

Assessment of Qualifications and the Australian Government's General Skilled Migration program

The Australian Government's Skilled Migration program is implemented through a partnership between government and industry. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations work with industry, represented by professional migration assessing authorities, to ensure that policies and procedures for assessing the skills of prospective migrants are appropriate, transparent and do not pose unreasonable barriers to migration.

The Australian Institute of Medical Scientists (AIMS) has been specified by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship in accordance with the Migration Regulations 1994 as the assessing authority for the occupations Medical Laboratory Scientist ANZSCO 234611 (previously Medical Scientist 2115-11) and Medical Laboratory Technician ANZSCO 311213 (previously Medical Laboratory Technical Officer 3111-11).

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations supported this process through its role in approving migration assessing authorities. Approval is granted to professional bodies which meet established criteria, including a commitment to support the objectives of the General Skilled Migration program and the provision of an appropriate assessment service to prospective migrants.

If you wish to apply to migrate to Australia as a Medical Laboratory Scientist or Medical Laboratory Technician under the General Skilled Migration visa categories, you will need to have your skills assessed by AIMS. AIMS will assess your skills as "suitable" or "not suitable" for your nominated occupation against the requirements it has established.

Your skills assessment must be included with your visa application to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), and you must be prepared to show DIAC all the documentation you have relied upon when seeking a skills assessment. You should keep a certified copy of your skills assessment and all other relevant documentation for your own records.

Successfully migrating to Australia as a Medical Laboratory Scientist or Medical Laboratory Technician is no guarantee of employment in Australia as a Medical Laboratory Scientist or Medical Laboratory Technician.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Australian Skills Recognition Information website also provides information on working as a Medical Laboratory Scientist or Medical Laboratory Technician in Australia- visit www.immi.gov.au/asri.

THE AIMS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Applicants requiring an assessment of qualifications must initially complete the [Application Form for Assessment of Professional Skills and Qualifications](#) [PDF 136 KB] which can be downloaded here or is available from AIMS. Please include with your application, the assessment fee of AUD\$500.00. You may also pay the fee using the [AIMS Secure Online Payment Service](#).

All applicants for assessment must provide a valid IELTS test report form (Academic or General) with an overall band score of 7.0 or better. There are no exceptions to this requirement.

Medical Laboratory Scientist

The assessment process for medical laboratory scientist is in two stages and usually includes a written examination (the AIMS Professional Examination).

Stage 1.

The first stage is an initial, document-based assessment. Applicants who hold an [AIMS accredited degree](#) will be classified as a medical laboratory scientist and will not be required to take the written examination.

The skills and qualifications of other applicants will be assessed individually to determine eligibility to sit the Professional Examination.

Applicants who have an acceptable science degree and two years post graduate professional experience in a diagnostic medical laboratory within the five year period immediately prior to applying for assessment will usually be assessed as eligible to sit the Examination.

An acceptable science degree is one with subjects relevant to pathology that meets the AIMS minimum requirements and is assessed as comparable to an Australian bachelor degree based on the AEI Country Education Profiles.

An acceptable science degree should include FULL units (not part units) of the following subjects:

- **human anatomy**
- **human physiology**
- **chemistry**

- **biochemistry**
- **immunology**
- **general microbiology**
- **general pathology**
- **human molecular biology**

and should include at least two (2) of the following professional subjects:

- **clinical chemistry**
- **haematology**
- **medical microbiology**
- **transfusion science (immunohaematology)**
- **histopathology/diagnostic cytology**

Pharmacy and biotechnology degrees are not normally acceptable degrees, but some units of these degrees may be acceptable.

Stage 2.

Applicants assessed in stage one as eligible to do so may apply to sit the Professional Examination. This is a written short answer paper of three hours, conducted twice a year in March and September in a number of centres in Australia and overseas.

Closing dates for application to sit the Examination are:

- 20 December for the March Examination
- 20 June for the September Examination.

The examination consists of the following sections:

- **Clinical Chemistry (22 marks)**
- **Haematology (22 marks)**
- **Medical Microbiology (22 marks)**
- **Transfusion Science (22 marks)**
- **Histopathology/Cytology (12 marks)**
- **Total = 100 marks**

The examination is a three (3) hour short answer paper and is set at the level expected of a professional medical laboratory scientist with at least two years postgraduate experience.

All sections are compulsory. To pass the Examination candidates must obtain a total of 50% or more, with a pass of at least 40% in each section.

Applicants who are successful in the Examination will be classified as medical laboratory scientists.

Click here for information on the [AIMS Professional Examination](#) [PDF 26KB] and a [sample paper](#) [PDF 233 KB].

Medical Laboratory Technician

The minimum requirements for a medical laboratory technician are that an applicant has completed an award in medical laboratory science assessed as comparable to an Australian diploma from a Technical and Further Education College, based on the AEI Country Education Profiles, plus a minimum of two years diagnostic medical laboratory experience within the five year period immediately prior to applying for assessment OR registration with the New Zealand Medical Laboratory Science Board.

Applicants who do not qualify to sit the Professional Examination or who fail to pass the Examination will also be classified as medical laboratory technicians.