



The Buddhist Society of Western Australia (Inc.)

[www.bswa.org](http://www.bswa.org)



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## Visas for Visiting Teachers Policy

**Version: 1.1**

Date approved: 12 November 2017

Approved by: BSWA Committee

Last Review: 19 April 2023

Next Review: 30 June 2023

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## Version Control

Version #	Author	Approved Date (By)	Summary of Change
1.1	Lay Har Goh	19 Apr 2023 Administratively updated	Reviewed document. Corrected visa link in policy. Updated policy document format to BSWA letterhead
1.0	Geetha Mendis	12 November 2017 BSWA Committee	

**Monastics and lay teachers who use BSWA premises have to make sure they are properly insured (for travel, health, and indemnity) and hold an appropriate visa (if they are not a Permanent Resident or Australian Citizen) to engage in religious work.**

**Explanatory Notes:**

Recently introduced regulations by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection require that all visiting teachers (lay and monastic) seeking to lead or assist in meditation retreats and other short stay religious work (for example Dhamma teaching activities) have a Special Visa, that is subclass 408 visa as an Invited Participant.

A Visitor's Visa is no longer acceptable for religious work.

For those visiting Australia for less than 3 months on the 408 visas, the teacher will need a letter of invitation from the relevant Australian Buddhist organization (or group) setting out the proposed activities and period of stay. There is no formal sponsorship requirement. Therefore, the application process is similar to that for a visitor visa.

For details please refer to:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-activity-408/invited-for-other-social-and-cultural-activity>

All organizations or persons in charge of organizing visiting teachers who are not permanent residents or citizens of Australia using BSWA venues will be informed of the need to comply with the new regulations.