



Changes to the skills assessment requirements for GSM applicants nominating a trade occupation

The department understands that there is some concern among international students and stakeholders regarding the amendments introduced on 1 January 2010 to support the commencement of the Job Ready Program (JRP). These amendments require certain GSM applicants who nominate a trade occupation to provide a skills assessment dated on or after 1 January 2010 in order to make a valid application.

It is intended that in the future, applicants nominating a trade occupation for permanent migration will be able to provide an existing skills assessment when applying. This includes assessments predating 1 January 2010 and will mean that applicants will no longer be required to obtain a further skills assessment. It is intended that these arrangements commence in the first quarter of 2010.

Applicants who did not apply for a skills assessment prior to 1 January 2010 will continue to be required to satisfy the JRP as part of their skills assessment if nominating a trade occupation.

Applicants applying for non-trade occupations are not subject to the JRP and can provide an existing suitable skills assessment when applying for permanent migration.

For information regarding current skills assessment requirements for trade applicants, see <http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/pdf/jobready-changes.pdf>

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Job Ready Program?

The Job Ready Program (JRP) has been developed by the government in consultation with industry and unions. It will ensure people who want to migrate to Australia as skilled migrants in trade occupations are able to participate in the labour market in the area of their skills and knowledge. Applicants nominating a trade occupation who apply for certain onshore General

Skilled Migration (GSM) visas on or after 1 January 2010 will be required to meet the JRP as part of the skills assessment process. This more rigorous requirement will enhance current skills assessment arrangements for onshore applicants and complement the existing offshore assessment processes.

What is the purpose of the JRP?

A key aim of the GSM program is to provide 'job ready' applicants to Australian employers. Job ready migrants are more likely to find employment quickly, which leads to improved settlement outcomes for them.

The JRP ensures that applicants for skilled migration have the skills and knowledge to perform their nominated occupation within the Australian workplace.

Which visas and occupations are subject to the JRP?

Applicants wanting to migrate to Australia under one of the below visa subclasses and in an allowable trade occupation are required to satisfy the JRP as part of the skills assessment process. This requirement applies to applications lodged from 1 January 2010. Currently, the skills assessment must be dated on or after 1 January 2010 in order to lodge a valid application.

Intended changes, once they commence, will allow applicants who hold a skills assessment dated before 1 January 2010 to use this assessment when applying for permanent migration.

The visa subclasses that are subject to the JRP are:

- Skilled—Independent (residence) visa (subclass 885)
- Skilled—Sponsored (residence) visa (subclass 886)
- Skilled—Regional sponsored (provisional) visa (subclass 487)

For trade occupations available under the GSM program, see [Form 1121i Skilled Occupation List \(SOL\)](#) and [Employer Nomination Scheme Occupation List \(ENSOL\)](#)

Why are the intended changes being sought to allow applicants for permanent migration to use an existing skills assessment?

Potential applicants have expressed concern with the current requirement that they provide a skills assessment dated on or after 1 January 2010 if nominating a trade occupation as a number already hold a suitable skills assessment issued before this date. To allow applicants who have already obtained a suitable skills assessment to use this at the permanent migration stage, it is intended that changes be introduced to permit this.

How does this affect my application for permanent residency?

If you already hold a suitable skills assessment dated before 1 January 2010, and you are nominating a trade occupation, the intended changes will mean that you will no longer be required to obtain a further skills assessment which has been assessed against the JRP in order to apply for permanent residency.

Will I be able to use an existing skills assessment to lodge an application for permanent residency?

Yes, when the intended changes commence, you will be able to provide an existing suitable skills assessment when you apply for permanent residency.

When are the changes due to commence?

It is expected the changes will commence in the first quarter of 2010.

Further information will be provided in the coming weeks. You should revisit the department's website on a regular basis to ensure you have the most recent information when you apply.

How do I find out if my trade occupation requires me to undertake the JRP?

To determine if your occupation is subject to the JRP, you can refer to [Form 1121i Skilled Occupation List \(SOL\) and Employer Nomination Scheme Occupation List \(ENSOL\)](#)

Occupations listed as Tradespersons and related workers that are in the Skilled Occupation List (SOL) are required to meet the JRP.

You should also contact the relevant assessing authority for your occupation to determine what is required as part of your skills assessment, including a JRP where applicable.

I lodged my General Skilled Migration (GSM) visa application for permanent migration before 1 January 2010 and have not yet received my skills assessment. Am I required to meet the JRP?

No. If your application was lodged before 1 January 2010, you are not required to meet the JRP as part of your skills assessment provided your application is for a permanent GSM visa.

I am currently on a subclass 485 visa and have not yet applied for a permanent GSM visa. Will I be required to meet the JRP as I already hold a suitable skills assessment obtained when applying for my subclass 485 visa?

If currently you hold a subclass 485 visa but have not yet applied for a permanent onshore GSM visa, you will be required to obtain a new skills assessment which incorporates the JRP if applicable to your occupation.

This will be the case if your trade occupation requires you to provide a skills assessment dated on or after 1 January 2010.

However, changes are intended to commence in the coming months which will allow you to use your existing skills assessment to apply for permanent residency. This will mean that you will not be required to obtain a further skills assessment.

If you are interested in applying for permanent migration and have already obtained a skills assessment, you may want to contact the department to discuss your intentions.

The department can be contacted on 1300 364 613 (in Australia) for the cost of a local call or +61 1300 364 613 (outside Australia). Charges applicable in your home country will apply.

Why do I currently need to submit a skills assessment dated on after 1 January 2010 if I am required to meet the JRP?

You currently need to provide the department with a skills assessment dated on or after 1 January 2010 if you are required to meet the JRP to ensure your skills have been assessed as 'job ready'. This is because it is a requirement under the Migration Regulations 1994 and an application must provide a skills assessment dated as such to be valid and accepted.

However, changes are intended to commence in the coming months which will allow you to use your existing skills assessment to apply for permanent residency. This will mean you will not be required to obtain a further skills assessment.

If you are interested in applying for permanent migration and have already obtained a skills assessment, you may want to contact the department to discuss your intentions.

The department can be contacted on 1300 364 613 (in Australia) for the cost of a local call or +61 1300 364 613 (outside Australia). Charges applicable in your home country will apply.

I am in a trade occupation, have yet to apply for a skills assessment from the relevant assessing authority, and intend to apply for an onshore GSM visa in the future. Will I be required to meet the JRP?

Yes. If you are nominating a trade occupation and have yet to apply for a suitable skills assessment from the relevant assessing authority, you will be assessed under the JRP as part of your skills assessment. Applicants who are not applying for a trade occupation will not be required to meet the JRP.

I am applying in a trade occupation through one of the offshore GSM visas. Will I need to satisfy the JRP as part of my skills assessment?

No. If you are applying for an offshore GSM visa, you will not be required to satisfy the JRP as part of your skills assessment.

However, if your occupation is a trade occupation, you will no longer be able to apply to migrate to Australia under the GSM program based on meeting the Australian study requirement. Instead, you must have at least 12 months of work experience in a skilled occupation within the 24 months before you apply in order to qualify for a visa grant.

Further information can be found in the FAQ, [Changes to offshore GSM applicants seeking to meet the Australian study requirement](#).

How does this affect me making an application for a subclass 485 visa?

If you have already obtained a suitable skills assessment for a trade occupation and intend to apply for a subclass 485 visa, you should contact the relevant assessing authority to discuss your skills assessment and whether it can be considered under the JRP.

For trade occupations, the relevant assessing authority is Trades Recognition Australia (TRA).

See: www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/Programs/TRA/Pages/ContactUs.aspx

If you have yet to apply for a skills assessment, when you apply for a skills assessment from TRA, it will assess you under step 1 of the JRP, which is a provisional assessment. The provisional assessment can then be used to apply for a subclass 485 visa.

If you have any questions regarding the skills assessment process, you will need to contact TRA.

See: www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/Programs/TRA/Pages/ContactUs.aspx

Applicants who are not nominating a trade occupation are able to submit an existing skills assessment with their application.

Where can I find more information regarding the skills assessment process and the JRP?

Information regarding the skills assessment process and the JRP itself should be directed to the relevant assessing authority. For trade occupations, the relevant assessing authority is TRA.

See: www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/Programs/TRA/Pages/ContactUs.aspx