



Sahampath Hettiarachchi  
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Dear Sahampath Hettiarachchi

Thank you for your correspondence of 17 April 2024 to the Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Cyber Security, the Hon Clare O'Neil MP, concerning the age limitation. The Minister appreciates the time you have taken to bring this matter to her attention and has asked that I reply on her behalf.

The Australian Government is recalibrating student and graduate visa settings to support both the education sector and Australia's migration needs, and create clearer pathways for students. These changes will help students to have a positive educational experience in Australia and support students with the skills Australia needs to transition to the workforce and help drive economic productivity.

The purpose of the age limitation reform is to reposition the Temporary Graduate visa as a product for early career professionals who can contribute to the Australian economy over a longer period. Based on research undertaken during the development of the Migration Strategy, the age cap of 35 years or under will not disproportionately impact PhD students as the Temporary Graduate visa is not the preferred pathway these students have been using to migrate to Australia.

The first key action of the Migration Strategy is building a new temporary skilled migration system to address skills needs and enhance worker mobility. While the Department of Home Affairs is not able to consider individual exemptions for International students over the age of 35 for Temporary Graduate visas, graduates who have relevant work histories but are no longer eligible for the Temporary Graduate visa due to age restrictions will continue to have access to other temporary and migration pathways which will be enhanced as a part of the visa reforms. The development of the new Skills in Demand visa may provide graduates who have extensive work histories related to their area of studies with quicker pathway to permanency than the Temporary Graduate visa.

The Department acknowledges that international students who stay in Australia to pursue work opportunities help alleviate national skills shortages and make an ongoing contribution to Australia's communities and way of life. We want students to receive a high quality education in Australia, and to either choose to use their qualifications to join the global workforce or apply the skills we need to a career in Australia.

If you require further assistance with your immigration matters, you may wish to consider seeking independent advice. Information about who can provide immigration assistance is available at: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/overview>.

Thank you for raising this matter with the Minister.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. King', written in a cursive style.

Director  
Client Support and Feedback Services  
Immigration Group  
22 May 2024