

Iscah Migration Newsletter

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Hiya folks,

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2014.

Another quiet one as the department save their fire for what I expect will be a number of significant announcements in 2015.

There are a number of high powered reviews taking place for Business Skills and the Skilled points test categories. And knowing governments propensity to put their stamp on those categories I expect we will see some major changes over the next 12 months.

Hope you have some cool plans for the Christmas Break and New Years.
Enjoy ... 😊



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1. Iscah thoughts on the occupation of Cook

We are seeing a bit of a revival, with students, of the Hospitality course – Cert III in Commercial Cookery, Cert IV in Commercial Cookery and Diploma in Hospitality Management. Permanent visa prospects via this course have been improved as the occupation of “chef” is now on the SOL (since 01 July 2014) thus giving the opportunity for the old 485 Graduate visa to give time to do the Job-ready Program or gain 2 years of experience after obtaining the Cert III in Commercial Cookery.

Completion of the 12 month Cert III, the 6 month Cert IV and the 6 month Diploma, meets the 485 requirement of a 2 year course related to the occupation of Chef. The TRA can approve a skills assessment as a Chef, for the 485 visa only, with a Cert IV in Commercial Cookery, IELTS 6666 and 360 hours related work experience. Previously, the only option was to get the Cert IV and then get 457 Sponsorship to build up the 2 years of experience for the permanent employer sponsored visa (RSMS or ENS). According to Immigration Policy, the RSMS visa requires a Cert III or Cert IV PLUS 2 years equivalent full-time experience OR a FULL Skills Assessment to meet the Skills Requirement. The MRT have recently found that no extra experience is required if a Cert IV in Commercial Cookery is held. So it is an option to apply for the RSMS visa with just the Cert IV and win the case 12 to 18 months later to the MRT. Or, you work with the system and complete the Diploma, apply for the 485 visa, then do the Job-ready program or get the 2 years experience as a cook or chef and then meet Immigration’s policy for the skill for the RSMS visa.

Obtaining the Full Skills Assessment as a Chef can also give options for the points tested visas but you are likely to require IELTS 7777 even if you have a relative to sponsor you for the 489 visa.

2. Iscah thoughts on the occupation of Accountant

Another popular course for students is the Master in Professional Accounting (MPA) or Bachelor degree in Accounting. Completing at least 2 years of study in Australia can get the 18 month graduate 485 visa with an IELTS score of 6666, General or Academic. The problem with getting the FULL Skills Assessment is that IELTS 7777 Academic is required OR completion of the Professional Year. Although expensive (Navitas \$12,950, QIBA \$8,000), the Professional year has two main benefits:

1 it gets you the FULL Skills Assessment needed for Skilled Migration Visas and thus reduces your IELTS requirement to 7777 General or 6666 General if you have relatives to sponsor you or you get Regional State Sponsorship, subclass 489

2 It scores you 5 points in the points test

There has been talk that Accountants may come off the SOL in future and that the 485 visa would then be impossible. There are four accounting occupations on SOL, General Accountant, Tax Accountant, Management Accountant and External Auditor. The first three have been flagged as possibly being removed from SOL but External Auditor has never been flagged for removal and so is unlikely to come off even if the other three do – Of course we cannot guarantee this. To get the Skills Assessment as the External Auditor, the unit of Auditing becomes Mandatory – All MPAs have the Auditing Unit, I am not sure about the Bachelor Degrees in accounting.

Some students have gone through the Professional year and their 485 visas are about to expire and they still cannot get the 60 points as they are not achieving IELTS 7777 General. Where they can score 50 points, it is then a possible strategy to get a skills assessment as an External Auditor and apply to Regional NSW for 489 sponsorship.

3. Alternative English Language tests for visa applicants

From 23 November 2014, the department will accept English language test scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based test (TOEFL iBT) and the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) across the Temporary Graduate, Skilled, Former Resident, and Work and Holiday visa programmes.

Scores from the Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) test will also be accepted from a test taken on or after 1 January 2015 (to coincide with the launch of Cambridge English Language Assessment's new reporting system).

These tests are alternatives to the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and the Occupational English Test (OET), and have been accepted in the Student visa programme since 2011.

Student visa applicants can continue to provide scores from the IELTS, OET, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic or Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) tests.

4. Australian Computer Society Price Rise

The ACS is committed to providing cost efficiencies wherever possible in order to maintain our position as offering one of the lowest fee structures among assessing authorities and to provide a high level of service to applicants and agents.

In undertaking our annual review of cost and pricing, it is clear that operating costs have risen over the last twelve months.

Rather than increasing fees across all assessment types, we felt it more equitable to introduce two new administration fees as outlined below. What this equates to in practice is that those assessments which require greater servicing will attract a small additional cost. We estimate however, that for 95% of applications there will be no change.

I have included advance notice and details of these changes which we will communicate more broadly next week for an implementation date of 5 January, 2015.

We value your feedback and comments in order to further improve our services to applicants and agents.

New ACS Administration Fees – January 5, 2015

The ACS will implement two new administration fees effective from January 5, 2015.

Recommendation Fee

As a value service to applicants who receive an unsuitable result due to choosing an incompatible ANZSCO code or application type, the ACS has provided a free recommendation service since 2011 to change the ANZSCO or application type before the case is finalised.

This service imposes additional administration costs for the ACS by way of the application requiring to be assessed a second time under the recommended changes.

In order not to pass on additional administration costs to the majority of applicants who choose the appropriate ANZSCO or application type, a \$200 fee will apply for all accepted recommendations from January 5, 2015.

The ACS will provide a recommendation for unsuitable applications which can be rectified by a change in the nominated ANZSCO code or skills application type. Recommendations are not obligatory and applicants can choose to accept or reject any recommendation.

Additional Assessment Fee

The ACS has endeavoured to minimise the turnaround time of assessments by ensuring applications are decision ready and documentation is relevant to professional ICT standards and migration purposes. In particular cases applications are received with a high number of assessment episodes which creates additional administration.

In order to maintain and further reduce assessment times, a skills assessment fee will include a total of 8 assessment episodes per application. For example, an applicant can submit 3 qualifications and 5 employment episodes or 8 employment episodes in total or any combination of qualifications and employment episodes numbering 8 assessment episodes per application.

A \$50 fee will apply for each additional qualification or employment entry that exceeds the maximum of 8 assessment episodes per application.

This will be implemented for applications lodged on or after January 5, 2015.

(Source: ACS and MIA)

5. Some useful Immigration links

DIBP use ANZSCO when classifying visa applicants correct occupation for a skilled visa to Australia.

A list of the duties and skill level for each of the occupations used for skilled visas is available here through ANZSCO online :

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/9F38DBF4AE58BAD9CA257B9500131004?opendocument>

Beginning a life in Australia booklet

The Beginning a Life in Australia booklet welcomes newly-arrived migrants and humanitarian entrants to Australia. It provides useful national, state/territory and local settlement information for migrants, humanitarian entrants, their sponsors and service providers.

www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/02_2014/eng_access.pdf

6. DIBP Form changes

The November form changes have been announced:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/application-forms/forms-summary-changes.htm>

The changes include:

- 1 Forms 40SP and 47SP now requiring sponsors to declare criminal charges and convictions.
- 2 Form 1446 Withdrawal of a visa application introduced.
- 3 Form 1447 No further stay waiver request introduced.

It is important to note that using an old version of an application form does not make a visa application

(Source DIBP/MIA)

7. Skill Select 5 December 2014

The table below shows the number of invitations issued in the SkillSelect invitation round on 13 October 2014.

Visa subclass	Number
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	820
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	100

During 2014-15 the following number of invitations have been issued:

Visa subclass	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	2500	2500	2547	2430	2800	820	14997
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	20	110	100	100	100	100	530
Total	2520	2610	2647	2530	2900	920	15527

The above figures do not include invitations issued for state and territory government nominated visa subclasses. State and territory governments nominate throughout the month for specific points tested skilled migration and business innovation and investment visas. Separate results for these visa subclasses are provided monthly.

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Invitation process and cut offs

The highest ranked clients by points score are invited to apply for the relevant visa. For clients who have equal points scores, the time at which they reached their points score for that subclass (referred to as the visa date of effect) determines their order of invitation. Expressions of Interest with earlier dates of effect are invited before later dates.

Invitation process and cut off date by point score

Visa subclass	Points score	Visa date of effect
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	60	05/12/2014 12:02AM
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	65	21/03/2014 12:18AM

Due to the continuing high numbers of EOIs received for the below occupations, invitations for these occupations will be issued on a pro rata basis in each twice monthly invitation round over the 2014-15 programme year. These arrangements are subject to change throughout the programme year. Please also note that SkillSelect first allocates available places to Skilled – Independent (Subclass 189) visas and then remaining to Skilled – Regional (Subclass 489) (Provisional – Family Sponsored) visas. If all places are taken up by Subclass 189 visas then there will be no invitations issued for Subclass 489 visas in these occupations:

- ICT Business and Systems Analysts
- Accountants
- Software and Applications Programmers.

The points score and the visa date of effect cut-off for the above occupation of ICT Business and System Analysts in the 5 December 2014 invitation round is as follows:

Note: Below points score and visa date of effect is for Skilled Independent (subclass 189).

Occupation ID	Description	Points score	Visa date of effect
2211	Accountants	60	04/12/2014 5:13PM
2611	ICT Business and Systems Analysts	65	27/11/2014 4:08PM
2613	Software and Applications Programmers	60	07/12/2014 10:54PM

(Source: DIBP)

OK, all over for 2014.

Next newsletter is on Monday 19th January.

Hope you have achieved what you want to
and that 2015 is looking really exciting for you!

Stay safe and enjoy the holiday period



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