Standard
In New Zealand we require nurses to communicate effectively with patients, colleagues, employers and other health professionals. You must pass an English language test before you apply for registration.

Evidence Requirements
You can take the test in any country. You must supply a certified copy of your test result.

The English language assessment must be less than three years old at the time you submit your application for registration.

You can achieve the minimum score in the English language assessments over more than one sitting, however the required score must be met within 12 months of first sitting the test.

There are two tests you can take: Occupational English Test (OET) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) academic.

OET
Please click here for further information on OET.

For results prior to August 2018
You must achieve a minimum score of B for each band: reading, writing, listening and speaking. We do not accept C+ pass.

For results after September 2018
You must achieve a minimum score of 350 for each band: reading, writing, listening and speaking. We do not accept C+ (300 – 340) pass.

You must provide the Council:
- access to your OET report/s. Please click here for detailed instructions on how to select the Nursing Council of New Zealand as a verifying institution
- your OET candidate number/s.

An example of a succession of OET tests which meets the requirements is presented below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Listening</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Speaking</th>
<th>Writing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>C+ (300 - 340)</td>
<td>C (200 - 290)</td>
<td>C (200 - 290)</td>
<td>B (350 - 390) ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>C (200 - 290)</td>
<td>B (350 - 390)✓</td>
<td>C+ (300 - 340)</td>
<td>B (350 - 390)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
IELTS
Please [click here](#) for further information on IELTS.

You must achieve a **minimum score of 7 for each band of the academic test**: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Listening</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Speaking</th>
<th>Writing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1 March 2017</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>7.0 ✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2 August 2017</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>7.0 ✔</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 3 February 2018</td>
<td>7.0 ✔</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>7.0 ✔</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Waiver request

If you completed your nursing education and are registered as a nurse in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada or the United States of America, you can request a waiver of the English language standard.

If you have registered and practised in one of the above countries, you may also apply for a waiver of the English language standard.

You must also supply a certified copy of an identification document that contains your photograph (other than your passport).

For example, Aarav is from India, but has been working as a registered nurse in Ireland for the last ten years. Aarav sat an English language test to achieve registration in Ireland, is a registered nurse and is practising in Ireland, so Aarav can apply for an ELA waiver.

Please [click here](#) to complete the ELA waiver request form.
Checklist

- Your OET candidate number/s
  
  **Note:** You must provide the Council access to your OET report/s

- OR

- Your IELTS candidate number/s

- OR

- English Language Assessment (ELA) waiver and **certified copy** of a photo identification document

FAQs

1. **Do you accept Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic results?**
   No, we only accept Occupational English Test (OET) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

2. **Do you accept Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOFEL) results?**
   No, we only accept Occupational English Test (OET) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

3. **Can I club my English language results?**
   Yes, you can club your results, however the required score must be met within 12 months of first sitting the test.

4. **I’ve failed one band of the English language test. What do I do now?**
   If you sat the Occupational English Test (OET), you can re-sit the band you failed (e.g. listening). If you sat the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) academic, you need to re-sit every band (reading, writing, speaking, listening).

5. **I cannot use my old candidate number in the new version of OET. Can I still club my results?**
   Yes, you can still club your results. We are aware that there is a new version of OET.

6. **I received a score of more than 350 for each band of OET, can I still apply?**
   Yes, you can apply.
7. Where do I find my OET candidate number?
   Please see the example below. The candidate number is highlighted in red.

8. Where do I find my IELTs TRF number?
   Please see the example below. The TRF number is highlighted in red.
**Definitions**

**Certified copy** is a photocopy that has been stamped and endorsed by a person who confirms that the copy is a true copy of the original document. A certified copy must be stamped as true copies of the original by a person authorised by law to make statutory declarations in your country e.g. Justice of the Peace, lawyer, notary public or court official.

**Clubbing results** means providing scores from two or more sittings of an English language test rather than one.

**ELA** means English Language Assessment.

**Review**

**Last reviewed:** December 2018.

This standard will be reviewed by March 2019.
English language testing waiver form

This form is for anyone who has previously been a registered nurse in the United Kingdom, Ireland, United States of America or Canada. By completing this form as part of your application for New Zealand registration, we may be able to waive the English language testing requirement for your application.

Full name: ____________________________________________________________

What is your first language? _____________________________________________

What other languages do you speak? _______________________________________

In what language did you complete your nursing qualifications? ______________

Where did you complete your nursing qualifications? (Name of institution, city, country) _____________________________________________________________

In which country do you hold current registration as a nurse? ________________

Have you completed any other qualifications or study of the English language? (e.g. ESL, University courses, night classes etc.) ____________________________

Is there any other information you have that will help us assess your level of English proficiency? (e.g. ESL, University courses, night classes etc.) ____________________________

If you are applying for an English language waiver, you must supply a certified copy of an identification document that contains your photograph (other than your passport), for example driver’s license.

Please attach your identification document to this form.

Once we have made a decision on your language proficiency we will let you know via the dashboard. Please check this regularly.