A Career as a Meteorologist

General Information Guide

The Bureau is seeking suitably qualified graduates of environmental science, mathematic or physics for our 2009 graduate meteorology training program. A range of exciting careers awaits successful applicants who will join an internationally lauded organisation that enjoys strong community support.

A PROFILE OF THE BUREAU

The Bureau of Meteorology is Australia's national weather, climate and water information service. It provides weather and oceanographic forecasts and warnings to the public, the aviation industry, defence services, primary industry and many other specialist user groups. It also gathers and disseminates climatic data, provides consultative services and undertakes innovative applied meteorological research.

The Bureau has approximately 1450 staff stationed throughout Australia and its Territories (including Antarctica). Staff are located at Head Office in Melbourne, at seven Regional Forecasting Centres in capital cities, at 14 Weather Service Offices at provincial airports and RAAF bases, and at 35 Observing Offices at other centres.

THE WORK OF THE METEOROLOGIST

Meteorologists study the physics and dynamics of the atmosphere to obtain a better understanding of its behaviour and effects on the Earth's surface, oceans and life in general. This includes the analysis and prognosis of the state of the atmosphere and oceans, and the provision of forecasts, warnings, information and advice on weather and climate to the general public and special interest users.

There are approximately 500 meteorologists in the Bureau of Meteorology. A professional meteorologist recruited as a Graduate APS will usually start out as a weather forecaster and work with other forecasters based in either the Bureau's National Meteorological and Oceanographic Centre in Melbourne, or in Bureau Regional Offices in the state capital cities, with smaller offices at other locations including Cairns and Canberra. Meteorologists working as forecasters, and in some other operational areas, work on a 7-day, 24-hour shift roster.

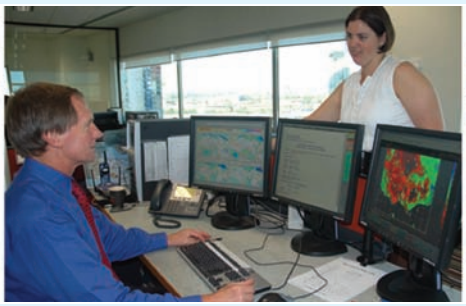
Weather Forecaster

A weather forecaster assesses the state of the atmosphere using a wide variety of tools and techniques from hand drawn charts to high resolution computer models, and prepares daily weather forecasts and warnings for a wide variety of users.

Meteorologists need good interpersonal skills to work in a team environment. Under the guidance of a shift supervisor, the overall forecast for the day is discussed and decided upon to ensure consistency for all staff, each of whom have their own specific roles and areas of responsibility.

Meteorologists must also be able to communicate clearly and expressively to the media since they are one of the main ways the Bureau distributes the information it produces. Senior meteorologists have become media personalities in some parts of the country.

Meteorologists use a variety of data to diagnose the present state of the weather in preparation for producing forecasts for aviation.

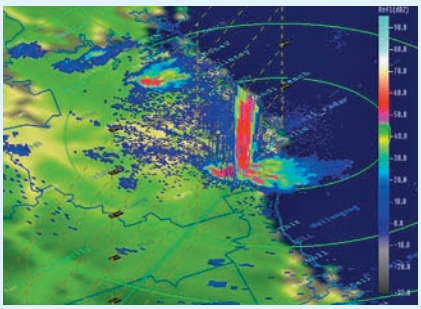


Meteorologists discuss the factors affecting the forecast for the day.

A forecaster briefs the media.

Severe Weather Warning Services

Experienced meteorologists can specialise in Severe Weather forecasting, issuing warnings for the weather events that pose the most severe threat to life and property, bush fires and severe thunderstorms. Thunderstorm forecasters make use of computer models, a detailed analysis of the observations and extensive use of radar imagery and storm tracking algorithms.

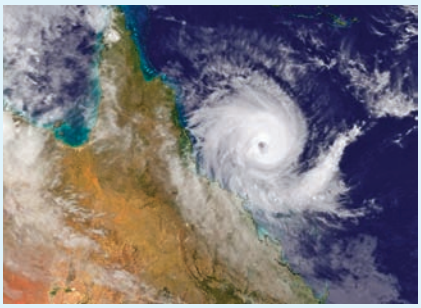


A radar image of a severe thunderstorm in the Sydney basin.

Tropical Specialist

Weather forecasting in the tropics presents challenges and opportunities not found elsewhere. Darwin is a centre of excellence in tropical meteorology. Darwin has broad scale tropical analysis and climate monitoring functions for the Australian, Asian and western Pacific regions and provides a specialised function for the aviation industry in tracking and forecasting the movement of ash from volcanic eruptions in south-east Asia and western Pacific. The Bureau of Meteorology is particularly keen to recruit graduates interested in specialising in tropical meteorology in Darwin.

The forecasting offices in Darwin, Perth and Brisbane include Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres. The task of forecasting the formation, movement and intensity of tropical cyclones is a very specialised role undertaken by experienced weather forecasters.



TC Larry threatens the QLD coast. Japan Meteorological Agency and Bureau of Meteorology

Defence

The Bureau of Meteorology works closely with the Armed Forces to provide meteorological information for their operations. Meteorologists may be posted from time to time to an Army or Royal Australian Air Force base to provide weather forecasts for aviation services. The Defence Meteorological Services Unit (DMSU) at Bungendore, near Canberra, provides meteorological support for operations within Australia and overseas.

Meteorological and Oceanographic Analysis

Meteorologists assist in developing, managing and running the systems that provide national analyses and prognoses of weather systems and ocean conditions in the Australian region, including the Bureau's numerical weather prediction systems.

Aviation

Graduate meteorologists are involved in providing forecasts for the aviation industry. Positions are available for more experienced graduates in providing more detailed and specific services at some of the major airports such as Mascot in Sydney.

Climatology

Meteorologists monitor and study Australia's climate and the mechanisms that control its variability. Regular climate monitoring bulletins, climate assessments, seasonal climate outlooks and drought statements for the Australian region are prepared. Climate variability and change detection at the national level contributes to international assessments.

YOUR FIRST and EARLY CAREER YEARS

Successful applicants can expect to undertake a one-week familiarisation in the Regional Office in the state or territory from which they are recruited, before relocating to Melbourne to commence the 10-month training course at the Bureau of Meteorology Training Centre. Familiarisation is planned to commence on 27 January 2009.

The course is equivalent to one academic year and is of a similar standard to the honours year of a Bachelor degree. The course covers synoptic, dynamic and physical meteorology, climatology, oceanography, satellite and radar data interpretation, numerical weather prediction and the use of modern technology in Bureau operations. There is strong emphasis on the practical aspects of meteorology and its application to users' requirements. A nationally accredited Graduate Diploma in Meteorology is awarded on successful completion of the course.

Following successful completion of the training course, Graduates are advanced and are transferred to a Regional Office where they commence working as a weather forecaster.

Salary and Other Payments

Salary on commencement as a Graduate is $44,461 per annum.

After successful completion of the 10-month course, graduates will be advanced to the Bureau classification of BoM Broadband 2 (Professional Officer Class 1), which is referred to as "PO1",

The current salary range for a BoM Broadband 2 (Professional Officer Class 1),is $49,245 to $62,849 per annum.

Employees are, subject to meeting performance requirements, eligible to advance a paypoint within the classification level on an annual basis.

Penalty Payments

Weather Forecasters working shiftwork are paid penalty payments, which can add up to approximately 30% to the base salary figure for an employee working a 24 hour, 7 day roster.

Superannuation

The Bureau will, in addition to salary, contribute to a nominated superannuation fund at the contribution rate, determined by Comsuper, currently 15.4% of the superannuation salary. If employees do not nominate a fund, the Bureau will pay the employer contribution to PSSap, the Bureau's default fund. If employees have previously contributed to a Comsuper fund (ie CSS, PSSdb or PSSap) they may be required to rejoin this fund.

Member contributions are voluntary and employees may salary sacrifice into the fund if they wish. Superannuation contributions are reviewed each year on the employee's birthday and are based on the highest salary and any recognised allowances.

Postings

Once Graduates have successfully completed the course in November 2009, they will be transferred to one of our Regional Offices located in capital cities and some regional centres across Australia. At this present time it is expected the priority locations for postings will be Darwin, Perth, Brisbane, Cairns and Canberra. Additional locations may be become available due to changes in the Bureau's operational requirements and staffing needs whilst graduates are completing their training.

Graduates can expect to be advised of their posting location during September.

Employees will receive financial assistance when relocating to their posting location. This assistance will include the payment of fares for the employee and their dependants, removal of furniture and personal effects and an allowance to cover short-term temporary accommodation.

PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

There are excellent opportunities for promotion to higher classification levels. Promotion to higher levels is based on standard APS selection procedures that assess the relative merit of employees applying for positions when and where they become available. Employees are eligible to apply for promotional opportunities as they arise.

The Bureau also provides opportunities to work in positions at a higher classification level on a temporary basis, which allows early career meteorologists working at the "PO1" level to gain valuable experience.

Beyond operational forecasting, opportunities exist in management, training, and research to name a few.

REGIONAL OFFICE ADDRESSES

For information about the day-to-day operations of the Bureau you can contact your local Regional Office.

Northern Territory
13 Scaturchio Street
Casuarina NT 0811
Tel: (08) 8920 3800

New South Wales
300 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Tel: (02) 9296 1580

Queensland
69 Ann Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
Tel: (07) 3239 8722

Victoria
1010 Latrobe Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel: (03) 9669 4333

Tasmania
111 Macquarie Street
Hobart TAS 7000
Tel: (03) 6221 2021

Western Australia
1100 Hay Street
West Perth WA 6005
Tel: (08) 8366 2634

South Australia
25 College Road
Kent Town SA 5067
Tel: (08) 9263 2212

The Bureau of Meteorology Training Centre School is located at:
1010 Latrobe Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel: (03) 9669 4333

RECRUITMENT TIMETABLE GRADUATE APS (Meteorologists) 2009

- Closing Date for Applications Thursday 16 October 2008
- Telephone interviews during late October and early November 2008
- Face to face interviews during November 2008
- Notification of selection - December 2008
- Pre-engagement health, citizenship, qualification & character checks – Dec / Jan
- Pre-course familiarisation in local office from 27 January 2009
- Training in Melbourne from Monday, 2 February 2009

CONTACTS

If you would like to know more about the Bureau of Meteorology visit **http://www.bom.gov.au/**

If you have any queries specific to the Bureau's meteorology graduate program and working as a meteorologist please contact Cameron Henderson from the Bureau of Meteorology Training Centre, Tel: (03) 9669 4855

For questions on the application and selection process please contact Maree Norden from the Recruitment Unit, Tel: (03) 9669 4333/4379.

All applicants should include a completed Bureau of Meteorology Application Cover Form, Résumé or CV and a Statement addressing the Selection Criteria and should be emailed to: graduatemets@bom.gov.au

Position information and an application pack can be obtained from our website **http://www.bom.gov.au/careers/** or by emailing **graduatemets@bom.gov.au**