

Northern Territory Government Sponsorship for Charles Darwin University Students

- (1) Skilled Sponsored (SS) (Permanent) 886 visa**
- (2) Skilled Sponsored Regional (SRS) (Provisional) 487 visa**

The Northern Territory Government will offer sponsorship to international students who complete eligible studies at Charles Darwin University (CDU) under either the:

- Skilled - Sponsored (SS) permanent residence visa (subclass 886); or
- Skilled - Regional Sponsored (SRS) provisional visa (subclass 487).

All CDU international students who study at a CDU campus for at least two years, and successfully complete a degree, diploma, or trade certificate course and have an occupation:

- on the Northern Territory's Baseline List of Occupations (www.migration.nt.gov.au); or
- on the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Skilled Occupation List and can demonstrate positive employment prospects in that occupation, or a closely related occupation, in the Northern Territory

are eligible for Northern Territory Government sponsorship under the SS scheme, which provides a Permanent Residency visa.

Further, any international student who successfully completes eligible studies is eligible to apply for Northern Territory Government SRS visa sponsorship, which provides a 3 year provisional visa leading to Permanent Residency visa.

The Northern Territory also participates in the concessional English arrangement which enables students who do not achieve the required IELTS level to be sponsored for the SRS visa scheme.

Sponsorship by the Northern Territory Government means that eligible international students are automatically given an additional 10 points towards their General Skilled Migration points test; however, it does not guarantee their visa application will be successful.

Eligibility Criteria

The SS and SRS are two regional/state specific migration schemes administered by the Commonwealth Government of Australia. To be eligible to apply onshore for a SS or SRS visa, an international student will need to:

- be under 45 years of age,
- achieve a score on the International English Language Testing System relevant to their nominated occupation,
- nominate a skilled occupation **and** be assessed by the relevant Australian assessing body as suitable for that occupation,
- gain at least 100 points on the General Skilled Migration points test (www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/index), and
- have successfully completed at least 2 years of relevant study at an Australian University campus.

Successful completion of a degree, diploma or trade certificate through two years of study in CDU, while resident in the Northern Territory, will make international students eligible for the 5 bonus points awarded for studying in a regional university. Northern Territory Government sponsorship gives students an additional 10 points towards their General Skilled Migration points test, making a total of 15 bonus points.

The Process

SS and SRS visa assessments for international students are undertaken by the Commonwealth Government of Australia, and are based on the student's ability to meet all the schemes' eligibility criteria as well as relevant health and character checks.

In seeking Northern Territory Government SS and SRS sponsorship, international students will be asked to provide evidence that they have sufficient funds or assets to allow them to settle successfully. They will also be asked to sign a declaration agreeing to live and work in the Territory for at least 2 years after they have been granted their visa.

From Skilled Regional Sponsored (SRS) (Provisional) to Permanent Residency

The SRS provisional visa gives eligible international students temporary residence for three years. Students who receive Northern Territory Government sponsorship will be asked to provide an undertaking that they and their dependents will settle and work in the Northern Territory.

After two years, if international students holding the SRS provisional visa meet the residence criteria (have lived in a regional area for 2 years) and employment criteria (have been in full time employment for at least 1 of those 2 years), they will be eligible to apply for permanent residence under the Skilled Regional (subclass 887) visa.

There are also provisions for SRS provisional visa holders to be nominated for permanent residence by an employer under the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) at any time.

For further information visit the NT government website at www.migration.nt.gov.au or send email to migration.dberd@nt.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



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