

# ACT Streamlined PhD nomination Guidelines

## August 2020

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) offers Territory nomination under the following skilled migration streams:

- Skilled Work Regional (provisional) subclass 491 visa.
- Skilled Nominated (permanent) subclass 190 visa.

Before applying for ACT nomination you must complete the Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs) *SKILLSELECT* and meet the Home Affairs points test (currently 65 points).

### Applying for ACT streamlined PhD nomination is a two-stage process:

- You must express an interest in applying for ACT nomination by registering your contact details on the Canberra Matrix. You must select either ACT 491 ***nomination*** or ACT 190 nomination. You are not required to score Matrix points.
- You will receive an invitation email with a link to the online application for ACT nomination within seven working days. You must complete and submit the online application within 14 days.

Your nominated occupation does not have to be on the ACT Critical Skills List. You may nominate any occupation on the relevant [Department of Home Affairs List of Eligible Skilled Occupations](#) as long as you have the mandatory skill assessment.

### Step 1 - Check your eligibility

**Canberra residents** - You are eligible to apply for ACT streamlined PhD nomination if you have:

- Lived in Canberra for at least 12 months at time of invitation.
- Completed a PhD at an ACT university.

**Interstate resident** - If you are living in another state or territory, you are eligible to apply for ACT streamlined PhD nomination if you were awarded a PhD from an ACT university within the last two years.

**Overseas applicant** - If you are living overseas, you are eligible to apply for ACT streamlined PhD nomination if you were awarded a PhD from an ACT university within the last two years.

## Step 2 - Expressing an interest in ACT nomination

You may express your interest in ACT nomination by completing the online Canberra Matrix. You are not required to claim Matrix points.

- **Migration agents** acting on behalf of a client must register and create an ACT agents account. The Canberra Matrix can be accessed from the [ACT agent portal](#).
- **Individual candidates.** If you are not using a migration agent, you can access the Canberra Matrix at the [Canberra Your Future](#) website.

### Completing the Matrix

- Enter your personal information.
- Select either ACT 491 nomination or ACT 190 nomination.
- Select PhD completion at an ACT university
- Select Canberra resident or overseas applicants

## Step 3 - Applying for ACT nomination

Once the Canberra Matrix is submitted, you will receive an invitation email with a link to the online application within seven working days.

The application for ACT nomination must be lodged within 14 days of date of invitation. If the application is not lodged within 14 days, the invitation will automatically expire and cannot be reactivated.

## Step 4 - Document checklist

You must attach the following information to the online application:

### SkillSelect EOI -

- *SkillSelect* Expression of Interest (EOI) record of response which shows the personal, education, English and employment details submitted. The ACT **MUST** be selected as your preferred location on the EOI.

### Skilled Occupation

- Current skill assessment in the nominated occupation.

### Australian qualifications

- PhD course completion letter or PhD award from an ACT university (*if Canberra resident*);
- PhD award from an ACT university (*if interstate or overseas*)

**Service fee: \$0** - The application for ACT streamlined PhD nomination is free.

## Step 5 – Assessing the application

Most applications for streamlined PhD nomination will be assigned to a case officer within one week of lodgement. The assessment of the application for ACT nomination will be based solely on the supporting documents provided at the time of application. If the application is incomplete, or it does not meet the nomination criteria, the application will be refused.

## Step 6 - Offer of ACT nomination

**Approval:** If the application for ACT nomination is approved, your *SkillSelect* EOI will be confirmed and Home Affairs will simultaneously issue the visa invitation. The offer of ACT nomination is valid for 60 days from date of approval.

**Refusal:** If the application for ACT nomination is refused, you will be informed of the reasons why. A request for reconsideration must be in writing, explaining why the decision was incorrect. The review officer's reconsideration will be based solely on the original supporting documents. Additional documentation will not be accepted.

## Step 7 - Applying for the ACT nominated visa

Once the visa invitation is issued by Home affairs, you must lodge the visa application within 60 days. If the visa application is not lodged within 60 days, the offer of ACT nomination will expire. This time period will not be extended.

Only one ACT nomination place is offered per applicant. The ACT will not re-confirm a new *SkillSelect* EOI if you made an error and / or are unable to apply for the visa.

## Step 8 - Notification of Home Affairs Visa Decision

You must inform the ACT Skilled Migration team when your visa is granted, by email, and attach a copy of the visa grant notification: [welcometocanberra@act.gov.au](mailto:welcometocanberra@act.gov.au)

Please note, if your application for a skilled migration visa is refused by Home Affairs, the ACT Government will not, under any circumstances, appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal on your behalf.

## Disclaimer

The ACT Government and its employees are not liable for any inaccuracies or omissions in the information provided to the applicant in the context of their application for ACT nomination.

The ACT Government is not responsible for finding employment, accommodation or providing financial incentive or assistance to ACT nominated visa holders or other skilled migrants. ACT nomination is exclusive to the ACT and is NOT transferable to any other state or territory in Australia.

## Contact Us

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