

## **Australian Work Permits for Musicians Overview**

Canadian musicians have to apply for an Entertainment Class 420 Visa. Below are the details on the visa application, including cost and timelines.

### **Entertainment Class 420 Visa**

The Entertainment Class 420 Visa is required for Canadian musicians and crew to perform paid engagements in Australia. An Australian Entertainment Visa sponsor is needed to apply. The 420 visa is not a multiple entry visa, and for an entire tour to be eligible you cannot have more than 6 days between concerts. You will be required to exit the country no more than 7 days after the last concert. Your sponsor will be applying to the Musicians Union of Australia for a letter of support, along with the managing 420 Visa application completion and submission to the department of immigration.

**How to apply:** Applications are submitted by a registered sponsor – typically your Australian agent, manager or promoter. If you are not represented already by a sponsor, there are also some registered sponsors who may offer sponsorship for a fee. It is advisable to speak with your local contacts before proceeding any further to secure a registered sponsor.

The application will require each member of the group to complete a 420 form and submit detailed personal information for all band and crew (personal addresses, DOB, artist bio, marital status, criminal records, tour itinerary, CVs and passport info/copies – note: passports must be valid for 6 months after end of tour ) as well as entry and exit dates. Medical insurance for while you are there is mandatory and proof is required in the app.

Once all the required documents are acquired and paper work completed, the sponsor must send the approval letter, the Musician's Union application, and the full 420 VISA application package to the department of immigration for them to process.

**Cost:** Musicians Union of Australia approval: \$110.00 AUD (non-refundable) plus the Entertainment VISA application: \$570.00 AUD (non-refundable). You may also incur a processing fee from your sponsor, so ask them in advance if they are charging you for their sponsorship services.

**Timeline:** Application must be submitted 2-3 months prior to artists entering Australia. Processing times vary depending on the immigration department's workload. As this is a very information heavy application – it is advisable to begin the application as far out from date of entry as possible.

**Taxes:** Canadian Artists will be subject up to a withholding tax on performance revenue. This tax can range from 29%-32.5%. It is advisable to contact an Australian tax specialist early in your tour planning process to reduce or avoid withholding taxes. It is a longer and more costly process to manage your tax situation after your tour has ended. Check with your sponsor for contacts.

**Tips:** First step to planning a tour in Australia is to organize an Australian entertainment visa sponsor. For some festival appearances, artists may be required to get their own Public Liability Insurance which covers the performer and the festival should anything happen.

### **Vital Links:**

The VISA application forms can be found at The Australian Government, Department of Immigration and Border Protection: Application 1420 (VISA application)  
<https://www.border.gov.au/Forms/Documents/1420.pdf>

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Application 1420N (sponsorship application for sponsor use only to 'nominate' the VISA applicant for VISA approval) <https://www.border.gov.au/Forms/Documents/1420n.pdf>

For information on withholding taxes, see the Australian Taxation Office website <http://www.ato.gov.au>