

Working as a Nurse in Australia



A guide for UK and Irish nurses

Helping nurses make the move for over 16 years

- ✓ Working Holiday Visa (subclass 417)
- ✓ AHPRA Registration guidance
- ✓ Sydney placements and ongoing support

Nursing in Australia continues to offer excellent working conditions, strong career opportunities, and a lifestyle that is hard to beat. Whether you are drawn by the climate, the adventure, or simply the chance to broaden your professional experience, Australia remains one of the most popular destinations for UK and Irish nurses looking to work abroad.

Our aim is simply to give you an overview of what working as a nurse in Australia involves. Every nurse's situation is slightly different— so when you're ready, get in touch. We would really like to get to know you, chat about your plans, and give you a chance to get to know us too.

**We have been helping UK and Irish nurses make this move for over 16 years.
You are in good hands.**

The Key Steps at a Glance



- Confirming your eligibility.
- Completing your AHPRA registration.
- Applying for your Working Holiday Visa.
- Planning your move to Australia.
- Arriving in Sydney and meeting the team.
- Beginning your nursing adventure.

We'll explain each stage as you move through the process, so you don't need to have all the answers from day one.

Each of these steps is covered briefly below. The finer detail — the exact documents, the timelines, and the things to watch out for — is where we come in to help make the process a little easier for you.

Step One

Confirming your eligibility



As a UK or Irish nurse you are well placed to work in Australia. That said, you will need to confirm your eligibility before starting your application, as your qualifications will determine which registration stream applies to you. For the vast majority of UK and Irish nurses this is a straightforward process.

Not sure if you qualify? Get in touch — we can point you in the right direction.

Step Two

Completing your AHPRA registration



AHPRA — the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency — is Australia's equivalent of the NMC (UK) or NMBI (Ireland). You must have your AHPRA registration confirmed before you can work as a nurse in Australia. Without it you cannot practise, regardless of your qualifications or experience.

The application is completed online and every nurse's circumstances are slightly different. We'll explain what is relevant to you and help you understand the requirements.

Timeframes vary from nurse to nurse. Starting early gives you the greatest flexibility and avoids unnecessary pressure later.

As a UK or Irish nurse the process is more straightforward than for many other nationalities — but there are still several steps to navigate carefully.

We'll explain the process, answer your questions, and help you understand what is required at each stage.

For the latest official information, visit the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia website:
www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au

Step Three

Applying for your Working Holiday Visa



The Working Holiday Visa (subclass 417) is the visa all of our nurses use as the key to unlocking their Australian adventure.

As with all Australian visas, eligibility requirements are determined by the Australian Government and should always be checked on the Department of Home Affairs website.

We'll explain how the visa and AHPRA registration fit together and help you understand how the timing of one affects the other. And if you fall in love with Australia—as many of our nurses do—we'll still be here to answer your questions and point you in the right direction if you decide to stay a little longer.

But we're getting a little ahead of ourselves... we haven't even had the chance to say hello yet!

For the latest official visa information, visit the Australian Department of Home Affairs:
www.immi.homeaffairs.gov.au

Step Four

Planning your move to Australia



Once everything is in place, it's time to start thinking about the exciting part — planning your move to Australia.

Our nurses fly into Sydney Airport, which is well connected to the city centre.

Getting Around

Sydney's public transport network is a world-class, integrated system connecting trains, buses, ferries, and light rail under a unified ticketing method called the Opal network. We can tell you all about this as time moves on towards your departure from the UK and you embark on your Australian adventure.

Community

Moving to a new city alone is a big step, but Sydney makes it easy to find your feet with plenty of welcoming spaces to explore whenever you feel like venturing out.

Between hospital shifts, your workplace is a natural starting point to meet colleagues, while the city's relaxed lifestyle gives you total flexibility to enjoy your independence or connect with others at your own pace.

On your days off, there is always plenty to do — you can check out an indie film at the Art Deco Ritz Cinema in Randwick, grab a casual drink at beachside hubs like the Coogee Bay Hotel, or browse the massive Westfield Bondi Junction. The city also features great spots to wander around, from the historic markets in The Rocks to the lively food scenes in Surry Hills and Barangaroo.

With scenic coastal walks, local social sports leagues, and public transit apps that make navigating stress-free, Sydney offers a fantastic, low-pressure backdrop for a solo working holiday.

Your Next Steps



Australia's healthcare sector is diverse and fast-paced, and working here will broaden your experience, expand your professional network, and give you skills and confidence that will stay with you throughout your career.

For many nurses, agency nursing is the perfect way to experience Australia. It gives you the flexibility to work across different settings while keeping enough freedom in your schedule to actually enjoy the country you have travelled so far to see. Sydney alone offers world-class beaches, incredible food, a vibrant social scene, and easy access to some of the most beautiful parts of New South Wales.

Our Sydney Head Office gives us first-hand knowledge of the city and the healthcare system, allowing us to better support nurses as they settle into life in Australia.

Many of the nurses we have supported have gone on to spend two or even three years in Australia, building careers, friendships and memories they would not trade for anything.

Ready to take the next step?

Get in touch today and let's get started.

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