



Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand

TE POARI WHAKAORA NGANGAHAU O AOTEAROA

FOSTERING FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN THE PROFESSION

English language requirements

In August 2012 the OTBNZ amended the English language exemption policy in order to ensure a fairer process for registration applicants.

If English is not the applicant's first or home language, the OTBNZ requires the applicant to demonstrate proficiency in English. The OTBNZ's policy requirement is for applicants to provide International English Language Testing System (IELTS) academic test results, with a score of 7 in each band.

Exemption to the requirement for IELTS

The OTBNZ allows some applicants to apply for an exemption to the IELTS requirement described above.

The OTBNZ may grant an exemption if it is satisfied that all of the following requirements have been met:

1. The applicant has undertaken and completed their undergraduate Occupational Therapy degree in New Zealand; and
2. The OTBNZ has received a letter from the Head of School at the applicant's New Zealand tertiary educational institution, stating that there were no issues raised relating to the applicant's English language competency during the course of study; and
3. The applicant has provided satisfactory endorsements from three clinical placement supervisors who have observed, and are familiar with, their English language competency in a clinical setting; and
4. All three clinical placement supervisors speak English as a first language, and have adequately addressed the applicant's competence in reading, writing, speaking and listening in a clinical setting.

The OTBNZ may not consider applications for an exemption from applicants who do not satisfy the above criteria (1) – (4).