



Student Visa Charge Update – November 2007

On July 1st 2006, the Australian student visa application charge was raised by a further \$10 to \$430, in addition to this there is an extra fee of \$60 for application to enable the student to work in Australia for up to 20 hours per week during semester and unlimited hours in semester breaks. In 1998, the student visa charge was \$285, and included permission to work limited hours and in 1999, international students saw the introduction of the \$50 application fee for work rights. This was previously included in the student visa fee and all students were able to work. Since its introduction in 1998, the application to work has increased by \$10, or 20%. In April 2008, this system will again be implemented. New student visa applicants will not be required to apply or pay separately for permission to work and the student visa application charge will be increased to incorporate permission to work, however the increase will not be equivalent to the current \$60 application fee.

The student visa application charge was increased to \$290 in 2001 and then again by 27% in July 2003 from \$315 to \$400 and has risen annually since then. In total the student visa application fee has increased by \$205 or 71.9% since 1998 which is a figure well above inflation rates and above other countries student visa charges.

Of the \$430 student visa charge, international students are informed on the application form 990i that this charge includes \$115 which contributes to the Australian Government's initiatives to support international education through the activities of the Department of

Education Science and Training¹. NLC would like to see a portion of these funds put back into the university system to help support international students in Australia rather than spent on promoting the Australian education overseas or simply allocated into government revenue. International student support is crucial in the universities to allow the students to achieve the highest results in study and to experience the best Australia has to offer in education.

¹ Form 990I, Charges July 2006, Department of Immigration and Citizenship. www.immi.gov.au

<i>Increases in Student Visa Charges since 1998</i>					
	<i>Fee</i>	<i>Work Rights</i>	<i>Overseas Student Information Services Charge (\$30)</i>	<i>Cost of Student Visa with 1998 Student Visa conditions</i>	<i>Variance</i>
1998	\$285	<i>Inclusive</i>	✓	\$285	
1999	\$285	\$50	✓	\$335	18% variance for 1998 visa conditions
2000	\$290	\$50	<i>Existence omitted from Visa application forms. However, fees have not been reduced to reflect the omission</i>	\$340	2% fee increase
2002	\$315	\$55		\$370	9% fee increase 10% increase in application for work rights
2003/04	\$400	\$55	\$111 charge paid to DEST - AEI	\$455	27% fee increase
2004	\$410	\$55	\$115 charge paid to DEST - AEI	\$465	2.5% fee increase
2005	\$420	\$60		\$480	3.2% increase altogether – 2.4% fee increase and 9% increase in work application fee
2006	\$430	\$60		\$490	2.38% increase in total visa charge

With the July 2006 Student Visa Charge increases, the cost of a Student Visa with similar conditions in 1998 has increased by 71.9%

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