

There are **3 Permanent Categories** under which you may apply:-

OFFSHORE GENERAL SKILLED

For overseas applicants not currently living in Australia.

ONSHORE GENERAL SKILLED

For overseas students currently studying in Australia.

ONSHORE NEW ZEALAND CITIZEN

For New Zealand citizens currently in Australia.

There are also **2 Temporary Categories** under which you may apply:-

GRADUATE SKILLED

For eligible overseas students who intend to make a valid permanent application and need more time to compile the application.

SKILLED INDEPENDENT REGIONAL (PROVISIONAL)

This visa category (SIR) allows a temporary stay of 3 years during which visa holders must live and work in certain regional areas and low population areas of Australia. After at least 2 years and being in employment for at least 12 months, you may apply for a permanent visa

The visas also require sponsorship by a State/Territory Government authority and are a recent initiative of the Australian Government to assist development of regional Australia .

Please contact us [HERE](#) for further information regarding the detailed conditions applying to this visa category.

BASIC CORE REQUIREMENTS

Before applying, you must first satisfy the following basic requirements as well as pass a General Points Test in many of the visa categories..

AGE

> You must be less than 45 when you apply.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY

> You must have sufficient ability in the English language for working in Australia. This is known as "Vocational English " However, for certain occupations ,a higher level of ability is required where this ability forms part of a skills assessment.

NOMINATED SKILLED OCCUPATION

> When you apply, you nominate a skilled occupation which fits your skills and qualifications. Your nominated occupation must be found on the Australian Skilled Occupations List.

QUALIFICATIONS

>You must have post secondary (University or Trade) qualifications and your skills must be assessed by the appropriate assessing body as being suitable for your nominated occupation.

For some 60 point occupations, substantial work experience may be acceptable for your nominated occupation.

RECENT WORK EXPERIENCE

(This requirement is separate to the need to have your skills assessed as suitable before you apply.)

> Depending on the number of points your nominated occupation is worth (as listed on the Skilled Occupations List),you are required to have a certain period of work experience during the period immediately before applying for the visa.

In the Skilled Matching or Skilled –Designated Area Sponsored visa categories, you may be eligible with a lesser amount of recent work experience.

NOTE- Australian Award qualification exemption

You do not need to meet the work experience requirement if you have completed an Australian qualification as a result of at least two years of full time study in Australia, less than 6 months before lodging your visa application.

You must have your skills assessed by the relevant Australian assessing authority designated to evaluate your skills for your nominated occupation **BEFORE** you lodge an application

The assessing authority will determine whether or not your skills are suitable for the skilled occupation which you nominated, and are in the Australian Skilled Occupations List.

If you are unable to meet the above basic requirements, then you are unfortunately NOT able to apply with a General Skilled Migration application . There may be another Visa Category which fits your situation so please contact us [HERE](#) for further information.

GENERAL POINTS TEST REQUIREMENTS:

You are awarded points for the following:

Skill –

you receive points for the occupation you nominate as long as the relevant assessing authority determines that your skills are suitable for this occupation.

These points range from 40 to 60 points depending on the degree of skill involved in the nominated occupation.

This requirement is considered the most critical one with a maximum possible score of 60 points.

Age –

You are awarded points for your age with the highest points ranging from 30 points for ages 18-29 to 15 points for ages 40-44.

English language ability -

Depending on your English language ability these points are either 20 points for a good command of English or 15 points for a reasonable command of English.

Specific work experience -

This requirement is different from the core requirement of recent work experience, without which you will not be able to make a valid application. The number of points (5 or 10 points) for this factor depends on the number of points for your nominated occupation and the length of time you have worked in this occupation, or closely related occupation or skilled

employment.

Occupations in Demand -

There are some occupations that are in demand in Australia. If you claim 15 points for this your nominated occupation should be on a Migration Occupations in Demand List. You can be awarded 5 extra points if you have a full time job offer for your nominated occupation from an employer who meets certain employment criteria.

Australian Educational Qualifications-

You can be awarded between 5 and 15 points for this factor depending on the type of Australian qualification.

Regional Australia-

There are also 5 points if you lived and studied in regional Australia for at least 2 years.

Spouse skills-

You are awarded 5 additional points for this factor if your spouse also satisfies the basic requirements and has obtained suitable skills assessment from the relevant assessing authority.

Bonus Points Category -

This category allows applicants to receive 5 points by meeting any one of the three options set out below.

Capital investment in Australia –A minimum of at least \$100,000 for at least 12 months in a Government Investment.

Australian Work Experience–Employment in a skilled occupation on the skilled occupations list for a period, or periods totalling, at least 6 months in the 48 months prior to application.

Fluency - In one of the Australia's designated community languages.

Points for Relationship Sponsorship-

If you apply under the Skilled Australian Sponsored category you may receive 15 extra points for your relationship(conditions apply) to an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia who is willing to sponsor you.

Pass mark and Pool mark-

You must gain sufficient points to reach the pass mark in effect at the time your application is assessed.

The current **Pass mark (and Pool marks-see below)** for the following categories are:-

Skilled–Independent **120 -(70)**

Skilled–Independent Regional (Provisional) **110- (110)**

Skilled–Australian sponsored **110 -(105)**

Skilled–Independent Overseas Student **120 -(120)**

Skilled–Australian sponsored Overseas Student **110 -(110)**

Skilled–Onshore Independent New Zealand citizen **120- (120)**

Skilled–Onshore Australian sponsored New Zealand citizen **110- (110)**

These marks may be changed at any time.

Applications that achieve a score below the **pass mark** but above another mark called the **pool mark** will be held in reserve for up to 2 years after assessment. If the pass mark is lowered at any time during that 2-year period and if your score is equal to, or higher than, the new pass mark, your case will be processed further. If not, the application would be refused at the end of the 2 year period.

The above details are only a summary of the complex requirements to obtain a Skilled Migration Visa and for further information ,please contact us [HERE.](#)