

The ACT Occupation List identifies the skills that are currently in demand in Canberra (for migration purposes). The ACT Occupation List is used to determine the eligibility for ACT support of the following programs:

- Skilled Regional (provisional) subclass 491 visa.
- Skilled Nominated (permanent) subclass 190 visa.

Occupation Caveats:

The following caveats apply to certain 'open' occupations on the ACT Occupation List. If you wish to nominate an 'open' occupation but you cannot comply with any 'caveat', the occupation is deemed to be 'closed'. If your occupation is closed, or deemed to be closed, you cannot claim Canberra Matrix points in the 'Nominated Occupation' category; or in the employment / spouse employability category.

**** Employment Caveat.** Minimum one year ACT employment contract in the nominated occupation with an:

Australian medium to large enterprise (50 plus employees) located in the ACT; or Academic appointment (Level B to E) at an ACT tertiary institution.

Employment Caveat: Minimum one year employment contract with an ACT employer in the nominated occupation.

Australian Registration or licensing is required

Change in 491 Tasmania visa criteria

New company sponsored 494 WA criteria Tasmania criteria for 491 Category 1 has changed as per below Category 1 – Tasmanian graduate to be considered for this category, you must meet all of the following criteria.

- You must have completed and graduated from a CRICOS registered tertiary institution in Tasmania.

The course undertaken:

- Must be a degree (bachelor or any higher degree), a diploma (standard, advanced, associate or graduate) or a trade qualification (minimum Cert III level for a skilled occupation in Major Group 3 in ANZSCO)

- must have a minimum duration of one academic year (40 weeks)
- must be full time and on site in Tasmania
- You have lived in the state for at least 1 year during your period of study
- You and your dependents are currently living in Tasmania and can provide evidence of your ongoing genuine commitment. More specific guidance for Tasmanian Graduates can be found on our International Student Graduates page.

IMPORTANT: If your study has been in an area that is not related to an occupation on the Tasmanian Skilled Occupation List, you need to explain your CAREER PLAN and how your studies have increased your ability to and skilled work in Tasmania. This may include areas unrelated to your Tasmanian study.

****Please also note:** Acceptable courses of study include courses above Certificate 3 studied with a CRICOS registered tertiary institution in Tasmania and meet the specific requirements for state nomination categories.

- All courses must be completed full time and on campus
- Study duration must be at least one academic year for the subclass 491 Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa. For the subclass 190 Skilled Nominated visa, your study must meet the Australian study requirement
- Graduate Diploma courses are considered eligible
- Graduate Certificate courses are not eligible
- Certificate 3 and 4 study must be related to a trade qualification (minimum Cert III level for a skilled occupation in Major Group 3 in ANZSCO) occupation. This group includes:
 - Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians
 - Automotive and Engineering Trades Workers
 - Construction Trades Workers
 - Electro technology and Telecommunications Trades Workers
 - Food Trades Workers
 - Skilled Animal and Horticultural Workers
 - Other Technicians and Trades Workers

** Childcare, Aged Care and Community Care related courses must be at least a Diploma level. However, we will accept Certificate III Early Childcare course if you commenced your course before 1 January 2020

Vetassess Priority Processing Update

Our Terms of Service for the Priority Processing Refund will change on 2 January 2020

The updated terms in the VETASSESS Refund Policy will include an administration fee of \$100 for applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria for Priority Processing.

DAMA Update

Please note that VETASSESS will no longer provide DAMA Skills Assessment Services for the following occupations: 231212 Ship's Engineer and 421111 Child Care Worker.

The occupations will now be assessed by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and the Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) and you can direct your enquiries and assessment requirements to these relevant bodies.

Important change to DHA work experience policy

Important change to Work Experience points DHA have changed the way that they will assess work experience points for some occupations. In the past if a person was assessed by some skills assessment authorities (Vetassess, ACS (onshore) etc) the assessing body would determine a "deeming date". Any work experience that was undertaken prior to this "deeming date" was unable to be counted as skilled for work points. DHA have now CHANGED this policy and instead will allow any work experience that takes place after obtaining the qualifications/work experience (as determined by ANZSCO) to count for points. This is their new policy

When assessing periods of skilled employment for the purpose of awarding points, the following must be taken into account:

The opinion of the relevant skills assessing authority on the period of skilled employment including the date on which they deemed the applicant skilled; and

The Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) including any prerequisite qualifications/work experience relevant to the claimed skilled employment; and
Any other relevant information (such as employment records and references).

If the skills assessing authority's opinion would result in the applicant being awarded less points than the applicant claimed in their EOI, then decision makers should consider the information in ANZSCO and apply the more beneficial outcome in determining when the applicant was working at a skilled level.

In most cases this will mean that all work after obtaining the ANZSCO skill level (usually a relevant diploma or degree or in some cases 3-5 years work experience) will count as skilled work experience. If you do not have this skill level directly related to your occupation, you will not benefit from this new policy. For example if a person has an acceptable degree in Marketing, and works the required 12 months for a Vetassess skills assessment as a Marketing Specialist, DHA would not count this 12 months as skilled work in the past. Now they will as ANZSCO says only an acceptable degree is needed to meet the Australian standards for that occupation.

Similarly if an overseas IT graduate works 5 years as an ICT Security Specialist. The ACS would use the first 2 years to meet their own skills assessment standards, leaving just 3 years counting as skilled for DHA points. Now the whole 5 years will count as skilled for points as ANZSCO requires just a relevant degree for that occupation.

Note that if you want to count work experience from your ACS assessment as an overseas qualified person your ACS assessment needs to confirm that your degree was a MAJOR in IT RELEVANT to your occupation and they only deducted 2 years work from your work history in most cases. Note if you do not have the ANZSCO skill level for your nominated occupation, you are unable to benefit from this ANZSCO definition change in policy. This will likely assist many people in claiming work experience to meet any state sponsorship requirements. As in the past many states copied DHA policy and did not count work obtained prior to a deeming date.

(Note that you still need to meet any work experience required for the skills assessment from Vetassess or ACS, this has not changed for the actual skills assessment stage)