

OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

It is becoming easier for overseas applicants to obtain relevant work visas, particularly those with an engineering or trade qualification. Whilst there are some Recruitment Agencies or contracting businesses (eg Thiess) that have actively recruited for overseas candidates for all level roles, it is not yet common. As such, candidates are strongly advised to undertake appropriate research through the Department of Immigration. The following information has been directly sourced from the following website:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/skilled-occupations/occupations-in-demand.htm>

The Skilled Occupations List (SOL) is a list of skilled occupations that are in need in Australia. Each occupation listed on the SOL is allocated a points value for use in the visa assessment process. You are able to receive extra points towards your visa if your nominated occupation is on this list. You will receive additional points if you have a job offer from an organisation that has employed at least ten people on a fulltime basis for the previous two financial years. Whilst the list of eligible occupations in demand is extensive, following is a list of those most relevant to Resource sector occupations.

MIGRATION OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND (MODL)	
Trades Persons	ASCO code
Automotive Electrician	4212-11
Bricklayer	4414-11
Cabinetmaker	4922-11
Carpenter	4411-13
Carpenter and Joiner	4411-11
Cook	4513-11
Electrical Powerline Tradesperson	4313-11
Electrician (Special Class)	4311-13
Electronic Equipment Tradesperson	4315-11
Fibrous Plasterer	4412-11
Fitter	4112-11
Gasfitter	4431-13
General Electrician	4311-11
General Plumber	4431-11
Landscape Gardener	4623-13
Mechanical Services and Air-conditioning Plumber	4431-19
Metal Fabricator (Boilermaker)	4122-11
Metal Machinist (First Class)	4112-13
Motor Mechanic	4211-11
Pressure Welder	4122-13
Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Mechanic	4312-11
Roof Plumber	4431-17
Sheetmetal Worker (First Class)	4124-11

Welder (First Class)	4122-15
Professionals	ASCO Code
Accountant	2211-11
Chemical Engineer	2129-17
Civil Engineer	2124-11
Electrical Engineer	2125-11
Electronics Engineer	2125-13
Engineering Manager	1221-11
Mechanical Engineer	2126-11
Mining Engineer (excluding Petroleum)	2127-11
Occupational Therapist	2383-11
Petroleum Engineer	2127-13
Registered Nurse	2323-11
Surveyor	2123-13

How often does the Skilled Occupations List (SOL) change?

The SOL is reviewed twice a year to take into consideration existing and emerging skills shortages. This does not mean the list is changed twice a year. Changes only occur if there has been a significant change in labour market trends. In 2009, the Australian Government significantly revised down the number of immigrants to be granted entry for work purposes in light of the Global Financial Crisis and the real and anticipated increase in unemployment in Australia.

As the SOL may change from time to time, you are advised to check the current SOL at the time you are lodging your visa application.

How are occupation points awarded on the points test?

If your nominated occupation is on SOL either at the time your application is lodged or assessed, you will be eligible for 'occupation in demand/job offer' points on the General Skilled Migration points test. You will receive extra points if you have a job offer from a suitable Australian employer.

What is a 'suitable Australian employer'?

A 'suitable Australian employer' is an employer that has employed at least 10 people on a full-time basis for the previous two (2) financial years.

If you intend to claim points for 'occupation in demand/job offer' you are required to submit documentary evidence that your proposed employer meets these requirements. This evidence should include:

- a letter of offer from your prospective employer on official letterhead of the company which states the full address of the company and any telephone, fax numbers, e-mail and website addresses
- the name and position of the person authorised to sign the employment reference typed or stamped below that person's signature - a reference with an illegible signature will not be accepted

- details of the position you are being offered, the main five duties to be undertaken, and the salary level
- details of the organisation making the job offer, including the number of people it has employed on a full-time basis for the previous two (2) years

The department will make any necessary checks to ensure that the information provided is correct.

Priority Processing

If your nominated occupation is on the SOL, your General Skilled Migration visa application will receive priority processing.

Visa Options

There is a range of visa options under the General Skilled Migration program for skilled workers who want to live in Australia and who do not have an employer sponsoring them. These include options for skilled people applying as an independent migrant as well as those sponsored by a relative, or nominated by a State or Territory government.

Independent

Independent migrants have the least number of restrictions placed on them and this is the preferred option for eligible applicants who do not have an employer to sponsor them. Assess your eligibility for the independent visas via the Department of Immigration website (link provided on page one).

Sponsored

If you are sponsored by an eligible relative, please note that there are a number of obligations that must be met by your sponsor.

All Visa Options

You may be eligible for a number of different visa categories and each has different requirements and obligations. Please read through the various visa options to ensure that you choose the visa most beneficial to you and your circumstances.

Visa Options – If you are outside Australia

Skilled – Independent (Migrant) visa (subclass 175)

A permanent visa for people with skills in demand in the Australian labour market. Applicants are not sponsored and must pass a points test.

Skilled – Sponsored (Migrant) visa (subclass 176)

A permanent visa for people unable to meet the Skilled – Independent pass mark. Applicants must be either sponsored by an eligible relative living in Australia or nominated by a participating State or Territory government. Applicants must pass a points test lower than that for the Skilled – Independent visa.

Skilled – Regional Sponsored (Provisional) visa (subclass 475)

A three (3) year provisional visa for people who can meet the lower pass mark for this visa. Applicants must be either sponsored by an eligible relative living in a designated area of Australia or nominated by a participating state/territory government. After living for two (2) years and working for at least one (1) year in a Specified Regional Area, applicants can apply for a permanent visa. Regional areas included are:

Regional Australia/low population growth metropolitan areas	Postcodes inclusive
New South Wales except Sydney, Newcastle, the Central Coast and Wollongong	2311 to 2312 2328 to 2411 2420 to 2490 2536 to 2551 2575 to 2594 2618 to 2739 2787 to 2898
Queensland except the greater Brisbane area and the Gold Coast	4124 to 4125 4133 4211 4270 to 4272 4275 4280 4285 4287 4307 to 4499 4515 4517 to 4519 4522 to 4899
Victoria except Melbourne metropolitan area	3211 to 3334 3340 to 3424 3430 to 3649 3658 to 3749 3753, 3756 3758 3762 3764 3778 to 3781 3783 3797 3799 3810 to 3909 3921 to 3925 3945 to 3974

	3979 3981 to 3996
Western Australia except Perth and surrounding areas	6041 to 6044 6083 to 6084 6121 to 6126 6200 to 6799
South Australia	Entire State
Tasmania	Entire State
Northern Territory	Entire Territory

Note: none of the Australian Capital Territory is included.

Skilled – Recognised Graduate (Temporary) visa (subclass 476)

An 18 month temporary visa for graduates of recognised overseas educational institutions who have skills in demand in Australia. As a holder of this visa, you may apply for permanent residence at any time if you are able to meet the pass mark on the General Skilled Migration points test. Eligible Engineering Bachelor's Degree Qualifications:

- Civil Engineering
- Structural Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering
- Mechanical, Production and Plant Engineering
- Mining and Material Engineering

Recognised overseas educational institutions include:

Africa

Technikon South Africa (South Africa)
University of Cape Town (South Africa)
University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)
University of Pretoria (South Africa)
University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)

Asia-Pacific

Bandung Institute of Technology (Indonesia)
Beijing Normal University (China)
Beijing Petroleum University (China)
Beijing University of Chemical Technology (China)
Beijing University of Technology (formerly Beijing Polytechnic University) (China)
China University of Mining & Technology - Beijing (China)
Chongqing University (China)
Guangzhou University (China)
National University of Singapore (Singapore)
Shanghai Jiaotong University (China)
Shanghai University of Engineering Science (China)
Tohoku University (Japan)

Tongji University (China)
Tsinghua University (China)
Universiti Teknologi MARA (Malaysia)
University of Indonesia (Indonesia)
University of Malaya (Malaysia)
University of the Philippines (the Philippines)
University of Science and Technology - Beijing (China)

Central and South America

Federal University of Minas Gerais (Brazil)
Universidad Catolica del Norte -Antofagasta (Chile)
University of Chile (Chile)
University of Concepcion (Chile)
University of San Luis Potosi (Mexico)

Europe

Camborne School of Mines (UK)
Imperial College London (UK)
Lulea University of Technology (Sweden)
Moscow State University (Russia)
St Petersburg State University (Russia)
Technical University of Berlin (Germany)
Technical University of Clausthal (Germany)
Technology University Aachen (Germany)
University of Birmingham (UK)
University of Hannover (Germany)
University of Leeds (UK)
University of Manchester (UK)
University of Nottingham (UK)
University of Portsmouth (UK)
University of Southampton (UK)

North America

Arizona State University - Tempe (USA)
Colorado School of Mines (USA)
Laurentian University (Canada)
McGill University (Canada)
Michigan Technological University (USA)
Montana College of Minerals Science & Technology (USA)
Pennsylvania State University - University Park (USA)
Queen's University (Canada)
South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (USA)
University of Alaska (USA)
University of Alberta (Canada)
University of California - Berkeley (USA)
University of Idaho - Moscow (USA)
University of Laval (Canada)
University of Missouri - Rolla (USA)
University of Nevada - Reno (USA)
University of Toronto (Canada)
University of Waterloo (Canada)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (USA)

West Virginia University (USA)

Subcontinent and the Middle East

American University of Beirut (Lebanon)
American University of Sharjah (UAE)
Amir Kabir University of Technology (Iran)
Dokuz Eylul University (Turkey)
Hacettepe University (Turkey)
Indian Institute of Science - Bangalore (India)
Istanbul Technical University (Turkey)
Middle East Technical University (Turkey)
University of Tehran (Iran)

Visa for New Zealand Residents

New Zealand citizens should apply for an offshore General Skilled Migration visa, regardless of whether they are in or outside Australia. They may apply for the following subclasses:

- [Skilled – Independent \(Migrant\) visa \(subclass 175\)](#)
- [Skilled – Sponsored \(Migrant\) visa \(subclass 176\)](#)
- [Skilled – Regional Sponsored \(Provisional\) visa \(subclass 475\)](#)
- [Skilled – Recognised Graduate \(Temporary\) visa \(subclass 476\)](#)

New Zealand citizens who are Special Category Visa (subclass 444) holders and any accompanying secondary applicants will be eligible to apply for and be granted an offshore General Skilled Migration visa while they are in Australia.

Skilled – Independent (Residence) visa (subclass 175)

This visa allows you to migrate to Australia if you have good English language skills and have skills and qualifications in an occupation in need in Australia. This visa uses a points test to select visa applicants with characteristics needed in the Australian labour market. You do not require sponsorship to apply for this visa.

Who is this visa for?

This visa is for you if you:

- Are under 45 years of age
- Have the skills and qualifications that meet the Australian standard for an occupation on the Skilled Occupation List (SOL)

What does this visa let you do?

This visa allows you and any secondary applicants included in your visa application to live as permanent residents in Australia. Australian permanent residents can:

- live and work in Australia on a permanent basis
- study in Australia at school or university

- receive subsidised healthcare through Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)
- access certain social security payments (subject to waiting periods)
- be eligible for Australian citizenship (subject to the residency eligibility criteria)
- sponsor people for permanent residence.

Skilled – Sponsored (Migrant) visa (subclass 176)

This visa allows you to migrate to Australia if you have good English language skills and have skills and qualifications in an occupation in need in Australia. This visa uses a points test to select visa applicants with characteristics needed in the Australian labour market. You must be sponsored by an eligible relative living in Australia or obtain nomination from a participating State or Territory government agency.

Who is this visa for?

This visa is for you if you:

- are under 45 years of age
- have the skills and qualifications that meet the Australian standard for an occupation on the Skilled Occupation List (SOL)

This visa also requires that either:

- you, your spouse or your interdependent partner have an eligible relative living in Australia who is willing and able to sponsor you, or
- you have a nomination from a participating State or Territory government agency.

Note: All State and Territory governments in Australia are participating in this visa scheme.

What does this visa let you do?

This visa allows you and any secondary applicants included in your visa application to live as permanent residents in Australia. Australian permanent residents can:

- live and work in Australia on a permanent basis
- study in Australia at school or university
- receive subsidised healthcare through Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)
- access certain social security payments (subject to waiting periods)
- be eligible for Australian citizenship (subject to the residency eligibility criteria)
- sponsor people for permanent residence.

Skilled – Regional Sponsored (Provisional) visa (subclass 475)

This visa is a three (3) year provisional visa for skilled workers who are unable to meet the criteria for a Skilled - Independent visa. You will have the opportunity to apply for permanent residency after you

have lived for two (2) years and worked at least 12 months in a Specified Regional Area of Australia.
See: [Specified regional areas](#)

This visa requires you to be either:

- nominated by a participating State or Territory government agency, or
- sponsored by an eligible relative living in a designated area of Australia.
- This visa uses a points test to select visa applicants with characteristics needed in the Australian labour market.

Who is this visa for?

This visa is for you if you are:

- outside Australia, or
- a New Zealand citizen who holds a Special Category visa (subclass 444)

You must:

- be under 45 years of age
- have good English language skills
- have the skills and qualifications that meet the Australian standard for an occupation on the Skilled Occupation List (SOL)

What does this visa let you do?

This visa:

- allows you to remain in Australia for up to three (3) years and requires you to live and work in a Specified Regional Area in Australia
- allows accompanying secondary applicants to work and study, but only in a Specified Regional Area of Australia
- provides a pathway to permanent residence.

Skilled – Recognised Graduate (Temporary) visa (subclass 476)

This visa is for you if you completed an Engineering degree at a recognised overseas institution in the last two years. This visa does not have a points test but other requirements must be met.

What does this visa let you do?

This visa allows you and any secondary applicants included in your visa application to remain in Australia for up to 18 months with no restrictions on work or study. During this period you may choose to:

- travel
- work
- undertake further professional studies
- study to improve your English skills.

Handy Links

For more information on living and working in Australia, we recommend:

<http://www.workingin-australia.com/>

Australian Visa Centre for instant assessment of eligibility to work and live in Australia:

https://secure.liveinaustralia.com/skilled-visa/skilled_assessment.asp

Visa Assessment Experts:

www.liveinaustralia.com.au

Source information: <http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/index.htm>