

English language proficiency requirements

Section 54(3)(b), *Nursing Act 1992* specifies, as one of the qualifications for registration/enrolment/authorisation, that Council must be satisfied that a person has a sufficient command of the English language, both oral and written, to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of patients is maintained.

As of 1 July 2009, all international applicants, regardless of country of origin, must provide evidence of a satisfactory result in a Council approved English language proficiency test. The results must have been achieved within the previous two years of the date of the application.

Applications will not be accepted until this satisfactory evidence has been received by Council directly from the test provider. Your application will be matched to the results on our file, and will then be progressed.

Council designated English language proficiency testing options

Council recognises the following designated test options. For each option, the date of the test must be no more than **two years prior** to the date of the application.

Applicants must request the test provider to forward the test result directly to the Queensland Nursing Council.

Test options are:

1. Occupational English Test (OET)

This test is focused on knowledge of English in an occupational context. It is conducted by the OET Centre seven times a year and is held in many locations within Australia and overseas. The full test must be completed in one sitting and Council requires a 'B – Proficiency' level grade or above, for all four sections of the test.

Further information can be found at www.occupationalenglishtest.org

2. International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Applicants must complete the Academic Test. It is conducted by the Overseas Students Units of all Queensland universities. Council requires a minimum score of 7 in Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking.

For further information, see www.ielts.org

Graduates of an accredited pre-registration course who have been granted exemption of a portion of a Council accredited pre-registration course, on the basis of nursing qualifications or study overseas*

Please note that from 1 January 2010 all international university graduates from countries where English is not the first or only language are required to undertake an English language proficiency test.

Graduates from countries where English is not the first or only language who are identified on certified graduate lists from accredited education providers as having been granted an exemption towards a portion of an accredited undergraduate pre-registration or pre-enrolment nursing/midwifery course, on the basis of a nursing/midwifery qualification or study undertaken overseas, may be required to provide evidence of English language competence by either:

- successfully completing an approved English language test within two years prior to the date of application

OR

- successfully completing within two years prior to the date of application, a minimum of four semesters on-campus study at an on-shore Australian university, with a full-time nursing /midwifery academic load. This study may encompass a maximum of two courses.

To be eligible for consideration of a waiver of English language proficiency testing, Council considers a full time course to be an Equivalent Full Time Student Load (EFTSL) of 1.0 per annum, which usually equates to four subjects per semester or the equivalent credit points.

In some circumstances, further information may be required (section 56, *Nursing Act 1992*) and Council may direct an applicant to undertake and pass an examination in the use of English as determined by Council (section 57, *Nursing Act 1992*).

International students graduating from an accredited pre-enrolment course

All international TAFE graduates from countries where English is not the first or only language are required to undertake an English language proficiency test.

*Note: This refers to processes such as advanced standing or credit transfer or recognition of prior learning or similar, where the applicant seeking registration or authorisation as midwife-only has been granted exemption from a portion (more than one third) of an accredited pre-registration/authorisation nursing/midwifery course conducted in Queensland, on the basis of nursing/midwifery studies undertaken in a country where English is not the first language.

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