

NEW ZEALAND NURSING REGISTRATION

YOUR STEP BY STEP GUIDE



THE REGISTRATION PROCESS



1 CHECK YOU MEET NURSING COUNCIL STANDARDS

To be eligible to register there are seven standards for registration that you must meet to make sure you are safe, competent, and prepared to practice nursing in New Zealand.

1. **Identity** - prove you are who you say you are
2. **English Language** - provide evidence of your competency (see page 5)
3. **Current Registration** - have been registered as a Nurse in the country where you received your nursing education AND hold current Nursing Registration
4. **Nursing Qualification** - must be equivalent to a New Zealand Bachelor's Degree of Nursing
5. **Post Registration Experience** - provide evidence that you have practised nursing for at least two years within the last five years
6. **Fitness to Practise** - demonstrate you are fit for registration by completing an international Criminal History Check (ICHC)
7. **Competent to Practise** – demonstrate that you are competent to practise nursing in New Zealand (see page 5)

For further information on these standards, please see [here](#).



2

VERIFICATION OF YOUR CREDENTIALS BY CGFNS

To apply for registration with the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ), you must first have your documents authenticated and verified by the CGFNS Credentials Verification Service for the Nursing Council of New Zealand (CVS-NCNZ).

This step must be completed for all Nurses qualified and educated outside of New Zealand. (With the exception of internationally qualified Nurses registered in Australia).

Summary of CVS-NCNZ Steps:

- Create an account on the CGFNS Applicant Portal
- Complete your free Applicant Profile
- Pay the CVS-NCNZ application fee \$300 (USD)
- Upload all required documents

Documents you will need:

- **Identity** - notarized copies of two forms of identification (one being a passport)
- **Employment** - self-declaration of evidence that you have worked as a nurse for at least two years (2500 hours) during the last five years.
- **Education** - evidence of your education qualification leading to licensing/registration to practice nursing (this may be required to be submitted by you directly to CGFNS or by your education provider - advised by CGFNS)
- **Nursing Licenses** – all licenses held by you in the last five years must be provided to CGFNS by the relevant license issuing authority.
- **Language Proficiency** - proof of your English Language proficiency if required (see page 5).

You can track the status of your application at any time through the Application Status Tracker.

Note: The CGFNS must receive all documents required by the CVS-NCNZ within 12 months of your paid application order.

Get started [here](#).



3

REVIEW AND AUTHORISE YOUR REPORT FROM CGFNS

Once all your documents have been verified by the CVS-NCNZ, CGFNS will prepare a report for the NCNZ. You have 30 days to review and authorise the report before it is sent to NCNZ.

4

APPLY FOR REGISTRATION WITH NURSING COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

Once the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) receives your report and documents from CGFNS you will receive an email invitation to apply for registration. You will have 30 days to do this.

Get started [here](#).

Application and Processing Fee: NZ\$485.

5

ASSESSMENT AND APPROVAL BY NCNZ

The NCNZ will assess your application against the seven registration standards before making a decision on your registration.

You will also be asked to make a declaration of fitness for registration and need to complete an International Criminal History Check (ICHHC).

6

CULTURALLY SAFE NURSING PRACTICE (NEW)

To help ensure all nurses in New Zealand have the knowledge and skills to provide culturally safe care, the Nursing Council requires internationally qualified nurses to complete two free online courses. This will become mandatory from 4th December 2023.



7

APPLY FOR ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE

Once your registration is approved, you will be asked to apply for an Annual Practising Certificate. This entitles you to practise as a Nurse in New Zealand.

Fees are based on when your date of birth falls in relation to the annual renewal date.

- 6 month fee NZ\$65
- 9 month fee NZ\$97.50
- 12 month fee NZ\$130

Please allow 4-6 months to obtain your New Zealand Nursing Registration.

This timeframe may also be impacted on by the number of applications being processed.

It is important to consider this when making your plans to move.





ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

To become registered in New Zealand, you must provide evidence that you can communicate effectively in English and that you sufficiently comprehend the language.

Ways to provide evidence that you meet English language requirements:

Nursing Registration – you hold current Nursing Registration in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, or the United States of America (that required you to pass an English language test).

OR

Nursing Qualification – your education that led to Nursing Registration was taught and examined in English in the United Kingdom, Singapore, Ireland, Canada, or the United States of America. (Please note that post-graduate education taught in English does not make you eligible for this pathway).

OR

Test-Based – you have passed one of the Nursing Council approved English language tests - Occupational English Test (OET) OR International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic.

Eligibility for the registration and qualification pathways above are at the discretion of the Nursing Council of New Zealand, but you will always be eligible for the test-based pathway.

Test scores required:

OET: minimum score of 350 for reading, listening, and speaking; and a minimum score of 300 for writing.

IELTS Academic: minimum score of 7 for reading, listening, and speaking; and a minimum score of 6.5 for writing.

The minimum scores can be achieved over more than one sitting; however, the required score must be met within 12 months of first sitting the test and met within three years of your CVS-NCNZ report being transmitted to Nursing Council of New Zealand.



COMPETENCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME – NEW COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS

PLEASE NOTE: The Nursing Council is changing its registration process from 4th December 2023.

The existing Competence Assessment Programme (CAP) is being replaced by a new competence examination process.

This involves the successful completion of the following assessments:

- an online theoretical exam that tests your nursing knowledge, taken at an accredited exam centre overseas or in New Zealand and
- a two-day orientation and preparation course followed by a clinical examination known as an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). These will take place in person in New Zealand at an accredited centre.

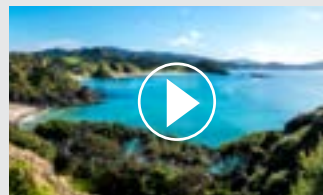
If you hold current registration in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, Singapore, USA or Canada, you may not need to complete these assessments because the Registered Nurse role and healthcare context in these countries is similar to New Zealand. The NCNZ will advise if you need to complete the above assessments after they assess your application.

You can find out about the new competence requirements [here](#).



GET IN TOUCH

If you have any questions regarding Nursing Registration or any other aspects of moving to New Zealand, please do not hesitate to contact the team at nzhealth@workingin.com.



Check out some great videos of what living in New Zealand is all about on our website [here](#)

We look forward to helping you on your exciting journey

*The Team at
Working in NZ Health*

Visit our website

