



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

POLICY AND GUIDELINES: REGISTRATION

MAY 2021

Policy Title	
Reference Number	2021May-V3-MSC Registration
Scope	This policy applies to all practitioners applying for registration with the Medical Sciences Council

Associated Policy Documents
English Language Proficiency
Qualification Assessments for Overseas-Trained Practitioners Policy
Registration and Recertification Operational Manual
Supervision for Anaesthetic Technicians
Supervision and Direction for Medical Laboratory Science Practitioners

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Policy Overview

The Medical Sciences Council (the Council) is responsible under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) for the registration and recertification of medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technology practitioners.

This policy document sets out the requirements for registration in any one of the seven scopes of practice the Council has defined for the professions of medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technology in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Legislative Context

Sections 15-25 of the Act set out the legislative requirements for registration of health practitioners.

In accordance with section 7 of the Act, without registration a person may not use any of the names, titles, and/or abbreviations used for the six medical laboratory science and one anaesthetic technology scopes of practice or do anything to suggest that they are qualified to be registered or able to practise in any of those scopes of practice.

Policy Statement

The Council will only register persons who meet the qualifications, clinical experience, and fitness for registration requirements as stated in the Act and this policy.

A person can be registered in more than one of the scopes of practice defined for the practice of medical laboratory science – e.g. medical laboratory technician and medical laboratory scientist. However, they can hold a current practising certificate in only of the scopes in which they are registered.

Scopes of Practice

The Council has specified six scopes of practice for medical laboratory science under section 11 of the Act:

- Medical Laboratory Scientist (full registration)
- Medical Laboratory Scientist (provisional registration)
- Medical Laboratory Technician (full registration)
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technician (full registration)
- Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technician (provisional registration)

The Council has specified one scope of practice for anaesthetic technology under section 11 of the Act:

- Anaesthetic Technician

Qualifications for Registration

Under section 12 of the Act the Council has prescribed a number of qualifications for the purpose of registration in one of the medical laboratory science scopes of practice, or the anaesthetic technician scope of practice.

If a practitioner does not hold one of the prescribed qualifications, under section 15 of the Act, the Council may treat an overseas qualification as a prescribed qualification if the qualification has been assessed as being equivalent to, or as satisfactory as, a prescribed qualification.

Prescribed New Zealand Qualifications

The Council has prescribed a number of New Zealand qualifications. The providers of each of those qualifications are subject to an ongoing accreditation and monitoring process to ensure the programme of study continues to be fit for the purpose of registration as a health practitioner under the Act. Graduating students must meet the entry-level competencies required of registered medical laboratory science or anaesthetic technology practitioners.

Qualification Title	Educational Institution	Scope of Practice Registration
Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science	Auckland University of Technology	Medical Laboratory Scientist
Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science	University of Otago	Medical Laboratory Scientist
Graduate Diploma in Science (medical laboratory science)	Auckland University of Technology	Medical Laboratory Scientist
Qualified Medical Laboratory Technician Certificate	New Zealand Institute of Medical Laboratory Science	Medical Laboratory Technician
New Zealand Diploma in Applied Science (Level 5) (PAT pathway)	Ara Institute of Canterbury	Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technician
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Qualified Phlebotomist Certificate - Qualified Donor Technician Certificate - Qualified Specimen Services Technician Certificate 	New Zealand Institute of Medical Laboratory Science	Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technician
Diploma in Applied Science (anaesthetic technology)	Auckland University of Technology	Anaesthetic Technician
Graduate Certificate in Science (anaesthetic technology)	Auckland University of Technology	Anaesthetic Technician

Medical Laboratory Scientist: Graduate Diploma Pathway to Registration

Registered medical laboratory technicians who hold a bachelor's degree (as a minimum) can apply to the Auckland University of Technology to complete a Graduate Diploma in Science (medical laboratory science).

Practitioners applying to register as a scientist through this pathway must provide the following evidence:

- They have held registration as a medical laboratory technician or a medical laboratory pre-analytical technician for a minimum of 2-years immediately preceding their application; and
- Completion of the Graduate Diploma in Science (medical laboratory science)

Initial registration will be as a medical laboratory scientist (provisional) for a period of up to 12-months.

Anaesthetic Technician: Graduate Certificate in Science (Anaesthetic Technology)

The Graduate Certificate in Science (anaesthetic technology) is available for New Zealand registered nurses working towards registration as an anaesthetic technician.

New Zealand registered nurses with a degree qualification and the graduate certificate in anaesthetic technology must provide evidence of between 12 to 18 months fulltime employment as a trainee anaesthetic technician.

New Zealand registered nurses with a diploma qualification and the graduate certificate in anaesthetic technology must provide evidence of 2-years fulltime employment as a trainee anaesthetic technician.

Overseas Qualifications

All qualifications from overseas trained practitioners are subject to an assessment to determine if they meet the *equivalency* or *as satisfactory as* requirements of the Act.

Assessments are conducted by the Medical Sciences Secretariat (MSS) staff team under the directorship of the Registrar and in consultation with the Council's Registration and Recertification Committee.

Assessments are based on a set of six criteria that are applied to all overseas qualifications. Details of the assessment criteria and subsequent registration pathways are set out in the Council's *Qualification Assessments for Overseas-Trained Practitioners* policy.

Assessments are recorded on a standard report document which must be dated and signed by the staff member concerned.

Registration Examination

In the event of a qualification being assessed as not equivalent/not as satisfactory as a prescribed qualification, the applicant may be offered an opportunity to sit a Council-approved examination. A successful pass in the examination is recognised as a prescribed qualification under section 12(c) of the Act.

As at December 2018 the Council offers a Work-Based Assessment (WBA) examination for anaesthetic technicians, however there is no examination available for medical laboratory science practitioners.

The Council is developing an online examination which will be used for registration purposes and it is expected this will be available from late 2021/early 2022.

Clinical Experience

Registration applicants whose qualifications have been assessed as not equivalent/not as satisfactory as the relevant New Zealand qualification prescribed by the Council, will also need to provide evidence that they have sufficient clinical experience (in terms of time, breadth, and depth) in the relevant scope of practice.

Clinical experience is articulated as a component of the qualification requirements for registration in accordance with sections 12 and 15 of the Act.

As a minimum, overseas trained applicants with a non-equivalent qualification will need to demonstrate they have 2-years FTE (3600 hours) clinical experience in the relevant scope of practice within the preceding 5-years.

Fitness for Registration

Under section 16 of the Act, registration applicants must be able to satisfy the Council they are fit to be registered as a health practitioner to practise in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Fitness for registration includes consideration of:

- Evidence of their ability to effectively communicate in and comprehend English so as to protect the health and safety of the public.
- Any criminal conviction that carries a term of imprisonment for 3-months or longer, with the Council needing to be satisfied it does not reflect adversely on their fitness to practise as a medical laboratory science or anaesthetic technology practitioner.
- Any previous and/or current professional disciplinary proceedings and/or investigations, with the Council needing to be satisfied that the investigation and/or proceeding does not reflect adversely on their fitness to practise as a medical laboratory science or anaesthetic technology practitioner.
- If the applicant is subject to an order of a professional disciplinary tribunal, either in New Zealand or overseas, the Council will need to be satisfied that the order does not reflect adversely on their fitness to practise as a medical laboratory science or anaesthetic technology practitioner.

Registration applicants who provide evidence that they may not meet any of the above fitness to practice considerations, are to be referred to the Council's Registration and Recertification Committee.

Application Process

All registration applications are made electronically through the Council's website. The website provides a two-tier registration application process:

- A pre-registration process that takes an applicant through the minimum requirements for registration, including details on the evidential documentation they will need to provide in support of their application.
- The registration process itself, including completion of an application form, uploading of supporting documents, and stating a number of statutory declarations.

Registration Fee

All registration applications must include a payment of the relevant fee in order for them to proceed through to being processed for consideration.

Fees are set out in the Council's current Gazette Notice which is located in the Information Records Library (SharePoint).