STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Australian Migration & VISA LAWYERS
Expert Advice | Responsible Solutions

Welcome to the October edition of the AMVL newsletter! We have loads of information to share with you about opportunities for Accountants, streamlined processing in Australian universities and some Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) news. We also have an introduction to the new head of our Recent Graduates Team, Siobhan Hill.

INTRODUCING SIOBHAN HILL

Many students who have been in touch with us here at AMVL would be familiar with Teri Pearce, our registered migration agent who until recently was the head of our Recent Graduates team. Having recently announced the wonderful news that she will soon be having a baby, Teri has now gone on maternity leave and upon her return will join our General Skilled Migration team.

Our new head of the Recent Graduates Team is Siobhan Hill. Siobhan has been working with the GSM Team and is very excited to be moving over to head up the Recent Graduates. Having travelled extensively around the world prior to joining the AMVL team, Siobhan enjoys interacting with people from different countries and cultures and is a perfect fit as a registered migration agent for the Recent Graduates team. While studying International Business at university, Siobhan also developed a great understanding and empathy for international students in Australia who upon graduating dream of extending their stay or making Australia home.

Any student enquiries for Siobhan can be sent to her via students@australianmigrations.com.

ACCOUNTANTS STILL NEEDED IN AUSTRALIA

While whispers continue to float around about whether accountants are set to remain on Australia's Skilled Occupation List (SOL), a recent article in ***The Australian*** reported that in 2010-2011 qualified accountants given skilled migration visas more than doubled to 14,680. Commenting on this significant increase in numbers, Skills Australia's chief executive Robin Shreeve said "we are keeping a watch on accountants but at the moment the data, and the advice that were getting from the professional associations, is that they should still be on the SOL".

There's no doubt that these figures and conclusions come as welcome news to many international accountancy students who wish to live and work in Australia upon graduating from their degree and their student visas expire. While accountants remain on Australia's SOL, students who have recently completed 2 academic years of study in accounting and are interested in remaining in Australia, should contact the Recent Graduates Team to find out whether you are eligible to apply for a Subclass 485 Skilled Graduate Visa. This allows migrants to stay in Australia for a further 18 months and potentially lead to other visa pathways.

To read the article at ***The Australian*** in full, click **here**.

KNIGHT REVIEW A POSITIVE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In December 2010 the Australian government appointed the Hon Michael Knight AO to conduct the first strategic review of the student visa program to help enhance the quality, integrity and competitiveness of the program. On 30 June this year Mr Knight presented his review to the government and while some will be slightly modified, the government has accepted all 41 of Mr Knight's recommendations.

Some planned changes to the student visa program (as a result of the review) worth noting are; streamlined student visa processing and university graduates who have completed a Bachelor degree or Masters by coursework in Australia are proposed to be eligible for a two year post-study work visa.

A reporter from ***The Australian*** sums the review up beautifully by saying "in essence, the proposed changes should lift the number of people abroad who choose to study in Australia. Why? Because any overseas student who completes any form of tertiary study will be entitled to two to three years on a working visa immediately afterwards. That, in turn, makes securing permanent residency more likely."

More details and access to the full review by Mr Knight can be found on the DIAC website here.

IT'S OFFICIAL: PERTH IS NOW "REGIONAL"

On 12 September this year, Chris Bowen, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship announced an official legislation change to Australia's Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS), classifying Perth in Western Australia as "regional".

For those of you unfamiliar with RSMS, the RSMS is a visa program that allows Australian employers in regional and low population growth areas of Australia to nominate foreign skilled workers to fill skilled vacancies within their business. RSMS applicants generally need to be less than 45 years old, hold an Australian diploma or higher qualification and have at least a functional level of English proficiency.

What does this mean? Migrants on a subclass 487 Skilled Regional Sponsored visa, granted **on or after 12 September 2011**, can now live and work in Perth to convert their visa to permanent residency.

If you want to learn more about your eligibility for RSMS and its pathways to permanent residency, **contact** AMVL to speak with one of our friendly registered migration agents.