

Authority

This standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council in December 2011 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act*, as in force in each state and territory, with approval taking effect from 1 July 2012.

Summary

All applicants for initial registration must be able to demonstrate English language skills at IELTS academic level 7 or the equivalent, and the Board may require this in a number of ways.

An internationally qualified applicant or an applicant who did not complete their secondary education in English must demonstrate that they have the necessary English language skills for registration purposes by achieving the required minimum score in each component of the IELTS academic module, OET or specified alternatives (see 'Definitions', below).

Examination results will generally need to be obtained within two years prior to applying for registration.

Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants for initial registration. It does not apply to students.

Requirements

1. An applicant who is:
 - a) an internationally qualified applicant;
or
 - b) an applicant who did not undertake their secondary education in Australia or in a country listed under Exemptions (b) must submit evidence of secondary education in English, or arrange for evidence to be provided (in the case of examination results), to the Board of proficiency in English language skills as demonstrated by having completed the following examinations of English language proficiency:
 - i) the IELTS examination (academic module) with a minimum score of 7 in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking); or
 - ii) completion and an overall pass in the OET with grades A or B only in each of the four components.

2. Results must have been obtained within two (2) years prior to applying for registration.
3. Examination results for IELTS or OET that are two (2) years old or more, may be accepted if accompanied by proof that a candidate has actively maintained employment as a registered health practitioner using English as the primary language of practice in a country listed below. Examination results must comply with the current requirements of this policy.
4. Results from any of the above-mentioned English language examinations must be obtained in a single sitting.
5. The applicant is responsible for the cost of English examinations.
6. The applicant must make arrangements for examination results to be provided directly to the Board by the testing authority.

Exemptions

The Board may grant an exemption from the requirements where the applicant provides that:

- a) they undertook and completed secondary education that was taught and assessed in English in one of the countries listed below and
- b) the applicant's tertiary qualifications in the relevant professional discipline were taught and assessed in English in one of the countries listed below,
 - i) Australia
 - ii) Canada
 - iii) New Zealand
 - iv) Republic of Ireland
 - v) South Africa
 - vi) United Kingdom
 - vii) United States of America.

The Board may also grant an exemption from the requirements where an applicant applies for limited registration in special circumstances, such as:

- c) to perform a demonstration in clinical techniques
- d) to undertake research that involves limited or no patient contact.

These special circumstances exemptions will generally be subject to conditions requiring supervision by a registered medical radiation practitioner and may also require the use of an interpreter.

Definitions

IELTS means the International English Language Testing System developed by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, the British Council and IDP Education Australia (see <http://ielts.org>)

OET means Occupation English Test administered by the Centre for Adult Learning Education (see <http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org>) Applicants using this test result must ensure that they have sat the examination relevant to the division in which they apply to be registered.

An **internationally qualified applicant** means a person who qualified as a health practitioner outside Australia

One Sitting means the minimum period of time required to undertake all components of an examination. It is inconsistent with the requirements of this standard to attempt the various components of a complete examination in multiple sittings, **or** to have multiple attempts at a single component.

Review

This standard will commence on 1 July 2012. The Board will review this standard at least every 3 years.