

DENTAL COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

Te Kaunihera Tiaki Niho o Aotearoa

Overseas Trained Dentists Preliminary Examination

**Candidate Information for
Overseas Trained Dentists**

2009

Website: www.dcnz.org.nz

**Dental Council of New Zealand
Dentist Board
PO Box 10 448
Wellington
New Zealand**

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- *Please note that this handbook is accurate at time of print, however it is strongly recommended that you visit the DCNZ website www.dcnz.org.nz for updated information.*

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SECTION I - Introduction

Dentists are registered under the provisions of the Health Practitioner Competence Assurance (HPCA) Act 2003. Under the HPCA Act, dental practitioners may be registered in one or more scopes of practice. A "scope of practice" describes what a practitioner is entitled to do. The Dental Council (DCNZ) has prescribed a scope of general dental practice for dentists together with specialist scopes of dental practice. Please refer to www.dcnz.org.nz for details on the scopes of practice. This document relates to the registration examination process for overseas-qualified dentists seeking registration as a dentist (in the scope of general dental practice).

To register in a scope(s) of practice you will need to:

- Have a 'prescribed' (approved) qualification for that scope of practice
- Be competent to practise in the scope(s) of practice
- Be fit for registration

Under Section 19(5) of the HPCA Act the DCNZ Dentist Board may before authorising the registration of an applicant require them to take and pass an examination for the purpose of satisfying itself that:

- The applicant is competent to practise, in New Zealand, within the scope of practice in respect of which the applicant seeks to be registered
- The applicant's ability to communicate in and comprehend English is sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public.

A pass in the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations (NZDREX) is a prescribed qualification for registration as a dentist (in the general dental practice scope). Applicants with non-prescribed undergraduate qualifications can apply directly to the NZDREX examination process and avoid the costly qualification assessment process. (See Appendix 1 for list of prescribed qualifications for registration in the general dental scope of practice.)

NZDREX is comprised of an Overseas Trained Dentists Preliminary Examination and a Clinical Examination. The Overseas Trained Dentists Preliminary Examination is held in conjunction with Australian Dental Council (ADC) candidates. This joint examination assesses candidates' eligibility to enter the Clinical examination process.

Candidates must satisfy the Dentist Board of their competence in English before they can be admitted to the Preliminary Examination. Candidates must pass the Preliminary Examination before they can be admitted to the Clinical Examination.

If you wish to sit an examination for registration in a "specialist" scope of practice please contact the Dentist Board. Please note that for entry to the specialist examination process you must be registered as a dentist in New Zealand or hold a prescribed qualification for registration in the general dental practice scope. If this does not apply to you we encourage you to satisfy the requirements for registration as a dentist in New Zealand in the first instance.

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SECTION II - Enrolment and Examination Procedures

1. Introduction

If you have a non-prescribed qualification and wish to apply to sit the Overseas Trained Dentists Preliminary Examination for the first time, complete the pre-assessment form **DE001**. You must demonstrate that you have satisfied the entry requirements to NZDREX, which are set out in 3) below before your application to sit the Overseas Trained Dentist Preliminary Examination is accepted.

Subsequent enrolments

If you have previously applied for registration as a dentist or to sit the registration examinations and have been required to sit and pass NZDREX Written you should download form **DE001A**.

If you fail an attempt at the OTDP Examination, you are required to download **DE001A** and submit the application form with fee to the DCNZ before its closing date, in order to be eligible for a further attempt at the OTDP examination. Once you have been assessed and are eligible to undertake a further attempt at the Preliminary Examination, a letter advising you of the outcome of the subsequent assessment and an application form to sit the OTDP Examination will be posted to your address. When you pass the OTDP Examination you will need to submit an application form to sit the DCNZ Clinical examination.

2. Enrolling for the first time - Eligibility Criteria

Before you can be admitted to the NZDREX you must:

- Provide satisfactory evidence of successful completion of a five-year undergraduate dental degree at a recognised tertiary academic institution
- Appear to meet the fitness for registration requirements of S16 of the HPPCA Act 2003. This section requires that the Dentist Board must be satisfied that you:
 - Are able to communicate effectively and comprehend English sufficiently to protect the health and safety of the public. Unless you can demonstrate that your first language is English and that your undergraduate dental training was completed in English, with English being the sole language of instruction and assessment and in a country where English is the first and prime language you will need to sit and pass a DCNZ Dentist Board approved English test before you can be admitted to the NZDREX. See Appendix 2 for details on approved tests
 - Have not been convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for a term of three months or longer which reflects adversely on your fitness to practise
 - Are not unable to perform the functions required for the practice of dentistry because of a mental or physical condition.
 - Are not the subject of professional disciplinary proceedings, investigations or orders, which reflect adversely on your fitness to practise. In this regard Dentist Board will require certificates of good standing from every jurisdiction you have worked in as an oral health practitioner in the last seven years.
 - Will not endanger the health and safety of the public

3. Confirmation of enrolment in the first part of NZDREX

Once your completed pre-assessment form including supporting documentation and payment has been received, your application will be acknowledged and your eligibility to enrol in the Overseas Trained Dentists Preliminary Examination assessed. Confirmation of eligibility will not

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be issued until all the necessary documentation has been received and the Dental Council has received evidence (a certified copy of your English test report) that you have sat and passed an approved English test to the DCNZ required level.

Please note that applications will be returned to the applicant if they are incomplete and missing essential documentation such as an English Test report.

Once you have been assessed and are eligible to undertake the Preliminary Examination, a letter advising you of the outcome of the assessment and an application form to sit the OTDP Examination will be posted to your address. You must complete this form and send it with the examination fee to the Australian Dental Council before their closing date.

Pre-assessment fee:

The following fee is payable in advance by all applicants seeking eligibility to enter the examination process.

Assessment of eligibility fee. Please refer to the DCNZ website's fee schedule for the current fee. <http://www.dcnz.org.nz/dcScheduleFees>

Closing date: You must ensure that you send in your completed DCNZ pre- assessment form and fee no later than the **closing date advertised on the DCNZ timetable as follows:** <http://www.dcnz.org.nz/dcExaminationsTimetable> to the DCNZ, if you wish to sit the March and/or September OTD Preliminary Examinations respectively. **LATE ASSESSMENT APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

The DCNZ closing dates are to allow sufficient administrative time for assessing your eligibility to sit the Preliminary Examination before the closing date of the ADC examination. A list of candidates deemed eligible to sit the examination will be forwarded to the ADC.

Please note that the period of application of assessment may change. Please visit our website regularly for updates. <http://www.dcnz.org.nz/dcExaminationsTimetable>

4. Application Procedures

When you receive a letter of confirmation from the DCNZ to enter the examination process, you will also receive the Overseas Trained Dentists Preliminary Examination application form. You will need complete the information required, enclose the fee and photographs and return the form to:

The Australian Dental Council
Ground Floor, 120 Jolimont Road,
East Melbourne
Victoria 3002
AUSTRALIA

PLEASE NOTE: FROM THIS POINT ONWARD, ALL ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE OVERSEAS TRAINED DENTIST PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION PROCESS SUCH AS VENUES, WITHDRAWALS, APPEALS ETC MUST BE FORWARDED TO THE AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.

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5. Closing date for the Examinations

The closing dates for the ADC to accept applications to sit the joint ADC Overseas Trained Preliminary Examination are **1 December and 1 June** for the **March** and **September** examinations respectively. These dates may change. Please ensure you have a current ADC Preliminary Examination application form and your application arrives at the ADC on or before these closing dates.

Late applications will not be considered by the Australian Dental Council.

6. Examination Sites and Procedures

The Preliminary Examination may be taken at a number of overseas sites. These sites may vary from time to time. Examinations are also held in the capital cities and in some larger regional centres in Australia.

Candidates will be advised where their examination will be held and dates confirmed approximately one month before the examination. You may nominate a venue in Australia or another overseas location and, if the venue is unavailable, a nearby venue is offered. Every effort is made to offer you a suitable venue.

Venues for past examinations have included:

EUROPE	Athens, Brussels, London.
MIDDLE EAST	Tehran.
SUB CONTINENT	New Delhi, Islamabad.
AFRICA	Cairo, Nairobi, Johannesburg, Harare.
ASIA	Manila, Hong Kong, Singapore.
NORTH AMERICA	Not available.
SOUTH AMERICA	Bogotá, Brasilia, Mexico.
AUSTRALIA	All States and Territories.

Availability of venues varies and some may not be available for a particular session. All visa and travel arrangements are the responsibility of the candidate. You should ensure that you are able to travel to the nominated venue. Failure to undertake the examination because of an inability to obtain necessary visas or to arrange travel, etc will be considered a withdrawal and fees will apply.

You are required to produce proof of identity, usually a passport. Details will be provided prior to the examination by the venue organizers.

7. Examination Fees

The preliminary examination fee is payable in advance to ADC by all candidates sitting the examination:

Please refer to the DCNZ website's fee schedule for the current fee for the OTDP examination application: <http://www.dcnz.org.nz/dcScheduleFees>

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Payment allows one attempt only at the examination. To repeat the examination a separate application must be completed and the fee paid again.

All fees paid must be by Bank Cheque in Australian dollars made payable to the Australian Dental Council, by Australian Money Order or by credit card - Visa or MasterCard only.

8. Withdrawal from an Examination

Candidates will forfeit 20% of their examination fee if their withdrawal from an examination is received before the closing date for that examination. Those candidates whose withdrawal is received after the closing date for the examination will forfeit 50% of their examination fee.

Those withdrawing within four weeks of an examination will forfeit the whole fee unless they can produce a medical certificate – in which case they forfeit 40% of the fee.

Please note: All withdrawal notifications should be sent directly to the ADC.

9. Examination Results

You will be advised in writing by the ADC of the results of the Preliminary Examination as soon as practicable, usually within 10 to 12 weeks after the date of those examinations.

A copy of your results will also be sent to the DCNZ.

Results are not given by phone or fax or email.

10. Appeals

Appeals against examination results must be in writing and include all relevant information and be sent only to the Australian Dental Council within four weeks from the date of the notification of results. A formal mechanism for appeals is in place. A lodgement fee of \$A110 applies.

11. Enrolment in NZDREX Clinical

If you have passed the Preliminary Examination and wish to sit the next available NZDREX Clinical you will need to download DE003 from the DCNZ website and attach your Preliminary Examination result to the NZDREX Clinical application form.

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12. Structure and Scope of the Examination

The Preliminary Examination consists of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) and Short Answer Questions (SAQ) designed to test the candidate's knowledge of dentistry and of clinical and technical procedures relevant to dental practice in Australia and New Zealand.

The examination is held on two consecutive days.

Day One

MCQ Paper 1	2 hours
SAQ Paper	1 hour

Day Two

MCQ Paper 2	2 hours
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To pass the Preliminary Examination candidates must achieve passes in each of the three individual components at the one examination, namely MCQ Paper 1, SAQ Paper, and MCQ Paper 2.

- The **MCQ Papers** cover the following:

Paper 1

Section A

Tooth Conservation
Endodontics
Dental Pulp

Section B

Crown & Bridgework
Prosthodontics (Partial)
Prosthodontics (Full)

Section C

Dental Caries
Applied Basic Science (Conservative Dentistry)
Dental Materials
Applied Basic Science (Prosthodontics & Materials)

Paper 2

Section D

Anaesthesia & Resuscitation
Infection Control
Oral Surgery
Surgery
Applied Basic Science (Oral Surgery)

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Section E

Oral Medicine
Oral Pathology
Pharmacology & Therapeutics
Medicine

Section F

Radiology
Dentistry for Children
Orthodontics

Section G

Periodontics
Preventive Dentistry
Public Dental Health

Some questions may be based on radiographs or photographs in which candidates will be asked to indicate the possible pathology that may be present from a number of options. Candidates should note that test-taking skills are not a substitute for knowledge.

• **The SAQ Paper** covers topics relevant to current clinical practice in Australia and New Zealand. All questions have equal value and time management in answering is important. The pass mark for the SAQ Paper is 50%.

Different questions are included for each Preliminary Examination. The standard of each examination is at the same level.

Recent results indicate that some candidates need to take greater care in preparing for the Preliminary Examination by studying more broadly and in greater depth. Additionally, as many of the questions test clinical judgement or ability to use specific knowledge, candidates should attempt to analyse each question thoroughly before giving their answer.

It should not be assumed that dental disease patterns, treatment needs, dental education and treatment methods, are similar in all countries.

The Preliminary Examination is conducted under strict supervision. Candidates will be provided with all material necessary. Calculators, slide rules or other mechanical or electronic aids are neither required nor permitted. Scrap paper is neither provided nor permitted for any of the papers.

13. Sample examinations items

Previous examination papers are not available. However a sample paper of MCQ questions will be sent to candidates on receipt of their application form and fee. Each MCQ question is followed by several suggested answers. All MCQ questions require a single response. The candidate selects the one that represents the best answer and marks the corresponding letter alongside the question number of the attached answer sheet. A copy of the MCQ answer sheet used in the Preliminary Examination is attached to this booklet (Appendix C).

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The following sample questions are intended to give candidates an indication of the format of the Examination. They do not represent the degree of difficulty or scope of any part of the examination.

Examples:

Dental caries is a:

- A. genetic disease
- B. nutritional deficiency disease
- C. disease caused by bacteria
- D. disease of auto-immune origin

The best answer is C, so the letter C should be marked alongside the number corresponding to this question on the Answer Sheet.

Paper 1

For the natural dentition it is better for the teeth on the balancing side to touch

- A. only lightly or not at all
- B. heavily in balance
- C. prematurely in centric relation
- D. prematurely in centric occlusion

The best answer is A.

A patient wearing complete dentures complains of soreness. The first step in handling this complaint should be to:

- A. relieve the denture in the area that is sore
- B. reduce the occlusion on the teeth over the sore area
- C. determine the cause of the complaint before attempting treatment
- D. reline or refit the denture causing the soreness
- E. apply a tissue conditioner to the denture surface.

The best answer is C.

Paper 2

A 25 year old male complained of many minute vesicles on the vermilion border of the upper lip. The vesicles were preceded by an "itching" sensation. The patient stated the vesicles develop "two or three times" a year. The most likely diagnosis is:

- A. impetigo
- B. herpes zoster
- C. recurrent herpes simplex infection
- D. primary herpetic stomatitis
- E. recurrent aphthous ulceration

The best answer is C.

The earliest apical radiographic change seen in a pulpally involved tooth is:

- A. resorption of bone
- B. loss of lamina dura
- C. widening of the periodontal ligament space
- D. hyper-cementosis
- E. external root resorption

The best answer is C.

The most common problem arising from premature extraction of deciduous molars is the loss of:

- A arch length
- B facial contour
- C vertical height
- D sibilant speech sounds
- E freeway space

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The best answer is A.

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APPENDIX 1 Prescribed Qualifications for Registration in General Dental Practice

- Bachelor of Dental Surgery, University of Otago; or
- An Australian Dental Council (ADC) accredited undergraduate dental degree from an ADC accredited dental school in Australia and a pass in the New Zealand Conditions of Practice Examination; or
- A Commission on Dental Accreditation (CDA) accredited undergraduate dental degree from a CDA accredited dental school in the USA or Canada and a pass in the New Zealand Conditions of Practice Examination; or
- A General Dental Council (GDC) accredited undergraduate dental degree from a GDC accredited dental school in the UK, or Commonwealth as listed below and a pass in the New Zealand Conditions of Practice Examination

Dental School	Expiry date Of recognition
Western Cape	31/12/1997
Hong Kong	31/12/2000
Singapore	31/12/1999
Witwatersrand	31/12/2000
Pretoria	31/12/2000
Stellenbosch	31/12/2000
Medical University of South Africa	31/12/2000
Malaya	31/12/2000; or

- A five year undergraduate dental degree; a pass in the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations and a pass in the New Zealand Conditions of Practice Examination; or
- A five year undergraduate dental degree; a pass in the Australian Dentist Board licensing examinations and a pass in the New Zealand Conditions of Practice Examination; or
- A five year undergraduate dental degree; a pass in the USA licensing examinations and a pass in the New Zealand Conditions of Practice Examination

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APPENDIX 2 Approved English Tests

Introduction

An overseas-qualified dentist must satisfy the Dental Council that his or her ability to communicate in and comprehend English is sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public. In general applicants are normally required to have met the section 16 requirement if:-

- a) The applicant has graduated from a joint DCNZ/ADC accredited programme; or
- b) English is the applicant's first language; and the applicant has completed their undergraduate dental training in New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, USA, Eire or Canada where English is the sole language of instruction and assessment; or
- c) The applicant has passed a Council approved English test to the required level.

If do you not meet any of the above criteria, the Dental Council will require you to demonstrate your competence in English by passing either of the following approved English tests.

Please note:

That the Dental Council will not accept a test report below the required grades in the Dentist Board-approved English tests. If you do not pass the test to the required level you are strongly advised to repeat your English examination to the DCNZ required level and apply for admission to the Overseas Trained Dentists Preliminary Examination after you have passed the test.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic Band)

The examination has four parts: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking.

Reading (60 minutes)	Contains reading passages (1,500–2500 words) Questions on the passages
Writing (60 minutes)	Contains two tasks Requires no specialist knowledge
Listening (30 minutes)	Contains 38-42 questions Sections I & II are about social needs Sections III & IV are about situations in educational and training contexts
Speaking (10–15 minutes)	An oral interview (a conversation with the examiner) The examiner assesses whether you have the knowledge and skills to communicate effectively with native English speakers

The Dental Council requires you to:

- Sit the academic level of IELTS
- Pass all four parts of IELTS (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking)
- Get an average score of 7.5 or more for IELTS (all parts)
- And score at least 7 in each band of the four individual components of listening, reading, writing and speaking

Universities and polytechnics can provide sample questions to help to prepare candidates for IELTS.

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The publications below are commercially produced and designed to prepare candidates to take IELTS tests. They are available from bookshops specialising in English language teaching materials or from the publisher.

- **IELTS Preparation and Practice Reading and Writing- Academic Module**
By Wendy Sahanaya and Jeremy Lindeck
IALF Education for Development, OUP, Melbourne, 1997
(ISBN 019 554093 X)

- **Prepare for IELTS Academic Modules**
By Vanessa Todd and Penny Cameron
In search Language Centre, University of Technology, Sydney, 1996
[Book and Cassette] (ISBN 1 86365 311 2)

Website address: www.ietls.org.nz

Occupational English Test (OET)

The OET examination is available in Australia and in Australian Embassies throughout the world. The examination has four parts: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking.

The Dental Council requires that you pass all four parts of OET with an A or B grade

See website for additional information: www.oet.com.au

Results

You must arrange for your English Test results to be sent directly to the Dental Council from the examining body i.e. (IELTS or OET Test Centre). The Council will not accept certified copies.

PLEASE NOTE: A pass in an approved English test is a strict prerequisite for entry into the examination process.