



New Zealand
**Medical Radiation
Technologists Board**
Te Poari Ringa Hangarua Iraruke

**POLICY AND GUIDELINES:
REGISTRATION**

MAY 2021

Policy Title

Reference Number	2021-May-V3-MRT Registration
Scope	This policy applies to all practitioners applying for registration with the Medical Radiation Technologists Board

Document Title

English Language Proficiency
Online Examinations
Qualification Assessments for Overseas-Trained Practitioners
CPD for Annual Recertification of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Practitioners

Revision Schedule

Version Number	Version Date	Approved By	Next Review
One	2012	Medical Radiation Technologists Board	
Two	December 2018	Medical Radiation Technologists Board	2020
Three	May 2021	Chief Executive	2023

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Policy Overview

The Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board) is responsible under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) for the registration and recertification of medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners.

This policy document sets out the requirements for registration in any one of the eight scopes of practice the Board has defined for the practice of medical imaging and radiation therapy 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 eight medical imaging and radiation therapy 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 Board 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 imaging and radiation therapy.

Scopes of Practice

The Board has specified eight scopes of practice under section 11 of the Act:

- Medical Imaging Technologist
- Radiation Therapist
- Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technologist
- Sonographer
- Trainee Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- Trainee MRI Technologist
- Trainee Sonographer

Qualifications for Registration

Under section 12 of the Act the Board has prescribed a number of qualifications for the purpose of registration in one of the medical imaging and radiation therapy scopes of practice.

If a practitioner does not hold one of the prescribed qualifications, under section 15 of the Act, the Board 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 Board 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 imaging and radiation therapy practitioners.

Qualification Title	Educational Institution	Scope of Practice Registration
Bachelor of Medical Imaging	ARA	Medical Imaging Technologist
Bachelor of Applied Science (Medical Imaging Technology)	UCOL	Medical Imaging Technologist
Bachelor of Health Science (Medical Imaging)	UNITEC	Medical Imaging Technologist
Bachelor of Medical Imaging (Honours)	University of Auckland	Medical Imaging Technologist
Bachelor of Radiation Therapy	University of Otago	Radiation Therapist
Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Imaging (Nuclear Medicine)	University of Auckland	Nuclear Medicine Technologist
Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences MRI	University of Auckland	MRI Technologist
Postgraduate Diploma In Health Sciences Ultrasound	University of Auckland	Sonographer

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 Board's Registration and Recertification Committee.

Assessments are based on a set of seven criteria that are applied to all overseas qualifications. Details of the assessment criteria and subsequent registration pathways are set out in the Board'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 Board-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 a Board-approved examination is the Registration Examination Assessment (REA) which is a practical-based competency assessment undertaken in a clinical setting. From 2019 the Board will move to an online registration examination and this will eventually replace the REA (over a 2-year period).

Clinical Experience

Registration applicants whose qualifications have been assessed as not equivalent/not as satisfactory as the relevant New Zealand qualification prescribed by the Board, 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 (3680 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 Board 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 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 Board needing to be satisfied it does not reflect adversely on their fitness to practise as a medical imaging or radiation therapy practitioner.
- Any previous and/or current professional disciplinary proceedings and/or investigations, with the Board needing to be satisfied that the investigation and/or proceeding does not reflect adversely on their fitness to practise as a medical imaging or radiation therapy practitioner.
- If the applicant is subject to an order of a professional disciplinary tribunal, either in New Zealand or overseas, the Board will need to be satisfied that the order does not reflect adversely on their fitness to practise as a medical imaging or radiation therapy 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 Board's Registration and Recertification Committee.

Application Process

All registration applications are made electronically through the Board'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 for them to proceed through to being processed for consideration. Fees are set out in the Board's current Gazette Notice.