

5. Optional Accreditation

Two types of professional accreditation are available to members who qualify:

- Graduate Statistician (GStat)
- Accredited Statistician (AStat).

The qualification of Graduate Statistician indicates that the holder has recently completed a course of study equivalent to a pass degree with a major in Statistics.

The qualification of Accredited Statistician indicates that the holder has a sound knowledge of Statistics at an advanced level, and has applied that knowledge competently and ethically through practice for several years.

Holders of the qualification must agree to follow the Society's Code of Conduct. It is expected that Accredited Statisticians will continue to keep abreast of new developments in Statistics through appropriate professional development activities.

5.1 Eligibility

Who may apply

A financial member of the SSAI may apply to the Council to become a Graduate Statistician or an Accredited Statistician. These qualifications are available as options to members, in addition to membership of SSAI.

Post-nominal letters

A financial member with the qualification of Accredited Statistician may use the abbreviation AStat after his or her name (for example: Karl Pearson, AStat). A financial member with the qualification of Graduate Statistician may use the abbreviation GStat.

Organisational structures

5.2 Accreditation Committee

There shall be an Accreditation Committee to make recommendations to Council about applications for accreditation, and about the accreditation processes. The Committee is responsible to Council, reporting to Council at least once a year.

5.2.1 Terms of Reference

- (i) to assess applications for the qualifications of Graduate Statistician and Accredited Statistician according to the requirements for qualification as stated below;
- (ii) to make recommendations to Council on applications for accreditation;
- (iii) to assess applications from Universities for accreditation of specified degree programs according to the requirements for qualification as stated below;
- (iv) to make recommendations to Council on such applications for accreditation;

- (v) to make recommendations to Council about the accreditation process, and to produce guidelines on the process for Council's consideration or as requested by Council;
- (vi) to provide feedback to universities and other interested bodies as requested by Council;
- (vii) to provide a proforma for applications.

5.2.2 Composition of the Committee

- (i) After consulting with the Chair of the Accreditation Committee the Central Council will determine the size of the Committee for the following year at the Annual General Meeting of the Council. The members are to be appointed by Council from applications obtained by advertisement in the Newsletter or from members proposed by the Nominating Committee of Council. The Committee should be as representative as possible of the Branches and interests of the Society, the statistical profession and of areas of statistical expertise. Appointments will normally hold the qualification of Accredited Statistician and must be members of SSAI.
- (ii) Committee members normally will serve for three years. The Chair will normally have served for at least one year, not necessarily immediately before appointment to Chair, as a Committee member. The Chair will be elected annually by the Committee with the appointment ratified by Council. Continuous service on the Committee, as member or Chair, will normally not exceed four years.
- (iii) The appointments will normally be made at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Council, with the call for applications being made at least two months before the Council AGM. Appointments to occasional vacancies will be made by Council on recommendations from the Executive after calling for nominations. If an election by Council is necessary for filling an occasional vacancy, it will be conducted by electronic or postal vote.
- (iv) The Committee Chair will be ex-officio a member of Council.
- (v) For a particular application the Committee will have the authority to consult non-committee members if it wishes to augment its knowledge of a particular area of statistical work whilst at all times ensuring appropriate confidentiality is maintained.

Requirements for qualification

5.3 Graduate Statistician

The Graduate Statistician (GStat) qualification requires an educational achievement only.

5.3.1 Education requirement

Holders of the qualification of Graduate Statistician shall meet at least the following educational requirements, provided no more than eight years has elapsed since the award of the degree or equivalent on which the application is based:

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.

5.3.2 Supporting documentation

- a. Applicants who have graduated from a degree program accredited under Regulation 6.2 need provide only their Academic Transcript that provides evidence of the qualification.
- b. Other applicants must provide copies of Academic Transcripts and details of the statistical courses they have studied, years and institutions, including a listing of their second and third year level and Honours Statistics subjects/units, and any Statistics coursework in higher or postgraduate degrees, if such degrees form part of the application. The applicant should supply details of the content of courses in the application. In certain cases, the Accreditation Committee may require further information about course content from the degree-granting institution.

Notes:

- a. Where a substantial part of an honours year consists of a research thesis, the applicant should include a statement from the awarding university of the proportion of the thesis that is statistical. In such circumstances, the Accreditation Committee may require a copy of the thesis to be produced.
- b. Graduate Diplomas in Statistics, depending on their origin, may satisfy the degree requirement under one or other of the above two categories. In deciding whether the course requirements above have been met, the Accreditation Committee shall judge the standard and level.
- c. It is expected that applicants be graduates. The Accreditation Committee shall judge whether this requirement is met in cases where there is no obviously equivalent Australian degree.

5.4 Accredited Statistician

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

5.4.1 Education

1. Holders of the qualification of Accredited Statistician shall meet at least the education requirement for the GStat (see 5.3.1).
2. Under exceptional circumstances, applicants may be accredited who do not satisfy the education requirement above, but who can demonstrate a breadth of knowledge and understanding of both theoretical and applied Statistics equivalent to at least the education requirement for GStat together with a first or second class Honours degree including an honours year with at least 50% statistical content.

5.4.2 Experience

The applicant needs to demonstrate an appropriate level of competence in the application of statistical methods. Here, *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 of 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.

- a. Where the educational requirement is met through 1 of 5.4.1, a further six (6) years of practical experience is required.
- b. Where the educational requirement is met through 1 of 5.4.1 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.
- c. Where the educational requirement is met through 2 of 5.4.1, at least ten (10) years of practical experience is required.
- d. For at least three (3) years of the qualification period, applicants must have taken *responsibility* for the statistical content of their work.
- e. Practical experience is not limited to paid employment; it may occur in a range of forms of practical activity. The Accreditation Committee will consider any practical experience which the applicant believes to be relevant.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.

Examples

The following list gives examples of types of experience which would be considered:

- 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.
- Provision of professional advice and opinions on statistical issues.
- 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 and taking responsibility for statistical quality in a Statistics section whose work falls in one or more of the above areas.

5.4.3 Responsibilities of AStat

An Accredited Statistician must agree to abide by the Society's Code of Conduct, which is given in Regulation 4.

5.4.4 Application Processes

All applications are to be treated in confidence.

Applications shall be made on the appropriate form.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that the requirements are met.

Applicants must provide evidence (such as a transcript or degree certificate) that they meet the *educational* requirement.

Applicants must provide details of up to five publications, reports or the like, demonstrating they meet the *experience* requirements. Copies of two of these should be made available. These materials should be in English.

Where confidentiality of reports may be an issue, the applicant should consult the Executive Officer. See also 5.4.5.

Applicants must provide the details of two referees willing to provide a confidential report. Their reports will be obtained by the Executive Officer of the Society. Both referees should be in a position to comment on the applicant's work from first-hand knowledge and at least one referee should be an Accredited Statistician or hold an equivalent qualification awarded by another professional statistical organization.

Where the applicant is not able to provide a referee who holds AStat or an equivalent qualification, the Accreditation Committee may at its discretion accept reports from another statistician of seniority in the profession. If referees are clients (using the word "clients" in the broadest sense of covering all possible recipients of a statistician's work) or professional colleagues who are not statisticians, they may be asked to describe their level of expertise in Statistics and why they are suitable referees for assessing the applicant's

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

5.4.5 Confidentiality of applicant's evidence

Where confidentiality may be an issue regarding the submission of reports and similar material, the applicant should approach the Executive Officer of the Society for advice. The Accreditation Committee has established procedures for protecting confidentiality of reports should such restrictions inhibit presentation of evidence of practical experience. Applicants are then advised to:

- (i) ensure that they have permission for members of the Committee to review the material,
- (ii) enclose the material in its own sealed envelope before transmission to the SSAI Office, and
- (iii) nominate up to two members of the Committee who should not see the material.

Members of the Accreditation Committee selected to review the material then sign a non-disclosure agreement in relation to the documents they will review. No one else on the Committee will see the material.

5.5 Mutual exclusivity of GStat and AStat

The qualifications of Graduate Statistician and Accredited Statistician may not be held simultaneously.

5.6 Ratification

The Accreditation Committee is responsible to Council. Committee recommendations on applications for accreditation must be ratified by the Executive, on behalf of Council, who will either accept the Committee's recommendations or return them to the Committee for reconsideration. In the latter case, the Executive shall provide reasons for its request for reconsideration. Council shall notify all applicants of the outcome of their application. In the case of unsuccessful applications a copy of the Accreditation Committee's report will be sent to the applicant. In the case of successful applications Council shall also notify the relevant Branch.

5.7 Appeals

An appeal against an unsuccessful application for accreditation may only be made on the basis of procedural error. An applicant has four weeks from the date of receipt of notification of the unsuccessful application to lodge an appeal with the Society Secretary. The appeals will be considered by the Executive of the Society. Their decision will be final.

5.8 Maintenance of Accredited Qualification

Accredited Statisticians shall provide to the Accreditation Committee every five years, including any years of cessation of financial status, or membership

of the Society, or accredited membership, a summary of their activities in that five years to demonstrate at least continuing contact/involvement with Statistics and the practice of Statistics appropriate to them, plus the name of 1 referee to be contacted if desired. The Committee will discount temporary interruptions to employment, and parental leave.

Accredited qualification is suspended if an accredited member ceases to be a financial member of the Society, and is reinstated only on payment of all outstanding dues. The elapsed time of being deemed accredited, in terms of possible re-accreditation, is unchanged.

Accredited qualification is rescinded on cessation of membership of the Society, but restored on resumption of membership of the Society within five years of membership cessation. An accredited member may choose to terminate his/her accreditation qualification. The qualification may be reinstated at the discretion of the Committee and Council, subject to the maintenance requirement above.

5.9 Confidentiality

Applications and maintenance reports may be accessed by the Committee during considerations but are stored confidentially. Part or any of their contents may be released only with the consent of the member concerned. In the case of an appeal, the Executive of the Society may also access the papers relevant to the appeal.

5.10 Fees and Records

A fee shall accompany each application to the Accreditation Committee. A fee shall accompany each application to the Accreditation Committee as set by Central Council. Unsuccessful applicants shall receive a refund of part of this fee. The initial accreditation fee shall be made with the application. A fee shall accompany an appeal against an unsuccessful application. This fee shall be equal to half the amount of the refund. Accredited Statisticians shall pay an additional annual capitation as set by Central Council. This extra annual capitation will apply in the next Branch financial year after the qualification is approved. The extra annual capitation fee for AStat shall be payable with ordinary subscription fees. Central Council shall inform Branches regularly which of their members are accredited. The part-time executive officer will help with all membership and record-keeping aspects, as well as publicity, providing assistance to Branches and accredited members as well as centrally.

5.11 Disciplinary Issues

Loss of accreditation other than by resignation, non-payment of SSAI fees or member's choice, is a disciplinary matter, covered by the current Constitution (as required by the Incorporation Act) in Rules 36 and 37.