

# International Social Work Students - Information Pages

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### 1. The process and requirements\* of become a member of AASW

All the correct information are on the AASW official website:

<http://www.aasw.asn.au/membership-information/becoming-a-member>

As long as you are a student enrolled in **an AASW accredited BSW or MSW program**, you can apply the membership. In this case, all social work students at UniSA and Flinders can apply membership during and after their studies. You can fill the application online, and upload your supporting document which can prove you are a student who enrolled in an AASW accredited BSW or MSW programs.

Documents required: <http://www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/111>

\*No English language requirement for membership.

### 2. Becoming an Accredited Australian Social Worker

An AASW accredited Bachelor of Social Work degree or Master of Social Work (qualifying) is required for entry into the profession of social work, and to meet the minimum eligibility requirements for AASW membership

**\*Flinders and UniSA BSW and MSW courses are AASW accredited.**

Detail information in website: <http://www.aasw.asn.au/membership-information/eligibility>

However, for AASW social worker member, through CPD Continuing Professional Development, one can become an accredited social worker in the future.

Policy documents are available on the AASW website:

<http://www.aasw.asn.au/professional-development/continuing-professional-development-cpd>

**AASW members** who meet the minimum CPD requirements each financial year are eligible for formal accreditation with the AASW as either *Accredited Social Workers* or *Accredited Mental Health Social Workers*. Members can evidence their accreditation by using a legally protected trade mark logo for professional purposes, such as in their email signature, letter head, CV and on business cards. In instances where the logo cannot be used, members can evidence their accreditation with the post nominal:

***Accredited/Accredited Mental Health Social Worker: Registered with the AASW***

Accredited trade mark registration is free and offers members a form of title protection and increased professional recognition. Access more information about the Accredited Trade Marks [here](#).

<http://www.aasw.asn.au/professional-development/frequently-asked-questions>

### 3. Registration social workers?

Social work ***is not currently a registered profession in Australia***. The profession is self-regulated by the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW). Most employers of social workers in Australia require evidence of ***eligibility for membership of the AASW***.

***\*This means, you are NOT going to become a member of AASW automatically when you graduate from BSW or MSW program.***

### 4. Skills Assessment for Migration purpose

**All applicants for the assessment of social work qualifications for migration purposes must demonstrate English language proficiency.**

Details on website:

<http://www.aasw.asn.au/careers-study/english-language-requirements-for-all-migration-assessments>

The assessment for migration purposes is provided to the Australian Government's Department of Immigration and Border Protection as part of your Visa application to live and work in Australia.

### 5. Graduate visas

Following information are all from Australian Government website:

<http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/485->

The Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485) lets you live, study and work in Australia temporarily after you have finished your studies. Students are only able to access the Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485) once as a primary applicant.

This visa has two streams:

- **Graduate Work stream** – for international students with an eligible qualification who graduate with skills and qualifications that relate to an occupation on the [Skilled Occupation List \(SOL\)](#). A visa in this stream is granted for 18 months from the date of grant.
- **Post-Study Work stream** – for international students who graduate with a higher education degree from an Australian education provider, regardless of their field of study. This stream is only available to students who applied for, and were granted, their first student visa to Australia on or **after 5 November 2011**. A visa in this stream can be granted for up to four years from the date the visa is granted, depending on the visa applicant's qualification.

If you are applying as the main applicant, you and anybody else covered by the application must be in Australia when you apply for this visa and when your visa is decided.

Family members who apply for this visa after the main applicant has been granted the visa may be in or outside Australia when they apply, but must not be in immigration clearance.

Further information:

<http://www.border.gov.au/FormsAndDocuments/Documents/1409.pdf>

From my understanding,

the Graduate Work stream **does require** a skills assessment in your nominated occupation from the Skilled Occupation List (SOL), in our case social worker. **It means 7 in each band on IELTS** under current policy.

However, Post-Study Work stream **does NOT** require a skills assessment during the application, but need to have evidence of the required level of English at the time you apply for your visa. This English required level is not the same in skills assessment. Please check Department of Immigration and Border Protection for the visa English requirement.

Under the current policy:

You have achieved an overall score of at least 6 with a minimum a score of 5 in each of the four test components (speaking, reading, listening and writing) in an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test that has been undertaken in the three years immediately prior to lodging the visa application.

Detailed information is available on the Australian Border Protection website:

<http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/485->

***\*Please be aware of the differences between an English language requirement for visa and an English language requirement for skills assessment.***

I have to state that all above information are on official government websites and AASW website. ***I am not a migration agency that can not guarantee your of anything regarding your applications.*** In Australia, all official information are listed on official website. the Department of Immigration and Border website has all the information you need for applying visa. The AASW's website also has lots of information. Please check these webs **frequently**, as they may be changes happen. I wrote this post on **3 July 2015**, and please go to the web for updates information.

### Useful links

Department of Immigration and Border:

<http://www.border.gov.au/>

AASW:

<http://www.aasw.asn.au/>

Become a AASW member:

<http://www.aasw.asn.au/membership-information/becoming-a-member>

Q&As on membership that may answer some questions for you:

<http://www.aasw.asn.au/membership-information/faqs/membership>

Q&As on skills assessments and overseas qualifications:

<http://www.aasw.asn.au/careers-study/faqs>

AASW International Qualifications Assessment/Migration Skills Assessment Contact:

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