



Policy Document

Professional Qualifications Assessment for Migration

Surveyor (ANZSCO 232212)

(Revised September 2018)

SURVEYING & SPATIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE

Policy Document

Professional Qualifications Assessment for Migration Purposes

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1. Background

The Australian Government's Skilled Migration program is implemented through a partnership between government and industry. The Department of Home Affairs works with industry, represented by professional migration assessing authorities, to ensure that policies and procedures for assessing the skills of prospective migrants are appropriate, transparent and do not pose unreasonable barriers to migration.

The Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) has been specified by the Minister for Home Affairs, in accordance with the *Migration Regulations 1994*, as the assessing authority for the occupation of Surveyor (ANZSCO 232212). The Department of Employment supports this process through its role in approving migration assessing authorities. Approval is granted to professional bodies which meet established criteria, including a commitment to support the objectives of the General Skilled Migration program and the provision of an appropriate assessment service to prospective migrants.

If you wish to apply to migrate to Australia as a Surveyor under the General Skilled Migration program, you will need to have your qualifications and skills assessed by SSSI prior to submitting your visa application. SSSI will assess your qualifications and skills as either "suitable" or "not suitable" for the occupation of Surveyor (ANZSCO 232212) and will provide you with written advice regarding the outcome of the assessment.

Your skills assessment must be included with your visa application to the Department of Home Affairs and you must be prepared to show the Department all the documentation you have relied upon when seeking a skills assessment. You should keep a certified copy of your skills assessment and all other relevant documentation for your own records.

It is a requirement of the Department of Home Affairs that the SSSI provides written advice to that Department, for the purposes of the Points Test for skilled migration, addressing the following three areas:

1. An assessment as to whether the applicant's skills are suitable for a particular occupation;
2. Where the applicant's skills are assessed as suitable, advice as to whether any educational qualifications submitted can be recognised for the purposes of awarding points for the skilled migration test at the Doctorate, Masters, Bachelor, Diploma or Certificate level; and
3. Where the applicant's skills are assessed as suitable and claims of skilled work experience in the nominated or a closely related skilled occupation are made, advice as to whether the claims made equate to work at the skilled level. (Note that this advice may include a disclaimer to make clear that SSSI is providing no opinion as to the veracity of the claims being offered.)

This advice regarding qualifications and/or work experience will be a relevant consideration for delegated Department of Home Affairs officers in determining whether or not to award points for qualifications and/or work experience under the Points Test.

Important notes

- Successfully migrating to Australia as a Surveyor is no guarantee of:
 - a. membership of the SSSI;
 - b. registration with a State or Territory Surveyors Board (**see Annex A**); or
 - c. employment in Australia as a Surveyor.
- SSSI can only provide advice on applying for a skills assessment. All other questions relating to migration should be directed to the Department of Home Affairs—see www.border.gov.au/ for further information and contact details.
- It should be noted that persons wishing to migrate to Australia under the occupational categories of Cartographer (ANZSCO 232213) and Other Spatial Scientist (ANZSCO 232214), are currently required to apply through VETASSESS for assessment of their qualifications. For further information see www.vetassess.com.au/.
- See **Annex D** for an explanation of the difference between the Assessment of Professional Qualifications for Migration Purposes undertaken by SSSI for the Commonwealth Government and the separate Assessment of Overseas Qualifications undertaken by the Bureau of Assessment of Overseas Qualifications for the Council of Reciprocating Surveyors Boards of Australia and New Zealand (CRSBANZ).

2. Introduction

SSSI is the designated assessing authority for the occupation of Surveyor (ANZSCO 232212). This policy document has been developed by SSSI to assist you in preparing a submission for assessment of your surveying qualifications for migration purposes. You should read this policy carefully before proceeding to the Application form.

3. Purpose

The SSSI assessment process examines the documentary evidence provided by applicants to determine their suitability for migration to Australia as a surveyor. You will be found to be either "suitable" or "not suitable" for migration depending on:

- your educational qualifications in surveying;
- your English language competency;
- your professional experience as a surveyor;
- your contributions to the surveying profession; and
- your record of undertaking Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to maintain your professional skills and knowledge.

4. Educational Qualification Requirements

If you are applying for a migration assessment you will need to follow one of three pathways offered by SSSI for migration assessment and provide satisfactory documentary evidence in a number of important areas to support your application.

You should note that approved educational programs in surveying in Australia consist of four or more years of full-time university study. **Annex B** provides links to Australian university programs in surveying and gives information regarding their content.

Pathway A—Applicants who have studied in Australia

Applicants who have studied in Australia must have successfully completed an approved program in surveying of at least four years full-time study at an Australian university.

Pathway B—Applicants who have studied overseas

Applicants who have studied overseas must hold educational qualifications that are assessed as equivalent to an approved program in surveying of at least four years full-time study at an Australian university.

Pathway C – Applicants holding hydrography related qualifications and skills

Applicants who have hydrography related qualifications and experience are required to have these assessed by the Australasian Hydrographic Surveyors Certification Panel (AHSCP) and to have been certified as Certified Professional Hydrographic Surveyor Level 1 (CPHS1). Application documentation for AHSCP certification can be downloaded from the Hydrography section of the SSSI website (<https://sssi.org.au/get-certified/hydrographic-surveyor/apply-for-certification>).

5. English Language Requirements

All applicants are required to provide evidence of their English language competency. As at August 2015, the Department of Home Affairs provides the following information with regard to the English language tests it currently accepts and the required scores (see <http://www.border.gov.au/Lega/Lega/Form/Immi-FAQs/how-can-i-prove-i-have-competent-english>):

How can I prove I have competent English?

To prove that you have competent English you must provide evidence of one of the following:

- You hold a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland and you are a citizen of that country.*
- You have achieved a score of at least 6 in each of the four test components (speaking, reading, listening and writing) in an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test that has been undertaken in the three years immediately prior to lodging the visa application.*
- You have achieved a score of at least 'B' in each of the four test components of an Occupational English Test (OET) that has been undertaken in the three years immediately prior to lodging the visa application.*
- You have achieved the following minimum test scores in each of the four test components: 12 for listening, 13 for reading, 21 for writing and 18 for speaking, in a Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based test (TOEFL iBT) test that has been undertaken in the three years immediately prior to lodging the visa application.*
- You have achieved a test score of at least 50 in each of the four test components (speaking, reading, listening and writing) in a Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic that has been undertaken in the three years immediately prior to lodging the visa application.*
- You have achieved a test score of at least 169 in each of the four test components (speaking, reading, listening and writing) in a Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) test that has been undertaken on or after 1 January 2015 and prior to lodging the visa application.*

Please note that you must arrange for an original English Language test report to be sent to SSSI directly from the test centre, or advise SSSI of the procedure for online confirmation of your test report. Use the SSSI address shown on the application form.

The following applicants may be exempted from the requirement to provide an English language test report form:

- applicants who are native English speakers;
- applicants who have completed an Australian undergraduate qualification regardless of whether or not it is in surveying;

- applicants who have completed an Australian postgraduate qualification regardless of whether or not it is in surveying.

Please note that the above exemptions are determined on a case by case basis and SSSI reserves the right to require an English language test report form if it is considered necessary.

6. Professional experience, contributions to the surveying profession and CPD

The assessment panel may rely on evidence of your professional experience in one or more of the core surveying areas such as topographic, land, cadastral, geodetic, engineering, mining, photogrammetric or hydrographic surveying, your contributions to the surveying profession, and your active participation in continuing professional development in order to assess the currency of your knowledge and skills. Additionally, for applicants who claim skilled work experience, the SSSI is required to provide advice to the Department of Home Affairs as to whether the claims made equate to work at the skilled level. All applicants are therefore required to provide:

- a detailed summary of your professional experience;
- a tabular summary of your professional experience with the following column headings:

Date From dd/mm/yyyy	Date To dd/mm/yyyy	Your Position Title	Your Employer's Name and Address	Was Your Employment Full-time or Part-Time?	Have you Attached an Employer's Reference Confirming this information?

- a summary of any contributions you have made to the surveying profession (refer to **Annex C** for further information);
- a summary of the Continuing Professional Experience you have undertaken during the past two years (refer to **Annex C** for further information).

7. Applications

All applications for assessment of professional qualifications must include:

- A completed Application Form;
- Documentary evidence of your education qualifications;
- Advice to SSSI that an English Language Test report is being sent directly to SSSI from the testing authority, or advice to the SSSI regarding the procedure to be used for online confirmation of your test results.
- A summary of your professional work experience, with detailed descriptions of experience in any one or more of the core surveying areas such as topographic, land, cadastral, geodetic, mining, photogrammetric or engineering surveying;
- A tabular summary of your professional work experience;
- A summary of your contributions to the profession and documentary evidence of your continuing professional development activities during the past two

- years;
- At least two written references from employers, members of the profession, or if you are self-employed, from two professional colleagues—plus all referee contact details;
- Documentary evidence of any licenses or registration held in surveying;
- Documentary evidence of any professional society membership;
- The required fee.

In any particular case, not all of this information may be relevant. The SSSI may also request additional information and applicants are encouraged to submit any further information that they believe supports their application.

Irrespective of the pathway under which the application is made, SSSI reserves the right to request certified copies of documents provided.

8. Assessment

When your application is received, a receipt will be emailed to you within seven working days. For each application, two independent assessors will be chosen from a panel of assessors who are all experienced, senior academics engaged in surveying education in Australian universities. Assessment may take up to one month from the date of receipt. Please refrain from making contact with SSSI during the processing period as this may cause delays in processing. After one month you can email inquiries to: julie.fairman@ssi.org.au

(Note: Assessment of applicants holding hydrography related qualifications and skills will be carried out by the Australasian Hydrographic Surveyors Certification Panel (AHSCP) - refer to 'Pathway C' outlined in item 4 above (Educational Qualification Requirements). The assessment period varies from 2-3 months, depending on the timing of AHSCP meetings.)

You will be notified by email if there are any deficiencies in your application.

If your application is successful you will receive a letter sent by post stating that you are "suitable" for migration to Australia under the occupation Surveyor. This assessment is valid for a period of two years from the date of the letter.

If your application is unsuccessful you will be provided with the reasons for the assessors' decision and you may also be provided with advice regarding how this can be remedied.

9. Certification of Documents

You must provide certified true copies of your original educational degree/diploma testamur (certificate) and any other subsequent surveying qualifications together with their associated academic transcripts (list of subjects studied and results obtained). Do not send the course syllabus.

Where qualifications are not in the English Language, you must provide certified copies of both the original language document and an English translation carried out by an authorised translator. The signature, name, status and contact details of the translator must be provided on the English language version. If your current name is not the same as that on your degree documents, you must provide certified evidence of your change of name.

10. Appeal

If your qualifications are assessed as “not suitable” you may appeal the decision in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, SSSI, to have the decision reconsidered.

Your appeal must clearly state the reason why you believe the original decision should be reconsidered. SSSI may accept additional material supplied by you if it considers the material relevant.

The appeal will be considered by an independent member of the assessment panel who was not previously involved in assessing your original application.

An appeal processing fee of AUS\$150.00 will be charged and should be included with your appeal letter. An appeal can only be made within 12 months of the date of the original assessment outcome letter. Appeals take about three months to process.

CHECKLIST

You must include the following documents with your completed application form:

(Certified copies of the original documents plus English translations if necessary)

- A **certified** copy of your educational qualification papers (such as degrees, diplomas, certificates etc.)
- A **certified** copy of educational courses completed, showing subjects, credit hours, examination results and where applicable, details of practical education.
- Advice to SSSI that an English Language Test report is being sent directly to SSSI from the testing authority, or advice to the SSSI regarding the procedure to be used for online confirmation of your test results.
- At least two written references from employers, members of the profession or, if you are self-employed, from two professional colleagues – plus all referee contact details;
- A detailed summary of your professional work experience.
- A tabular summary of your professional work experience.
- A summary of your contributions to the profession and evidence of your continuing professional development during the past two years.
- Documentary evidence of any professional society membership.
- Official certified copies, where applicable, of:
 - Original and current surveying registration or licensing
 - Change of Name information
- **Application Fee of AUD \$750.00**

Note:

(Applicants applying for assessment through ‘Pathway C’ outlined in item 4 above (Educational Qualification Requirements) must include the documentation as outlined in the Applicant Checklist which can be downloaded from the Hydrography section of the SSSI website - <https://sssi.org.au/get-certified/hydrographic-surveyor/apply-for-certification>.

INFORMATION ON ASSESSMENT OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN SURVEYING

NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

Please read the 'Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute—Professional Qualification Assessment for Migration Policy' carefully before completing this application form.

COMPLETION

All applicants must complete this form by providing the information requested and signing the Applicant Declaration.

NO STAPLES, PAPER CLIPS or OTHER FASTENERS should be included in your application. All items should be grouped together loose and sent in a pocket folder. Applications should not be bound or laminated. ALL documents **MUST** be submitted on A4 or A3 paper and must be single sided ONLY. All applications are scanned electronically and inclusion of these items may substantially delay the processing of an application.

AUTHENTICATION OF FORMAL DOCUMENTS

Where documents are required by SSSI, they must be certified true copies of the original document. The person certifying the photocopy must declare that it is '*A Certified True Copy*'. A photocopy of a photocopy is not acceptable. Persons certifying documents must also add their name and address. Any documents not in English must be translated by an official translator and certified.

APPLICABLE FEES

There is an AUD 750.00 assessment fee. This fee is exclusive of any bank charges that may be levied by the bank or financial institution preparing the draft or forwarding the money. No refund will be given for unsuccessful applications. There is an AUD 150.00 fee for re-submissions/appeals.

Payments must be made in Australian dollars, on a bank draft drawn on an Australian Bank, by money order or by credit card. Bank drafts/money orders **MUST** be made payable to the Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute.

Payments can be made by direct electronic transfer. For account details contact the National Office of the Institution.

When applying, **all** documentation must be sent in one application packet (the only exception to this is the English Language test report form for which different arrangements may apply depending on the testing authority). If the SSSI receives materials (degree certificates, transcripts, letter from employer, etc.) separately, they may be disposed of. All application packets must be complete for them to be considered.

LODGEMENT

The completed application should be forwarded to

Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute
PO Box 307
Deakin West, ACT, 2600 Australia

27-29 Napier Close
Deakin, ACT, 2600, Australia

Ph: +61 2 6282 2282 Fax: +61 2 6282 2576

Email: julie.fairman@sssi.org.au

RECOGNISED SURVEYING AUTHORITIES IN AUSTRALIA

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)	Chief Surveyor, ACT
New South Wales (NSW)	Board of Surveying and Spatial Information on New South Wales
Northern Territory (NT)	Surveyors Board of the Northern Territory
Queensland (QLD)	Surveyors Board of Queensland
South Australia (SA)	Surveyors Board of South Australia
Tasmania (TAS)	Tasmanian Land Surveyors Accreditation Board
Victoria (VIC)	Surveyors Registration Board of Victoria
Western Australia (WA)	Land Surveyors Licensing Board of Western Australia

A GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN SURVEYING

The assessment panel will determine on a case-by-case basis whether an overseas qualification is deemed equivalent in content and standards to an Australian surveying qualification. As a guide, a course or programme will require a minimum of four years of full time study, and include the following elements, with the percentages denoting proportions of the total or four-year learning experience:

- Underpinning sciences such as mathematics, physics, data analysis, statistics, information technology and computer programming. This element should not be less than 20% of the total program content.
- Discipline specific studies in surveying and spatial information, including units in basic and advanced surveying, spatial data transformations and map projections, adjustment of surveying observations, cadastral surveying, land law, land administration, land development, geodesy, satellite surveying, GIS, remote sensing and photogrammetry. This element should not be less than 40% of total program content.
- Broadening studies such as environmental studies, political science and geography.
- Professional practice studies, such as project management, communication skills, business practice and professional ethics.
- There may also be a requirement for work experience and a final year research project.

The courses or programmes listed below are approved Australian educational qualifications in Surveying, and meet the requirements of the various State or jurisdictional Surveyors Boards responsible for the training and examining of Land Surveyors.

Institution	Course Name
Curtin University	Bachelor of Surveying
http://courses.curtin.edu.au/course_overview/undergraduate/surveying	
University of Melbourne	Master of Engineering (Spatial)
http://www.eng.unimelb.edu.au/study/degrees/master-engineering-spatial/overview	
<p>Note: For the purpose of skilled migration to Australia under the occupational category of "Surveyor" (ANZSCO 232212), the following University of Melbourne degrees are recognized for students graduating from 2015 onwards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2-year Master of Engineering (Spatial) degree with the Bachelor of Environments (Spatial Systems) or the Bachelor of Science degree as a pre-requisite; or • The 3-year Master of Engineering (Spatial) program with a degree other than the Bachelor of Environments (Spatial Systems) or the Bachelor of Science as a pre-requisite. <p>In addition, it is mandatory that students study all the core subjects listed in the Bachelor of Environments (Spatial Systems) / Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering (Spatial) degrees, plus the following Master of Engineering (Spatial) elective subjects:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEOM90041 Cadastral Surveying • GEOM2076 Land Development • ABPL90041 Property Law 	
University of New South Wales	Bachelor of Engineering (Surveying)
https://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/civil-engineering/study-with-us/undergraduate-degrees/bachelor-of-engineering-honours-in-surveying-3707	
University of Newcastle	Bachelor of Engineering (Surveying)
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/degrees/bachelor-of-engineering-honours-surveying/handbook	
University of South Australia	Master of Surveying
http://study.unisa.edu.au/degrees/master-of-surveying	
University of Southern Queensland	Bachelor of Spatial Science (Surveying)
http://www.usq.edu.au/study/degrees/bachelor-of-spatial-science-honours/surveying	
RMIT University	Bachelor of Applied Science (Surveying)
http://www.rmit.edu.au/study-with-us/levels-of-study/undergraduate-study/honours-degrees/bh116/#pageId=overview	
University of Tasmania	Bachelor of Surveying and Spatial Sciences Graduate Diploma in Land Surveying
http://www.utas.edu.au/courses/set/courses/73g-bachelor-of-surveying-and-spatial-sciences	
http://www.utas.edu.au/courses/set/courses/k6j-graduate-diploma-of-land-surveying	

**EXAMPLES OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROFESSION AND
CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) ACTIVITIES**

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROFESSION	CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Holding office in professional societies or special interest groups	Membership of professional societies or special interest groups
Committee membership in professional societies or special interest groups	Attending meetings of professional societies or special interest groups
Planning or organising training courses	Attending training courses
Delivering training courses/workshops	Attending conferences and seminars
Presenting at conferences and seminars	Undertaking further education
Conference poster display/presentation	Independent study, self-directed learning and workplace learning activities
Writing and publishing journal and conference papers, magazine articles	Undertaking research
Editing journal, conference proceedings , magazines and newsletters	Undertaking training leading to registration or authorisation to practise
Supervising research	Any other activity that the applicant considers to be continuing professional development
Mentoring young professionals	
Being an expert witness	
Promotion of surveying to students as a career	
Promotion of surveying within the community	
Guest lecturing to students	
Conference convenor/chairperson	
Conference committee member	
Recipient of professional awards	
Training of a Surveyor leading to her/his registration or authorisation	
Membership of a professional registration Board	
Examiner for a professional registration Board	
Volunteer Missions	
Volunteer Work	

ANNEX D

For people applying to migrate to Australia as a Surveyor under the General Skilled Migration Program, the Australian Government has delegated the qualifications assessment process to the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI). The SSSI assesses educational qualifications in terms of their equivalence to a recognised 4-year, full-time Australian degree in Surveying and provides advice to the Australian Government. As part of that assessment, the SSSI also provides advice to the Government regarding the professional work experience of applicants, specifically whether that work experience is at the level of a graduate surveyor. Note that an applicant's work experience does not contribute to the SSSI's assessment of educational qualifications.

In Australia, people with overseas qualifications who apply for registration as candidates with an Australian (State or Territory) Board of Surveyors, for the purpose of training and examination leading to registration or licensing under State or Territory legislation as a cadastral or mining surveyor, may have their application referred by the Board of Surveyors to the Bureau of Assessment of Overseas Qualifications. The Bureau operates on behalf of the Council of Reciprocating Surveyors of Australia and New Zealand, and provides advice to State and Territory Boards of Surveyors. The Board considers both formal educational qualifications and professional workplace training and experience when making its determination for suitability as a cadastral or mining surveyor.

All applicants for an SSSI assessment for the purposes of immigration should note that the SSSI and the Bureau of Assessment of Overseas Qualifications undertake assessments for different purposes and using potentially different assessment criteria. Consequently, the outcome of SSSI and Bureau assessments may differ.