



# **Skills Assessment for Migration**

**FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE APPLYING FOR MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA  
WITHIN THE TRANSLATING OR INTERPRETING PROFESSIONS**

## **Information Booklet**

This booklet has been developed to provide an introduction to the available skills assessment pathways and will aid you in deciding on the best option for your particular circumstances. **You should read this booklet carefully before making any application.**

## **What is NAATI?**

NAATI is the national standards and accreditation body for translators and interpreters in Australia. It is the only agency that issues accreditations for practitioners who wish to work in these professions in Australia.

## **NAATI's Purpose**

NAATI's primary purpose is to strengthen inclusion and participation in Australian society by assisting in meeting the nation's diverse and changing communication needs and expectations, through:

- setting, maintaining and promoting high national standards in translating and interpreting, and
- implementing a national quality-assurance system for credentialing practitioners who meet those standards.

NAATI credentialing provides quality assurance to the clients of translators and interpreters and gives credibility to agencies that employ practitioners who are credentialed appropriately.

## **About NAATI**

The National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters Ltd (trading as NAATI) is incorporated in Australia under the *Corporations Act 2001*. The company is owned jointly by the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments and is governed by a board of directors, who are appointed by the owners. NAATI's main business activities are providing accreditation and other credentialing services for translators and interpreters and related activities. NAATI services are available through offices in every State and Territory of Australia and in New Zealand. The National Office is in Canberra.

## The Australian Government's General Skilled Migration Programme

*The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has announced changes to the skilled migration points test to take effect from July 1, 2011. The changes will impact on the skilled migration process and the Credentialed Community Language points. It should be noted that the announced changes will only apply to visa applications made from 1 July 2011.*

The Australian Government's Skilled Migration programme is implemented through a partnership between government and industry. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations work with industry, represented by professional migration assessing authorities, to ensure that policies and procedures for assessing the skills of prospective migrants are appropriate, transparent and do not pose unreasonable barriers to migration.

National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters Ltd (NAATI) has been specified by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, in accordance with the Migration Regulations 1994, as the assessing authority for the occupations of Translator (ANZSCO Code 272413) and Interpreter (ANZSCO Code 272412).

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations supported this process through its role in approving migration assessing authorities. Approval is granted to professional bodies which meet established criteria, including a commitment to support the objectives of the General Skilled Migration programme and the provision of an appropriate assessment service to prospective migrants.

If you wish to apply to migrate to Australia as a Translator or Interpreter under certain visa categories, you will need to have your skills assessed by NAATI. NAATI will assess your skills as "suitable" or "not suitable" for your nominated occupation against the requirements it has established. If requested, NAATI will also assess an individual's verifiable skilled employment history and the comparability of a translating or interpreting qualification to a relevant Australian qualification.

As of 1 July 2010 the occupations of Translator and Interpreter were not listed on the Skilled Occupation List (SOL) enabling General Skilled Migration. However, immigration based on the occupations of Translator and Interpreter may still be possible with the support of a State or Territory government. For more information you will need to contact the appropriate State or Territory body. At the time of publication, NAATI identified the following websites with potentially useful information in relation to state sponsorship:

Victoria	- <a href="http://www.liveinvictoria.vic.gov.au">www.liveinvictoria.vic.gov.au</a>
South Australia	- <a href="http://www.migration.sa.gov.au">www.migration.sa.gov.au</a>
Western Australia	- <a href="http://www.migration.wa.gov.au">www.migration.wa.gov.au</a>
Queensland	- <a href="http://www.liveworkplay.qld.gov.au">www.liveworkplay.qld.gov.au</a>
Tasmania	- <a href="http://www.migration.tas.gov.au">www.migration.tas.gov.au</a>
Northern Territory	- <a href="http://www.migration.nt.gov.au">www.migration.nt.gov.au</a>
A.C.T	- <a href="http://www.business.act.gov.au/skilled_and_business_migration/skilled_migration">www.business.act.gov.au/skilled_and_business_migration/skilled_migration</a>
New South Wales	- <a href="http://www.business.nsw.gov.au/migration/whatsnew.asp">www.business.nsw.gov.au/migration/whatsnew.asp</a>

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Australian Skills Recognition Information website also provides information on working as a Translator or Interpreter in Australia - visit [www.immi.gov.au/asri](http://www.immi.gov.au/asri).

NAATI can only provide advice on applying for a skills assessment for the occupations of Translator and Interpreter. All other questions relating to migration should be directed to DIAC - visit [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) for information and contact details.

### Skills Assessment for Migration Purposes

NAATI is the designated assessing body for the occupations of Translator and Interpreter for migration to Australia. It also has a role in assessing an applicant's ability to claim Credentialed Community Language points.

Applicants seeking a skills assessment for migration purposes should ensure that they understand the requirements of the particular visa being sought. Information on visas and their requirements are available from DIAC at [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au).

## The Credentialed Community Language Points

Until 1 July 2011 the acceptable evidence of fluency in a Designated Language for the purpose of gaining five bonus points for migration to Australia are:

1. Holding a qualification of equivalent standard to a degree awarded by an Australian tertiary institution where the tuition was conducted in a designated language (As assessed by DIAC)
2. Holding NAATI accreditation as a Professional Interpreter or Translator in a designated language.

For visa applications made from 1 July 2011 the acceptable evidence for claiming the Credentialed Community Language points, under the points test applicable from 1 July 2011, will be NAATI accreditation at the paraprofessional level or above, either in translating or interpreting.

For information on which languages accreditation is available, please refer to the appropriate information booklet.

## Pathways to a Skills Assessment

There are five pathways available to applicants who are seeking a skills assessment as a Translator or Interpreter. All involve gaining NAATI accreditation at the Professional level or higher and can be achieved based on:

- A. success in a NAATI accreditation test
- B. successful completion of a NAATI-approved Australian course
- C. recognition of a specialised tertiary qualifications in translating and/or interpreting obtained overseas.
- D. membership of certain overseas professional associations
- E. demonstrated advanced standing in the profession.

## Available Skills Assessment Pathways

Accreditation Level	Suitable for skills assessment	Suitable for Credentialed Community Language Points	Pathway(s) available
Advanced Translator (Senior)	YES	YES	C, D, E
Conference Interpreter (Senior)	YES	YES	C, D, E
Advanced Translator	YES	YES	A, B, C
Conference Interpreter	YES	YES	B, C
Professional Translator	YES	YES	A, B, C, D
Professional Interpreter	YES	YES	A, B
Paraprofessional Translator	NO	YES	A
Paraprofessional Interpreter	NO	YES	A, B

Please note that each pathway has restrictions on which languages the accreditation can be awarded in. Further information about each of these pathways and application forms are available through the NAATI website ([www.naati.com.au](http://www.naati.com.au)).

## The NAATI Skills Assessment Process

The process for each pathway is detailed in the relevant NAATI information booklet, including the normal timeframes for the process.

Pathway	Information booklet
Accreditation by testing	Booklet A
Accreditation by approved course	Booklet B
Accreditation by overseas qualification	Booklet C
Accreditation by membership of professional association	Booklet C
Accreditation by advanced standing	Booklet C

Times frames from the point of application to the issue of a skills assessment decision vary. Please make sure you are aware of how long the pathway you choose will take and make your application bearing this in mind.

Applicants can also request that NAATI make an assessment of overseas educational qualifications and skilled employment for the purposes of claiming points under the post 1 July 2011 points test.

### Points Test Post 1 July 2011

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) announced changes to the skilled migration points test to take effect from July 1, 2011. These changes will impact on the skills assessment process. The two major areas of change within skills assessment relate to points availability for overseas educational qualifications and skilled employment related to the skilled occupation. National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters Ltd (NAATI) has been specified by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship in accordance with the Migration Regulations 1994 as the assessing authority for the occupations of Translator (ANZSCO Code 272413) and Interpreter (ANZSCO Code 272412). It is NAATI's responsibility to provide an opinion in these areas should a successful skills assessment be awarded.

### Educational Qualifications

To claim points for a qualification obtained overseas, the qualification will need to be recognised as being of a standard equivalent to the relevant Australian level qualification. Individuals with a translating or interpreting qualification can choose to have this assessed by NAATI for:

Points	Description of education qualifications
20	Doctorate Degree
15	At least a Bachelor Degree
10	Australian Diploma or trade qualification
10	Award or qualification recognised by the assessing authority in the assessment of the skilled occupation

If requested by the applicant, NAATI will provide its opinion as part of the skills assessment as to the comparable Australian level qualification.

## Skilled Employment

Points may be awarded for employment in a skilled occupation, either in Australia or overseas. To claim points for skilled employment, the experience must be within the applicant's nominated occupation, Translator or Interpreter. Points may be awarded on demonstration of verifiable skilled employment history undertaken in the last ten years, as follows

Points	Length of Employment	
	Australian Skilled Employment	Overseas Skilled Employment
5	One year	Three years
10	Three years	Five years
15	Five years	Eight years
20	Eight years	N/A

Australian and overseas employment over the past ten years can be combined, however a maximum of 20 points can be awarded.

For the purposes of awarding points, DIAC considers skilled employment will comprise at least 20 hours employment per week.

If requested by the applicant, NAATI will provide its opinion, as part of the skills assessment, on the skilled employment claims.

### Making an Application for NAATI's Opinion

If NAATI is to make an assessment of your education qualification(s) and/or skilled employment you will need to complete *Form M Application for Assessment of Educational Qualifications and Skilled Employment* in addition to the relevant skills assessment form.

### How Long is a Skills Assessment Valid for?

Each successful assessment letter will have the expiry date of the assessment clearly indicated. Generally, NAATI skills assessments are valid for three years.

Only one letter of accreditation will normally be issued. A replacement or additional copy of a letter can be provided on completion of the 'Application for Reissue of Accreditation Letter' form downloadable from [www.naati.com.au](http://www.naati.com.au).

### English Language Requirements

No proficiency testing in English (e.g IELTS testing) is currently required for any of the skills assessment pathways.

### Certification of Copies of Documents

You may be required to provide certified copies of documents as part of each skills assessment application process. This means that an individual authorised to do so in your country must certify any copies of original documents as true copies.

Where documents are not in English, you must provide a certified copy of the original language document and an English translation carried out by either an appropriately NAATI-accredited translator or a translator authorised to perform such a translation in your country of origin. The signature, name, occupation/position and contact details of the translator must be provided on the English language version.

If your current legal name is not the same as that which appears on your documents, you must provide evidence of your name change (for example, a marriage certificate).

**All submitted documents that are copies of original documents must be certified as true copies of the original.**

**It is recommended that you do not send original documents as NAATI does not return these.**

**Applications for skills assessments will be delayed if documents are not certified properly.**

Please note that;

1. Certified copies of an already certified document (that is, a copy of a copy) will not be accepted.
2. Certification should appear on each page of the document and should show:
  - a. the signature of the person certifying the document
  - b. the name of person certifying the document clearly printed or evident in an official stamp
  - c. the contact details of the person certifying the document. This may be a business address, telephone number or e-mail address.
  - d. where possible, an official stamp indicating the occupation/position of the person certifying the document.
3. The following classes of person are authorised to certify copies of documents:
  - a. NAATI staff member (Australia only)
  - b. An officer of an Australian Diplomatic Post
  - c. A Notary Public authorised in the country of the application
  - d. A Commissioner of Oaths (Declarations) authorised in the country of the application
  - e. A Solicitor, Barrister or Judge authorised in Australia or the country of the application. (note each page must be signed and it will not be acceptable for the name of a law firm to appear in lieu of the actual name and signature of the person certifying your document)
  - f. A Justice of the Peace authorised in Australia or the country of the application.

Assessment of your application **will not proceed** if you submit copies of documents where the person certifying the copy is not one of those listed or where the above requirements are not met.

### **Use of an Agent**

If you have appointed a person to act as your agent (for example a Migration Agent) you must complete the authorisation form that is part of the respective application forms. By appointing an agent, you are authorising NAATI to communicate with your agent regarding your assessment.

Without authorisation NAATI can only deal directly with the applicant due to privacy regulations.

### **Reviewing the Skills Assessment Outcome**

If you are not satisfied with the assessment outcome, you can appeal the decision. Each skills assessment pathway has a different process for this. Information on each of these is available on NAATI's website ([www.naati.com.au](http://www.naati.com.au)).

Reviews normally take eight weeks to process, although in exceptional circumstances it may take longer than that.