English Language Proficiency Policy

Requirements for English Language Proficiency for registration, enrolment and endorsement

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Chief Executive Officer & Registrar
www.nmbsa.sa.gov.au
Mandate  
Nursing & Midwifery Board of SA

To protect the health and safety of the public by providing for the registration and enrolment of nurses and midwives and students, and to regulate provision of nursing and midwifery care for the purpose of maintaining high standards of competence and conduct by nurses, midwives, students and services providers in South Australia.
Nursing and Midwifery Practice Act (2008)

• Section 26 & 28 - Registration on nurses/midwives register

(1) Subject to this Act, a natural person is eligible for registration on the nurses/midwives register if the person, on application to the Board, satisfies the Board that he or she:

(a) has qualifications approved or recognised by the Board for purposes of registration on the register;

(b) has met the requirements determined by the Board to be necessary for the purposes of registration on the register; and

(c) is medically fit to provide nursing/midwifery care; and

(d) is a fit and proper person to be registered on the register.
English Language Proficiency Requirements

• ELP Policy determined by the Board to ensure the protection of the health and safety of the public of South Australia

• Policy reviewed and amended:
  ▪ in accordance with best available evidence;
  ▪ to ensure the continuing integrity of ELP requirements;
  ▪ to ensure a consistent and fair approach in the assessment of all applicants who are non-native speakers of English;
  ▪ to align with the nationally consistent standards of state and territory Nursing and Midwifery Boards and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council;
  ▪ to support the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments decision to move to a National Registration and Accreditation Scheme on 1 July 2010
Standard 2 The Applicant meets English Language Proficiency Requirements

Applicant must achieve an:

- OET (Occupational English Test) score of a B pass or higher in all four sections of the test (Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking);
- Or
- IELTS (International English Language Testing System) score in all four sub bands of 7.0 or higher in Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking with an Academic score of no less than 7 overall.
- Applicant must achieve the test score for an OET or IELTS at a single sitting within the previous two years.
- Applicant can undertake the OET or IELTS test on-shore and offshore.
- Applicant must organise for the documentary evidence of the test outcome to be supplied directly to the nursing and midwifery regulatory board.
- No waiver to the English language requirements.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Language Proficiency Requirements</th>
<th>ANMC &amp; nmbSA approved Standard 2 for Internationally Qualified nurses and midwives (from 1 July 2009)</th>
<th>nmbSA approved standard for students who are non-native speakers of English undertaking a nmbSA approved course leading to registration or enrolment (Current to 31 December 2009)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OET (Occupational English Test)</td>
<td>Score of a B pass or higher in all four sections of the test (Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking)</td>
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<td>IELTS (International English Language Testing System)</td>
<td>Score in all four sub bands of 7.0 or higher in Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking with an Academic score of no less than 7 overall</td>
<td>Score of at least 6.5 in Reading and Listening and a score of at least 7.0 in Writing and Speaking with an overall band score of 7 or greater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeat sub-band tests</td>
<td>OET – Test in one sitting</td>
<td>OET – multiple tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>IELTS - Test in one sitting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test Validity timeframe</td>
<td>Test completed within the last two years</td>
<td>Test undertaken within previous two years of applying to nmbSA for registration or enrolment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Testing on-shore or off-shore</td>
<td>On-shore or off-shore testing</td>
<td>On-shore testing only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipt of test outcome</td>
<td>Applicant must organise for the documentary evidence of the test outcome to be supplied directly to the nursing and midwifery regulatory board.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiver of the Requirement to produce an English Language Proficiency test</td>
<td>No waivers</td>
<td>Two waivers Waiver 4 and 5 of the nbsa English Language Proficiency Requirements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transition Arrangements up to 31 March 2010

Courses scheduled to complete by 31 December 2009
- Target - students who are non native speakers of English and have completed their course by 31 December 2009 however, due to timing issues such as:
  - the issuing of academic test results;
  - The issuing of English language test results;
  - unplanned absence approved by the education provider;
  - successful completion of a challenge;
  - final clinical placement;
  - or repeat English language test;

are unable to complete their course and be eligible for registration with nmbSA by 31 December 2009.
Transition Arrangements up to 31 March 2010

• Students will be identified by a representative from the university in December 2009 to the Registrar of nmbSA.

• These students will be allowed to meet the Board's existing English language proficiency requirements when applying for registration with the Board prior to close of business on Wednesday 31 March 2010.
Definition of International Student

nmbSA defines an International Student as:

• a student who is enrolled in, or has successfully completed, a nmbSA approved course leading to registration or enrolment and was not born, and educated at primary and secondary level in Australia or New Zealand.
Waiver to English Language Proficiency Requirements

• *International Students* may be exempted from the nmbSA English Language Proficiency requirements if they can provide evidence, to the satisfaction of nmbSA, that they were born, and educated at primary and secondary level, in one of the four English speaking countries recognised by the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship i.e. Canada excluding the French speaking provinces such as Quebec and New Brunswick, Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom and the United States of America.
nmbSA Christmas & New Year Closure

- Office will be closed from Thursday 24 December 2009
- Office re-opens from Monday 4 January 2010
- Any mail received during the office closure will be actioned according to its postmarked date
Questions???

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