VETASSESS

Information sheet

Environmental Research Scientist

ANZSCO: 234313 | **Group A**

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

An Environmental Research Scientist studies and develops policies and plans for the control of factors that may produce pollution, imbalance in, or degradation of the environment.

Occupations considered suitable under this ANZSCO code:

- Air Pollution Analyst
- Ecologist
- Land Degradation Analyst
- Water Quality Analyst

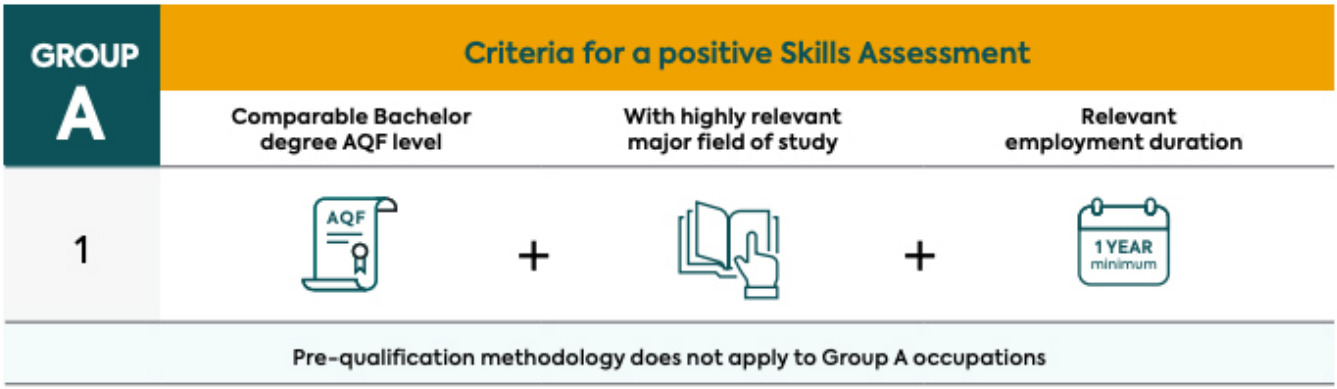
Occupations not considered under this ANZSCO code:

- Environmental Consultant
- Environmental Health Officer
- Environmental Manager
- Marine Biologist

These occupations are classified elsewhere in ANZSCO or are not at the required skill level.

Environmental Research Scientist is a VETASSESS Group A occupation

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



The information below describes the available pathways for a Skills Assessment under**Group A**. Please note that in order to achieve a successful Skills Assessment Outcome, a positive 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) Bachelor degree or higher degree and in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Bachelor degree or higher degree includes AQF Master Degree or AQF 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.

Qualification

This includes qualifications assessed at AQF Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level.

Highly relevant major fields of study include:

- Environmental Science
- Climate Science
- Environment and Sustainability
- Environmental Engineering

The majors listed below may be considered on a case-by-case basis if they were awarded prior to attaining at least one year of highly relevant employment in the relevant research field:

- Ecology
- Biodiversity
- Marine Biology
- Natural Vegetation and Wildlife
- Weather and Climate
- Coastal Engineering
- Conservation Science
- Land and Water Management
- Geographical Information Systems
- Biosecurity
- Forestry

Employment

Highly relevant tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Studying the effects on animal and plant life of factors such as terrain, altitude, climatic and environmental change, sources of nutrition, predators and the impacts of humans.
- Studying and analysing pollution, atmospheric conditions, demographic characteristics, ecology, mineral, soil and water samples.

Additional tasks may include:

- Developing and testing models of the environment using knowledge of ecology, mathematics, statistics and physical sciences.
- Conducting environmental impact assessments/ audits.
- Investigating the structure of communities of organisms and predicting the effects of disturbances by human or environmental changes.
- Developing conservation and management policies for biological resources, such as fish populations and forests, and establishing standards and developing approaches for the control of pollution and the rehabilitation of areas disturbed by activities such as mining, timber felling and overgrazing.
- Proposing solutions to address negative environmental impact.
- Preparing graphs, charts and statistics from data, analysing data and correlating them with the work of other scientists, evaluating data and preparing reports of conclusions.
- Planning and conducting field trips to study animals and plants in their natural environments and to collect specimens for laboratory study.
- Assisting in developing policies, strategies and codes of practice on environmental management..

Employment information

Scientists engaged in environmental research usually work for government agencies, universities, or private companies in energy, water, waste services, gas, mining, construction, and land development. Depending on the area of research, tasks can be performed either in an office, a laboratory or outdoor locations.

An ecologist is a scientist who studies how animals and plants interact with their environment.

This occupation is not to be confused with the occupation of Environmental Consultant (ANZSCO 234312). An Environmental Consultant analyses and advises on policies guiding the design, implementation and modification of government or commercial environmental operations and programs. Therefore, employment as an Environmental Consultant will not be considered as highly relevant under this occupation.

Furthermore, employment roles that require routine testing of samples such as water, air, soil, or other environmental samples to identify contaminants and which do not involve independent research would not fit the scope of this occupation.

Supporting Material for Assessment

When applying for a Skills Assessment, please ensure you submit sufficient evidence supporting your proof of identity, qualification and employment claims. A full list of the documents required can be found on the VETASSESS website under Eligibility Criteria. You may provide additional evidence supporting your role, such as a summary brief for grant applications or similar projects, research articles or conference proceedings, laboratory reports, patents and a list of research projects outlining your responsibilities.