

MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL: ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS POLICY

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technology practitioners can comprehend and communicate effectively, by setting out English language requirements for practising in New Zealand.

Scope

All applicants applying for registration with the Medical Sciences Council (the Council).

Policy Statement

Sections 16(a) and (b) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 require the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand to be satisfied that any applicant seeking registration in New Zealand is able to communicate in and comprehend English adequately to protect the health and safety of the public.

Requirements:

Applicants must satisfy the Council they are able to communicate effectively, and their ability to communicate in, and comprehend English (inclusive of speaking, reading, listening and writing) is sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public.

Applications for registration are considered to have met the English language requirement if any one of 1, 2, 3 or 4 has been met:

1. The applicant graduated from a Council accredited programme; *or*
2. The applicant resided in the country where the qualification was taught and that qualification was completed in Australia, Canada, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom, or USA, where English is the sole language of instruction and assessment; *or*
3. The applicant has resided in New Zealand and can satisfy all the following conditions:
 - a. Resided in New Zealand for a continuous period of at least two-years full time equivalency within the five-years immediately prior to application; and
 - b. Provide two referees who can attest to the applicant's English language ability:
 - i. Both referees must have English as their primary language;
 - ii. Both referees must complete a Council English Language Verification form substantiating the applicant's ability to comprehend and communicate effectively in English in a clinical setting;
 - iii. Both referees must be a registered health practitioner;
 - iv. One referee must be a work colleague of the applicant; *or*

4. Applicants who do not meet the requirements of 1, 2 or 3 will be required to complete a Council approved English test to the required level.

Where an applicant sits a Council approved English test:

The requirement is to sit the International English Language Testing (IELTS). Applicants must be able to satisfy the following:

- The IELTS examination requirements were achieved within two-years prior to application for registration; *and*
- obtained in one sitting; *and*
- was the academic band; *and*
- obtained an average score of 7.5 or more; *and*
- obtained a score of at least 7 in each band of the four individual components of listening, reading, writing and speaking.

If the applicant is found to be not communicating effectively in English, (inclusive of speaking, reading, listening and writing) the Council under section 26 may undertake a competency review.