

14 September 2011

To whom it may concern,

We write further to our letter of August 2010. As you will recall, this letter advised you that:

- The Council's policy on the New Zealand Dental Registration Examination for applicants with assessment of eligibility applications submitted **prior** to 4 November 2009 was amended on 2 August 2010 (we **enclose** a further copy of this amended policy for your information);
- As you had submitted your application for assessment of eligibility for the New Zealand Dentist Registration Examination (NZDREX) with the Dental Council **prior** to 4 November 2009 this policy applies to you;
- Under the revised policy you have two years to complete the NZDREX and that this means that you have until 2 August 2012 to pass the entirety of the NZDREX; and
- If you did not complete the NZDREX by 2 August 2012 you would be required to enroll and comply with all of the requirements of the Council's current Examination Policy.

The next written examination, which will be the last opportunity to sit the written component before the expiry date of the policy, is being held in March 2012, and we are open for applications until 4 November 2011.

If you wish to apply for the written examination in March 2012, you have two options:

- **Option One:** You can choose to continue under the policy for applicants that have submitted their eligibility applications prior to 4 November 2009. If you choose this option you must sit and pass the written examination in March 2012 **and** you must sit and pass the clinical examination, in its entirety, in June 2012, as this is the last clinical examination before 2 August 2012. Please note that if you do not complete all of the requirements of the NZDREX by 2 August 2012, you will be required to enroll by completing the *Assessment of Eligibility for Enrolment in the New Zealand Dental Registration Examination: Written Examination* form, and comply with all of the requirements of the Council's current Examination Policy (we **enclose** a copy of the Council's current Examination Policy for your information). This will mean that you will need to:
 - Meet the requirement of the current policy on English Competence and English Tests. Please note that under the current policy applicants must obtain the required level of proficiency in **one** sitting. Accordingly, if you passed the English test under the old policy, and did not obtain the required level of proficiency in one sitting, you will need to re-sit the English test;
 - Sit and pass the written examination. Please note that a pass in the written examination completed under the old policy will not be valid. This means if you pass the written examination in March 2012, but do not pass the clinical examination in June 2012, you will need to re-sit and pass the written examination under the Council's current policy;
 - Sit and pass the clinical examination; and
 - Meet all other requirements as stipulated in the policy provided.

Please note that under the Council's current policy applicants have a maximum of **three** opportunities to pass **both** the written and clinical examinations collectively. In addition, the current policy requires applicants to pass **all** of the components of the clinical examination in **one** sitting, which means that in future no partial passes will be awarded.

- **Option Two:** You can choose to transfer to the Council's current policy now. This means that you will need to:
 - Meet the requirement of the current policy on English Competence and English Tests. Please note that under the current policy applicants must obtain the required level of proficiency in one sitting. Accordingly, if you passed the English test under the old Policy, and did not obtain the required level of proficiency in **one** sitting, you will need to re-sit the English test;
 - Sit and pass the written examination;
 - Sit and pass the clinical examination; and
 - Meet all other requirements as stipulated in the policy provided.


Please note that under the Council's current policy applicants have a maximum of **three** opportunities to pass **both** the written and clinical examinations collectively. In addition, the current policy requires applicants to pass all of the components of the clinical examination in **one** sitting, which means that in future no partial passes will be awarded.

We enclose a form for you to complete and return with your application for the March 2012 written examination. Please note that if you do not return this form, you will continue to be assessed according to the Examination Policy for applicants with assessment of eligibility applications submitted **prior** to 4 November 2009.

If you do not apply for the March 2012 written examination, you will be required to enroll and comply with the requirements of the Council's current Examination Policy as you will be unable to complete all of the requirements of the NZDREX by 2 August 2012.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us directly on +64 4 499 4820 or at inquiries@dcnz.org.nz.

Yours sincerely


Carolyn Young
Deputy Registrar

DENTAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera Tiaki Niho

I, _____, wish to apply for the written examination to be held in March 2012.

I have received the Council's letter of 14 September 2011, and understand that I have two options available to me, namely:

- **Option One** - I may choose to continue under the policy for applicants that have submitted their eligibility applications prior to 4 November 2009;
- **Option Two** - I may choose to choose to transfer to the Council's current Examination policy now.

I confirm that I wish to choose:

Option One

In selecting this option, I understand that:

- In order to complete all of the requirements of the NZDREX by 2 August 2012, I must sit and pass the written examination in March 2012 **and** I must sit and pass the clinical examination in June 2012, as this is the last clinical examination before the policy expiry date of 2 August 2012;
- If I do not complete all of the requirements of the NZDREX by 2 August 2012, I will be required to enroll and comply with all of the requirements of the Council's current Examination Policy;
- This means that if I do pass the written examination in March 2012, but do not pass the clinical examination in June 2012, I will need to re-sit and pass the written examination under the current Policy.

Signature of applicant

Date

Option Two

In selecting this option, I understand that I must comply with all of the requirements of the Council's current Examination Policy.

I confirm that I have met the requirement of the current policy on English Competence and English Tests, and that I am therefore eligible to sit the written examination under the current policy.

Signature of applicant

Date

**Policy on the New Zealand Dental Registration
Examinations: Applicants with Assessment of Eligibility
applications submitted PRIOR to 4 November 2009**

Approved by Council: 2 August 2010
Governance Structure Update: 8 August 2011
Policy End Date: end of business 2 August 2012

Introduction

The Dental Council has approved the following policy for the following New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations:

- New Zealand Dentist Registration Examination (NZDREX)
- New Zealand Dental Technology Registration Examinations (NZDTechREX)
- New Zealand Dental Hygiene Registration Examination (NZDHREX)
- New Zealand Dental Therapy Registration Examinations (NZDTREX)

The examination process comprises of two components:

- Written examination
- Clinical examination

Legislation

Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003:

- Section 12 – Qualifications must be prescribed.

Policy Statement

Eligibility criteria for the written examination

1. To be eligible to gain entry to the written examination applicants must satisfy each of the following minimum criteria:
 - a) Provide satisfactory evidence of successful completion of an appropriate dental qualification at a recognised tertiary academic institution:

Examination	Dental qualifications
New Zealand Dentist Registration Examination (NZDREX)	Five-year undergraduate dental degree from a recognised tertiary academic institution
New Zealand Dental Technology Registration Examinations (NZDTechREX)	Three-year dental technology qualification from a recognised tertiary academic institution. Applicants who have completed a two-year qualification with appropriate subsequent experience may be admitted to the examination.
New Zealand Dental Hygiene Registration Examination (NZDHREX)	Two-year dental hygiene qualification from a recognised tertiary academic institution or successful completion of an undergraduate dental degree at a recognised tertiary academic institution.
New Zealand Dental Therapy Registration Examinations (NZDTREX)	Two-year dental therapy qualification from a recognised tertiary academic institution or an undergraduate dental degree from a recognised tertiary academic institution.

- b) Appear to satisfy the fitness for registration requirements of s16 of the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act 2003 (the Act)¹. This section states that no applicant may be registered if:
- i) he or she does not satisfy Council that he or she is able to communicate effectively; or
 - ii) he or she does not satisfy Council that he or she is able to communicate and comprehend English sufficiently to protect the health and safety of the public; or
 - iii) he or she has been convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for a term of three months or longer which reflects adversely on his or her fitness to practise; or
 - iv) he or she is unable to perform the functions required for the practise of dentistry because of a mental or physical condition; or
 - v) he or she is the subject of professional disciplinary proceedings and those proceedings reflect adversely on his or her fitness to practise; or
 - vi) he or she is under investigation in respect of a matter that may be the subject of professional disciplinary proceedings and that investigation reflects adversely on his or her fitness to practise; or
 - vii) he or she is subject to an order which reflects adversely on his or her fitness to practise; or
 - viii) Council has reason to believe that the applicant may endanger the health and safety of the public.
- c) Demonstrate the ability to communicate and comprehend English to a level sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public.
- i) Meet the requirement as stipulated in the Policy on English Competence and English Tests (Appendix A), effective May 2009 – April 2010.

¹ Council will not permit applicants to enter the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations who may not be eligible for registration. If an applicant does not appear to satisfy the fitness for registration requirements of s16 of the Act, he or she will be directed to submit an application for registration to the Dental Council.

- d) Applications for the assessment of eligibility for enrolment in the written examination are valid for two years after being received by the Dental Council.
 - i) If an applicant has not sat the written examination within a two year period they will be required to submit a new application for assessment.
 - ii) Applicants will then be required to follow the Policy on the Entry Requirements to the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations for applicants with assessment of eligibility applications submitted **after** 4 November 2009.

Eligibility criteria for the clinical examination

- 2. To be eligible to gain entry to the clinical examination applicants must satisfy each of the following criteria:
 - a) Hold a current pass in the written examination (valid for three years).
 - b) Meet the requirement of the Policy on English Competence and English tests, May 2009 (Appendix A).
 - c) Provide a valid Hepatitis B and C report (requirements for a valid report can be found on the website).
 - d) Applicants have three years from passing the written examination and three opportunities to pass the clinical examination.
 - i) The three year time period cannot be expired at the date of sitting the clinical examination.
 - ii) A request for a fourth and final attempt or a time extension for the clinical examination can be made to the Council and entry is subject to its approval. The Council will need to be satisfied that a period of formal training, of a Council approved course, has been completed before granting approval for a fourth attempt.

Clinical examination partial passes or failures

- 3. Applicants who display competence in both simulation components and failed up to a maximum of two of the additional components (OSCE, Visual Interpretation & Patient Clinical procedures – refer to website for more details) may be awarded a partial pass and will be permitted to retake only those specific outstanding components.
- 4. Applicants who have failed or who received partial passes may not retake the examination until at least three months after the date of the release of the examination results.
 - a) The Council has the discretion to reduce this period.

Clinical examination priority

- 5. The clinical examination can accommodate a limited number of applicants. If more applicants apply, the Dental Council gives priority, in the following order, to applicants who:

- i) are new and have been declined a place once, or have failed and subsequently been declined a place twice (other than priority 7)
- ii) have passed the written examination, in the first attempt, ranked on the basis of their marks
- iii) have been exempted from the written examination
- iv) have passed the written examination, but required more than one attempt, ranked on the basis of their marks
- v) have failed the clinical examination and subsequently been declined a place once
- vi) have failed the clinical examination and are making their first application to resit
- vii) are unable to demonstrate recent clinical experience, being a minimum of six months after graduation, within the past three years
- viii) have transferred from the Australian Dental Council preliminary examination process
- ix) have failed and been advised of the desirability of retraining before resitting

Withdrawing

6. If an applicant decides to withdraw from any of the components a withdrawal fee will apply. These fees will be published on the Council's website.

Validity of successful examination components

7. The components of the examination process is valid for the following periods from the date of successful completion of the examinations/tests:
 - a) English Tests (IELTS or OET as per Appendix A) - two years.
 - b) Written component – three years.
8. Applicants need to register with the Council and practise within New Zealand within three years after passing all the components and meeting the eligibility criteria for registration.
 - a) Applicants will be required, at the time of registration, to meet the requirements as stipulated in the then current Recency of Practice Policy to ensure that they meet the required standard of competence to protect the safety of the public.

Previous policies

9. Applicants registered under a previous Policy on Entry Requirements to New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations have two years from the approval date on this policy to complete the New Zealand Dental Registration Examination under the previous policy.
 - a) Applicants who do not complete their examination within the two year period will be required to enrol and comply with the requirements of the current Policy on the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations.

Future policy changes

10. In the event that there any other policy changes associated with examinations, the Dental Council will inform all New Zealand Dental Registration Examination applicants of the policy changes that would potentially impact on them and/or any implementation grace period(s) in the revised policy that will be applied to registered applicants.

Appendix

Appendix A: Policy on English Competence and English Tests: May 2009 – April 2010

Appendix A

Policy on English Competence and English Tests

Only applicable to applicants under the Policy on the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations: Applicants with Assessment of Eligibility applications submitted PRIOR to 4 November 2009

Approved by Dental Council 26 May 2009
Replaced by revised policy: April 2010

This policy is ONLY valid for Dentist with assessment of eligibility applications submitted PRIOR to 4 November 2009.

Introduction

The Dental Council is charged with the responsibility under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance (HPCA) Act 2003 to protect the health and safety of members of the public by providing for mechanisms to ensure that oral health practitioners are competent and fit to practice their professions. This includes the ability to communicate effectively.

The Dental Council has approved the following policy on English competence and approved English test which applies to all applicants for registration, including New Zealand graduates.

Legislation

Sections 16 of the HPCA Act 2003 states that no applicant for registration may be registered if:

- a) He or she does not satisfy the Council that he or she is able to communicate effectively; or
- b) He or she does not satisfy the Council that his or her ability to communicate in and comprehend English is sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public

Rationale

Council considers that effective English and communication skills are a pre-requisite to practising as an oral health practitioner in New Zealand. Without them the informed consent and active participation of the patient is jeopardised. An objective test of English communication skills is the best way of ensuring that oral health practitioners can comprehend and communicate effectively.

Policy

Applicants for registration are normally considered to have met the section 16 requirement if:-

- a) The applicant has graduated from a joint Dental Council/ADC accredited programme²; 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.

² Provided this is an accredited requirement of the degree programme. (ie the protocol document should require the accreditation team to be assured that graduates possess communication skills equivalent to a B pass in all four parts of OET)

Approved English Test

The Council recognises a pass in the following English tests:

International English Language Testing, IELTS.

Applicants are required to

- a) sit the academic band
- b) gain an average score of 7.5 or more
- c) score at least 7 in each band of the four individual components of listening, reading, writing and speaking

Or

Occupational English Test (OET)

A pass with A or B grades in each of the four sections is required.

Dental Technology applicants only

International English Language Testing, IELTS.

Applicants are required to

- a) sit the academic band
- b) gain an average score of 7.0 or more

Occupational English Test (OET)

A pass with A or B grades in each of the four sections is required.

Validity

A pass in an approved English test is valid for 2 years for new applicants or 3 years for those repeat registration or examination applicants who can demonstrate, if required, that they have continuously lived and worked in a country where English is the first language.

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

Deficiencies in English Communication Skills

English communication skills are also assessed as part of the New Zealand dental registration examination process. If deficiencies are found by examiners applicants may fail the clinical examination.

If deficiencies in English communication skills are reported subsequent to registration practitioners may be required to undertake remedial English training and then pass the communication skills assessment of the dental registration examination and/or an approved English test.

The Council has discretionary power to require an applicant to provide proof of English language competence at any time.

Implementation of Policy

This policy will take effect from 5 December 2008. From 5 December 2008 exemptions are no longer granted.

**Policy on the New Zealand Dental Registration
Examinations: Applicants with Assessment of Eligibility
applications submitted AFTER 4 November 2009**

Approved by Council: 2 August 2010
Governance Structure Update: 8 August 2011

Introduction

The Dental Council has approved the following policy for the following New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations:

- New Zealand Dentist Registration Examination (NZDREX)
- New Zealand Dental Specialist Registration Examinations (NZDSREX)
- New Zealand Dental Technology Registration Examinations (NZDTechREX)
- New Zealand Dental Hygiene Registration Examination (NZDHREX)
- New Zealand Dental Therapy Registration Examinations (NZDTREX)

The examination process for all of the examinations except the specialist examination (NZDSREX) comprises of two components:

- Written examination
- Clinical examination

The specialist examination details are provided separately at the end of this policy. The preceding information up to the specialist section is applicable to **ALL OTHER** examinations (Dentist, Technology, Hygiene and Therapy)

Legislation

Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003:

- Section 12 – Qualifications must be prescribed.

Policy Statement for all examinations EXCLUDING Specialist Examinations

Eligibility criteria for the written examination:

11. To be eligible to gain entry to the written examination applicants must satisfy each of the following minimum criteria:

- e) Provide satisfactory evidence of successful completion of an appropriate dental qualification at a recognised tertiary academic institution:

Examination	Dental qualifications
New Zealand Dentist Registration Examination (NZDREX)	Five-year undergraduate dental degree from a recognised tertiary academic institution
New Zealand Dental Technology Registration Examinations (NZDTechREX)	Three-year dental technology qualification from a recognised tertiary academic institution. Applicants who have completed a two-year qualification with appropriate subsequent experience may be admitted to the examination.
New Zealand Dental Hygiene Registration Examination (NZDHREX)	Two-year dental hygiene qualification from a recognised tertiary academic institution or successful completion of an undergraduate dental degree at a recognised tertiary academic institution.
New Zealand Dental Therapy Registration Examinations (NZDTREX)	Two-year dental therapy qualification from a recognised tertiary academic institution or an undergraduate dental degree from a recognised tertiary academic institution.

- f) Be registered in your specific scope of practice and provide a certified copy of the registration certificate, including Certificates of Good Standing from relevant Boards/Councils where registration is, or has been held in the last seven years³. Certificates of Good Standing must be no more than three months old;
- g) Appear to satisfy the fitness for registration requirements of s16 of the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act 2003 (the Act)⁴. This section states that no applicant may be registered if:
- i) he or she does not satisfy Council that he or she is able to communicate effectively; or
 - ii) he or she does not satisfy Council that he or she is able to communicate and comprehend English sufficiently to protect the health and safety of the public; or
 - iii) he or she has been convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for a term of three months or longer which reflects adversely on his or her fitness to practise; or
 - iv) he or she is unable to perform the functions required for the practise of dentistry because of a mental or physical condition; or
 - v) he or she is the subject of professional disciplinary proceedings and those proceedings reflect adversely on his or her fitness to practise; or
 - vi) he or she is under investigation in respect of a matter that may be the subject of professional disciplinary proceedings and that investigation reflects adversely on his or her fitness to practise; or
 - vii) he or she is subject to an order which reflects adversely on his or her fitness to practise; or

³ Where the profession in which the applicant was engaged was not a registered profession in the jurisdiction in which the applicant qualified and/or subsequently worked, then a Statutory Declaration of professional good standing would be required from the applicant.

⁴ Council will not permit applicants to enter the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations who may not be eligible for registration. If an applicant does not appear to satisfy the fitness for registration requirements of s16 of the Act, he or she will be directed to submit an application for registration to the Dental Council.

- viii) Council has reason to believe that the applicant may endanger the health and safety of the public.
- h) Demonstrate the ability to communicate and comprehend English to a level sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public.
 - i) Meet the requirement(s) as stipulated in the current Policy on English Competence and English Tests listed on the Dental Council website.
- i) Have not exceeded the maximum number of attempts as stipulated in the Attempts section below.

Eligibility criteria for the clinical examination

12. To be eligible to gain entry to the clinical examination applicants must satisfy each of the following criteria:
- a) Hold a current pass in the written examination.
 - b) Meet the requirement of the current Policy on English Competence and English tests.
 - c) Provide a valid Hepatitis B and C report (requirements for a valid report can be found on the Dental Council website).
 - d) Have not exceeded the maximum number of attempts as stipulated in the Attempts section below.

Clinical examination priority

13. The clinical examination can accommodate a limited number of applicants. If more applicants apply, the Dental Council gives priority, in the following order, to applicants who:
- i) are new and have been declined a place once, or have failed and subsequently been declined a place twice (other than priority vii)
 - ii) have passed the written examination, in the first attempt, ranked on the basis of their marks
 - i) have been exempted from the written examination
 - ii) have passed the written examination, but required more than one attempt, ranked on the basis of their marks
 - iii) have failed the clinical examination and subsequently been declined a place once
 - iv) have failed the clinical examination and are making their first application to resit
 - v) are unable to demonstrate recent clinical experience, being a minimum of six months after graduation, within the past three years
 - vi) have transferred from the Australian Dental Council preliminary examination process
 - vii) have failed and been advised of the desirability of retraining before resitting

Passing criteria

14. In order for a applicant to be deemed successful in passing a New Zealand Dental Registration Examination he or she must:

- a) pass the written examination; and
- b) pass the clinical examination

Attempts

15. Applicants have a maximum of three opportunities to pass **both** the written and clinical examinations collectively.

- a) The above principle will also apply for any Australian Dental Registration Examination component failure(s) and will therefore be deemed as a failed attempt(s) of the respective examination components.

16. After two failed attempts Council strongly advises an applicant to undertake a course of re-training prior to commencing the third attempt.

Withdrawing

17. If an applicant decides to withdraw from any of the components a withdrawal fee will apply. These fees will be published on the Dental Council website.

Australian Dental Council (ADC) transfers:

18. Applicants are allowed to transfer from the ADC registration process.

- a) Those applicants will have to comply fully with all sections of the current New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations' policy(ies)

Validity of examination

19. Applicants have three years from the date of first sitting the written examination to pass both examination components.

20. Applications for the assessment of eligibility for enrolment in the written examination are valid for one year after being received by the Dental Council.

- a) If an applicant does not sit the written examination within one year they will be required to submit a new application for assessment.
- b) Applicants will then be required to follow the then current Policy on the Entry Requirements to the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations.

21. The components of the examination process is valid for the following periods from the date of successful completion of the examinations/tests:

- a) English Tests (as required by the current Policy on English Competence and English Tests) - two years.

Policy Statement for Specialist Examinations ONLY

Eligibility criteria for the New Zealand Dental Specialist Registration Examinations (NZDSREX)

22. Three-year postgraduate dental qualification in the specialty from a recognised tertiary academic institution. Applicants who have completed a two year qualification with appropriate subsequent experience may be admitted to the examination. Council also requires applicants to possess an appropriate level of knowledge and skills of general dental practice. Council will be satisfied on this account where an applicant:
- a) possess a prescribed qualification for registration in the general dental scope of practice (which includes a pass in the NZDREX general dental practice examination) or are registered in the general scope of dental practice; or
 - b) has met any general examination or assessment requirements set by Council such as sitting and passing all or part of the NZDREX general dental examination or any other Council approved examination or assessment.
23. An applicant should provide evidence of his/her competence to practise in the specialist scope by providing proof that he/she has:
- a) practised in the specialty to the required level in the last three years
 - b) has undertaken appropriate Continuing Professional Development within the last three years
24. Evidence of research undertaken by the applicant is required and may be assessed either as part of the admission to the specialist examination or as part of the examination process.
25. Appear to satisfy the fitness for registration requirements of s16 of the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act 2003 (the Act)⁵. This section states that no applicant may be registered if:
- a) he or she does not satisfy Council that he or she is able to communicate effectively; or
 - b) he or she does not satisfy Council that he or she is able to communicate and comprehend English sufficiently to protect the health and safety of the public; or
 - c) he or she has been convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for a term of three months or longer which reflects adversely on his or her fitness to practise; or
 - d) he or she is unable to perform the functions required for the practise of dentistry because of a mental or physical condition; or
 - e) he or she is the subject of professional disciplinary proceedings and those proceedings reflect adversely on his or her fitness to practise; or
 - f) he or she is under investigation in respect of a matter that may be the subject of professional disciplinary proceedings and that investigation reflects adversely on his or her fitness to practise; or
 - g) he or she is subject to an order which reflects adversely on his or her fitness to practise; or
 - h) Council has reason to believe that the applicant may endanger the health and safety of the public.
26. Demonstrate the ability to communicate and comprehend English to a level sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public.

⁵ Council will not permit applicants to enter the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations who may not be eligible for registration. If an applicant does not appear to satisfy the fitness for registration requirements of s16 of the Act, he or she will be directed to submit an application for registration to the Dental Council.

- a) Meet the requirement(s) as stipulated in the current Policy on English Competence and English Tests listed on the Dental Council website.
27. Provide a valid Hepatitis B and C report (requirements for a valid report can be found on the Dental Council website).

Examination components

18. The Specialist Registration Examination consists of five sections:
- Written Examination which establishes whether a candidate has an adequate understanding of the scientific basis of a specialty and can apply that knowledge to clinical situations
 - Case presentations where applicants are required to submit documentation of a number of specific cases relating to their specialty
 - Clinical examination
 - Oral examination
 - Evaluation of the candidates research skills

Passing criteria

19. All sections of the exam must be passed to pass the specialist exam. No partial passes are awarded.
20. Candidates will only be permitted one attempt at the specialist examination.

Following sections applicable to ALL applicants

Previous policies:

21. This policy rescinds all previous policies related to examinations, including but not limited to the Policy on Entry Requirements to New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations.
- a) Applicants registered under the April 2009 Policy on Entry Requirements to New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations have two years from the approval date on this policy to complete the New Zealand Dental Registration Examination under the April 2009 policy.
 - b) Applicants who do not complete their examination within the two year period will be required to enrol and comply with the requirements of this policy.

Future policy changes

22. In the event that this policy or any other policy associated with this policy changes, the Dental Council will inform all New Zealand Dental Registration Examination applicants of the policy changes that would potentially impact on them and/or any implementation grace period(s) in the revised policy that will be applied to registered applicants.

Other examination related policies

- a) Policy on English Competence and English Tests – current policy as available on the Dental Council website.

Policy on English Competence and English Tests

Approved by the Council: July 2005
Updated: December 2005, April 2006 & December 2008
Revised and Approved by Council: 26 May 2009
Updated by Council: 7 December 2009

Introduction

The Dental Council is charged with the responsibility under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance (HPCA) Act 2003 to protect the health and safety of members of the public by providing for mechanisms to ensure that oral health practitioners are competent and fit to practise in their professions. This includes the ability to communicate effectively.

The Dental Council considers that effective English and communication skills are a pre-requisite to practising as an oral health practitioner in New Zealand. Without them the informed consent and active participation of the patient is jeopardised. An objective test of English communication skills is the best way of ensuring that oral health practitioners can comprehend and communicate effectively.

The Dental Council has approved the following policy on English competence and approved English tests which apply to all applicants for registration, including New Zealand graduates.

Legislation

Section 16 of the HPCA Act 2003 states that no applicant for registration may be registered if:

- c) He or she does not satisfy the Council that he or she is able to communicate effectively; or
- d) He or she does not satisfy the Council that his or her ability to communicate in and comprehend English is sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public.

Policy Statement

1. Applicants for registration are normally considered to have met the section 16 requirement if:-
 - a) The applicant has graduated from a joint Dental Council (NZ) /Australian Dental Council accredited programme⁶; 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.

⁶ Provided this is an accredited requirement of the degree programme. (i.e. the protocol document should require the accreditation team to be assured that graduates possess communication skills equivalent to a B pass in all four parts of OET)

2. The Dental Council approved English tests and required pass rates in these tests are:

i) International English Language Testing (IELTS)

	Level of proficiency
Dentists and Dental Specialists	Applicants are required to: a) sit the academic band; and b) gain an average score of 7.5 or more; and c) score at least 7 in each band of the four individual components of listening, reading, writing and speaking.
Dental Hygienists	Applicants are required to: a) sit the academic band; and b) gain an average score of 7.5 or more; and c) score at least 7 in each band of the four individual components of listening, reading, writing and speaking.
Dental Therapists	Applicants are required to: a) sit the academic band; and b) gain an average score of 7.5 or more; and c) score at least 7 in each band of the four individual components of listening, reading, writing and speaking.
Orthodontic Auxiliaries	Applicants are required to: a) sit the academic band; and b) score at least 7 in each band of the four individual components of listening, reading, writing and speaking.
Dental Technicians	Applicants are required to: a) sit the academic band; and b) gain an average score of 7 or more.
Clinical Dental Technicians	Applicants are required to: a) sit the academic band; and b) gain an average score of 7.5 or more; and c) score at least 7 in each band of the four individual components of listening, reading, writing and speaking.

ii) Occupational English Test (OET)

	Level of proficiency
Dentists and Dental Specialists	A pass with A or B grades in each of the four components.
Dental Hygienists	A pass with A or B grades in each of the four components.

Dental Therapists	A pass with A or B grades in each of the four components.
Orthodontic Auxiliaries	A pass with A or B grades in each of the four components.
Dental Technicians	A pass with A or B grades in each of the four components.
Clinical Dental Technicians	A pass with A or B grades in each of the four components.

3. A pass in a Dental Council approved English test is valid for two years for new applications or three years for those repeat registration examination candidates who can demonstrate, if required, that they have continuously lived and worked in a country where English is the first language.
4. Results from the above mentioned language examinations must be obtained in one sitting.
5. The applicant is responsible for the cost of the English tests.
6. The applicant must arrange for English test results to be provided directly to the Dental Council by the examining body.
7. The Council has discretionary power to require an applicant to provide proof of English language competence at any time.
8. Candidates undertaking the New Zealand dental registration examinations whose English communication skills are deemed as deficient by the examiner may fail the clinical examination.
9. If deficiencies in English communication skills are reported subsequent to registration practitioners may be required to undertake remedial English training and then pass the communication skills assessment of the dental registration examination and/or an approved English test.

Contacts

International English Language Testing (IELTS) www.ielts.org

Occupational English Test (OET) www.occupationalenglishtest.org