

Filipino Migrants Forum

Are you a Computer Professional interested in migrating to Australia?

By Atty. Imelda Argel, Bachelor of Laws (UP), Master of Laws (University of Sydney)

An essential requirement in a visa application under the Australian Skilled Migration is obtaining a suitable skills assessment for your nominated occupation from the relevant skills assessing authority authorised by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. The relevant skills assessing authority for computer professionals is the Australian Computer Society (ACS).

What do you need in order to pass the Skills Assessment?

The ACS refers to the *Country Educational Profile* (CEP) of the country of your education in comparing overseas qualifications with qualifications in the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The CEP relates only to the educational level of the qualification, not to the field of study of Computer Professionals.

There are three pathways for an overseas qualified applicant to obtain a suitable skills assessment. You need to satisfy only one of the following:

1. Your educational qualification is comparable to an Australian Bachelor degree, Graduate Diploma, or higher qualification, with a major in Information Communication Technology (ICT) and you have at least four (4) equivalent years of full-time relevant ICT work experience, at the professional level.
2. Your educational qualification is comparable to an Australian AQF diploma, an Australian AQF advanced diploma with a major in ICT, or an Australian bachelor degree, or graduate diploma, or higher qualification with a minor (sub-major) in ICT and you have at least six (6) equivalent years of full-time relevant ICT experience, at the professional level.
3. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)- you have considerable ICT work experience at professional-level and informal study or training in courses conducted by educational or ICT industry based organisations even if you do not hold an educational qualification that is comparable to an Australian Bachelors degree or diploma in ICT as required by the first two pathways discussed above and minimum six years relevant ICT work experience. ACS will determine your qualification and experience, on a case-to-case basis.

Evidence of your studies in certain core subjects will be considered. If the outcome of your skills assessment is suitable for migration purposes, you may submit the ACS letter with your visa application without completing any further study. However there are other requirements for your visa application to succeed, such as evidence of English skills, recent work experience, health and character tests, in addition to passing the points test, among others.

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 Filipino 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. She is also the recipient of the inaugural NSW FAWAA (Filipino- Australian Women's Achievement Award) for her outstanding achievements in corporate practice and entrepreneurship.. More information is available at www.iargel.com.au. You can contact the author by email at info@iargel.com.au or by fax at (+612) 9699 3210 or by appointment at Suite 41, Ground Floor, 61-89 Buckingham St. SURRY HILLS NSW 2010.