



New Zealand
Medical Radiation
Technologists Board
Te Poari Ringa Hangarua Iraruke

POLICY:
**QUALIFICATION ASSESSMENTS FOR
OVERSEAS-TRAINED PRACTITIONERS**

MAY 2021

Policy Title	Qualification Assessments for Overseas-Trained Practitioners
Reference Number	2021-May-V3-MRT Qualification Assessments
Scope	This policy applies to overseas-trained practitioners applying for registration

Associated Policy Documents
Overseas-Trained Registration Assessment Report

Revision Schedule			
Version Number	Version Date	Approved By	Next Review
One	October 2018	Medical Radiation Technologists Board	2020
Two	August 2019	Medical Radiation Technologists Board	2021
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Policy Overview

To be eligible for registration a practitioner must be able to satisfy the Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board) of their fitness to practise; that they have a prescribed qualification for the relevant scope of practice; and that they are competent to practise (sections 12, 15, and 16 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 [the Act]).

Section 15 of the Act allows the Board to treat any overseas qualification as a prescribed qualification if the Board deems the qualification to be equivalent to, or as satisfactory as, a prescribed qualification.

This document sets out the criteria and assessment process for determining the status of an overseas qualification in terms of its equivalency or satisfactoriness for the purpose of registration.

Assessment of Overseas Qualifications

- All overseas qualifications will be subject to a formal assessment using a set of standard criteria that is applied to each assessment.
- Qualification assessments are conducted by the staff team at Medical Sciences Secretariat (MSS) and recorded on a standard report template: *Overseas-Trained Registration Assessment Report*.

Qualification Assessment and Registration Pathways

- In the event of a qualification being assessed as equivalent to, or as satisfactory as a prescribed qualification, the application for registration may proceed for further consideration of the fitness competence to practise requirements.

If a qualification is deemed to be not equivalent to a prescribed qualification, or there is some doubt as to whether it meets equivalency status, the application is to be forwarded to the Board's Registration and Recertification Committee who will make a decision as to the appropriate registration pathway.

Registration Status for Overseas-Trained Practitioners

Registration is dependent on the applicant meeting three distinct, but interrelated requirements of:

1. Holding a qualification
2. Having appropriate post-qualification clinical experience
3. Meeting fitness to practise (English language proficiency and good standing)

Qualification Equivalency: Assessment Criteria

Overview of Assessment Criteria		
Criterion	Short Title	What the Criterion Requires
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applicant has completed the requirements of the qualification - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applicant has successfully completed all components of the programme of study with the qualification being proposed for registration
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Qualification leads to registration or licensure and/or allows the practitioner to practise in the profession for which they are seeking registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applicant's qualification enables them to apply for registration (or licensure) and/or allows them to practise without condition or restriction as a medical imaging/radiation therapy practitioner in the country where the programme of study was completed
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education provider is subject to and meets external quality assurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education provider that awarded the qualification was externally accredited during the period the applicant undertook their studies. That is, during the relevant period of study the education institution was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Subject to regular review by an external quality assurance agency; and o Registered or accredited by that agency - The external quality assurance body must have publicly available standards that are comparable to the arrangements for quality assurance in tertiary education in New Zealand
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accreditation of programme of study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The programme of study was externally accredited and provided successful graduates with a qualification in medical imaging/radiation therapy in one of the five New Zealand scopes of practice - Accreditation must be based on published and publicly available accreditation standards that are comparable to accreditation for the profession in New Zealand
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education level of qualification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The qualification is equivalent to a level 7 bachelor degree on the NZ Qualifications Framework (NZQF)

Overview of Assessment Criteria

Criterion	Short Title	What the Criterion Requires
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The focus of the programme of study is in at least one of the five medical imaging and radiation therapy scopes of practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The curriculum of the applicant’s programme of study was focused on contemporary practice in at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medical imaging technology ○ Radiation therapy ○ Nuclear medicine technology ○ Sonography ○ MRI technology <p>At least 75% of the content of the programme is specifically related to the particular scope of practice in which the applicant is seeking registration.</p> <p>For a radiation therapy practice programme to meet equivalency status, it must include treatment, planning and CT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The curriculum included core health professional and specific medical imaging/radiation therapy practice knowledge and skills that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ are based on current and best available evidence; and ○ are applied across the human lifespan; and ○ ensure radiation use is minimised, justified, and optimised ○ include professional development, ethics, research and evidence-based practice throughout the course content
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applicant provides evidence of relevant clinical practice in addition to academic learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The programme of study included clinical training to meet the practice requirements outlined in the <i>Competencies for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Practice in New Zealand</i> and in at least one of the five scopes of practice - The clinical training component of the study programme must equate to 120 points with a focus on the scope of practice for which registration is being sought - Clinical training involved either specific simulation exercises or workplace experience that demonstrates clinical competence (as per the New Zealand competencies) <p>The programme includes an assessment of graduates’ clinical competence</p>

Pathways to Registration

Reference	Qualification Equivalency							Qualification Equivalent? Y/N	Fitness to Practise		Post-Qualification Clinical Experience	Registration Pathway
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Curriculum	7 Clinical Competence		English Language	Good Standing		
A	✓	✓	✓	✓	L7	✓	✓	Y	✓	✓		Unconditional registration
B	✓	✓	✓	✓	L7	✓	✓	Y	X	✓	Meets the post-qualification experience requirements	6-months to re-submit evidence of English proficiency. If still not met, application declined
C	✓	✓	✓	✓	L7	✓	✓	Y	✓	X	Meets any of the post-qualification experience scenarios	Decline
D	✓	✓	✓	✓	L7	✓	X	N	✓	✓	2 or more years within the 3-years prior to application	Registration with condition of supervision
											2 or more years but more than 3-years prior to application	Exam. Supervision will be an additional requirement
											Less than 2 years within the 3-years prior to application	Exam. Supervision may will be an additional requirement
E	✓	✓	✓	✓	L7	X	✓	N	✓	✓	2 or more years within the 3-years prior to application	Registration with condition of supervision
											2 or more years but more than 3-years prior to application	Exam. Supervision will be an additional requirement
											Less than 2 years within the 3-years prior to application	Exam. Supervision will be an additional requirement

Reference	Qualification Equivalency						Qualification Equivalent? Y/N	Fitness to Practise		Post-Qualification Clinical Experience	Registration Pathway			
								English Language	Good Standing					
F	✓	✓	✓	✓	L7	Not 6 or 7	N	X	✓	Meets the post-qualification experience requirements	6-months to re-submit evidence of English proficiency. If still not met, application declined			
G	✓	✓	✓	✓	L7	Not 6 or 7	N	✓	X	Meets the post-qualification experience requirements	Decline			
H	✓	✓	Unable to provide evidence of qualification details due to length of time since qualification gained				N	N	✓	✓	3 or more years within the 5-years prior to application. Must have been in one of the 6-recognised countries (see footnote)	Registration with condition of supervision		
											Less than 3 years within the 5-years prior to application and within one of the 6-recognised countries	Exam. Supervision will be an additional requirement		
											3 or more years within the 5-years prior to application. Outside one of the recognised countries	Exam. Supervision will be an additional requirement		
											Less than 3 years within the 5-years prior to application and outside one of the 6-recognised countries	Decline		
											X	✓	Meets the post-qualification experience requirements	6-months to re-submit evidence of English proficiency. If still not met, application declined
											✓	X	Meets the post-qualification experience requirements	Decline

Reference	Qualification Equivalency							Qualification Equivalent? Y/N	Fitness to Practise		Post-Qualification Clinical Experience	Registration Pathway
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Curriculum	7 Clinical Competence		English Language	Good Standing		
I	✓	✓	✓	✓	L6 Diploma	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	3 or more years within the 5-years prior to application and within one of the 6-recognised countries	Exam. Supervision will be an additional requirement
J RT ONLY	✓	✓	✓	✓	L7	✓ Curriculum is light on planning	✓	N	✓	✓	Meets the post-qualification experience requirements but training and clinical experience does not include and/or is light on planning	Registration with a condition for practice in treatment and CT only

Appendix: New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) Levels and Credits

Level	Purpose	Outcomes	Credit Requirements
Bachelor Degree Level 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Systematic and coherent introduction to body of knowledge of a recognised major subject(s) as well as to problem-solving and associate basic techniques of self-directed work and learning - At least one sequential study programme in which content is progressively developed to form basis for postgraduate study and/or professional practice 	<p>Graduates are able to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intellectual independence, critical thinking and analytical rigour - Self-directed learning - Knowledge and skills related to the ideas, principles, concepts, chief research methods, problem-solving techniques of a recognised major subject - Skills needed to acquire, understand and assess information from a range of sources - Communication and collaborative skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 360 credits from levels 5 to 7 - Minimum of 72 credits are level 7 or higher - 360 credits equivalent to circa 3600 learning hours - 72 credits equivalent to circa 720 learning hours
Diploma Level 7	Qualifies individuals with specialised and technical knowledge and skills within a professional context	<p>Graduates are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate specialised technical or theoretical knowledge with depth in one or more fields or work or study - Analyse and generate solutions to unfamiliar and sometimes complex problems - Select, adapt and apply a range of processes relevant to the field of work or study - Demonstrate advanced generic skills and/or specialist knowledge in a professional context or field of study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum of 120 credits at level 5 or above - Including minimum of 72 credits at level 7 or above - 120 credits equivalent to circa 1200 learning hours - 72 credits equivalent to circa 720 learning hours

Level	Purpose	Outcomes	Credit Requirements
Diploma Level 6	Qualifies individuals with theoretical and/or technical knowledge and skills in specialised/strategic contexts	Graduates are able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate specialised technical or theoretical knowledge with depth in a field of work or study - Analyse and generate solutions to familiar and unfamiliar problems - Select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant to the field of work or study - Demonstrate complete self-management of learning and performance within dynamic contexts - Demonstrate responsibility for leadership within dynamic contexts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum of 120 credits level 5 or above - Including minimum of 72 credits at level 6 or above - 120 credits equivalent to circa 1200 learning hours - 72 credits equivalent to circa 720 learning hours
Diploma Level 5	Qualifies individuals with theoretical and/or technical knowledge and skills within a specific field of work or study	Graduates are able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate broad operational or technical and theoretical knowledge within a specific field of work or study - Select and apply a range of solutions to familiar and sometimes unfamiliar problems - Select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant of the field of work or study - Demonstrate complete self-management of learning and performance within defined contexts - Demonstrate some responsibility for the management of learning and development of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum of 120 credits level 4 or above - Including minimum of 72 credits at level 5 or above - 120 credits equivalent to circa 1200 learning hours - 72 credits equivalent to circa 720 learning hours

Level	Purpose	Outcomes	Credit Requirements
Certificate Level 6	Qualifies individuals with theoretical and/or technical knowledge and skills within an aspect(s) of a specialised/strategic context	<p>Graduates are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate specialised technical or theoretical knowledge within an aspect(s) of a specific field of work or study - Analyse and generate solutions to familiar and sometimes unfamiliar problems - Select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant to the field of work or study - Apply a range of communication skills relevant to the field of work or study - Demonstrate complete self-management of learning and performance within dynamic contexts - Demonstrate responsibility for leadership within dynamic contexts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum of 40 credits at level 6 or above - Equivalent to circa 400 learning hours
Certificate Level 5	Qualifies individuals with theoretical and/or technical knowledge and skills within an aspect(s) of a specific field of work or study	<p>Graduates are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate broad operational or technical and theoretical knowledge within an aspect(s) of a specific field of work or study - Select and apply solutions to familiar and sometimes unfamiliar problems - Select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant to the field of work or study - Apply a range of communication skills relevant to the field of work or study - Demonstrate complete self-management of learning and performance within defined contexts - Demonstrate some responsibility for the management and performance of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum of 40 credits at level 5 or above

Level	Purpose	Outcomes	Credit Requirements
Certificate Level 4	Qualifies individuals to work or study in broad or specialised field(s)/areas	Graduates are able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate broad operational and theoretical knowledge in a field of work or study - Select and apply solutions to familiar and sometimes unfamiliar problems - Select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant to the field of work or study - Apply a range of communication skills relevant to the field of work or study - Demonstrate the self-management of learning and performance under broad guidance - Demonstrate some responsibility for performance of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum of 40 credits at level 4 or above