VETASSESS

Information sheet

Aquaculture or Fisheries Technician

ANZSCO: 311114 **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.

Job description

Aquaculture or Fisheries Technicians assist Aquaculture Farmers and Fisheries Scientists in raising and managing aquatic stock by undertaking onshore and offshore technical fish husbandry tasks sampling water and analysing data from ponds, pens and tanks and identifying common diseases and pests, and performs tests and experiments and provides technical support in areas such as research, production, servicing and marketing.

Occupations considered suitable under this ANZSCO code:

- Fisheries Technical Officer
- Hatchery Technician (Aquaculture)

Occupations not considered under this ANZSCO code:

- Animal Husbandry Technician
- Agricultural Technician

Aquaculture or Fisheries Technician 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.

Applicants can fulfil the assessment criteria for this occupation in four different ways.

*If employment is prior to the completion of the qualification at the required level, an applicant must have at least one year of highly relevant employment at an appropriate skill level within the last five years. The remaining three years of pre-qualifying period may be within the last ten years.

A positive assessment of both qualification level and employment duration 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	+	AQF 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

Focus areas include:

- Aquaculture
- Marine Science
- Marine Biology
- Fisheries
- Agriculture

Employment

Highly relevant tasks include:

- identifying pathogenic micro-organisms and insects, parasites, fungi and weeds harmful to crops, livestock and aquatic stock, and assisting in devising methods of control
- examining environmental and other factors that influence the growth, health and production of aquatic stock
- analysing produce to set and maintain standards of quality
  monitoring livestock and aquatic stock to gauge the effectiveness of feed formulae
- assisting in controlled breeding experiments to develop improved crop, livestock and aquatic stock strains
- artificially inseminating livestock for breeding purposes
- providing advice on breeding selection and techniques, collecting and collating data for research and animal husbandry purposes
- may advise producers on farming techniques and management and production processes

Employment information

Aquaculture or Fisheries Technicians assists aquaculture farmers and fisheries scientists in raising and managing aquatic stock by undertaking onshore and offshore technical fish husbandry tasks sampling water and analysing data from ponds, pens and tanks and identifying common diseases and pests. They perform tests and experiments and provides technical support in areas such as research, production, servicing and marketing.