

HANNAN TEW IMMIGRATION IS A SPECIALIST IMMIGRATION FIRM WITH EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE ASSISTING SKILLED APPLICANTS RELOCATE TO AUSTRALIA

Australia's General Skilled Migration (**GSM**) program is used by the Australian government to fill skill gaps in the Australian economy by targeting specific occupations and people with relevant skills and experience.

At Hannan Tew Immigration, our staff have had over 12 years of experience assisting skilled workers from all over the world relocate to Australia.

What are the GSM visa types?

There are three primary visa which fall under the General Skilled Migration Program:

1. Skilled Independent – Subclass 189;
2. Skilled Nominated – Subclass 190; and
3. Nominated or State Sponsored (Provisional) – Subclass 489.

The 189 and 190 visas are direct permanent residence visas whilst the 489 is a temporary visa which can lead to permanent residence when additional eligibility criteria is met.

What does this mean for Software Engineers?

Software Engineers are listed on the Australian government's Medium to Long Term Strategic Skills List. This means this occupation is in high demand in Australia, and eligible for the above visa types.

This document provides an overview to the eligibility requirements for Software Engineers.

FIRST STEP: WHAT IS A SOFTWARE ENGINEER? DO YOU FIT THE DEFINITION OF ONE?

A Software Engineer is defined by the Australia New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (**ANZSCO**) as an individual who undertakes the significant majority of the following tasks:

1. *researching, consulting, analysing and evaluating system program needs*
2. *identifying technology limitations and deficiencies in existing systems and associated processes, procedures and methods*
3. *testing, debugging, diagnosing and correcting errors and faults in an applications programming language within established testing protocols, guidelines and quality standards to ensure programs and applications perform to specification*
4. *writing and maintaining program code to meet system requirements, system designs and technical specifications in accordance with quality accredited standards*
5. *writing, updating and maintaining technical program, end user documentation and operational procedures*

6. *providing advice, guidance and expertise in developing proposals and strategies for software design activities such as financial evaluation and costings for recommending software purchases and upgrades*
7. *Designs, develops, modifies, documents, tests, implements, installs and supports software applications and systems.*

A Software Engineer must also have qualifications equivalent to a n Australian bachelor degree or higher qualification. At least five years of relevant experience and/or relevant vendor certification may substitute for the formal qualification.

SECOND STEP: CAN YOU OBTAIN A POSITIVE SKILLS ASSESSMENT?

A Software Engineer is assessed through the Australian Computer Society (ACS). The ACS application is logged online. For the purposes of a GSM application, you must meet one of the following, listed in order of preference:

1. **Post Australian Study:** *An Australian Bachelor degree or higher with a major in ICT which is closely related to the nominated occupation (ANZSCO) plus 1 year of relevant post qualification experience or completion of an ACS professional year;*
2. **Bachelor Degree or Higher with a closely related ICT major:** *You will need to demonstrate 2 years relevant work experience completed within the past 10 years or 4 years relevant work experience completed anytime in your past work history;*
3. **Bachelor Degree or Higher with an ICT major (not closely related):** *You will require 4 years relevant work experience completed anytime in your past work history to meet the suitability criteria;*
4. **Bachelor Degree or Higher with a closely related ICT minor:** *You will require 5 years relevant work experience completed in the past 10 years or 6 years relevant work experience completed anytime in your past work history;*
5. **Bachelor Degree or Higher with an ICT minor (not closely related):** *You will require 6 years relevant work experience completed anytime in your past work history to meet the suitability criteria.*
6. **Diploma or vendor certification with a closely related ICT major:** *You will require 5 years relevant work experience completed within the past 10 years or 6 years relevant work experience completed anytime in your past work history;*
7. **Diploma or vendor certification an ICT major (not closely related):** *You will require 6 years relevant work experience completed anytime in your past work history.*
8. **Non ICT Diploma or Higher:** *You will require 6 years relevant work experience completed anytime in your past work history, plus a suitable Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) application;*
9. **Work Experience Only:** *You will require 8 years relevant work experience completed anytime in your past work history, plus a suitable Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) application*

All experience will need to be evidenced with employment reference letters and skills with certified copies of your qualifications / academic transcripts.



THIRD STEP: SKILL SELECT AND THE POINTS TEST

Unlike most visa applications which can be applied without invitation, an online platform called SkillSelect is used to manage the skilled migration program.

What is SkillSelect?

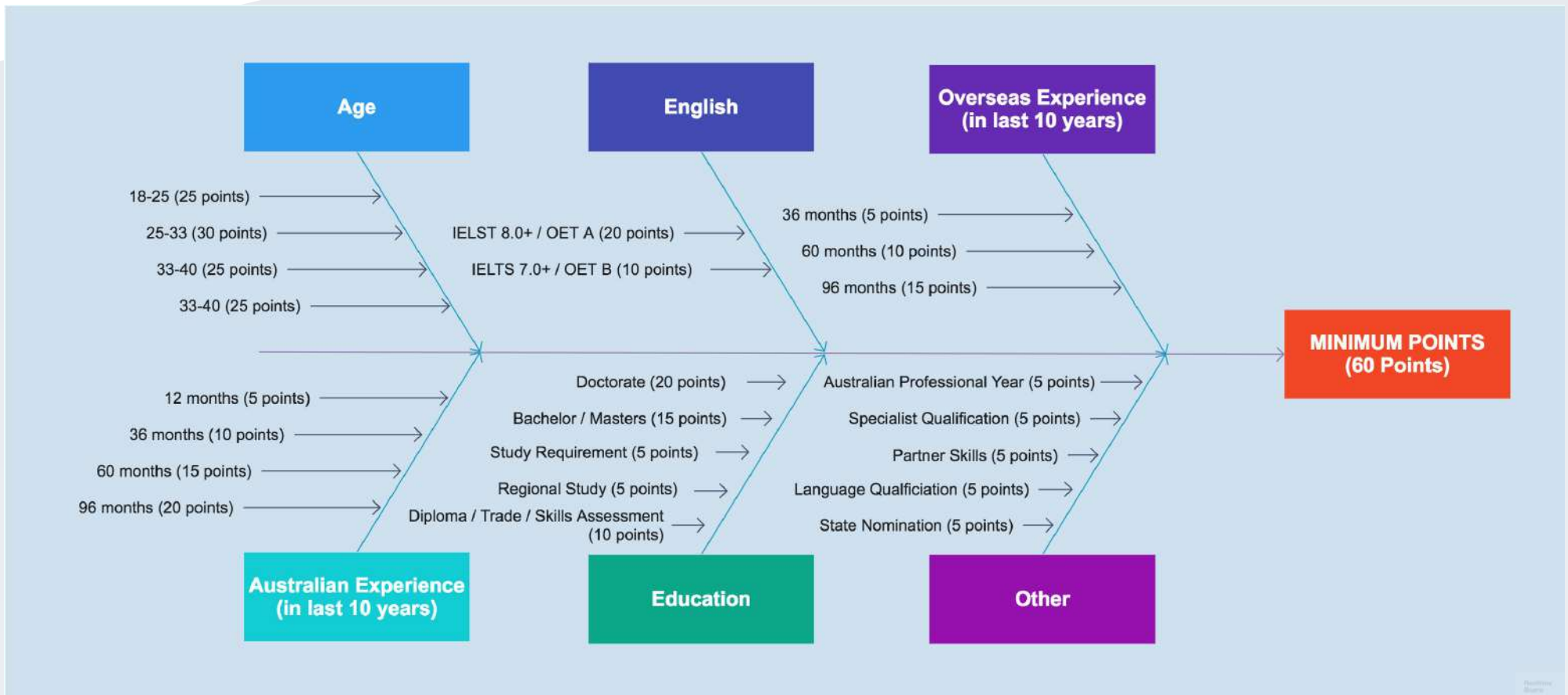
SkillSelect is split into two components: Firstly, an Expression of interest; and Secondly, if you comply with all relevant criteria, an Invitation to apply for the visa.

Once an EOI is submitted online through SkillSelect the system will automatically

provide you with a report of your score against the points test based on information you have provided.

How many points?

You will require a minimum of 60 points to be invited to apply for the visa. The below diagram sets out the points assessment.



ARE YOU A SOFTWARE ENGINEER? WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR ELIGIBILITY FOR A GENERAL SKILLED MIGRATION VISA TO AUSTRALIA?

If you would like to know more about your pathways to permanent residence through Australia's GSM program, please contact us directly to undertake an initial consultation. With extensive experience in successful GSM applications, our staff will walk you through the eligibility criteria and determine your prospects of success.

We are also well versed in all other visa categories in Australia including investor, employer sponsored, student and family visas. If you seek our advice in consideration of these alternative visas, please contact us directly:

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