

Interpreter and Translator as a Migration Stepping Stone

Both Interpreters and Translators are on the 60 points occupation list for migration to Australia purposes. It is important to note that those overseas students who wish to nominate interpreters or Translators as their skilled occupation for migration purposes must be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of DIMIA officer that their education in Australia are relevant to the skilled occupation. For example, it may not be possible for a pure science graduate to sit for NATTI 3 test and claim either Interpreters or Translators as the nominated skilled occupations. However, for those students who found themselves short of 5 points to pass the point test, a pass in NATTI 3 (Translator or interpreter) in the nominated multicultural language will definitely be able to claim 5 points.

Interpreters verbally render spoken statements into another language. They provide simultaneous or consecutive verbal renditions of speeches into the language of other participants at international conferences, debates, discussions or negotiations. They render the meaning of what is said in courts, hospitals, schools and other environments using the language of the audience. They may provide a verbal rendition of written texts.

Translators render documents into another language in written form. They study original texts to comprehend original meanings and convert them into another language to convey the original meanings. They consult dictionaries and other reference sources to determine accurate meanings of terms and ensure that phraseology and terminology of legal, technical or scientific texts are correctly rendered. They convey the original spirit and feeling of literary works in translation. They may specialise in particular languages or in particular types of subject matter, for example law, health, science or technology.

NAATI is the body responsible for the accreditation of translators and interpreters in Australia and is the assessing authority for those intending to apply for migration to Australia. NAATI accreditation is the only qualification officially accepted for the profession of interpreting and translation in Australia.

Recognition Procedures in Australia

The usual requirement for entry to the profession is NAATI accreditation which may be achieved in three ways:

by passing a NAATI test;

by successfully completing a course of study at an Australian institution approved by NAATI; or

by providing evidence of specialised qualifications in interpreting/translating obtained from a recognised training institution overseas, or membership of a recognised international professional association.

Only those who can show that they hold or are eligible for NAATI accreditation at the minimum level of Translator will meet the skills level required for migration purposes. It is important to note that NATTI does not accredit people whose formal qualifications are not in the skills of translating or interpreting. For example, a general degree, literature or teaching degree without a major component of study in translating/interpreting will not normally qualify for accreditation. In other words, the degree courses pursued by the students must be a dedicated translator/Interpreter degree and the education institution offering the courses is appropriate. Furthermore, the qualification in question must be recognized at the equivalent level of an Australian Bachelor Degree or higher.

NATTI Test

Those ineligible for accreditation on the basis of their overseas qualifications must sit for the NAATI test to obtain the appropriate accreditation. Such tests are now available on demand both in Australia and at selected overseas locations. Eligibility criteria for NAATI tests vary according to the level of testing required. Applicants for the professional level and above must normally possess tertiary qualifications. Native language ability or previous language studies are desirable.

NATTI Test is held in both the Annual Testing Program and Special On- Demand Test. This form for Special On- Demand test may be sent to NAATI at any time during the year up to September 30 in order to be included in the translation tests in the Annual

Testing Program which are held in November of each year, and up to November 28 for the interpreting tests which are held between March and June of each year. Special On-Demand Tests are available for candidates who require their accreditation outside the Annual Testing Program or for candidates whose language is not offered in the program. Special On-Demand Tests may be arranged at any time during the year at the mutual convenience of the candidate and the NAATI office. As the examination for NATTI test on professional level requires candidate to at least possess tertiary qualifications, applicant should immediately register for NATTI test as soon as they obtain letter of degree completion. The passing of the NATTI Translator test allows applicant to claim at least 5 points on multicultural language category.