

## **ARE YOU A REGISTERED NURSE APPLYING FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE?**

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Registered Nurses may apply for permanent residence under the General Skilled Migration (GSM) scheme, if they meet the requirements for initial registration with the Australian Nurse Regulatory Authorities (and achieve the relevant visa pass-mark or greater). If they have completed the relevant education programs (and are registered) in the following countries, the requirements of initial registration have been met:

- United Kingdom
- Ireland
- South Africa
- United States of America
- Canada\*
- Hong Kong\*
- Singapore\*
- Netherlands\* (with HBO qualifications)

Applicants seeking to apply as Registered Nurses must obtain a successful skills assessment from the relevant skills assessment body authorised by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council is the relevant skills assessment body for Registered Nurses, and may perform this skills assessment, but only after:

- Completion of pre-registration education programs;
- Registration as a nurse in country of completed education programs;
- Current registration, practising certificate or licence in country of current-practice; and
- Demonstration of English language proficiency (IELTS 7.0) [for countries marked with an asterisk (\*)].

Another requisite is that applicants must meet National Nursing Competency Standards to be registered with the Australian Nurse Regulatory Authorities, and may complete a Competency Based Assessment Program or Migrant Bridging Program (either completely or partially in Australia) to meet this requisite.

On achieving a successful skills assessment from the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council, the applicant is entitled to 60 points in the Nominated Occupation criteria (ASCO 2323-11). Other points are available to be gained from the other criteria in the points test, and must be determined on a case-by-case basis.

To view the points allocated for each criteria, you may access the points test at <http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/pdf/faq-points-test.pdf>.

Note: Pass-marks are 100 for Sponsored Skilled visas and 120 for Independent Skilled visas.

*This information is of a general nature and should not be taken as authoritative legal advice for specific cases. Australia has a scheme that requires persons who give immigration assistance to be registered as migration agent. The writer, Atty. Imelda Argel is a practising migration solicitor and a registered migration agent in Sydney, Australia. She is a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, the High Court of Australia, an Attorney at law in the Philippines and in the State of New York, USA. Her Registered Migration Agent no. is 9682957.*

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