What is an International Police Check?

Check Types · https://workerchecks.com/docs/what-is-an-international-police-check/

An International Police Check, also known as an International Criminal History Check (ICHC), searches for recorded criminal history in countries outside Australia. It is used when you have lived, worked or studied overseas and an employer needs to see your background from that time.

Depending on the country, results can include felony or misdemeanour conviction records and arrests pending charges.

Who needs one?

An employer or organisation may ask for an International Police Check if you:

- are new to Australia and starting work in a regulated industry
- have spent time living or working overseas
- are applying for a role in an area such as education, health, aged care, disability support or childcare
- are an international student starting a placement or internship

Some organisations have their own rules about overseas checks. Check with your employer or registration body before you order.

Read more: Why would I need an International Police Check?

For employment, not visa or immigration

Worker Checks International Police Checks are for employment purposes only. They are not suitable for visa or immigration applications.

Immigration authorities usually need a police certificate issued directly by the overseas police authority or government, and sometimes fingerprints or extra authentication. To avoid wasting time and causing delays to your application, get a Department of Home Affairs authorised police check instead. Details are here:

Offices outside Australia – Home Affairs

Checks bought in error for a visa or immigration application can’t be refunded. See Can I get an International Police Check for Immigration?

How it works with Worker Checks

The whole process is online. International Police Checks start from $70, depending on the country.

- Choose the country you need checked and pay online.
- Verify your identity with a selfie and your ID documents. You will need a current passport. Expired passports can’t be used for international checks.
- Enter your personal details and accept the consent declaration.
- We send you an email when your result is ready to download.

Step-by-step guide: How do I get an International Police Check?

How long does it take?

International checks typically take 5–15 business days. The time depends on the country and how quickly local authorities respond. Some countries can take longer.

More detail: How long does an International Police Check take?

If you have questions, chat with us between 7am and 7pm, email ask@workerchecks.com or call 1300 609 970.

Still Need Help?

Chat

We’re happy to assist you in understanding your results and next steps.