

Migration Skills Assessment Program

Applicant Fact Sheet

What is Trades Recognition Australia (TRA)?

TRA is the skills assessing authority for a range of technical and trade occupations under the *Migration Regulations 1994*. TRA provides skills assessments for tradespersons wishing to migrate to Australia.

What is the Migration Skills Assessment (MSA) Program?

The MSA is for applicants applying for a permanent skilled migration visa in occupations and countries not covered by TRA-approved Registered Training Organisations (RTOs).

The MSA is for migration purposes only. A successful MSA does not result in an Australian qualification and cannot be used for employment, licencing or qualification recognition.

As part of the assessment, you must provide evidence to prove you have a qualification comparable to the Australian equivalent in your nominated occupation as well as sufficient relevant employment experience.

What are the program requirements?

To be eligible for a MSA you must:

-  have an occupation listed on the [Medium and Long-term Strategic Skills List \(MLTSSL\)](#) or the [Short-term Skilled Occupations List \(STSOL\)](#) on the Department of Home Affairs website with TRA as the relevant skills assessing authority,
-  be applying in an occupation directly relevant to your qualification and/or apprenticeship, and
-  hold a minimum of three years relevant employment after your qualification/apprenticeship was awarded.

What does the assessment process involve?

The MSA is an evidence-based skills assessment of your qualification/s and employment history to determine comparability with Australian standards for a skilled worker in your nominated occupation.

TRA will assess the evidence provided by you and provide an opinion as to whether it considers you have the skills to work in your nominated occupation in Australia.

How do I apply?

On 18 March 2020, an online application submission process will replace the current manual MSA application processes.

Applications for assessments through the MSA program are to be submitted through the [TRA Online Portal](#) accessed via the TRA website www.tradesrecognition.gov.au

The online application process requires the completion of a number of mandatory and optional fields to cover the following elements:

1. Applicant details (previous TRA number, passport details, personal details, nominated occupation, visa type)
2. Agent details (if applicable)
3. Qualification details (apprenticeship, level and details of qualification)
4. Employment details (occupation title, business details, employment period, work description).
The fields are required for each employer.

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The application can only be submitted once all the mandatory fields are completed, required documents are uploaded and the relevant fee has been paid. Once it is submitted you can no longer change or view the application.

What is the processing timeframe?

You will receive notification of the outcome of your application by email within 120 days from the date of submission.

A news item will be posted on the TRA website if exceptional circumstances prevent TRA from meeting the 120 day timeframe.

What is required of an agent or representative for an MSA applicant?

An applicant may nominate a migration agent or representative to act on their behalf during the skills assessment process. This nomination is made as part of an MSA application through the online portal.

A migration agent provides the applicant advice and guidance throughout the assessment process. An agent should ensure that the applicant is applying for the appropriate program given their nominated occupation and visa requirements. They must also ensure that the applicant has all required evidence as stated in the MSA Applicant Guidelines.

All correspondence from TRA regarding the application is done through an applicant's nominated agent.

Further information

Migration Skills Assessment Applicant Guidelines on the TRA Website: www.tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au

Email enquiries: traenquiries@dese.gov.au