VETASSESS

Information sheet

Hydrographer

ANZSCO: 311415

Group C

About this document

- The following Information Sheet is for your reference only and should be used as a guide to assist with your Skills Assessment application to VETASSESS. This information is subject to change.
- Please note that a Skills Assessment of the qualification involves assessment of both the qualification level and content. Qualifications are assessed according to the guidelines published by the Australian Government Department of Education.
- The employment assessment involves determining the skill level and relevance of the tasks undertaken.
- Integrity checks may be conducted to verify the qualification and employment claims made in an application.

Occupations considered suitable under this ANZSCO code:

- Ocean Hydrographer

Job description

A Hydrographer measures, analyses and maintains the flow and quality of water in rivers, lakes, stormwater and sewage, and surveys and maps oceans, seas and rivers. Hydrographers are responsible for monitoring, measuring and analysing the earth's surface (e.g. oceans, seas, lakes and rivers) and ground water resources and aspects of the water cycle, including human use and management of water resources. They can also be known as field hydrologists and hydrometric technicians. Their primary role is to collect and test earth and water samples, record observations and analyse data in support of geologist or geophysicists. The data and information obtained by hydrographers can have several applications, ranging from the potential design of dams, irrigation and flood protection projects to effective and sustainable management of water resources.

Hydrographer is a VETASSESS Group C occupation

This occupation requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the educational level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher, in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

In addition to this, applicants must have at least one year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level completed in the last five years in a field which is highly relevant to the nominated occupation. If employment is not post-qualification, then three additional years of highly relevant employment are required.

If the qualification is not in a highly relevant field, two years of employment at an appropriate skill level, completed in the last five years which is highly relevant to the nominated occupation is required. This is reduced to one year if there is an additional qualification at least at AQF Certificate IV level in a highly relevant field.

A positive assessment of both qualifications and employment is required for a positive Skills Assessment Outcome.

GROUP C	Criteria for a positive Skills Assessment						
	Post-qualification Pathways						
	Minimum comparable Diploma or higher AQF level		**With highly relevant major field of study**		**Additional highly relevant qualifications**		**Highly relevant employment duration**
1	AQF	+		+	N/A	+	1 YEAR minimum
2	AQF	+	No highly relevant major	+	Minimum AQF Certificate IV level with highly relevant major	+	1 YEAR minimum
3	AQF	+	No highly relevant major	+	No additional highly relevant qualifications	+	2 YEARS minimum
	Pre-qualification Pathway						
	Highly Relevant employment duration						**Minimum comparable Diploma or higher AQF level**
4	3 YEARS minimum + 1 YEAR minimum (Within last 5 years)	+			With or without highly relevant major field of study	+	AQF

Description of Pathways

The information below describes the available pathways for a Skills Assessment under **Group C** . Please note that in order to achieve a successful Skills Assessment Outcome, a suitable assessment for both qualifications and employment is required.

Pathway 1

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher and in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **one** year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Pathway 2

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher and in a field not highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

An additional qualification in a highly relevant field of study at a minimum AQF Certificate IV level is required. Additional qualifications in a highly relevant field of study include those comparable to the AQF Certificate IV.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **one** year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

For example, an applicant for the occupation Program or Project Administrator completed a non-relevant AQF Diploma qualification in April 2024 and later completed an AQF Certificate IV in Project Management in May 2026. The applicant commenced employment with the organisation in May 2024 and remains employed there.

Under Pathway 2, the applicant satisfies the minimum educational requirement for a Group C occupation through the AQF Diploma qualification. Accordingly, employment is counted from the completion date of the Diploma qualification, meaning employment from May 2024 onwards may be considered toward both the required Qualifying Period (QP) and any remaining eligible period for the points test.

As the later Certificate IV qualification is highly relevant to the occupation, the applicant may access the reduced employment requirement applicable under Pathway 2. In this case, only one year of QP is required, and that employment may be counted from the post-Diploma period rather than from the Certificate IV qualification completion date.

Pathway 3

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher and in a field not highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **two** years of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Pathway 4

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher with or without a highly relevant major field of study to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **four** years of employment at an appropriate skill level that includes at least **one** year of highly relevant employment within the last five years before applying,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Qualification

A minimum requirement of a qualification at AQF Diploma level in hydrography or other allied discipline (e.g. environmental studies and surveying) which include relevant subjects such as:

- Marine geophysics
- Oceanography
- Geodesy
- Marine resource management
- Data management and information systems
- Methods in hydrography
- Marine geophysical and acoustic sensing
- Survey project management

This occupation requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher and in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Employment Criteria

Tasks many include:

- Collecting information and samples
- Conducting field and laboratory experiments, tests and analyses
- Presenting results in graphic and written form by preparing maps, charts, sketches, diagrams and reports
- Performing routine mathematical calculations, and computations of measurements

It is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least one year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level,
- undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

If the qualification is not in a highly relevant field, then the applicant must have:

- two years of post-qualification employment experience at an appropriate skill level,
- undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

This is reduced to one year if there is an additional qualification at least at AQF Certificate IV level in a highly relevant field.

If employment has occurred before completion of qualification, then three years of highly relevant employment experience are required in addition to at least one year of highly relevant employment at an appropriate skill level in the last five years.

Please note in order to achieve a successful Skills Assessment Outcome, a positive assessment for both qualifications and employment is required.

Please note that this occupation is only available for the Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 494).