

ENGINEERING A NEW FUTURE

There are some exciting opportunities for skilled and experienced engineers in Australia, writes **Katherine Van Greuning**

Experienced engineers currently have some great opportunities to contribute their skills and make a real difference to the development and infrastructure of Australia's future as well as enhancing their own career profile.

Several engineering occupations, including chemical, material, civil, structural, electrical and industrial amongst others are listed on the current Skilled Occupation List (SOL) and the Skilled Occupations List (CSOL).

The SOL is relevant to those applying for a Points Tested visa - Skilled Independent visa or Family Sponsored Visa (where a family member lives in a designated area referred to as Regional and low population-growth metropolitan areas).

The CSOL is relevant for applicants who are nominated by a state or territory government agency under a State Migration Plan; applicants who have been nominated by an Australian employer for either subclass 190 permanent visa (for those who need an additional five points on the points test to qualify for the general skilled visa category) or subclass 489 provisional visa (for those who need an additional 10 points to qualify for the general skilled visa category); or those applying for a Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) or Training and Research visa (subclass 402).

>>

Speaking to a registered migration agent will enable you to decide the best visa pathway for you. They will almost certainly suggest ways you can achieve a higher points total and suggest what you can do to improve your chances of success, if for some reason you do not yet qualify at this stage, under the points test.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

According to Australian Government job outlook data, employment for civil engineering professionals to November 2018 is expected to grow moderately. Employment in this very large occupation (47,800 in November 2013) rose very strongly in the past five years. Civil engineers have a high proportion of full-time jobs (91.6 per cent), and their earnings are high.

Employment for engineering managers to November 2018 is also expected to grow very strongly. Employment in this medium sized occupation (21,700 in November 2013) has risen very strongly in the past five years.

Employment for industrial, mechanical and production engineers to November 2018 is expected to remain steady. Employment in this large occupation (35,000 in November 2013) has risen moderately in the past five years.

Engineering opportunities are not just for the men, the female share of the civil engineering workforce is 12.4 per cent.

ENGINEERING HOTSPOTS

Diane Boyce, senior manager at Hays who recruits UK engineers to work in Australia, points to several engineering hotspots, which prospective migrants

should take into consideration: “We are seeing a rise in demand for engineers on the Eastern Seaboard and in Perth CBD for professionals with experience in large-scale commercial construction and high rise residential projects.

“We are also anticipating an increased demand for candidates in New South Wales with large infrastructure experience across roads, rail and tunnelling with the commencement of projects such as the North West Rail Link, West Connex and North Connex in Sydney.” For further information about engineering opportunities in Australia contact Diane Boyce on +44 (0)203 465 0158.

GETTING ASSESSED

The first stage in the process of obtaining a skilled independent visa or State Government or Territory nominated or family sponsored visa is to have your skills assessed by the approved assessing body.

The organisation approved by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) for assessing the skills of overseas engineers is Engineers Australia (www.engineersaustralia.com) for the following engineering groups:

- Professional engineers: who must possess a degree level qualification in engineering;
- Engineering technologists: who must possess a diploma or degree level qualification in engineering technology;
- Engineering associates: who must possess a diploma level qualification in engineering;
- Engineering managers: professional engineers, with experience in management.

Engineers will help the Gold Coast prepare for the 2018 Commonwealth Games



There are three main assessment pathways for UK engineers to consider: The Washington Accord, The Sydney Accord and RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning).

The Washington Accord applies to professional engineers who hold an accredited overseas engineering bachelor degree. The Sydney Accord applies to engineering technologists who hold an accredited bachelor or diploma level qualification.

The RPL pathway requires an engineering qualification at the required level, and is an option for engineers with non recognised qualifications, but who do have years of relevant experience.

For RPL, you will need to write at least three career episodes highlighting a problem you have worked through and resolved, demonstrating how you utilised your skills in engineering to achieve this.

For engineers who have completed a bachelor degree, masters or PhD at a recognised English-speaking educational institution, the language requirement of IELTS Level 6 in each area of reading, writing, listening and speaking is waived. All other engineers will need to prove their IELTS results.

You may find that your engineering degree did not include some subject modules at the required level, found in the equivalent Australian Engineering Degree and in this case the assessing body, Engineers Australia, may assess your skills as being equivalent to an Engineering Technologist. This occupation is also listed on the current SOL and CSOL and

will then be your nominated occupation when you submit your Expression of Interest (EOI) and if you are then invited to apply for a skilled visa or are nominated by a state, territory or employer.

The current processing time for an application submitted with all supporting documents is eight weeks for accredited qualifications; and 13 weeks for non accredited (CDR) qualifications, both with an assessment fee of A\$620 (£346).

Approach recruitment companies in the UK who have Australian operations

HOW TO FIND WORK

With a permanent visa granted you are ready to be considered in the local job market and should be taken seriously by

recruiters and potential employers.

It's a good idea to approach major recruitment companies in the UK who have Australian operations and specialise in your chosen engineering field, as is enlisting with the main Australian recruitment website, namely seek.com.au or mycareer.com.au to connect with employers or recruiters in the state you are planning to move to.

Ensure you have updated references and your CV to take with you as the references you used at the outset of your migration process may be 12 months or more out of date by the time you arrive ready to work.

The majority of ads will state that you need work rights to apply, so those without a visa may feel like they have hit a stumbling block at the first hurdle, but a registered migration agent will be able to assess your likely chances of success of applying for a relevant visa.

This may range from a temporary employer sponsorship visa in a city or regional area to permanent residency by either employer sponsored visa or applying as an individual applicant through SkillSelect (www.skillselect.gov.au), the official channel for applying for skilled visas. Salaries will vary from

state to state, if regional or metropolitan, and depending on your level of experience - see the boxout below for some examples. To find out more about

what you can expect to earn and future employment trends visit www.hays.com.au/salary-guide.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

The Gold Coast will be hosting the Commonwealth Games 2018, between 4 to 15 April 2018, and one of the key technical aspects of Gold Coast City's successful bid was the fact that the city already has 80 per cent of the planned venues in place.

The Gold Coast City Council intend to build a light rail system to enable the city's train line to connect with a 'park and ride' facility and rail station at Parkwood before the Games begin to enable rail and freeway access from Brisbane.

The light rail system will also connect these venues with the major accommodation centres of Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach and the proposed Athletes Village at Parklands.

Future projects include the construction of the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital project. For the design phase it is anticipated that up to 150 design consultants and project management staff will be required.

During construction, on site trades, labour and supervision is expected to peak between 1,800-2,000 workers in the second half of 2015.

These are just some of the fantastic opportunities Down Under for engineers, and while you may find that you encounter some cultural and work differences along the way, a positive team-orientated attitude will ensure that your skills will always be in demand. 🇺🇸



Civil engineers are in demand for construction projects

SALARY RANGES FOR ENGINEERS

Here are some examples of typical salaries in Australia. . .

CIVIL & STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Brisbane & Gold Coast, Queensland: A\$60,000-A\$130,000 (£33,509-£72,609)
Regional Queensland: A\$80,000-A\$130,000 (£44,682-£72,609)

CIVIL & STRUCTURAL ENGINEER – ENVIRONMENTAL

Brisbane & Gold Coast, Queensland: A\$50,000-A\$120,000 (£27,927-£67,026)
Regional Queensland: A\$50,000-A\$120,000 (£27,927-£67,026)
Sydney, New South Wales: A\$60,000-A\$140,000 (£33,509-£78,197)
Regional New South Wales: A\$50,000-A\$100,000 (£27,927-£55,854)

INTERMEDIATE SENIOR DESIGN ENGINEER

Sydney, New South Wales: A\$60,000-A\$100,000 (£33,509-£55,854)
Regional New South Wales: A\$60,000-A\$90,000 (£33,509-£50,269)



■ Katherine Van Greuning is an Australian registered Migration Agent and the director of getme2oz.com based in

Canterbury, Kent. To find out more about your specific visa options for Australia, contact Katherine by emailing katherine@getme2oz.com. You can also call 01227 732 434 or visit www.getme2oz.com for further information.