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Australia MATES Visa — Subclass 403

Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early-professionals Scheme • Ballot & Visa Application Guide

IMPORTANT — CURRENT BALLOT INFORMATION

The Department of Home Affairs' published ballot page shows the 2025-26 MATES ballot registration period ran from 1 November 2025 to 14 December 2025, with selections scheduled from 15 December 2025 to 30 June 2026. A new annual ballot process may be available in a future program year; always check the official Home Affairs page for the current dates.

1. What is the MATES Visa?

MATES is a temporary mobility pathway under the Temporary Work (International Relations) visa (subclass 403) for eligible Indian graduates and early-career professionals. It allows successful applicants to live and work in Australia for up to 2 years. Up to 3,000 primary applicants can be granted MATES visas per program year, with eligible family members able to accompany the primary applicant without counting toward the 3,000 places.

Key point: You cannot directly lodge a MATES visa application. Eligible Indian nationals must first register in the MATES pre-application ballot and be randomly selected. Only selected applicants receive a Notification of Selection and can then apply for the visa.

2. Ballot Registration Eligibility

- Hold a valid Indian passport.
- Hold a valid Indian Government Permanent Account Number (PAN) card.
- Be 18-30 years old (inclusive) at the beginning of the ballot registration open period.
- Have a valid email address.
- Create an ImmiAccount.
- Not already be registered in the same MATES ballot.
- Agree to the registration declarations.
- Pay the ballot registration fee of AUD 25.
- You can be in or outside Australia when registering, but if selected, you must be outside Australia when you apply for the MATES visa.

3. Visa Eligibility After Selection

- You must be randomly selected in the MATES ballot and have a Notification of Selection letter.
- You must hold a valid Indian passport.

- You must be 18–30 years old under the ballot age rule.
- You must not have previously entered Australia on a subclass 403 MATES stream visa.
- You must have graduated within two years of the beginning of the relevant ballot registration period from an eligible institution.
- Your institution must be one of the Top 100 institutions on the Indian Ministry of Education's NIRF India Rankings Overall 2024 list, as specified by Home Affairs.
- Your qualification must be equivalent to an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree or higher.
- Your qualification must relate to an eligible field: renewable energy, mining, engineering, ICT, artificial intelligence, financial technology, or agricultural technology.
- You must meet the English-language requirement.
- You must meet financial capacity, health, character, health-insurance and other visa requirements.

4. English Requirement

Test	Minimum requirement
IELTS	Overall 6.0, with at least 5.0 in each component
PTE Academic	Overall 50, with at least 36 in each component
TOEFL iBT	Overall 64; Listening/Reading at least 4; Speaking/Writing at least 14
Cambridge C1 Advanced	Overall 169, with at least 154 in each component
OET	At least C in each component

Home Affairs states the English test must have been completed within the one-year period before the valid visa application or, in the relevant circumstances, before the department decides the application.

5. Step-by-Step MATES Ballot Registration

1 Create an ImmiAccount

Create or sign in to your individual ImmiAccount. Use an email address you check regularly because ballot and selection notifications are sent electronically.

2 Check the official ballot dates

MATES registration is available only during the official ballot registration period. The department holds an annual MATES ballot process. Do not rely on unofficial dates.

3 Prepare your passport and PAN details

Have your valid Indian passport and PAN card available. Enter the details exactly and consistently. If you are selected, your PAN details in the visa application must match the details provided in the ballot.

4 Complete the MATES ballot registration

Follow the MATES ballot registration process in ImmiAccount and complete the requested personal, passport, identity and declaration information.

5 Pay the AUD 25 ballot registration fee

The ballot registration fee is AUD 25. The payment must be completed and cleared for the registration to enter the ballot. The fee is not normally refundable if you are not selected or your later visa application is unsuccessful.

6 Submit and save confirmation

After successful submission and payment, keep your registration confirmation and payment record. Monitor the registration status in ImmiAccount.

7 Wait for random selection

Registrations are selected randomly. If selected, Home Affairs sends a Notification of Selection letter. If not selected, you cannot apply for the MATES visa from that ballot.

6. Understand Your ImmiAccount Ballot Status

- Draft: Registration has not yet been fully submitted and paid.
- Ready for payment / Awaiting payment: Payment still needs to be completed and cleared.
- Received: Home Affairs has received the ballot registration.
- Selected: You have been randomly selected and must apply by the date in your Notification of Selection letter.
- Visa application submitted: Your MATES visa application has been submitted for assessment.
- Selection expired: You were selected but did not lodge the visa application within the required period.
- Expired: The ballot registration is no longer eligible for selection.

7. If You Are Selected — Visa Application Procedure

8 Read the Notification of Selection letter

Check the selection date and the final application date. Home Affairs gives selected applicants 30 calendar days from selection to complete and submit the visa application. The final-day cut-off is 11:59 PM AEDT.

9 Make sure you are outside Australia

You must be outside Australia when you apply for the MATES visa and when Home Affairs decides the application.

10 Prepare your documents

Prepare your current passport, PAN card, qualification certificate, academic transcript, CV/resume, English evidence, financial evidence, police certificates where required, health/insurance evidence and family documents if applicable.

11 Complete the online visa application

Use the application link generated in your ballot registration or access the visa application through ImmiAccount. Answer all questions accurately.

12 Upload supporting documents

Upload clear colour scans/photos. Provide English translations for documents that are not in English, following Home Affairs translation requirements.

13 Pay the visa application charge

Pay the current visa application charge shown by Home Affairs. The ballot registration fee is separate from the visa application charge. The department will not process the visa application until the required payment is made.

14 Submit and save your TRN

Submit the application before the deadline in your selection letter and save the Transaction Reference Number (TRN) and application confirmation.

15 Complete additional requests

Monitor ImmiAccount. Home Affairs may request health examinations, biometrics, additional documents or other information. Respond within the deadline provided.

16 Receive the visa decision

The department will notify you in writing. If granted, check the grant notice carefully for the visa start date, first-entry date, stay period and conditions.

8. Financial Capacity

You must be able to support yourself and accompanying family members in Australia. Home Affairs says this can be demonstrated through an Australian employment offer or, if you do not have an offer, evidence of sufficient funds. The department states this is usually about AUD 5,000 for the initial stay. Evidence can include eligible bank funds, government financial support or an eligible financial-institution loan.

9. Family Members

Eligible family members can be included in the visa application after the main applicant is selected. Family members can also have their own ballot registration. Family members included in the visa application must meet applicable health and character requirements.

10. What the MATES Visa Allows

- Live in Australia for up to 2 years.
- Work in Australia.
- Study in Australia.
- Travel to and from Australia multiple times while the visa is valid.
- Bring eligible members of your family unit to Australia temporarily.

The MATES visa cannot be extended to stay longer under the same visa. If you want to remain in Australia after it ends, you need to qualify for and apply for another visa.

11. Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Trying to apply for subclass 403 MATES without first being selected in the ballot.
- Using a different passport or mismatching passport/PAN details.
- Assuming ballot registration guarantees selection.
- Missing the 30-day visa application deadline after selection.
- Applying for the MATES visa while in Australia.
- Using a university or affiliated institution that is not actually listed as an eligible Top 100 NIRF institution.
- Submitting an English test that does not meet the required score or timing rules.
- Failing to monitor ImmiAccount for requests.
- Paying unofficial agents who promise guaranteed selection.

12. Official Australian Government Sources

- [MATES \(subclass 403\) — Department of Home Affairs](#)
- [MATES ballot eligibility](#)
- [After you register — ballot status and selection](#)
- [MATES visa eligibility and how to apply](#)
- [Create an ImmiAccount](#)

Disclaimer: This document is an informational guide, not immigration or legal advice. Visa requirements, fees, ballot dates and government procedures can change. Always verify the latest information directly with the Australian Department of Home Affairs before registering or applying.

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