VETASSESS

Information sheet

Life Science Technician

ANZSCO: 311413

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:

- Biological Technical Officer
- Botanical Technical Officer
- Ecological Technical Officer
- Environmental Technical Officer
- Fisheries Technical Officer
- Forestry Technical Officer
- Forestry Technician
- Zoology Technical Officer
- Wood Technologist

Occupations not considered under this ANZSCO code:

- Chemistry Technician
- Earth Science Technician
- School Laboratory Technician
- Hydrographer
- Science Technicians nec
- Medical Technician

Job description

A Life Science Technician identifies and collects living organisms and conducts field and laboratory studies in support of Life Scientists or Environmental Scientists.

Alternative Title :

- Life Science Technical Officer

Life Science 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, 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

Life Sciences is the study of living things - plants and animals. It helps to explain how living things relate to one another and to their surroundings.

Highly relevant fields of study include:

- Life Sciences
- Biomedical Science
- Environmental Science
- Laboratory Technology
- Applied Science
- Biotechnology

Employment

A Life Science Technician identifies and collects living organisms and conducts field and laboratory studies in support of Life Scientists or Environmental Scientists.

Highly relevant tasks include:

- preparing materials for experimentation such as freezing and slicing specimens and mixing chemicals.
- 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
- controlling the quality and quantity of laboratory supplies by testing samples and monitoring usage
- checking, calibrating and maintaining test equipment

Employment context

In Australia, there are currently no legal requirements for licensing or registration for the occupation of Life Science Technician.

Science Technicians perform tests and experiments, and provide technical support functions to assist with research, design and production.

The main contexts in which they work include:

- Universities and educational institutions
- Private research organisations
- Commercial laboratories
- Medical and hospital laboratories (if non clinical)
- Pharmaceutical laboratories (Research and Development stage)
- Government research facilities