



Frequently Asked Questions

General Skilled Migration (GSM) and Introduction of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO)

Please note that these FAQs will continue to be updated in response to common questions received from clients about the changes.

What is ANZSCO?

ANZSCO is a classification system that provides for the standardised collection, analysis, and dissemination of occupation data. It was developed jointly by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Statistics New Zealand and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) for use in the collection, publication and analysis of occupation statistics.

ANZSCO will replace the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) currently used by the department from 1 July 2010. More information on the introduction of the ANZSCO standard into departmental visa programs is available on the department's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/employers/anzsco/

Why is ANZSCO being introduced?

ASCO is no longer supported or used by the ABS (its developer), as it is no longer considered to accurately represent the needs of the Australian labour market. ANZSCO is already used by:

- ABS in surveys and censuses, and to source all new occupation classifications
- DEEWR to analyse emerging and future workforce skills needs, and inform skilled migration settings.

In line with a whole-of-government requirement to use ANZSCO, the department is introducing this standard to capture occupation information in its visa, settlement and citizenship programs, including GSM program.

When will the department start using ANZSCO occupation?

The department will begin using the ANZSCO standard on 1 July 2010.

How will my visa application be affected?

For all new applications lodged on or after 1 July 2010, the department will use ANZSCO codes and occupation information instead of ASCO in its systems and records. You will need to nominate your occupation in ANZSCO from 1 July 2010.

I have already lodged my GSM application, will this change affect me?

No. People with existing applications will not be affected.

I lodged a paper based application that the department received after 1 July 2010 and nominated an ASCO occupation - what will happen to my application?

If you made a paper application nominating an ASCO occupation and posted it before 1 July 2010 but it was received by the department after 1 July 2010, a 28 day grace period will be provided. The department will contact you to advise of the changes from ASCO to ANZSCO and the requirement that you must nominate an occupation in ANZSCO for the application to be considered valid. Once you have

nominated an ANZSCO occupation, the application will be accepted. If no response is received from you at the end of the 28 day grace period, your application will be deemed invalid and will be returned to you.

What happens with electronically-lodged visa applications?

Information is available on the department's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/employers/anzsco/

Changes to process of obtaining a skills assessment

Will the skills assessing body for my occupation change?

No. The relevant skills assessing authority for your occupation will not change.

Will the process for obtaining a skills assessment change?

No. The process for obtaining a skills assessment will not change.

Will the information I need to provide to obtain a skills assessment change?

Transition from ASCO to ANZSCO has resulted in changes in skill level for some occupations. The requirements for obtaining a skills assessment may change. Please contact the relevant skills assessment authority for your nominated occupation.

See: www.immi.gov.au/asri/a-z.htm

Will the cost and the processing times for obtaining a skills assessment change?

Please contact the relevant skills assessment authority for your nominated occupation. See:

www.immi.gov.au/asri/a-z.htm

Validity of existing skill assessments

I've already obtained my skills assessment in an ASCO occupation but have not lodged an application yet – is my skills assessment still valid?

Yes. If you apply for a GSM visa after 1 July 2010 you can still use your ASCO skills assessment obtained prior to 1 July 2010, provided that your ASCO skills assessment is still valid.

To allow for this, the department has correlated all ASCO occupations currently acceptable for skilled visa program purposes to their acceptable corresponding ANZSCO occupation(s). These correlations will be used to determine whether your valid ASCO skills assessment is an acceptable correlation for your ANZSCO nominated occupation. As the two occupation standards contain several differences, in some cases this may mean that one ASCO occupation correlates to several ANZSCO occupations and, conversely, that one ANZSCO occupation correlates to several ASCO occupations.

A list of the endorsed ASCO to ANZSCO correlations for skilled visa program purposes is available on the department's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/employers/anzsco/

I have already applied for my skilled visa nominating an ASCO occupation, but my skills assessment is in ANZSCO – can I still use this assessment?

Yes, but only for visa applications lodged before 1 July 2010 where there is no legal requirement to submit your skills assessment at the time of lodging your visa application. In these instances, the correlations described above will be used to assess if your ANZSCO skills assessment is an acceptable correlation for your nominated ASCO occupation. This means that even if you lodged your visa application and nominated an ASCO occupation, you can subsequently submit an ANZSCO skills assessment provided it correlates to the original ASCO occupation you nominated.

I hold a provisional/ temporary GSM visa. Does this change affect me?

Provisional/ temporary GSM visa holders will need to nominate an occupation in ANZSCO when applying for a permanent GSM visa.

I have a skills assessment in an ASCO from my previous 485 visa application. Can I still use my old skills assessment when I apply for a permanent GSM visa?

Yes. You can still use your ASCO skills assessment obtained prior to 1 July 2010, provided that your ASCO skills assessment is still valid.

The temporary suspension of accepting of offshore applications prevented me from lodging my GSM application. Can I use my existing skills assessment?

Yes. If you apply for a GSM visa after the temporary suspension is lifted, you can still use your ASCO skills assessment obtained prior to ANZSCO, provided that your ASCO skills assessment is still valid.

I already have my skills assessment but the occupation on my skills assessment is not on the new SOL. What can I do?

You must nominate an occupation on the SOL that applies at the time of your application. Certain applicants will be eligible for transitional arrangements in relation to the new SOL.

See: www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/whats-new.htm#o

If the transitional arrangements do not apply to you, you may be able to apply for other visas that allow you to work in Australia.

See: www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/pdf/options-not-eligible.pdf

Work Experience

I applied for my visa before 1 July 2010. Will my work experience be assessed using ASCO or ANZSCO?

If you applied for a GSM visa before 1 July 2010, your work experience will be assessed using ASCO.

I applied for my visa after 1 July 2010 but all/most of my work experience was obtained before 1 July 2010. Will my work experience in an ASCO occupation be accepted?

If you applied for a GSM visa after 1 July 2010, your work experience in an ASCO occupation will be accepted as long as there is an acceptable correlation for an ANZSCO occupation. A list of the endorsed ASCO to ANZSCO correlations for skilled visa program purposes is available on the department's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/employers/anzsco/

All my work experience was in one ASCO occupation, which is now in several ANZSCO occupations, eg nurses. Can I still meet the requirement that my work be in only one occupation on the SOL?

Yes. Your work experience in an ASCO occupation will be accepted as long as there is an acceptable correlation for an ANZSCO occupation.

See: www.immi.gov.au/employers/anzsco/

What effect will this change have if I am claiming points for specific work experience/ Australian work experience?

If you are claiming points for specific work experience/ Australian work experience in an ASCO occupation, it must have an acceptable correlation for an ANZSCO occupation.

See: www.immi.gov.au/employers/anzsco/

Nominating correct occupations

I am having trouble finding my nominated occupation from the old SOL on the new list, is there somewhere where I can find out what the acceptable equivalent occupation is on the new list?
Information is available on the department's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/employers/anzsco/

Prior to 1 July 2010 I obtained a suitable skills assessment as a Registered Nurse. I specialised in aged care nursing for my 2 years of Australian study. On the new SOL there is registered nurse and numerous other options for registered nurses, one of which is Registered Nurse (Aged Care).

Should I nominate the specific nursing occupation, as it is more closely related to my Australian study, or the generic Registered Nurse occupation as per my skills assessment?

You can nominate either of the occupations as the ASCO occupation of Registered Nurse correlates to all ANZSCO occupations on the new SOL.

Please consult the relevant assessing authority, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) for guidelines on suitable skills for nursing occupations.

See: www.anmc.org.au/,

I obtained a skills assessment as a Computing Professional nec with a MODL specialisation and my occupation is not on the new SOL. What can I do?

To apply for GSM you must nominate an occupation on the SOL current at the time of your application. If your occupation is not on the SOL, you may be able to apply for other visas that allow you to work in Australia.

See: www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/pdf/options-not-eligible.pdf

I am a computing professional employed in an occupation on the new SOL but obtained a skills assessment as Computing Professional nec to enable me to access priority processing. What can I do?

Your nominated occupation on your visa application must correspond to the skills assessment obtained in an occupation.