

## AStat Accreditation – Information and Application Form

### Application Process

To apply for the AStat qualification, members must complete the official application form, available at the back of this information sheet.

Completed application forms for Accredited Statistician should be emailed to [eo@statsoc.org.au](mailto:eo@statsoc.org.au) or sent to the address stated on the application form together with the application fee of \$230.00 incl GST (\$209.10 for non-Australian residents).

The fee can be paid by credit card or cheque. Cheques should be made out to the Statistical Society of Australia. A refund of \$50 will be made available if the application is not successful if the full application fee of \$230 has been paid.

### Evidence of Qualifications

The Accredited Statistician (AStat) qualification requires both appropriate educational qualifications and relevant practical experience.

#### Education:

Candidates shall meet at least one of the following educational requirements:

1. A pass degree from an Australian university, or equivalent qualification.
2. A minimum of 25% of a year's study in Statistics in total at second year level, and a minimum of 50% of a year's study in Statistics at third year level.
3. Units involving statistical inference, data analysis, statistical communication skills and the use of a statistical package.
4. Several units covering material from the following list: probability and distribution theory, linear models, design of experiments, sampling methods, multivariate analysis, analysis of categorical data, time series, survival analysis, statistical consulting, statistical graphics, databases.

Applicants should provide evidence of their academic qualifications in statistics subjects. This will generally be in the form of a certified academic transcript, with additional information if necessary (eg details of individual subjects). Alternatively a notarised copy of a degree can be provided. If requested, these documents can be returned to the applicant.

### Relevant Practical Experience

The applicant needs to demonstrate an appropriate level of competence in the application of statistical methods. *Application* refers to the use of statistical methods in connection with analysis and/or modelling and/or reporting of work in which the handling of real-world data is an important part. Theoretical work is not sufficient in itself; the emphasis is on application to data, not on research into the theory of statistics. This should not be taken to exclude work in which the primary focus is theoretical, as long as there is a part that can be regarded as application.

Years of practical experience required:

- a. Where the candidate has a pass degree from an Australian university, or equivalent qualification, a further six (6) years of practical experience is required.
- b. Where the candidate has a pass degree from an Australian university, or equivalent qualification and the applicant has a first or second class Honours degree including an honours year with at least 50% statistical content, a further four (4) years

only of practical experience is required.

Applicants who have undertaken study for higher or other postgraduate degrees in Statistics may count some of their years of study for these degrees, up to a maximum of two-thirds of the study, towards the experience qualification, provided it fits within the practical experience requirements.

Under exceptional circumstances, applicants may be accredited who do not hold a pass degree from an Australian university, or equivalent qualification, but who can demonstrate a breadth of knowledge and understanding of both theoretical and applied Statistics equivalent to at least the education requirement stated above together with a first or second class Honours degree including an honours year with at least 50% statistical content. These candidates need to have at least ten years of practical experience.

For at least three (3) years of the qualification periods mentioned above, applicants must have taken *responsibility* for the statistical content of their work.

The Accreditation Committee will consider any practical experience which the applicant believes to be relevant. In considering the evidence for experience, the Accreditation Committee will take into account the length of experience and the level of expertise involved, and may exercise discretion in considering what constitutes *evidence* of experience and expertise.

Practical experience is not limited to paid employment; it may occur in a range of forms of practical activity.

The following list is indicative of the types of experience which would be considered. It is intended to be indicative rather than exhaustive.

- leading statistical projects requiring a significant amount of statistical analysis or modelling
- undertaking statistical analysis of data and reporting on the results
- having responsibility for the interpretation and presentation of statistical information
- designing statistical databases and reporting systems
- teaching statistical theory and methods, and their applications with orientation to, and emphasis on, usage and practice
- statistical consultancy
- carrying out and implementing research to develop new methods to solve significant applied statistical problems
- taking responsibility for the design and analysis of statistically-based surveys
- managing a statistics section whose work falls in one or more of the above areas
- carrying out work which has been generally recognised as having made a significant contribution to the good practice of statistics.

In addressing these criteria, candidates must provide evidence of professional competence.

Many applicants for Accreditation do themselves a disservice by submitting poor applications. Please give yourself the best chance of a successful application by checking off these points before you submit your application:

You need to demonstrate at least  $n$  years of relevant practical experience where you have essentially taken the lead role in the statistical activity (where  $n$  depends upon your statistical training). This requires you to provide satisfactory evidence.

' $n$  years' means  $n$  years. If you can demonstrate only  $(n - 0.5)$  years, please delay your application.

A key word is 'practical' experience. Submitting a research paper as evidence, or telling us that the candidate has a Ph.D. and/or  $n$  papers, will not usually demonstrate practical experience by itself.

If you submit joint work, you would need to convince the Committee that you took a lead role in the statistical activity. Simply doing a straightforward analysis in R/SAS/SPSS/... under the direction of someone else will not suffice. You need to describe who planned the investigation, what aspects of the work were done by you, to whom you reported, etc.

Submitting a Power Point presentation that you have given does not usually provide sufficient depth of evidence. A five-page report to a client, in which you describe the problem, briefly talk of the analysis you have done, state the assumptions underlying the analysis and how the data met them or had been transformed to do so, summarise the key findings of the analysis and their implications, and suggest further investigation (where appropriate), will always be more convincing than a slide show of 20+ pages.

### **Evidence of Professional Competence**

Candidates are required to nominate two referees who will be contacted by the Accreditation Committee. Both referees should be in a position to comment on the candidate's recent work from first-hand knowledge. At least one referee should be a statistician with seniority, failing that, someone with experience in statistics. A referee who has not worked with the candidate for over five years cannot carry conviction. Similarly, a referee who confirms that the candidate is a good person, but cannot evaluate his or her statistical work knowledgeably, does not help the application. It is highly recommended that candidates should check that their referees are willing to support their application. A negative report from a referee will almost always lead to the application being rejected.

The Committee will not necessarily be limited to obtaining information only from the nominated referees. Further evidence may be required in some cases.

Claims of experience should be supportable by evidence such as publications in refereed journals. Candidates must submit copies of at least two publications, reports or extracts from their work which provide evidence of their professional competence and the diversity of their statistical competence.

### **Annual Fees**

Accredited Statisticians will pay an additional annual fee currently set at \$45 incl GST. This will commence in the financial year after the qualification is approved. It will be due at the same time as the ordinary membership fee.

### **Maintenance of Accredited Qualification**

The Accreditation qualification only remains valid as long as the holder of the qualification remains a full or retired member with Statistical Society of Australia. AStat accreditation remains valid for five years. After this time Accredited Statisticians shall provide to the Accreditation Committee a summary of their activities in those five years, to demonstrate at least continuing contact/involvement with statistics and the practice of statistics appropriate to them, plus the name of one referee to be contacted if the Committee so desires. The Committee will take into account temporary interruptions to employment including those for parental leave. The re-accreditation form is available for download from the SSA website. A

reminder-email to notify the Accredited member that his or her accreditation is due to expire will be sent in the year before the accreditation expires.

## APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION

Name:

*Title*

*Surname:*

*Given name*

Complete  
mailing address,  
incl. post code:

Email:

Telephone:

Member since:

Please summarise your claims for accreditation referring to the accreditation criteria in the information sheet. Include a summary of professional positions held, including honorary positions.

Please provide details of study with a substantial statistical content. Include title of degree, honours level (if applicable), awarding institution, year awarded and brief summary of the statistical content. If known, specify the proportion of credit points for statistical subjects within each year of study. Please provide a certified copy of your academic qualifications.

Please provide details of up to five recent publications, reports or other materials, which best demonstrate your level of competence in the application of statistical methods. Candidates must have taken responsibility for the statistical content of their work for at least three years of the qualification period, so it is important that you summarise your statistical contribution to those publications or reports that are jointly authored. Copies of at least two of these publications or reports should be included with your application.

**PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AS STATISTICIAN**

Please provide details of current and previous positions relevant to this application. Indicate the nature of the work and the level of responsibility taken for the statistical content of your own work and that of those you are supervising (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

Position and Duration	Details of responsibilities and activities

## REFEREES

Please nominate two referees who may be approached by the SSA. Both of these should be able to comment on your professional competence from first hand knowledge of your statistical work. (One of these should be a statistician of seniority in the profession.)

	<b>First Referee</b> (Senior Statistician)	<b>Second Referee</b>
Name:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Complete mailing address, incl. post code:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Email:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Telephone :	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

## DECLARATION

I certify that the information provided in this application form is true and correct. If my application to be an Accredited Statistician is successful I agree by the Code of Conduct of the SSA. It is intended to list Accredited Statisticians on the SSA's web site unless they object. I agree/disagree (delete one) to have my name included on the web site.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

The completed form, plus accompanying material, and an application fee of \$230 incl. GST (\$209.10 for non-Australian residents), should be returned to:

**Chair, Accreditation Committee  
Statistical Society of Australia  
PO Box 213  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616  
or  
[eo@statsoc.org.au](mailto:eo@statsoc.org.au) (electronic submission of applications preferred)**



**Payment Methods - \$230.00, incl. GST (\$209.10 for non-Australian residents)**

**By Direct Deposit**

Account Name: Statistical Society of Australia Inc  
BSB 032 719 Account 864893

When paying by direct deposit please send remittance advice to [eo@statsoc.org.au](mailto:eo@statsoc.org.au).

**Cheque**

Cheques and money orders should be made payable to the *Statistical Society of Australia Inc.*, stamped "*Not negotiable*". (ABN 82 853 491 081) and mailed to

Chair, Accreditation Committee  
Statistical Society of Australia  
PO Box 213  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

**Credit Card**

Amount: \$230.00 (\$209.10 for non-Australian residents)

Card number \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ CVV\_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders signature \_\_\_\_\_

## **Application for Accredited Statistician**

### **General**

- ◀ I have taken note of all the points in the Handy Hints.
- ◀ I realise that, to be accredited, I must have practical statistical experience at an autonomous level. Theoretical research does not, of itself, qualify me for accreditation. Nor does work where my activities are done under the close statistical direction of another person.
- ◀ I realise I may not apply for accreditation while I am still a full time student.

### **Claim for Accreditation**

- ◀ I have read the accreditation criteria in the information sheet.
- ◀ I have addressed all the criteria in my application.

### **Statistical training**

- ◀ I have provided details of my statistical training, including details of the content of each statistical subject that I have done.
- ◀ I have provided a certified copy of my academic qualifications.
- ◀ This training meets the requirements for a person to become a Graduate Statistician

### **Supporting evidence**

- ◀ I have provided details of 'up to five' (at least three) reports or papers where my practical statistical work is demonstrated. (Power Point presentations don't provide evidence of any depth.)
- ◀ I have provided copies of at least two of these papers or reports. If these papers are confidential, I have followed the procedures laid out in the information sheet for these papers to be viewed 'in confidence' by two members of the Committee.
- ◀ Where these papers or reports are jointly authored, I have described my statistical contribution in each one.

### **Practical experience**

- ◀ I have achieved the minimum specified period of statistical practice at a level where I take responsibility for my work. (This is normally at least six years, but this period may vary.)
- ◀ I have clearly laid out the details of my periods of employment in various positions, and the work which I performed in each position. The periods of employment include actual dates.

### **Referees**

- ◀ I have nominated, and provided full contact details of, two referees. Contact details include a postal address with the post code, a current email address and the title (Mr or Mrs, Dr, Professor, etc) of the referee.
- ◀ Both nominees have agreed to act as referees.
- ◀ At least one referee is familiar with my current statistical work, and both are familiar with my work in the past three years.
- ◀ At least one referee is a statistician of seniority in the profession.