



General Skilled Migration (GSM) Points Test Review

Q 1 What is the GSM Points Test Review?

It is a review of the current Points Test that applies to GSM visas. The purpose of the review is to evaluate the effectiveness of the current Points Test. It is being undertaken to ensure that the Points Test is selecting high calibre applicants with skills the nation needs for the future.

Q 2 When will the GSM Points Test Review be undertaken?

The GSM Points Test Review will be undertaken in the first half of 2010. A discussion paper will be placed on the department's website www.immi.gov.au by

12 February 2010 and be open for public comment until 12 March 2010. Government will consider the recommendations made.

Q 3 Will changes be made to the Points Test?

It is not known if the government will decide to make changes to the GSM Points Test. If the government decides that changes are necessary, they will determine when they are to take place and who they will apply to. Please check the department's website www.immi.gov.au for updates.

Q 4 How are points awarded under the GSM points test?

Criteria	Criteria Details	Points
Nominated occupation	For highly skilled occupations where training and/or qualifications specific to the nominated occupation are required.	60
	More generalist degree level occupations.	50
Age	18–29 years old	30
	30–34 years old	25
	35–39 years old	20
	40–44 years old	15
English language ability	Proficient English (IELTS 7.0)	25
	Competent English (IELTS 6.0)	15
	Concessional Competent English (average IELTS 6.0)	15
Specific employment	60 point occupation and three years work experience in the last four years in a closely related occupation.	10
	At least three years work experience in the last four years in an occupation on the SOL.	5
Australian employment	Employed in a nominated occupation, or closely related skilled occupation in Australia for a total of at least 12 months in the last 48 months.	10
	Completed a professional year specified by the minister for a total of at least 12 months in the last 48 months.	10
Australian qualifications	Doctorate completed in a minimum of two years.	25
	Masters/honours plus bachelor completed in a minimum of three years.	15
	Degree, diploma or trade qualifications completed in a minimum of two years.	5

Criteria	Criteria Details	Points
Studying and living in regional Australia	Met two year study requirement in regional Australia.	5
Partner skills	Partner meets threshold GSM criteria.	5
State/territory government nomination	Visa applicant nominated by state or territory government.	10
Designated area sponsorship	Provisional visa applicant sponsored by an eligible relative in a designated area of Australia.	25
Designated language	Professional level language skills in a designated language.	5

Q 5 How does the current points test distort outcomes for a skilled migrant?

The current points test does not always lead to outcomes that are consistent with the objectives of General Skilled Migration Program, which is to focus on applicants with high value skills that will meet Australia's medium to long-term economic needs.

Below is a table that provides a comparison of the points allocated to an international student who has studied hairdressing in Australia as compared to an applicant who has a PhD in environmental science from Harvard University. Both applicants are applying for an Independent Skilled visa.

Hairdresser	Environmental Scientist
Skill (hairdresser) 60 points	Skill (environmental scientist) 50 points
Age (less than 30) 30 points	Age (less than 30) 30 points
English (IELTS 6.0) 15 points	English (IELTS 6.0) 15 Points
Qualification—Australian qualification Framework III 5 points	Qualifications— overseas PhD 0 points
12 months Australian work experience 10 points	Overseas work experience (3 years) 5 points
MODL (as previously available) 15 points	MODL (as previously available) 0 points
Total points 135—pass (pass mark is 120 points)	Total points 100—fail (pass mark is 120 points)

Useful documents

More information on the changes announced by the minister on 8 February 2010 is available on the following information sheets:

- [Revoking the Critical Skills List](#)
- [Changes to the General Skilled Migration Program](#)
- [Changes to the current Skilled Occupation List](#)
- [Changes to offshore General Skilled Migration visa applications received before 1 September 2007](#)
- [Outcomes of the Migration Occupation in Demand List review—frequently asked questions](#)
- [Onshore international students—frequently asked questions](#)
- [Changes to Priority Processing](#)