



## FOI Request FA 20/06/01267

*The applicant is seeking access to:*

*1.) I want to know the clear status/clarification on difference between actual processing time and average processing time duration shown on immiaccount ( which is 5 to 6 months for subclass 190), as it says 90 % of applicants falls between this category, where as more than 40 % of applicants have crossed this timeline ( as data received from foi).*

*3.) What is the criteria of picking up a file and finalising it for subclass 190 and subclass 489. as same occupation code applied on same date, same country, with equal work experience, and all documents uploaded for both of them. one gets granted in 45 days, while other has to wait for more than 9 months. on what basis file is chosen and finalised ?*

*4.) In current covid-19 scenario, is dha processing offshore subclass 190 nsw and subclass 489 sa*

The response is:

- 1) There are various circumstances that affect processing times. The applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and actual processing times can vary due to individual circumstances including:
  - whether you have lodged a complete application, including all necessary supporting documents;
  - how promptly you respond to any requests for additional information;
  - how long it takes to perform required checks on the supporting information provided;
  - how long it takes to receive additional information from external agencies, particularly in relation to health, character, and national security requirements;
  - for permanent migration visa applications, how many places are available in the migration program.
- 3) The processing of General Skilled Migration (GSM) visa applications is subject to both visa planning levels as expressed in the Migration Program and priority processing arrangements affecting the order in which applications are processed. Priority processing arrangements are set by Ministerial Direction (the Direction) and determine the order in which GSM applications are processed. The Direction is subordinate to the planning levels specified in the Migration Program and at times applications from lower priority levels are processed ahead of higher priority applications. Both of these considerations apply to the processing of GSM visas from the time an application is lodged until a decision is made. The Skilled Regional (subclass 489) and Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) are GSM visas.
- 4) Visa applications continue to be processed, however, granting permanent visas to applicants overseas has been severely impacted. This due to the incapacity of applicants to meet health requirements without further medical checking, the unavailability of some key assessment services, and the increasing inability for those granted visas to travel.  
The Department's processing approach since COVID-19 has been to support the Government's immediate response to the pandemic and also focus on recovery of the economy. The Department has been prioritising processing and finalising onshore applications in critical industries, such as the medical, aged care and agricultural sectors, in all Skilled categories.

**Table: Processing times (PT) for the subclass 190 and 489**

Month	Visa Subclass	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
31-Jul-19	190 Skilled - Nominated	9 months	13 months
31-Aug-19	190 Skilled - Nominated	9 months	10 months
30-Sep-19	190 Skilled - Nominated	8 months	9 months
31-Oct-19	190 Skilled - Nominated	9 months	10 months
30-Nov-19	190 Skilled - Nominated	8 months	10 months
31-Dec-19	190 Skilled - Nominated	8 months	10 months
31-Jan-20	190 Skilled - Nominated	8 months	11 months
29-Feb-20	190 Skilled - Nominated	10 months	11 months
31-Mar-20	190 Skilled - Nominated	7 months	9 months
30-Apr-20	190 Skilled - Nominated	5 months	7 months
31-May-20	190 Skilled - Nominated	5 months	6 months
31-Jul-19	489 Skilled - Regional (Provisional)	PT are not available	PT are not available
31-Aug-19	489 Skilled - Regional (Provisional)	PT are not available	PT are not available
30-Sep-19	489 Skilled - Regional (Provisional)	9 months	11 months
31-Oct-19	489 Skilled - Regional (Provisional)	9 months	11 months
30-Nov-19	489 Skilled - Regional (Provisional)	6 months	9 months
31-Dec-19	489 Skilled - Regional (Provisional)	7 months	10 months
31-Jan-20	489 Skilled - Regional (Provisional)	6 months	11 months
29-Feb-20	489 Skilled - Regional (Provisional)	6 months	8 months
31-Mar-20	489 Skilled - Regional (Provisional)	8 months	10 months
30-Apr-20	489 Skilled - Regional (Provisional)	9 months	11 months
31-May-20	489 Skilled - Regional (Provisional)	10 months	12 months

Source: Department of Home Affairs.

*Note:*

1. A percentile is a measure used in statistics indicating the value below which a given percentage of observations in a group of observations falls.
2. While there are many variations to calculate a percentile, the Department has endorsed the "linear interpolation between closest rank" method, specifically the "inclusive" variant. This variant is consistent with the function available in Microsoft Excel and the Percentile function used in both Tableau and SAP Business Intelligence-  $P/100 \times (N - 1) + 1$
3. Two processing times are displayed for two subclasses on the above table, at 75 percentile and at 90 percentile globally, indicating the actual length of time to finalise applications globally. Processing times are based on finalisations for the month and excludes withdrawn visa applications, and secondary visa applicants.
4. The global processing times published on the Department's website and on ImmiAccount is an indicative estimate of how long it takes to process a particular visa subclass or stream application globally. The processing time spans from the date a valid application is lodged to the date it is finalised.
5. Processing times are determined by a number of factors including the number of visa lodgements, finalisation of the applications and the complexity of assessments, including in relation to health, character and national security requirements.
6. It should be noted that some applications, beyond the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, can take a considerably longer period to finalise and based on such factors as those outlined above. For this reason the Department advises that processing times should only be regarded as an indicative estimate of time taken to process visas.



## Response to FOI request FA 20/06/01267

**Visa applications on-hand for subclass 190 with Snapshot Date of 31/05/2020 where On Hand Age is 10 GT 18m - 24m where client location is In Australia**

Visa Subclass	On Hand Age	Snapshot Date
190 Skilled - Nominated Total	10 GT 18m - 24m	31/05/2020 77

Source: Department of Home Affairs, 2020 (DD-2056.1)

Note 1: Includes primary and secondary applicants

**Visa applications on-hand for subclass 489 with Snapshot Date of 31/05/2020 where On Hand Age is 10 GT 18m - 24m where client location is In Australia**

Visa Subclass	On Hand Age	Snapshot Date
489 Skilled - Regional (Provisional) Total	10 GT 18m - 24m	31/05/2020 64

Source: Department of Home Affairs, 2020 (DD-2056.2)

Note 1: Includes primary and secondary applicants