

Navitas Professional Year

Proposed Changes to Skilled Migration Announced by the Minister for Immigration Chris Bowen, November 11th 2010

Frequently Asked Questions

Are the proposed changes to the skilled migration program announced by the Minister for Immigration, Chris Bowen on November 11th confirmed?

At this stage the announced changes to the points system have been proposed only. They will still need to be approved before they are enacted.

Do the changes affect all people in the same way?

No:

- If you held or had applied for your 485 visa prior to February 8th 2010, you will not be affected by these changes provided you apply for GSM before December 31st 2012;
- If you held a student visa on February 8th 2010, you will not be affected by the changes if you apply for GSM before July 1st 2011;
- If you held a student visa on February 8th 2010, the proposed changes will affect you if you apply for GSM after July 1st 2011.

What have Navitas and the Professional Associations done in response to the proposed changes?

Since the Minister's announcement Navitas has contacted both the Professional Associations and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) to provide feedback on the impact of the proposed changes to both present and future Professional Year participants, especially those who may be adversely impacted through no fault of their own.

We will keep you informed as soon as we have any new information regarding the proposed changes.

Does the Professional Year still receive points?

The new total points required for GSM is proposed to be 65 points. The Professional Year will provide 5 points. Most candidates via the 485 visa system will require the additional 5 points from the Professional Year to accumulate sufficient points. However please check your own individual circumstances.

What are the benefits of the Professional Year to me?

In addition to the 5 points it provides, the Professional Year has proven to be successful in assisting people to find employment. This is the reason it was retained by DIAC. For Navitas, 66% of Professional Year graduates are working in their profession within 12 months of graduation.

Navitas also provides a service to all graduates to assist them to apply for work and prepare for interviews. This has helped our students gain work.

Navitas provides NavitasCV as its on-line Resume Portal that you are able to use for life – you can manage your CV, as well as be in contact with potential employers.

How does the Professional Year assist with my English Skills?

For those who will be affected by the proposed change, Navitas will provide the opportunity for its Professional Year students to undertake an IELTS preparation course and IELTS test. There will be no extra charge for this service.

To which visas will the proposed new points test apply?

The proposed new points test would apply to applicants of the following visas:

Subclass 885 Skilled Independent	Subclass 175 Skilled Independent
Subclass 886 Skilled Sponsored	Subclass 176 Skilled Sponsored
Subclass 487 Skilled Regional	Sponsored Subclass 475 Skilled – Regional Sponsored

When would the proposed new points test come into effect?

It is proposed that the new points test would apply to applications for the above visa types made from 1 July 2011.

How is the proposed new points test different from the current points test?

For a breakdown of the proposed new points system click on the link to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship website below. This will provide a complete breakdown of the proposed allocation of points.

See: www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/pdf/points-fact.pdf

How will the proposed changes affect me?

First you will need to work out which of the following categories you fall under:

Group 1: I held a Temporary Skilled Graduate visa (subclass 485) or applied for a 485 visa on or before February 8th 2010, will the new points system apply to me?

No. If you held or applied for a Temporary Skilled Graduate Visa (Subclass 485) on or before February 8th 2010, you will not be affected by the new points system even if it is approved by the parliament. The announcement by the Minister included transitional arrangements for people in this group. This means that the current points system will apply to these applicants, provided they apply for a Skilled Migration visa prior to December 2012, regardless of what date they graduate from the Professional Year program.

Group 2: I did not apply for my Temporary Skilled Graduate visa (subclass 485) until after February 8th 2010 how will the new points system affect me in the event that it is passed by parliament?

This will depend on when you submit your application for Skilled Migration. There will be two distinct categories of students:

Category A: For participants who graduate from the Professional Year Program prior to July 1st 2011 (ie by June 30th 2011), you will be able to apply under the current points system.

Category B: For participants who do not graduate until on or after July 1st 2011 and subsequently cannot submit their application for Skilled Migration until after this date, the proposed new points system would apply.

I am in Category B (my class will not finish the Professional Year program until after July 1st 2011), can my graduation date be moved forward?

No, the Professional Year program is a minimum 44 week course gazetted by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. Professional Year providers are not permitted to bring forward the graduation of participants regardless of circumstance. The 44 week rule applies to all participants.

I fall into Category B (I will not graduate from the Professional Year until after July 1st 2011) and will not have enough points for GSM under the proposed new points system. Is there anything I can do to ensure I meet the proposed pass mark of 65 points?

We encourage PY participants to closely examine the new points test allocation on the Department of Immigration and Citizenship website to check whether you may be eligible for more points as a result of points allocation for:

- Australian work experience,
- Overseas work experience,
- Designated language,
- Partner skills,
- Study in regional areas etc.

Alternatively seek the services of a migration agent should you need advice to clarify whether you are eligible for points under these categories.

I am thinking about applying for a Professional Year and am wondering whether the new points system will apply to me?

This will again depend on whether you held or applied for a Temporary Skilled Visa (subclass 485) on or before February 8th 2010.

If you held or applied for a Temporary Skilled Graduate Visa (Subclass 485) on or before February 8th 2010 you can still take a Professional Year program at any time and still be assessed under the current points system, provided you graduate and submit your GSM application prior to December 2012.

If you did not apply for your 485 visa until after February 8th 2010 you can still apply for a Professional Year and receive the benefits of 5 points towards the proposed pass mark of 65 points for Skilled Migration.

[Where can I obtain further information on the proposed changes to the points system and how they will affect me?](#)

The Department of Immigration of Citizenship has created its own list of Frequently Asked Questions and is operating a dedicated telephone line to respond to any queries on the new points test.

To obtain more detailed information please follow the link below:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/pdf/points-testfaq.pdf>

For further information, please contact your Navitas Professional Year Program state office or:

Navitas Professional Year Program

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