

IMMIGRATION NEWS

(Volume 117)

BSPC New Temporary 485 Visa Policy and IELTS



8th March 2009

Dear Students

Welcome to the latest edition of IMMIGRATION NEWS. In this edition we cover new information released from the BSPC regarding the 485 visa and an extract from a story in The Australian yesterday.

Feel free to e-mail this newsletter to any of your friends.

Brisbane Skilled Processing Centre (BSPC)- Temporary 485 Policy

Due to the demand for the IELTS tests and the shortage of their availability the BSPC has released a temporary policy for students who's visas are going to expire on the 15th March 2009.

The Migration Institute of Australia has released the following statement from the BSPC;

Ms Liz Kerrish, manager of BSPC has kindly confirmed the following:-

New graduates who need to meet the deadline of their visa expiry dates can apply for 485 without an IELTS result provided that they have sat for one. The date and details of that test must be clearly indicated in their application. The decision on the 485 application will depend on the result of that particular IELTS test. If the applicant fails or does not obtain sufficient score for that particular test, his/her application will be refused even if subsequently he/she re-sits IELTS and obtains the right score.

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Students should keep in mind they are not talking about supplying a booking receipt for the IELTS test as the old rules allowed last year, you must have **SAT THE TEST** but you are waiting for the result.

Overall this policy will only help a few applicants since most students cannot even obtain a booking for an IELTS before May let alone a chance to sit the test

before the 15th of March.

This whole mess is just an indication of a DIAC policy department which is out of touch at times with the reality of what is happening on the ground. The change of compulsory IELTS results before lodgment should have been phased in over 12 months, not the couple of months notice given last year.

As I mentioned in Volume 115 regarding what options students have, you would unwise to apply for the 485 visa without knowing your IELTS result for you will not have the chance to provide another result, even during the MRT appeal process, if you do not gain the score you need. You should seriously consider the visitor or student visa option instead.

We will try and discover if this policy will be extended beyond the 15th of March.

International Students Still On The Rise

Visitor Drought Hits Home

7th March 09: Paul Maley: The Australian

Extract

..... "However, the one category of overseas visitor to hold up was international students, whose numbers remained at record highs.

Education Minister Julia Gillard announced last month that overseas enrolments had risen a record 20.7 per cent to 543,898 last year.

Revenues from overseas students contributed \$14.2 billion to the economy in 2007-08, making it Australia's third-largest export earner.

A University of Sydney spokeswoman said there had been a "strong increase" in international students. "The numbers have increased by approximately 15 per cent," the spokeswoman told The Weekend Australian.

"The university is also particularly pleased with the strong increase in PhD students. PhD acceptances are up by around 40 per cent."

Link: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,24897,25150899-601,00.html>

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