



## Processing arrangements for Skilled Graduate (Subclass 485) visa applications

The Migration Act provides that the Department of Immigration and Citizenship may consider and finalise applications for visas in such order as considered appropriate.

These processing arrangements are designed to allocate resources to those subclass 485 most in need of processing prior to the implementation of the new points test for General Skilled Migration on 1 July 2011.

Under the arrangements, subclass 485 applications will be considered in the following order:

1. Applications from people who have completed a Professional Year who lodged a subclass 485 application before 17 March 2011.
2. Applications lodged from 9 February 2010 to 30 June 2010 where the nominated occupation was on the Skilled Occupation List (SOL) Schedule 3 in effect from 1 July 2010.
3. All other applications will generally be processed based on the date they were received.

It should be noted that applicants who lodged a subclass 485 application on or before 8 February 2010 are eligible for transitional arrangements. Under these arrangements, they have until 31 December 2012 to apply for a permanent skilled visa under the points test in effect as at 8 February 2010. As such, they do not need processing before 1 July 2011.

Applicants who lodged a subclass 485 application from 9 February 2010 to 30 June 2010 who did not nominate an occupation on the current SOL are unlikely to meet the requirements to apply for a permanent skilled visa.

These administrative arrangements will end on 30 June 2011. The Department expects that subclass 485 application processing times will return to published service standards of 12 months in 2011-12.

Please note that while every effort will be made to finalise as many applications as possible, no guarantees can be given about the outcome or timing of any individual application.

The Department has processes in place to identify applicants who will be considered under these arrangements and it is therefore not necessary for individual applicants to contact us directly.