



**Professional Qualifications  
Assessment for Migration Policy**

**Surveyor (ANZSCO 232212)**

**Revised: 25 May 2011**



**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](http://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](http://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/](http://www.immi.gov.au/asri/) and <http://www.vetassess.com.au/>.

## **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 two 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.

### **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](http://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 or engineering 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 five 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](mailto:julie.fairman@sssi.org.au).

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 General Manager, 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 \$150 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**

(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 \$500 + GST = \$550.00 (Australian)**

## 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 \$550.00 (Australian) 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 \$150 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.

### LODGEMENT

The completed application should be forwarded to

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

Ph: +61 2 6282 2282 Fax: +61 2 6282 2576; Email: julie.fairman@sssi.org.au

### FOR SSSI USE

Date of Receipt of Application: .....Acknowledged: .....

Comments: .....

.....

Signature: .....

SSSI Secretary: .....

Chairman, Land Surveying Commission: .....

**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 <a href="http://courses.curtin.edu.au/course_overview/undergraduate/surveying">http://courses.curtin.edu.au/course_overview/undergraduate/surveying</a>
Queensland University of Technology	Bachelor of Urban Development (Spatial Science) <a href="http://www.qut.edu.au/study/courseinfo/">http://www.qut.edu.au/study/courseinfo/</a>
University of Melbourne	Master of Engineering (Geomatics) <a href="http://www.eng.unimelb.edu.au/Postgrad/MEng/me_geomatics.html">http://www.eng.unimelb.edu.au/Postgrad/MEng/me_geomatics.html</a>
University of New South Wales	BE (Surveying) <a href="http://www.ssis.unsw.edu.au">http://www.ssis.unsw.edu.au</a>
University of Newcastle	Bachelor of Surveying <a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/what-can-i-study/surveying/">http://www.newcastle.edu.au/what-can-i-study/surveying/</a> <a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/program/10374.html">http://www.newcastle.edu.au/program/10374.html</a>

University of South Australia	Master of Surveying
<a href="http://www.unisanet.unisa.edu.au/programs/program.asp?Program=IMSG&amp;Year=2011">http://www.unisanet.unisa.edu.au/programs/program.asp?Program=IMSG&amp;Year=2011</a>	
University of Southern Queensland	Bachelor of Spatial Science (Surveying)
<a href="http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/current/eng/BSPS.html">http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/current/eng/BSPS.html</a>	
RMIT University	Bachelor of Applied Science (Surveying)
<a href="http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=BP089">http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=BP089</a>	
University of Tasmania	Bachelor of Surveying and Spatial Sciences Graduate Diploma in Land Surveying
<a href="http://www.students.utas.edu.au/">http://www.students.utas.edu.au/</a>	

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

<b>CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROFESSION</b>	<b>CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b>
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	