



Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand

Kaihaumanu Tūroro o Aotearoa

EXAMINATION POLICY

FOR REGISTRATION UNDER THE HEALTH PRACTITIONERS COMPETENCE ASSURANCE ACT 2003

Refer Part 2 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003

EXAMINATION POLICY FOR REGISTRATION UNDER THE HEALTH PRACTITIONERS COMPETENCE ASSURANCE ACT 2003 (HPCA ACT)

PURPOSE

Under section 15 of the HPCA Act the Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand (OTBNZ), may register an applicant within the scope of practice 'General Scope of Practice: Occupational Therapist' if the applicant:

- Is competent to practise within that scope of practice; and
- Has the qualifications that are prescribed, under section 12, for that scope of practice; and
- Is fit for registration in accordance with section 16.

BACKGROUND

Applications for registration from therapists who have undertaken their training overseas are submitted to the OTBNZ's assessors who make a recommendation about:

- Whether qualifications are comparable to the prescribed New Zealand qualifications for registration; and
- Whether applicants have demonstrated their competence to practise.

The process of establishing the comparability of overseas qualifications may consist of one or both of the following steps:

1. The assessors assess whether the occupational therapy qualification is comparable to the prescribed New Zealand qualifications for registration; if it is not
2. They assess whether the identified gaps have been mitigated by pre or postgraduate experience and/or training.

POLICY

When the combination of applicants' qualifications and experience is not *clearly* comparable to the prescribed New Zealand qualifications for registration, they may be offered the opportunity to undertake the OTBNZ Examination.

Format of examination

The examination consists of three sections, undertaken on one day:

1. Initial interview (20-30 minutes)
2. Written examination (2 hours + 10 minutes reading time)
3. Viva (oral examination) (30 minutes). The Viva is based on candidates' written responses to Section 2.

Examiners

The OTBNZ has appointed a pool of examiners to conduct examinations in accordance with current OTBNZ policy and standards.

Assessment

Candidates are rated 'achieve'/'not achieve' on each section, and overall, by two examiners. Marking criteria are based on the ability of candidates to demonstrate sound clinical reasoning based on accepted occupational therapy theory, and to communicate this clearly. The OTBNZ's *Competencies for Registration as an Occupational Therapist* outlines expected practice competencies.

Results and feedback

A summary of individual results for each section is included in the notification to candidates, and will be sent within 15 working days of the examination. Candidates may request a copy of their written paper.

Inconclusive or disputed examination results

If examiners are unable to agree on the outcome of an examination, the OTBNZ will consult a third examiner.

Candidates who disagree with the outcome of an examination may request reconsideration of the result. If a re-sit is required, the OTBNZ will endeavour to use two different examiners.

Failure to pass the examination

When applicants fail the examination, the OTBNZ will decline their application for registration. The OTBNZ will advise applicants that it intends to decline their application, and inform them they have the right to make submissions under section 20 of the HPCA Act. Prior to confirming the decision to decline their application, the OTBNZ will consider any submissions received from applicants.

When applicants have failed the examination, but wish to pursue registration in the future, the OTBNZ will require them to lodge a fresh application for registration. They will also be required to pay the prescribed registration application fees, and to submit the standard registration application documentation, with the exception of their qualification documents.

Date approved: 18 October 2011

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