



Physiotherapists Board of the Northern Territory

Information for intending applicants with physiotherapy qualifications gained outside Australia

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Information for intending applicants with physiotherapy qualifications gained outside Australia

Purpose

This information guide is intended to provide some basic information for people who have a physiotherapy qualification gained outside of Australia and who wish to be registered to practise in the Northern Territory.

The Physiotherapists Board of the Northern Territory

The Physiotherapists Board of the Northern Territory is responsible for regulating the practise of physiotherapists in the Northern Territory. If you want to practise physiotherapy in the Northern Territory you must hold a current licence issued by the Board.

To gain a licence to practise you must meet the requirements of Section 20 and Section 22 of the *Health Practitioners Act 2004*.

Section 20 relates to the course in physiotherapy completed.

Section 22 describes who is entitled to be registered. You will need to satisfy the Board that you:

1. Have completed an accredited course in physiotherapy;
2. Are competent to practise as a physiotherapist;
3. Have sufficient physical and mental health to practise safely as a physiotherapist;
4. Have English language competence;
5. Will have a professional indemnity arrangement in place when you practise as a physiotherapist; and
6. Are of good character.

Who is eligible to apply?

Do you hold current registration in Australia or New Zealand as a physiotherapist?

If you hold current registration in any of the Australian states or territories or you hold current registration in New Zealand you are automatically eligible to apply for registration.

Please contact the Board for an application form to be sent to you.

Do you want to migrate to Australia under the Skilled Migration Program?

You need to contact the Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC) to have your qualifications assessed to determine your eligibility for registration as a physiotherapist in Australia.

Contact details for APC are as follows:

Australian Physiotherapy Council
GPO Box 587
CANBERRA ACT 2601
AUSTRALIA
Tel: +61 2 6262 6029
Fax: +61 2 62 62 5284
E-mail enquiries@physiocouncil.com.au
Web www.physiocouncil.com.au

Did you complete an education program in physiotherapy in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland or Canada, you have current registration in one of these countries and you have worked as a physiotherapist to a minimum of 2 years?

You are eligible to apply for conditional registration to work in the Northern Territory for a maximum period of 12 months.

Please contact the Board for a copy of the Policy and an application form.

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Have you completed an education program as a physiotherapist in a country not previously mentioned?

You are **not** immediately eligible to apply for registration.

You will need to contact the Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC) and arrange to complete the Australian Examining Committee for Overseas physiotherapists (AECOP) assessment process. The AECOP process has three stages:

1. **Eligibility Assessment.** Your qualification will be assessed to determine if it is the equivalent to an Australian qualification. Your English language competence will also be assessed during this stage.
2. **Written Examination.** This is a multiple choice question examination covering the principal areas of physiotherapy as practised in Australia. This examination is conducted worldwide.
3. **Clinical examination.** The clinical examination may only be undertaken in Australia. You will be examined by two or three experienced AECOP examiners on patients who have acute, sub-acute or chronic conditions in the three component areas of cardio-respiratory, musculoskeletal and neurological physiotherapy. The standard an AECOP candidate is expected to attain is the same as that applied to a final year physiotherapy student graduating from an Australian university.

Contact the APC for more information on the assessment process www.physiocouncil.com.au

English language competence

All overseas-qualified physiotherapists must demonstrate that they meet the AECOP English language requirement standard.

1. Applicants who provide evidence that their initial physiotherapy professional education was in the English language medium in any of the countries **LISTED BELOW** are not required to provide any further evidence of their English language ability.
2. Applicants who completed their primary and secondary education in the English language medium in any of the countries **LISTED BELOW**, but completed their physiotherapy education in a different country must provide a certified copy of their High School Certificate and a certified copy of evidence that their primary and secondary education was completed in the English language medium.
3. Applicants who have worked or studied in a clinical area of the physiotherapy profession for at least two years in the last three years in any of the countries **LISTED BELOW** and have a strong command of the English language medium must provide a certified copy of their visa and entry stamp in their passport as evidence of their residence and a certified copy of a Statement of English Language Proficiency from a university supervisor or employer. The statement must be written on letterhead paper and must conform to the format provided on the Australian Physiotherapy Council website: www.physiocouncil.com.au

Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

All other applicants must provide a certified copy of a satisfactory result from either an IELTS or OET test.

IELTS

An overall score of Band 7, with a minimum band of 6 in each component in the Academic modules of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Detailed information including locations, contact details and dates for IELTS examination is available at www.ielts.org

OET

A "B" pass in all four sections of the Occupational English Test (OET)

Detailed information and on-line registration is available at www.oet.com.au

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Visa requirements

The Board cannot advise about visa requirements. For information about visas you should contact the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, www.immi.gov.au

Translations

The Board requires that all documents submitted with an application form be a certified copy of the original and be accompanied by a translation. You must pay all translation costs.

All translations must be undertaken by an independent reputable translation service. It is expected that translations made in Australia, be by a government service, or translator for the particular language conversion, accredited at Level 3 or 4 by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters, and this should be stated on the translated document. You will need to check the website for the latest information www.naati.com.au

Certifying documents

All documents submitted with an application must be certified as a true copy of the original by a:

- Justice of the Peace;
- Commissioner for Oaths;
- Police Officer;
- Solicitor; or
- An authorised Health Professions Licensing Authority staff member.

Contact details

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