VETASSESS

Information sheet

Agricultural Technician

ANZSCO: 311111 | **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

An Agricultural Technician performs tests and experiments, and provides technical support to assist Agricultural Scientists in areas such as research, production, servicing and marketing.

Alternative Title:

- Agricultural Technical Officer

Occupations considered suitable under this ANZSCO code:

- Agriculture Laboratory Technician
- Artificial Insemination Technical Officer
- Dairy Technician
- Field Crop Technical Officer
- Herd Tester
- Horticultural Technical Officer
- Poultry Technical Officer

Occupations not considered under this ANZSCO code:

- Agricultural Consultant
- Agricultural Scientist
- Science Technicians nec

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

Agricultural 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	+	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

This includes qualifications assessed at AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level.

Qualifications in certain science fields may be accepted on a case-by-case basis if the program consists of sufficient subjects in Agricultural systems, Agronomy, Animal Science, Chemistry, Grazing systems, Plant cultivation and core subjects in their respective specialised fields. Major projects, Thesis and/or internships are important determining factors.

- Horticulture
- Biotechnology
- Veterinary Science
- Biochemistry
- Life Science (Biology)
- Botany/Zoology
- Soil Science
- Environmental Science

Highly relevant fields of study include:

- Agricultural Science
- Biotechnology
- Veterinary Science
- Biochemistry
- Life Science (Biology)
- Botany/Zoology
- Soil Science
- Environmental Science

Employment

Highly relevant tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Examining topographical, physical and soil characteristics of farmland to determine its most effective use and identify nutrient deficiencies.
- Assisting in developing new methods of planting, fertilising, harvesting and processing crops to achieve optimum land usage.
- Identifying pathogenic micro-organisms and insects, parasites, fungi and weeds harmful to crops and livestock, and assisting in devising methods of control.
- Analysing produce to set and maintain standards of quality.
- Inspecting livestock to gauge the effectiveness of feed formulae.
- Assisting in controlled breeding experiments to develop improved crop and livestock strains.
- Arranging the supply of drugs, vaccines and other chemicals to Farmers and Farm Managers, and giving advice on their use.
- Collecting and collating data for research.
- Planning slaughtering, harvesting and other aspects of production processes.
- May advise producers on farming techniques and management.

*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.

Employment information

Agricultural Technicians can work in research as well as commercial agriculture, horticulture and livestock production and servicing areas.

There are opportunities for Agricultural Technicians to learn on the job and contribute through technical expertise including modern agricultural practices, environmental management, intensive horticulture practices and advanced livestock production including breeding and artificial insemination.

Generally, Agricultural Technicians work in support of and assist Agricultural Scientists or equivalent experts.

Artificial Insemination Officer

The primary duty of an artificial insemination technician is to inseminate livestock in the hope of successfully impregnating the animals, but they may have many additional related responsibilities. Technicians must carefully monitor the heat cycles of female animals to determine the optimal time to inseminate (based on the animal's ovulation cycle and behaviour). They also must carefully handle and thaw the straws of frozen semen that have been kept in liquid nitrogen storage. The insemination must be performed with both speed and accuracy to ensure that the animal has the best chance to become pregnant on a single service.

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.