

AGRICULTURAL SCIENTIST (ANZSCO Code: 234112)

The following Information Sheet is for your reference only and should be used as a guide to assist with your Skills Assessment application to VETASSESS. This information is subject to change.

Please note that a Skills Assessment of the qualification involves assessment of both the qualification level and content. Qualifications are assessed according to the guidelines published by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

The employment assessment involves determining the skill level and relevance of the tasks undertaken. Integrity checks may be conducted to verify the qualification and employment claims made in an application.

Job description

An Agricultural Scientist studies commercial plants, animals and cultivation techniques to enhance the productivity of farms and agricultural industries.

Specialisations

- Agronomist

Closely related Occupations in ANSZCO Unit Group 2341

- Agricultural Consultant
- Forester (Aus) / Forest Scientist (NZ)

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Requirements for Skills Assessment

This occupation requires a qualification which is assessed as comparable to the educational level an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree or higher*, in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Applicants must also have at least one year of highly relevant, post-qualification employment, at an appropriate skill level completed in the last five years.

If the qualification(s) are not at the required educational level, and not in a highly relevant field of study, or if the employment has been completed prior to the qualification, then the applicant will be assessed below the required skill level.

*This includes qualifications assessed at AQF Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level.

A positive assessment of both qualifications and employment is required for a positive Skills Assessment Outcome.

Qualification

AQF Bachelor degree or higher*

Highly relevant major fields of study include:

- Agricultural Science
- Animal Science & Management
- Crop Science
- Viticulture
- Plant and Animal Production
- Precision Agriculture

Agricultural Science is the study of the science and management of plant and animal farming and the sustainable production of food and fibre.

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Qualification cont.

A major in Agribusiness will be considered highly relevant if focused on agricultural science (not business, finance or economics).

Qualifications in certain science fields* may be accepted on a case by case basis if the program consists of sufficient subjects in Agricultural systems, Agronomy, Animal science, Agricultural chemistry, Grazing systems, Plant cultivation, Primary production and other relevant subjects in the specialised field.

*Those fields of study which may be considered include:

- Horticulture
- Biotechnology
- Veterinary Science
- Agricultural Engineering
- Botany / Zoology
- Environmental Science
- Irrigation / Soil Science
- Forestry

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Employment

In Australia, there are currently no legal requirements for licensing or registration for the occupation of Agricultural Scientist.

Tasks include:

- collecting and analysing data and samples of produce, feed, soil and other factors affecting production
- studying the environmental factors affecting commercial crop production, pasture growth and animal breeding
- studying the effects of cultivation techniques, soils, insects and plant diseases on animal and crop production
- developing procedures and techniques for solving agricultural problems and improving the efficiency of production

Specialisations

Agricultural Scientists may have applied employment/research in:

- biotechnology for Agriculture
- agronomy
- livestock health / nutrition and/or breeding
- flora (agricultural) health / nutrition and/or breeding
- soil science (specific to agricultural land)
- production process (not including food technology)
- fertilisers and pesticides
- precision agriculture, big data science and internet of things (related to agriculture)

Employment as an Agricultural Economist or as a Food Technologist / Scientist researching in post-production of primary products cannot be considered under this occupation. These specialisations are classified elsewhere in ANZSCO.