless we ask for them. If you send copies of your documents, ensure that they are certified copies.

If you provide us with fraudulent documents or claims, this may result in processing delays

Bridging Visa Grant notice



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

BRIDGING VISA GRANT NOTICE

Application details

Date of Visa Application
Application ID
Transaction Reference Number
(TRN)
File Number
Visa Application Charge
Receipt Number

A Bridging visa (class WA) has been granted to the applicant listed in the table below to allow you to remain in Australia during the processing of your application for a **Protection (class XA) Protection (subclass 866) visa**.

Bridging visa grant details

Client Name	
Date Of Birth	
Client ID	
Bridging Visa Class	Bridging A (class WA)
Bridging Visa Subclass	Bridging A (subclass 010)
Visa Grant Number	
Visa Grant Date	
Passport Number	
Travel Facility	
Visa Conditions	

About your bridging visa

This bridging visa is not in effect because your Electronic Travel Authority visa is currently in

ASRC referral letter sample

- ASRC letterhead
- Contact details for the ASVET team if you have any questions
- Letter is to support enrolment but **is not required** for the student to enrol under ASVET
- VEVO check and additional evidence must be sighted by the training provider

Asylum Seeker
Resource Centre

[date]

[training provider]

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter is to introduce xxxxx who is a person seeking asylum. xxxxx is eligible for a subsidised concession place in a Victorian Skills First course under the Asylum Seeker VET (ASVET) initiative. Subject to the results of an LL&N assessment, xxxxx would like to enrol in the xxxxx with xxxxx.

Please ensure that, before enrolling xxxx, a VEVO check is completed and additional evidence that they're applying for a humanitarian, protection, or refugee visa or making an application under s.417 or s.48b of the Migration Act 1958 (Cth) has been sighted by xxxx. Also, please inform xxxxxx of any services or materials fees payable.

If you have any queries about these arrangements, please contact the ASRC on 9326 6066 to speak with an Education Coordinator.

Yours sincerely,

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

T: 9274 9834

Email: education@asrc.org.au

ASRC Advisory appointments for students

- One on one with Education advisors
- Telephone appointments and in-person appointments in Footscray and Dandenong
- advice on goals, planning, logistics and financial impact
- Navigate funding initiatives
- Liaising with Training Organisations, Reconnect providers and other stakeholders as needed
- Follow up calls

For stakeholders

- Two events per year. Next Professional development workshop in November/December date TBA
- Telephone helpdesk for enquiries and website for resources

Contact us

Available by phone and email Monday to Friday 9-5

Call: 9274 9834 and 9273 9807

Email: education@asrc.org.au

Office hours

Dandenong Office - Refugee Resource Hub

Tuesday + Thursday

Foosetracy Office - Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Resources and References

- List of visas: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2017C01164>
- Conduct a vevo check: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/check-conditions-online>
- VEVO check screenshots <https://asrc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/ASVET-Referral-Process-and-Visa-Checks.pdf>
- www.asrc.org.au/vet
- <https://www.vic.gov.au/asylum-seeker-vet-program>
- <https://www.vic.gov.au/skills-first>
- RTO Contract Notification in portal sent 11th July
- ACFE memo



Thank you!

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admin@asrc.org.au
asrc.org.au

