



**Professional Qualifications
Assessment for Migration Policy
Surveyor (ANZSCO 232212)**

Revised: July 2014



SURVEYING & SPATIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE**Professional Qualifications Assessment for Migration Purposes
Surveyor (ANZSCO 232212)****1. Background**

The Australian Government's Skilled Migration program is implemented through a partnership between government and industry. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations work 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 Immigration and Citizenship, in accordance with the *Migration Regulations 1994*, as the assessing authority for the occupation of Surveyor, ANZSCO 232212. The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations supported 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 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 Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), and you must be prepared to show DIAC 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 Immigration and Citizenship that the SSSI provides written advice to that Department, for the purposes of the Points Test for skilled migration, addressing the following three areas:

SSSI National Office

27-29 Napier Close, Deakin

PO Box 307, Deakin West ACT 2600 Australia

T +61 2 6282 2282 F +61 2 6282 2576 E support@sssi.org.au W www.sssi.org.au

- a) An assessment as to whether the applicant's skills are suitable for a particular occupation.
- b) 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, Bachelor, Masters, Diploma or Certificate level.
- c) 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 are 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 DIAC officers in determining whether or not to award points for qualifications and/or work experience under the Points Test.

Important notes

1. Successfully migrating to Australia as a Surveyor is no guarantee of membership of either the SSSI, registration with a State or Territory Surveyors Board (**see Annex A**) or employment in Australia as a Surveyor.
2. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Australian Skills Recognition Information website also provides information on working as a Surveyor in Australia—see www.immi.gov.au/asri for further information.
3. SSSI can only provide advice on applying for a skills assessment. All other questions relating to migration should be directed to DIAC—see www.immi.gov.au for further information and contact details.
4. 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.immi.gov.au/asri/ and <http://www.vetassess.com.au/>.
5. See **Annex D** for an explanation of the difference between Assessment of Professional Qualifications 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.

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.

You should also be familiar with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's (DIACs) latest 'General Skilled Migration Booklet (6) – Form 1119,' available on the DIAC website— see <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/booklets/books6.htm> for further information.

3. Purpose

The SSSI assessment process examines the documentary evidence provided by applicants to determine their suitability for migration to Australia as a surveyor. Whether you are found "suitable" or "not suitable" for migration will depend 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 (<http://www.sssi.org.au>)

5. English Language Requirements

All applicants are required to provide evidence of their English language competency. Unless otherwise exempted (see below), applicants are required to achieve a minimum score of 6.0 in each of the four modules of speaking, listening, reading and writing in either the 'General Training' or 'Academic' version of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS)—see www.ielts.org

Please note that you must arrange for an original IELTS Test Report Form (TRF) to be sent to SSSI directly from the test centre. Use the address on the application form. For an IELTS Test Report Form to be valid, it must not be more than 2 years old at the date of receipt by the assessment application office.

The following applicants may be exempted from the requirements to provide an IELTS assessment result:

- 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 IELTS exemptions are determined on a case by case basis and SSSI reserves the right to require an IELTS assessment result 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 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 Immigration and Citizenship as to whether the claims made equate to work at the skilled level. All applicants are therefore required to provide:

- a summary of your professional experience (see Attachment A for requirements).
- 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 (refer Attachment A);
- documentary evidence of your education qualifications;
- IELTS Test Report Form (unless exempted);
- a summary of your professional experience, with detailed description of experience in any one or more of the core surveying areas such as topographic, land, cadastral, geodetic or engineering surveying;
- a summary of your contributions to the profession and documentary evidence of your continuing professional development activities during the past two years (see Attachment A for requirements and **Annex C** for examples);
- at least two referee reports 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 arrives, 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 will cause delays in processing. After one month you can email any inquiries to julie.fairman@sssi.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 degree/diploma testamur (certificate) and any other subsequent surveying qualifications together with their associated academic transcripts (mark sheets). For each qualification you must provide a certified copy of the academic testamur (degree certificate) and the academic transcript (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.

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 this application

(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, hours, examination results, and where applicable, details of practical education.
- A summary of your professional work experience.
- Your professional references.
- 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 registration or licensing
 - Change of Name
- **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 - http://sssi.org.au/userfiles/docs/Hydrography/documents_1378769649.pdf.

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 a 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 a 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 IELTS Test Report Form). 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@ssi.org.au

RECOGNISED SURVEYING AUTHORITIES IN AUSTRALIA

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Australian Capital Territory (ACT) | Chief Surveyor, ACT |
| New South Wales (NSW) | Board of Surveying and Spatial Information |
| 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) | Surveyor General, Tasmania |
| Victoria (VIC) | Surveyors Registration Board of Victoria |
| Western Australia (WA) | Land Surveyors Licensing Board |

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 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, 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 qualification 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 |
| Queensland University of Technology | Bachelor of Urban Development (Spatial Science) http://www.qut.edu.au/study/courseinfo/ |
| University of Melbourne | Master of Engineering (Geomatics) http://www.eng.unimelb.edu.au/Postgrad/MEng/me_geomatics.html |
| University of New South Wales | BE (Surveying) http://www.ssis.unsw.edu.au |
| University of Newcastle | Bachelor of Surveying http://www.newcastle.edu.au/what-can-i-study/surveying/ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/program/10374.html |
| University of South Australia | Master of Surveying http://www.unisanet.unisa.edu.au/programs/program.asp?Program=IMSG&Year=2011 |

| Institution | Course name |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| | |
| University of Southern Queensland | Bachelor of Spatial Science (Surveying) |
| | http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/current/eng/BSPS.html |
| | |
| RMIT University | Bachelor of Applied Science (Surveying) |
| | http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=BP089 |
| | |
| University of Tasmania | Bachelor of Surveying and Spatial Sciences |
| | Graduate Diploma in Land Surveying |
| | http://www.students.utas.edu.au/ |
| | |

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 | |

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 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 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.