



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

Policy

Anaesthetic Technician Qualification Assessments Policy

Effective 01 April 2025

Policy Title	AT Qualification Assessments Policy
Reference Number	20250326-MSC-AT-Qualification Assessments
Scope	This policy applies to practitioners applying for registration with the Medical Sciences Council in the anaesthetic technician scope of practice

Associated Policy Documents	
Anaesthetic Technician Scope of Practice	Scope of Practice and Prescribed Qualifications for the Practice of Anaesthetic Technology 2025
Anaesthetic Technician Registration Policy	AT Registration Policy 2025
English Language Proficiency	English Language Proficiency Policy 2021
New Graduate Recertification (Supervision)	AT New Graduate Recertification (Supervision) Policy 2025
Supervision as a Condition for Anaesthetic Technicians	Supervision as a Condition for Anaesthetic Technicians Policy 2025

Revision Schedule			
Version Number	Version Date	Approved By	Next Review
One	October 2018	Medical Sciences Council	2020
Two	August 2019	Medical Sciences Council	2021
Three	December 2020	Medical Sciences Council	2022
Four	October 2022	Medical Sciences Council	2024
Five	May 2024	Medical Sciences Council	2026
Six	March 2025	Medical Sciences Council	2028

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Policy overview

1. The Medical Sciences Council (the Council) is responsible under the [Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003](#) (the Act) for the registration of anaesthetic technicians.
2. Eligibility for registration requires the practitioner to satisfy the Council that they have a prescribed qualification for the relevant scope of practice; they are fit to practise; and they are competent to practise.
3. All applications for registration with a non-accredited qualification are subject to a formal assessment against a set of standard criteria that is applied to each assessment.
4. This policy sets out the qualification requirements for registration in the scope of practice the Council has defined for the practice of anaesthetic technology in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Legislative context

5. Sections 15 – 25 of the HPCA Act set out the requirements for registration of health practitioners.
6. 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 anaesthetic technology scope of practice; or do anything to suggest they are qualified to be registered or able to practise in that scope of practice.
7. The Council will only register persons who meet the qualifications, competence, and fitness for registration requirements as stated in the Act and this policy.

Scope of practice

8. The Anaesthetic Technician scope of practice is described in the [Gazette notice](#).

Qualifications

9. Under section 12 of the Act the Council may accredit qualifications for the purpose of registration in the anaesthetic technician scope of practice.

Prescribed New Zealand qualifications

10. The Council has prescribed the following New Zealand qualification. The providers of the prescribed 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 anaesthetic technicians.

Qualification Title	Education Institution	Scope of Practice Registration
Bachelor of Health Science Perioperative Practice	Auckland University of Technology	Anaesthetic Technician

Non-equivalent and international qualifications

11. Under section 12 of the Act a qualification from a non-accredited New Zealand educational institution may be approved by the Council for the purpose of registration. Under section 15 of the Act, the Council may treat a non-accredited qualification as a prescribed qualification if the qualification has been assessed as being equivalent to, or as satisfactory as, a prescribed New Zealand qualification.
12. All non-accredited and international qualifications are subject to an assessment to determine if they meet the equivalency or as satisfactory as provisions within the Act.
13. Assessments are conducted in the first instance by a Regulation Advisor at the Medical Sciences Secretariat (MSS). The Registrar is responsible for accepting and registering successful applications from internationally qualified applicants.
14. Regulation advisors work under a delegation framework and must adhere to the requirements within it. Advisors can seek the advice of:
- A professional advisor (a health professional in the same profession that the applicant is seeking registration)
 - The Deputy Registrar or Registrar.
15. A set of criteria are applied to all qualifications requiring assessment. Assessments are recorded on a standard report template. These must be signed and dated by the staff member concerned.

Qualification assessments

16. This section sets out the criteria and assessment process for determining the status of a non-accredited New Zealand qualification or an international qualification in terms of its equivalency for the purpose of registration.

17. For more information about the complete registration pathway, please refer to the Anaesthetic Technician [Registration Policy](#).

Qualification assessments criteria

18. Applicants who have their qualification/s assessed must align with the following criteria:
- Applicant has completed the requirements of the qualification
 - Qualification leads to registration or practising certificate and/or allows the practitioner to practise in the profession for which they are seeking registration
 - Education provider is subject to and meets external quality assurance
 - Anaesthetic Technology: focus of the programme of study is in the practice of anaesthetic technology and the perioperative practice environment
 - Applicant provides evidence of relevant clinical practice in addition to academic learning
 - Education level of qualification.

Outcomes

Definitions

Qualification status	Category	Outcome
Equivalent	The applicant's qualification meets the Council's requirements for registration	Qualification is assessed as equivalent, registration granted if other registration requirements are met
Relevant	The practitioner's qualification is relevant but not equivalent to the Council's requirements, and the applicant has relevant experience	Applicant is offered the Council-approved examination, registration granted if exam passed, and other registration requirements are met
Not equivalent or relevant	The practitioner's qualification and experience are not equivalent to the Council's requirements	Proposal to decline application

Council-approved examination

19. In the event of a qualification being assessed as relevant but not equivalent to a prescribed qualification and the applicant has relevant experience the applicant may be offered an opportunity to sit a Council-approved examination.
20. A successful pass of the examination in this circumstance is recognised as a prescribed qualification for the purpose of registration. The applicant being able to demonstrate that they have the required knowledge for the scope of practice in accordance with section 12(c) of the Act.