



Dear Applicant

Thank you for your enquiry about registration as a veterinarian in New Zealand.

The Veterinary Council of New Zealand (Council) is the body responsible for registering and recertifying veterinarians. We protect the public interest by ensuring that veterinarians are fit and competent to practise.

Registration policy – veterinary qualifications and examinations and assessments accepted by the Council

You'll find information on the degrees and examination/assessment programmes we recognise for registration in our [Gazette Notice of 8 January 2015](http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz/documentation/Gazette%20Notices/Notice_of_recognition_of_institutions.pdf) (at http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz/documentation/Gazette%20Notices/Notice_of_recognition_of_institutions.pdf).

We consider all applications on an individual basis. Before approving your registration and issuing you with a practising certificate, we need to be satisfied that you meet the requirements for registration, including that:

- you have a recognised veterinary qualification **or** a pass in a prescribed examination or assessment
- if you're applying for registration because you've passed a prescribed examination or assessment, your veterinary science degree or diploma involved at least 4 years of study
- you meet the Council's minimum fitness and recency of practice standards
- you can communicate in, and understand, English to the necessary standard.

You may qualify for registration if you hold an undergraduate veterinary degree from a school which we recognised for registration under previous New Zealand legislation, until 22 March 2001 – eg the National University of Ireland and certain German and Danish Schools.

Fitness to Practise

You'll need to tell us about anything that could potentially affect your fitness to practise including any:

- medical or physical conditions
- investigations into conduct or competence issues
- disciplinary findings
- convictions.

Feel free to contact Despina Arathimos (Acting Registrar) for information about this. You can phone her on +64 4 473 9600 or send an email to despina.arathimos@vetcouncil.org.nz.

Recency of Practice

Before approving your registration and issuing you with a practising certificate, we have to be satisfied that you're competent to practise. Being competent includes meeting recency of practice requirements as set out in our [Policy on Recency of Practice](http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz/documentation/Policies/VCNZ_Policy_RecencyOfPractice.pdf) (at http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz/documentation/Policies/VCNZ_Policy_RecencyOfPractice.pdf)

You'll need to tell us whether you:

- have worked as a veterinarian during the last 3 years
- wish to resume practice in an area you haven't practised in for 3 or more years
- wish to practise in an area you've never practised in.

If we aren't satisfied about your competence to practise, we might ask you for more information and may consider imposing conditions on your practice.

English language requirements

Veterinarians practising in New Zealand must have effective English and communication skills. Before we can register you, we must be satisfied that you're able to "communicate in and understand English to an appropriate standard for practising in New Zealand".

We've set out our English language requirements in our [Policy on English Competence and English Tests](http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz/documentation/Policies/VCNZ_Policy_EnglishCompetence.pdf) (at http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz/documentation/Policies/VCNZ_Policy_EnglishCompetence.pdf).

If English isn't your first language, the best way for you to demonstrate that you understand and can communicate to the required level, is for you to sit and pass an objective test. For registration purposes we recognise 3 tests:

1. International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
You would 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;
2. Occupational English Test (OET)
You would need to achieve a pass with A or B grades in each of the 4 sections at 1 sitting.
3. Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet Based Test (TOEFL iBT)
Applicants need to achieve (at least) the following scores, at 1 sitting:

Listening	24
Speaking	23
Reading	24
Writing	27

In some situations we can exempt applicants whose first language isn't English, from the requirement to sit and pass IELTS or OET. We've included detail on this in our [Policy on English Competence and English Tests](#). We've enclosed information about IELTS and OET test venues in New Zealand. You can find out about test dates by clicking on the links in that document.

If English isn't your first language you need to either arrange for your English test results to be sent direct to us by the examining body, or

- in the case of IELTS, tell us the date and venue of your test and your test report form number
- in the case of the OET, tell us the date and venue of your test
- in the case of the TOEFL iBT, advise us of your registration number.

If you're applying for registration because you've passed the National Veterinary Examination (see below), you'll already have sent the [Australasian Veterinary Boards Council](#) (AVBC) or us, a copy of your english test results. If this is the case, you don't have to send them again - unless you sat the test more than 2 years ago.

In some situations we can accept a test that's older than 2 years; our [Policy on English Competence and English Tests](#) includes information about this.

Overseas-qualified veterinarians from non-approved schools eligible to sit the National Veterinary Examination (NVE)

If you're an overseas-qualified veterinarian who doesn't hold a recognised qualification, or a pass in a prescribed examination or assessment, you'll need to sit and pass the NVE to be eligible for registration (see our [Gazette Notice of 8 January 2015](#)).

The NVE is a shared Australasian examination administered by the [AVBC](#). In the first instance you'll need to apply to AVBC for an assessment of your eligibility to enter the examination process.

Massey University PACE course/entry to 3rd year of veterinary programme

Overseas qualified veterinarians who pass a Massey University challenge exam, may be eligible to gain advanced entry into the Massey BVSc programme.

The Massey University Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences (IVABS) offers an exam preparation opportunity (PACE course), for overseas qualified veterinarians wishing to sit the year 2 BVSc challenge examination. Successful candidates who've passed the examination, are able reduce the number of years of degree study by gaining entry into the BVSc programme at Year 3 level.

For information about this we suggest you contact Professional and Continuing Education at Massey University: pacepn@massey.ac.nz, Ph: 0800 MASSEY extn: 8402.

Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement (TTMRA)

If you're registered in Australia you can apply for registration in New Zealand under the TTMRA by submitting a [TTMRA Application form](#) (at http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz/documentation/Registration%20Forms/TTMR_Appn_form.pdf) for General registration, or the [TTMRA Specialist Application form](#) (at http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz/documentation/Registration%20Forms/TTMRA_Appn_Specialist_form.pdf) for Specialist registration.

If you apply under the TTMRA, it's important that you send all the necessary documentation and fees with your application. If you don't send a 'complete' application, we won't be able to deem your registration to be valid immediately.

What if the Council proposes to decline your application?

If the Council proposes to decline your application we'll explain why and give you the information we've based our proposed decision on. We'll also make sure you have a reasonable opportunity to send us information and/or talk to us about why you think we should approve your registration.

Fees

You can see a list of our current application fees on the [Fees Page](#) of our website (at <http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz/fees.php>).

Validity of Applications

Registration applications are valid for 6 months from the date we receive them. If we haven't received all the necessary information within 6 months, your registration application will lapse. This will mean that if you want to pursue registration, you'll need to send another application.

In the case of applicants who don't go ahead with their registration, we hold any documents received during the application process, for 2 years (from the date of receiving the application). We usually destroy the documents after that time.

Guidance on applying for registration

We prefer not to receive original documents as they require special care. All copies of the documents you send us must be certified or notarised as true copies of the originals by the official who witnesses your application (statutory declaration). This person must also see and certify a copy of the identification page(s) of your passport, and certify on the reverse of your photograph, that it's a true likeness of you.

You will need to:

- Complete the registration application form and have it **witnessed, signed and officially stamped or a seal attached** by a Notary Public or Commissioner of Oaths (if you're applying from overseas), or anyone authorised under the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957 including a Justice of the Peace, solicitor or Notary Public (if you're applying from within New Zealand).
- Have the reverse side of a passport size photograph of yourself, compared with the photograph in the identity pages in your passport and **dated, signed and noted as a true likeness of yourself** (full name), and **officially stamped or a seal attached** by a Notary Public or Commissioner of Oaths (if you're applying from overseas), or anyone authorised under the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957 including a Justice of the Peace, solicitor or Notary Public (if you're applying from within New Zealand).
- Have a copy of your degree parchments **signed and officially stamped or a seal attached** directly onto the copy of the document by a Notary Public or Commissioner of Oaths (if you're applying from overseas), or anyone authorised under the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957 including a Justice of the Peace, solicitor or Notary Public (if you're applying from within New Zealand).
- Have the identification/photograph page/s of your passport **signed and officially stamped or a seal attached** directly onto the copy of the document by a Notary Public or Commissioner of Oaths (if you're applying from overseas), or anyone authorised under the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957 including a Justice of the Peace, solicitor or Notary Public (if you're applying from within New Zealand).
- Have any documents not in English translated by an appropriate authority. You'll need to send us certified copies of any English translations attached to certified copies of the document they relate to (in the original language). Translations need to include a statement from the translator indicating that they are an accurate translation of the original.
- Arrange with every registration authority you're currently registered with to send a letter **direct to us** certifying your current registration and either:
 - stating that you're in good standing and aren't currently, or haven't previously been subject to any disciplinary or other proceedings; or
 - providing information about the outcome or progress of any disciplinary or other proceedings.

Please go through the checklist on the last page of the registration application form to make sure that you've enclosed, or arranged for all the necessary documents and fees to be sent.

Please forward your completed application to:

The Registrar, Veterinary Council of New Zealand
P O Box 10-563
Wellington 6143,
NEW ZEALAND.

Appendix – IELTS and OET English Testing venues in New Zealand

You can click on the test centre links below for information about the test dates at individual test venues. We suggest that you also check the [IELTS website](#) and [OET website](#) for any new or revised venue information.

IELTS

There are more than 1,100 test locations in over 140 countries; in New Zealand tests are undertaken at:

- [Waiariki Institute of Technology - Rotorua](#)
- [Massey University - New Plymouth](#)
- [University of Auckland](#)
- [UNITEC Institute of Technology - Mt Albert](#)
- [Massey University - Albany](#)
- [University of Otago - Queenstown](#)
- [University of Waikato - Hamilton](#)
- [British Council - Manukau Institute of Technology \(Newbury Street, Otara\)](#)
- [British Council - Eastern Institute of Technology, Hawkes Bay](#)
- [Victoria University - Wellington](#)
- [Massey University - Palmerston North](#)
- [University of Otago - Dunedin](#)
- [British Council - Manukau Institute of Technology \(Queen St, Auckland\)](#)
- [Massey University - Wellington](#)
- [Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology - Nelson](#)
- [Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology](#)

OET

OET has 70 test venues in 30 countries; in New Zealand tests are undertaken at:

- [Ara Institute of Canterbury \(Formerly Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology\), Christchurch](#)
- [DynaSpeak, Auckland](#)
- [Languages International, Auckland](#)
- [The Campbell Institute, Wellington](#)
- [University of Otago Language Centre, Dunedin](#)
- [Waikato Institute of Education, Hamilton.](#)