

## **Filipino Migrants Forum**

### **WHY FILIPNOS SHOULD CONSIDER STUDYING NURSING IN AUSTRALIA**

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If what you are aiming for is to work in Australia in the nursing profession, consider obtaining a Bachelors Degree in Nursing in Australia.

“Registered Nurse” is an occupation in demand in Australia. However, there is no “caregivers visa” in Australia and therefore it is important to understand that a Certificate in Assistant Nursing or a Diploma in Nursing in itself will not entitle the holder to a working visa or permanent resident visa.

The advantage of an Australian Bachelor in Nursing Degree that it is only for a period of three years compared to the five year course plus Board examinations in the Philippines. No Board examination is required before an Australian nursing graduate becomes a registered nurse in Australia. After completion of the course, provided the registered nurse has studied in Australia for at least two years full time, he or she can apply for permanent residence and can be reasonably assured of success within months.

In comparison, passing the PRC Board Examinations for registered nurses in the Philippines is just the first step towards becoming a registered nurse in Australia. As a general rule, Philippine educated nurses are required to pass an English Test, then the nursing competency test, and at least two years of nursing experience before they can obtain their registration as registered nurse in Australia

To obtain a student visa for the nursing course, normally, students who are single need to show funds of say A\$55,000 to A\$60,000.00 from any source. More funds are required for those who are married with children. Although passing the IELTS academic module with a grade of 6.5 is required, it is lower than the passmark of 7 required of overseas qualified nurses for admission at nursing competency. Yes, we can assist in your enrolment at an Australian University.

In regard to remuneration, the nurse’s salary on a working visa usually starts from A\$41,850.00 per year and increases depending on the nurse’s work experience and expertise. Most of those who have five years experience start from A\$50,000.00 per year. Those with eight years of experience can earn as high a A\$90,000.00 to A\$100,000.00 per year with overtime pay.

We assist in enrolment and in obtaining student visas, in addition to finding a sponsoring employer, managing applications for working visas and permanent resident visas for registered nurses. We also assist skilled workers and other professionals.

*This information is of a general nature and should not be taken as authoritative legal advice for specific cases. The writer, Atty. Imelda Argel is a practising Filipino*

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*Readers of the Philippine Community Herald Newspaper are invited to send their comments to "The President, Filipino Migrants Forum" c/o Imelda Argel & Associates, Solicitors & Attorneys, by email at [info@iargel.com.au](mailto:info@iargel.com.au) or by fax at (+612) 9699 3210 or by post to Suite 41, Ground Floor, 61-89 Buckingham St. SURRY HILLS NSW 2010.*