A core responsibility of the Board under the Act is to ensure all practitioners applying to be registered as Anaesthetic Technicians are competent and fit to practise in that scope of practice.

Work Based Assessments (WBA) is one mechanism used by the Council to assess a practitioner’s competence to practise as an Anaesthetic Technician.
The Medical Sciences Council (the Council) is one of sixteen New Zealand health regulatory authorities appointed by the Minister of Health under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act).

The Council is somewhat unique in that it is the first regulatory authority operating under the Act to accept the responsibility for the statutory regulation of clinically disparate health professions:

- Medical Laboratory Science;
- Anaesthetic Technology

The primary responsibility of the Council is to protect the health and safety of the New Zealand public by ensuring practitioners registered in the professions of medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technology are competent and fit to practise.

**Vision**

To provide Medical Science and Anaesthetic Technology Practitioners with a framework to deliver best practice health care services for the New Zealand public.

**Fee**

To sit a Work-Based Assessment for the purpose of registration and/or to be issued with an APC is $3,700.00.

**About the MS Council**

**Working Under Supervision**

Under Section 22 (3) of the Act the Council can place a condition on a practitioner’s scope of practice to ensure the competent practise of the applicant to protect the safety and well-being of the New Zealand public. This can include:

- A condition that the applicant practise subject to the supervision of one or more nominated health practitioners or health practitioners of a stated class (Section 22 [3] [a])

Prior to undertaking a WBA, practitioners will be required to work under the direct supervision of a nominated Anaesthetic Technician who holds a current practising certificate. The period of supervision will be for a specified period of time at the end of which it is expected the practitioner will have undergone a WBA.

**Work-Based Assessment Assessors**

Each WBA is conducted by two members of the Council’s Anaesthetists Advisory Committee. One assessor will be an Anaesthetist and the other an Anaesthetic Technician.

WBA Assessors are required to meet the following criteria:

- Registered and hold a current practising certificate in their registered scopes of practice.
- Have a minimum of five-years post-qualification experience in their registered scopes of practice.
- The Anaesthetic Technician assessor will hold a senior position within the profession (such as a Charge or Educator position).
- The Anaesthetist assessors will have experience in working with Anaesthetic Technicians.
- Have demonstrated credibility within the anaesthesia and anaesthetic technology professions.
- Have demonstrated ability to undertake an assessor’s role and responsibilities.

**Self-Assessment**

Prior to the WBA the practitioner is to complete a self-assessment against a set of Council-approved criteria, and must be completed at least two weeks prior to the day of the WBA.

**On-Site WBA**

The WBA covers an assessment of the practitioner’s anaesthetic technology clinical and technical skills and knowledge including a machine check assessment.

**WBA Report:**

The WBA assessors complete a written report summarising the findings of their assessment of the practitioner’s skills and knowledge of the competencies required to practise as an Anaesthetic Technician.

**Approval of Registration and/or Issuing an APC:**

Following the outcome of the WBA, the Council is responsible for making the final decision as to whether or not the practitioner will be granted registration and/or issued with an APC.

APCs need to be renewed each year you intend to practise in New Zealand. You will need to use the on-line application found on the website.