

# Policy:

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# English Language Proficiency

March 2026

<b>Policy title</b>	English Language Proficiency
<b>Reference number</b>	20260302 MRTB English Language Proficiency v4.1
<b>Scope</b>	This policy applies to all practitioners seeking registration with Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke   the Medical Radiation Technologists Board.

Associated policy documents	File name
Registration	<a href="#">2021-May-V3-MRT-Registration.pdf (mrtboard.org.nz)</a>
Qualification Assessment	<a href="#">2021-May-Qualification-Assessment-Policy.pdf</a>

Revision Schedule			
Version number	Version date	Approved by	Next review
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# Contents

Background .....	1
Overview .....	1
Demonstration of English language proficiency .....	1
Four pathways to demonstrating English proficiency .....	1
English language test .....	2
International English Language Testing System (IELTS) .....	2
Occupational English Test (OET).....	3
Tests older than two years.....	3
Ongoing fitness and competency requirements .....	3

# Background

1. Sections 16(a) and (b) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 require Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke | Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board) to be satisfied that an applicant can communicate effectively for practising in the scope for which they are seeking registration in Aotearoa New Zealand, and adequately comprehends English to protect the health and safety of the public.
2. This policy document sets out the Board's standard for applicants to meet the requirements for demonstrating English language proficiency.

## Overview

3. Registration applicants must satisfy the Board that they can communicate effectively to practise in the medical imaging and radiation therapy profession. Their ability to communicate and comprehend English must be sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public.
4. English language is inclusive of speaking, reading, listening, and writing.

# Demonstration of English language proficiency

## Four pathways to demonstrating English proficiency

5. Registered practitioners wishing to work in New Zealand must demonstrate:
  1. They have graduated from a Board-accredited qualification programme; or
  2. English is their first language, and their primary qualification<sup>1</sup> is from an educational institution where English is the sole language of instruction and assessment, and

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<sup>1</sup> The Board must be satisfied the primary qualification is equivalent to or as satisfactory as a prescribed qualification for the scope of practice in which the applicant is seeking registration.

located in one of the following countries recognised by the Board: Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America; or

3. They have continuously worked as a registered health practitioner<sup>2</sup> in an accredited medical imaging or radiation therapy facility in one of the recognised countries where English was the first and primary language. In addition, they must have worked in a role comparable to the scope of practice for which they are seeking registration, for a period of at least two (2)-years within the five (5)-years immediately prior to their application.

In this case they will be required to provide the names and contact details of at least two referees who are senior health practitioners, who speak English as a first language, and who can attest to the applicant's ability to comprehend and communicate effectively in English within a clinical setting with patients and professional colleagues. Referees will be contacted directly by a Board delegate; or

4. They meet the required standards of a Board-approved English language test.

## English language test

6. Applicants required to sit an English Language test will need to complete either the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test, or the Occupational English Test (OET).
7. Test results are verified as part of the registration application process.
8. The applicant's test of choice must meet the following standards:

### International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

9. The test was in the academic band of IELTS; and
  1. A minimum score of seven (7) in each of the four sub-tests of listening, reading, writing, and speaking; and
  2. The results are achieved in one sitting; and

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<sup>2</sup> If the applicant works in a country where registration is not required to practise in the scope of practice for which they are seeking New Zealand registration, they must have worked in an accredited medical imaging and/or radiation therapy facility.

3. IELTS results were achieved within two (2)-years immediately prior to their registration application.

## Occupational English Test (OET)

10. The test was in the Radiology band of OET; and

1. A minimum score of B in all four sections of listening, reading, speaking, and writing; and
2. The results are achieved in one sitting; and
3. OET results were achieved within two (2)-years immediately prior to their registration application.

## Tests older than two years

11. In limited circumstances the IELTS or OET test result may be more than two (2)-years prior to their application date. For the test results to be older than two years the following must occur:

- The applicant must have been in continuous employment as a registered medical imaging or radiation therapy practitioner in one of the recognised countries where English was the primary language of practice.
- They must have lodged their registration application within 12-months of finishing their last period of employment.

## Ongoing fitness and competency requirements

12. Should concerns be raised about the communication competencies or fitness to practise (including proficiency in English) of a practitioner registered with the Board, a competency review may be undertaken under sections 34 and 36 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.