Melbourne International Comedy Festival is an open access festival for all citizens and permanent residents of Australia and New Zealand. The program of overseas artists is curated by the Festival and Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the Festival Director for consideration.

**Completing this form does not guarentee a place in the festival. If your application is approved, you will receive written approval and information on next steps.**

**Important Information for Overseas Performers – please read before completing the below EOI**

**Do I need a Producer?**

Securing a producer is important and the Festival can make suggestions if you do not have the relevant connections. Once you have secured a producer they will liaise with the Festival on your behalf to obtain approval for you to register your show. If you choose to self-produce, you will be responsible for organising (and paying for) all aspects of your show yourself including your own travel and accommodation.

**What else do I need to consider?**

You will need to secure an appropriate visa and make appropriate arrangements regarding Australian taxation requirements. You will also need to find a venue, make ticketing platform arrangements and organise marketing and publicity for your show. Demonstration of your ability to manage all of this will contribute to the assessment of your application to participate in the Festival.

**Do I need a visa?**

If you are not an Australian or Australian resident then yes, you will need a visa or in some cases a formal visa-waiver. There are a number of visa options available and we recommend checking with the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs or your local embassy to work out which is the most suitable visa for your circumstances. Melbourne International Comedy Festival is unable to manage the securing of your visa.

**Registration Fee**

As a guide, to register as an overseason artist in the 2025 Festival was $575AUD. Registration fees for the 2026 will be confirmed shortly. Approval by the Festival Director is required before registering.

**Foreign Resident Tax Withholding**

*This will very likely apply to you!*

Tax withholding is generally required from amounts paid to foreign resident performers for providing entertainment in Australia.

If you expect to earn less than $10,000 AUD the Festival may be able to apply for a Foreign Resident Withholding Variation (FRWV) on your behalf as part of a group application. *Note: FRVW applications are****not****required for US tax residents who earn under US$10,000 in a financial year in Australia.*

If you expect to earn more than $10,000 you will need to contact the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) SportEnt.MajorEvents@ato.gov.au and complete a FRWV to apply for a variation based on your tax deductible expenses. More information can be found here: [*Entertainment or sports activities | Australian Taxation Office (ato.gov.au)*](https://www.ato.gov.au/business/payg-withholding/in-detail/foreign-resident-entertainment%2C-sports%2C-construction-and-casino-gaming-activities/?page=2#Withholding_for_foreign_resident_performers_at_festivals) and here: [*Instructions for your FRWV application (ato.gov.au)*](https://www.ato.gov.au/forms-and-instructions/payg-foreign-resident-withholding-variation/instructions-for-your-frwv-application?anchor=InstructionsforyourFRWVvariationapplicat#InstructionsforyourFRWVvariationapplicat).

***Overseas artists must complete this form and submit by Friday 31 October 2025 to be considered for the 2026 event.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Artist Name: |  |
| Artist contacts: | Phone: |  |
| Email: |   |
| Nationality shown on Passport: |  |
| Name of Show: |  |
| If you have an agent or manager in your home country, please supply contacts here: | Email: |  |
| Website: |  |
| Who is your Australian Producer: |  |
| Australian Producer contacts: | Phone: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Do you have a venue for the 2026 Festival? If yes, which venue? |  |
| Venue Contact Information: | Contact name: |  |
| Phone: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Website: |  |
| Are you applying for a Festival Managed Venue? |  |
| Do you have a VISA to perform in Australia, or a Visa Sponsor? |  |
| If applicable, Visa Sponsor details: | Name: |  |
| Number: |  |
| Email: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Artist Biography:(max. 200 words) |  |
| Show Synopsis:(max. 200 words) |  |
| YouTube/website links: |  |
| Information about upcoming performances (e.g. where we might be able to see you, prior to the Festival): |  |
| Have you visited the Melbourne International Comedy Festival or performed in Australia previously?  |  |

Please email completed form back to registration@comedyfestival.com.au.