REGISTRATION STANDARD: NURSING QUALIFICATION

EDUCATION STANDARDS FOR REGISTERED NURSES

APRIL 2019
**Standard**

We assess your nursing qualification(s) to ensure that they are the same level as those of New Zealand graduates.

**Bachelor’s degree or higher**

Your nursing qualification(s) must be comparable to a **Bachelor’s degree or higher**. A Bachelor’s degree is at level 7 on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF). Please click here for more information.

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<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Level on NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Framework)</th>
<th>Level on EQF (European Qualification Framework)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>Level 5 - 6</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree, graduate certificate / diploma</td>
<td>Level 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor Honours Degree; Postgraduate certificate / diploma</td>
<td>Level 8</td>
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<td>Master’s degree</td>
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The *New Zealand Qualifications Authority* describes Level 7 on the NZQF as having:

- **Knowledge**: specialised technical or theoretical knowledge with depth in one or more fields of work or study;
- **Skills**: analyse, generate solutions to unfamiliar and sometimes complex problems; select, adapt and apply a range of processes relevant to the field of work or study;
- **Application**: advanced generic skills and or specialized knowledge and skills in a professional context or field of study.

**Education programme standards**

Your nursing qualification(s) will be assessed for comparability with the *New Zealand programme standards*:

- The programme must identify the expected learning outcomes for each course and how these learning outcomes are met and assessed
- The programme must also show how nursing knowledge and skills are expanded and extended across the duration of the programme
- 50% of the theory hours must have a clear nursing focus.

If your programme does not contain enough theory and clinical experience, or the theory content is not comparable to New Zealand content in specific areas of nursing, then a condition may be added to your scope of practice.

An example of this is if your programme’s theory content for mental health is not comparable to New Zealand’s programmes. In this case a condition will be added to your scope – “may only practice in general and obstetrics”. This means you are not able to practise in a mental health setting.
Nursing qualifications gained after registration
We will consider nursing qualifications or papers completed at graduate level when assessing your qualification(s). We are looking to see that you have further developed your knowledge from your initial qualification to be comparable with level 7 or above on the NZQF.

We will also consider evidence of professional development post registration relevant to nursing practice.

Evidence Requirements
A transcript request form will be emailed to you once you have applied online for registration. Part A of the form must be filled in by you, and Part B must be filled in by your nursing school.

1. Transcript including qualification granted
   The transcript must be original and include the courses you took, marks awarded, total hours and credits for each course. We also accept E-quals if we can access them directly through the education provider.

   Sometimes we require your nursing education curriculum (syllabus) and/or course descriptors. We will ask you for these if needed and they can be emailed directly to us.

   Note:
   • If you are an applicant from India, please also request your statement of marks and Indian Nursing Council accreditation for each year of study
   • If you are an applicant from the United States, please request evidence of your clinical experience hours
   • If you are an applicant from the Philippines, please also request your related learning experience
   • We do not require transcripts for non-nursing qualifications.
   • For transcript documents that are not in English, you will need to request two transcripts:
     1. As per the instructions in the Transcript Request Form, your school will send a copy directly to the Council.
     2. You will use the second copy for translation purposes. You need to get the following documents translated by an official translator: your transcript, clinical hours, and course descriptors for the core nursing subjects.

   You must send the original copies of the translations to the Council’s offices. You must also provide a certified copy of the documents sent to you from your school for verification purposes. If your school offers translation services, they can translate the documents and post them directly to the Council. The Council’s address is Level 5, 22 Willeston Street, Wellington, 6011.

2. Evidence of accreditation and quality assurance
   We require evidence that your education was completed in an institution that has been accredited by a nursing regulator and an education authority. We will ask you for this evidence if needed.
FAQs

1. **Is my qualification eligible?**
   
   Your degree must meet the standard outlined above. We assess each nursing qualification individually to see whether the educational training is comparable to the New Zealand Bachelor of Nursing.

   Unfortunately, we do not offer pre-assessments.

2. **I already have my transcripts; can I post them to you myself?**
   
   No, we do not accept any education related documents sent by the applicant. Your school of nursing must directly post your education documents to the Nursing Council of New Zealand.

3. **Can I do a bridging course?**
   
   We need to complete a full assessment of your application before a recommendation is made. In some cases, a bridging course is required prior to your registration.

4. **Can I have an education waiver?**
   
   No, we do not consider education waivers. Your education must meet our requirements.

5. **Do I need to send you my full syllabus?**
   
   No, we will advise you if a full syllabus is needed when we are assessing your application. If we do require your syllabus, your school of nursing needs to send it directly to us.

6. **Will you accept educational documents that I have translated myself?**
   
   No, we only accept documents that have been translated by an official translator.

7. **Will you accept certified copies of translations?**
   
   No, we only accept the original translated documents.

8. **Do you require a NZQA education assessment?**
   
   No, we conduct our own assessment and do not require a NZQA education assessment. The New Zealand Nursing Council is separate from NZQA.

**Checklist**

- Fill in the education form and send it to your nursing school

  **Note:** you will receive the education form after you apply for registration
Definitions

Curriculum/ course descriptors means the subjects comprising a course of study.

Learning outcomes are statements that describe the knowledge or skills students should acquire at the end of a course.

NZQA is the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

NZQF is the New Zealand Qualifications Framework.

Review

Last reviewed: April 2019

This standard will be reviewed by October 2019.