

## ARE YOU A TEACHER APPLYING FOR A GSM VISA?

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If you are a qualified teacher, applying for visa under General Skilled Migration (“GSM”), you must at least have applied and (for most GSM visa subclasses) must have obtained, a suitable skills assessment from the relevant skills assessment body authorised by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (“DIAC”), before you lodge your visa application.

The relevant skills assessment body for *pre-school, primary school and secondary school teacher* is no longer “Teaching Australia”.

It is now the *Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership* (“AITSL”). AITSL has issued its guidelines for skills assessments of teachers which took effect from March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010. To be issued a “suitable” skills assessment for the purpose of skilled migration, you must satisfy the following criteria:

### 1. Educational qualification

Completion of study assessed by AITSL as being comparable to at least four years of full-time higher education level study (or part-time equivalent) in Australia which results in a qualification (or qualifications) comparable to the education level of an Australian bachelor degree or higher, and

Completion of an initial teacher education qualification of at least one year full-time (or part-time equivalent) study at the higher education level.

If your country of education has a system of teacher registration or licensing, you are also required to have obtained a teacher registration/license card. You are not required to provide a teacher registration card if you have completed your initial teacher education qualification in Australia, six months before you lodge your skills assessment application.

### 2. English Skills

You must have obtained a score of at least 7.0 in each component of the Academic version of the IELTS examination within the last 12 months before lodging the skills assessment application a single sitting.

You may be exempted from the English Test only if you have completed one year full time initial teacher education qualification in one of the following countries; Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, United Kingdom or the United States of America.

NO longer exempted from the English test under the new criteria are those who were

- Born and have completed secondary education or
- Have completed two years of full-time teaching employment

in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom or the United States of America.

### 3. Work Experience

The new guidelines now require at least 45 working days of supervised teaching practice instead of 30 days.

*This information is of a general nature and should not be taken as authoritative legal advice for specific cases. Australia has a scheme that requires persons who give immigration assistance to be registered as migration agent. The writer, Atty. Imelda Argel is a practising migration solicitor and a registered migration agent in Sydney, Australia. She is a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, the High Court of Australia, an Attorney at law in the Philippines and in the State of New York, USA. Her Registered Migration Agent no. is 9682957.*

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