Overview
The Australian Government’s Skilled Migration program is implemented through a partnership between government and industry. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP), Department of Education and Training and the Department of Employment 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 Department of Education and Training and the Department of Employment support this process through their 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.

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

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

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection Australian Skills Recognition Information website also provides information on working as a Medical Laboratory Scientist or Medical Laboratory Technician in Australia.

Medical Laboratory Science / Laboratory Medicine in Australia
In Australia, most of those engaged in medical laboratory science are employed in public hospitals or private diagnostic pathology laboratories. There are two levels of practice:

Medical Laboratory Scientists are normally employed in diagnostic clinical laboratories, and they work in the field of laboratory medicine. They conduct medical laboratory tests on blood, body fluids and tissues and apply knowledge and methodology from various scientific disciplines to assist clinicians in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of human disease. Responsibilities include the quality and reliability of test results and may include interpretation of these results and the development of new test procedures.

Medical Laboratory Technicians perform or assist with laboratory tests on blood, body fluids and tissues in medical and pathology laboratories under the direction of medical laboratory scientists and operate diagnostic and monitoring equipment used in support of health professionals.
Education in Australia
The primary qualification for Medical Laboratory Scientists in Australia is a three or four year degree in medical laboratory science/laboratory medicine, accredited by AIMS.

The following directed medical laboratory science / laboratory medicine degree programmes from Australia and New Zealand universities have been accredited by AIMS. Graduates of these degrees are classified as Medical Laboratory Scientists and eligible for Graduate membership of AIMS.

AIMS Accredited Degrees

Undergraduate Accredited Degree Courses

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Medical Science (Pathology)

OTAGO UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Medical Science (Pathology)

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science

CURTIN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
Bachelor of Science (Laboratory Medicine)

RMIT UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Laboratory Medicine)

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Bachelor of Laboratory Medicine

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA
Bachelor of Laboratory Medicine

MASSEY UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science

Postgraduate Accredited Degree Courses

RMIT UNIVERSITY
Masters of Laboratory Medicine (AIMS accreditation requirements must be complied with)

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA
Master of Laboratory Medicine (Professional Experience Sequence)

It is the responsibility of all prospective applicants who hold an AIMS accredited degree to ensure the subjects completed comply with the AIMS accreditation requirements in order to gain assessment as a Medical Laboratory Scientist or Professional membership of AIMS. These requirements are stated in the AIMS accreditation report held by the university. Prospective applicants should contact the program co-ordinator at the University for advice on these requirements.

Employment in Australia
As in most countries, the practice of a profession in Australia requires evidence of an appropriate level of education and practical experience. There is no statutory registration of Medical Laboratory Scientists in Australia.

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 AIMS assessment Process
AIMS can provide advice only on applying for a skills assessment. All other questions relating to migration should be directed to the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP).

Applicants’ skills and qualifications will be assessed by AIMS to determine whether they are suitable for the applicant to work as a Medical Laboratory Scientist or Medical Laboratory Technician. AIMS will assess applicants as "suitable" or "not suitable" for the nominated occupation against the requirements it has established. An applicant’s skills assessment must be included with their visa application to the DIBP, and applicants must be prepared to show DIBP all the documentation they have relied upon when seeking a skills assessment. Applicants should keep a certified copy of their skills assessment and all other relevant documentation for their own records.

Please note that all applicants are assessed on a case-by-case basis and this information is provided for guidance purposes only. The assessment committee determines the eligibility of the applicant to work as a Medical
Laboratory Scientist or Medical Laboratory Technician. The staff at the AIMS National Office has no authority or ability to comment, give advice, or guarantee any outcomes in relation to the assessment process.

We have detailed below the general assessment process for the classifications of Medical Laboratory Scientist ANZSCO 234611 and Medical Laboratory Technician ANZSCO 311213.

Our timeframe for completion of assessments is generally between six to eight weeks (not including delivery time) but please be aware it can take up to 10 weeks in some cases. We do endeavour to process assessments as quickly as possible. Please note we are unable to offer any express or priority service regardless of an applicant’s circumstances.

Postage of results
Results are sent through Australia Post by either Express Post (within Australia) or International Standard post (overseas). Applicants will be notified by email when results have been dispatched. Once an item has been dispatched from Australia we are unable to track it. Please note that assessment letters will not be re-issued and we are unable to release results by email or over the phone.

If an applicant does not wish to have results sent by post they may arrange and pay for a courier service to collect the results from our national office. To do so, applicants must advise AIMS when their application is submitted. Applicants will be advised when results are ready for collection and will then be able to arrange a courier at their own expense.

Fees
Please see the AIMS website for current fees. All fees are in Australian Dollars (AUD). All fees are non-refundable.

When paying fees online
The security of personal information is important to us. When sensitive information (such as credit card numbers) is entered on our website, that information is encrypted using secure socket layer technology (SSL). When Credit Card details are collected, we simply pass them on in order to be processed as required. We never permanently store complete Credit Card details. We follow generally accepted industry standards to protect the personal information submitted to us, both during transmission and once we receive it.

Amendment of assessment letter
Once an assessment has been completed it remains valid for three (3) years from the date of the original assessment letter.

An amendment of the original assessment letter will only be made where evidence is submitted of experience/qualifications obtained prior to the date of the original assessment.

If an applicant wishes to submit evidence of additional experience/qualifications obtained after the date of the original assessment, they will be required to make a new application for assessment and pay a new assessment fee.

To be assessed as a 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 Profile criteria, 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 may also be classified as a Medical Laboratory Technician.
To be assessed as a 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: Document assessment

The first stage is a 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. It is the responsibility of all prospective applicants who hold an AIMS accredited degree to ensure the subjects completed comply with the AIMS accredited pathway in order to gain assessment as a Medical Laboratory Scientist or Professional membership of AIMS. These requirements are stated in the AIMS accreditation report held by the university. Prospective applicants should contact the program co-ordinator at the university for advice on these requirements.

The skills and qualifications of applicants who do not hold an AIMS accredited degree will be assessed individually to determine eligibility to sit the Professional Examination.

Applicants who have an acceptable science degree (equivalent to Australian Qualifications Framework level 7 or 8) 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 Profile criteria.

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: The AIMS Professional Examination

Applicants assessed in stage one as eligible may apply to sit the Professional Examination. This is a written short answer paper of three (3) hours, conducted twice a year in March and September in a number of venues in Australia and overseas.

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

Applicants who are successful in the examination will be classified as a Medical Laboratory Scientist.

If assessed as eligible to sit the AIMS Professional Examination, applicants must apply in writing using the application form (which will be provided in the examinations pack once stage 1 has been completed).

Closing dates to receive this application form are:
1st December for the March examination
1st June for the September examination

Applications to sit the examination must be received no later than 4pm on the specified date.

Compulsory Requirements for All Applications

All documentation must be certified

Correctly certified supporting documentation

A certified copy is a photocopy that has been stamped and signed by a suitable certifying officer (as stated below) who verifies that they have sighted the original document and that the photocopy that they are certifying is a true copy of that original.

Each photocopied page of all documentation must be certified on the face and must show clearly the words "certified true copy of the original", the signature of the certifying officer and the name and address or provider/registration number of the certifying officer. It must be possible from the details provided for AIMS to verify the certifications by contacting the certifying officer if necessary.

Who does AIMS accept to certify my documents?

Documents certified in Australia may be certified by a Justice of the Peace or a Notary Public.
Documents certified in a country other than Australia must be certified by a Notary Public or an official of an Australian Embassy or Consulate.

Please note that AIMS WILL NOT accept any other form of certification. If incorrectly certified documents are provided with an application it WILL NOT be processed and the fee will NOT BE refunded.

All applicants submitting an application for assessment of their professional skills and qualifications whether seeking the classification of Medical Laboratory Scientist or Medical Laboratory Technician are required to provide:

1. **English Language Requirement**
   A valid IELTS report form showing an overall band score of 7.0 or better (Academic or General). AIMS considers an IELTS report to be current for three years from the date of issue. AIMS also accepts the following English language assessments as equivalent to an IELTS overall band score of 7.0: TOEFL (95 points), and Pearson PTE Academic (65 points).

2. **Completed signed application form**

3. **Supporting documentation**
   Must include all qualification certificates (or statements of completion issued by the educational institute in which the qualification was obtained) and all corresponding academic transcripts (showing FULL subject names).

4. **Photographic identification**
   Applicants must provide a certified copy of their passport.
5. **Work experience (if applicable)**
   Evidence of postgraduate professional experience in a diagnostic medical laboratory (a verification letter from an employer/past employer stating job title, hours of work, duties required and the dates of employment, on company letterhead).

6. **Three (3) passport sized photographs signed on the back**

**Optional Documents that can be provided**

1. **Licences / Registrations**
   Evidence of current or previous licences held

2. **Record of completed educational courses**

3. **Evidence of continued education in the workplace**

**How to Lodge an Application:**
Send **three (3) certified** sets of documents: (one (1) originally certified set and two (2) duplicate photocopied sets)

**Checklist:**
- Completed signed application form
- Qualification papers and academic transcripts (showing full subject names)
- Photographic identification (e.g. passport)
- Evidence of professional work experience (verifying dates of employment)
- Evidence of registrations / licences
- Valid IELTS Test Result (or TOEFL (95 points), and Pearson PTE Academic (65 points))
- Record of educational courses completed
- Three (3) passport sized photographs signed on the back

**Submit to:**

*Postal address*
Australian Institute of Medical Scientists
PO Box 1911
MILTON QLD 4064 AUSTRALIA

*Courier address*
Australian Institute of Medical Scientists
Unit 7 / 31 Black Street
MILTON QLD 4064
AUSTRALIA

**Reviews and Appeals:**
An applicant who believes that his or her case has been wrongly assessed may seek a review of the assessment. The application for the review must be in writing, and should include the reasons for seeking the review. There is no charge for this review, which is conducted by the committee that made the original assessment.

If, after the review, the applicant still believes that he or she has been wrongly assessed, the applicant may appeal the assessment. The appeal must be in writing, stating the reasons for the appeal, and including additional documentation (if relevant). The appeal will be conducted by a committee other than that which conducted the original assessment. A fee of AUD200.00 is payable for the appeal.

**Further Information:**
Telephone   +61 7 3876 2988    Email    contact@aims.org.au
Facsimile   +61 7 3876 2999    Website    www.aims.org.au