



Policy on English Competence and English Tests

Introduction

Under s6(2) of the Veterinarians Act 2005 the Veterinary Council must be satisfied that applicants for registration are able to “communicate in and understand English to an appropriate standard for practising as a veterinarian in New Zealand”.

Effective English and communication skills are required to practise as a veterinarian in New Zealand. The Council considers that an objective test of English language skills is the best way of ensuring that applicants for registration can comprehend and communicate to the required level.

Policy Guideline

Applicants for registration are normally considered to have met the Sn 6(2) requirements if:

- English is their first language; or
- they have passed a Council approved English test to the required level; or
- they hold a primary veterinary degree or specialist qualifications from programmes recognised by the Council for registration purposes and they gained these qualifications in a country where English is the first and prime language and where English was the sole language of their instruction and assessment and they have worked or studied in a country where English is the first and prime language for at least 4 of the previous 5 years; or
- they have passed a Veterinary Council prescribed assessment programme (for example ECFVG or PAVE) in English and they have worked or studied in a country where English is the first and prime language for at least 4 of the previous 5 years.

Note that applicants may be required to provide evidence of having continuously worked as veterinarian in a country where English is the first and prime language for a period of 4 years within the previous 5 years immediately prior to the application.

Approved English Tests

The Council recognises a pass in one of the following 3 English tests:

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Applicants need to

- sit the academic band
- score **at least 7 in each** of the 4 individual components of listening, reading, writing and speaking
- pass all 4 components of IELTS (academic) at 1 sitting.

OR

Occupational English Test (OET)

Applicants need to achieve a **pass with A or B** grades in **each** of the 4 sections at 1 sitting.

The Council requires applicants to arrange for English test results to be sent directly from the examining body to the Veterinary Council.

OR

Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet Based Test (TOEFL iBT)

Applicants need to achieve **the following scores or above in each of the components** , at 1 sitting:

Listening	24
Speaking	23
Reading	24
Writing	27

The Council requires applicants to arrange for English test results to be sent directly from the examining body to the Veterinary Council; or

- in the case of IELTS, advise Council staff of the date and venue of the test and their test report form number
- in the case of the OET, advise Council staff of the date and venue of their test
- in the case of the TOEFL iBT, advise Council staff of their registration number.

Validity of tests

Applicants must meet the Council's English language requirements at the time they apply for registration.

A pass in an approved English test is valid for 2 years, but the validity of this pass may be extended for up to 5 years for applicants who can demonstrate that they have continuously lived and worked in a country where English is the first and prime language for at least 4 years of the previous 5 years.