



VETERINARY COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND
Te Kaitiaki Raua Kararehe o Aotearoa

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Dear Applicant

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

The Veterinary Council of New Zealand will consider your application on an individual basis.

Before approving your registration and issuing you with a practising certificate, the Council must be satisfied that you meet the statutory requirements of the Veterinarians Act 2005 and regulations made under that Act. As such you must satisfy the Council that you:

- have a recognised qualification or a pass in a prescribed examination or assessment
- meet minimum fitness and recency of practice requirements
- can communicate in and understand English to the required standard
- have a veterinary science degree or diploma of not less than 4 years of study if you are seeking registration on the basis of a pass in a prescribed examination or assessment.

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

Under current policy, registration without further examination is granted to those who meet the minimum fitness, recency and English language requirements and who:

- hold a primary veterinary degree from a school that has been assessed and approved by an internationally recognised “authority” having a rigorous assessment and review process; or
- hold undergraduate veterinary degrees from schools which have been previously recognised by VCNZ under the Veterinarians Act 1994 until the date of non recognition in March 2001 (this applies to the National University of Ireland graduates and certain German and Danish School graduates who also hold a State examination certificate in veterinary medicine).

Those who meet minimum fitness, recency and English language requirements, who hold a four year primary veterinary degree of not less than four years of study and who have passed a prescribed registration examination or assessment programme are also eligible for registration.

Please refer to the attachment to this letter for information on the degrees and examination/assessment programmes the Council recognises.

English language requirements

Under s6(2) of the Veterinarians Act 2007 the Veterinary Council must be satisfied that you are able to “communicate in and understand English to an appropriate standard for practising as a veterinarian in New Zealand” before you can be registered as a veterinarian.

Effective English and communication skills are required to practise as a veterinarian in New Zealand. The Council considers that an objective test of English language skills is the best way of ensuring that applicants for registration can comprehend and communicate to the required level.

Applicants are normally considered to have met the s6(2) requirements if:

- English is their first language; or
- They have passed a Council approved English test to the required level; or
- They can provide evidence that they have graduated with a primary veterinary degree from a recognised veterinary programme in a country where English is the first and prime language and where English was the sole language of their instruction and assessment and they have worked or studied in a country where English is the first and prime language for at least four of the previous five years; or
- They have passed a Veterinary Council prescribed assessment programme (ECFVG or NEB in English) and they have worked or studied in a country where English is the first and prime language for at least four of the previous five years

If you do not meet any of the above criteria you must pass an approved English test to the required level and arrange for your results to be sent directly from the examining body to the Council.

The approved English tests and required pass grades are:

International English Language Testing, IELTS.

You are required to

- sit the academic band
- (for applications received after 1 July 2009) score **at least 7** in **each** band of the four individual components of listening, reading, writing and speaking in one sitting.

Occupational English Test (OET)

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

A pass in an approved English test is valid for 2 years for new registration and examination applicants, but the validity of this pass may be extended for up to five years for applicants who can demonstrate that they have continuously lived and worked in a country where English is the first and prime language for at least four of the previous five years.

Applicants are required to:

- either arrange for their English test results to be sent directly to the Veterinary Council by the examining body; or
- (in the case of IELTS centres using the latest version of ESOL software which allows the Council to download electronic results) advise the Council of the date and venue of the English test sat

Fitness to Practise

Applicants for registration are required to declare any medical or physical conditions, investigations into conduct or competence, disciplinary findings and convictions.

Applicants should feel free to contact the Council Registrar if they have any queries in this area.

Recency of Practice

Recency of practice requirements must also be met for the issue of a practising certificate.

Applicants are required to declare whether or not they have:

- worked as a veterinarian during the last three years
- are seeking to resume practise in an area they have not practised for three or more years
- are seeking to practise in an area they have never practised in

If the Council is not satisfied of the applicant's competence to practise it will consider whether conditions on practice are required.

For further information refer to the Policy on Recency of Practice at <http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz/pubs.php>

Overseas-qualified veterinarians from non-approved schools eligible to sit the New Zealand National Veterinary Examination

Overseas-qualified veterinarians who do not hold a recognised qualification or a pass in a prescribed examination or assessment (listed in the attachment below), are required to sit and pass the New Zealand National Veterinary Examination (NZNVE) to demonstrate sufficient knowledge and experience to practise in New Zealand.

In order to be eligible to sit the NZNVE an overseas qualified veterinarian must satisfy the fitness to practise requirements and be a graduate of a primary veterinary course of at least four years' duration from a recognised veterinary school listed in the "World Veterinary Directory", at a school which was part of a college or university listed in the "World List of Universities" or the AVMA-Listed Veterinary Colleges of the World.

Graduates with primary veterinary degrees of less than 4 years duration are not eligible to sit the New Zealand National Veterinary Examination.

Applicants must also provide evidence of English competency before entering the examination process (see section on English language requirements above).

The Council stages the preliminary examination twice a year, with the final examination normally being held in November of each year. The Council may be able to hold the preliminary examination in some overseas countries (this is not always possible) but the final examination may be taken only in New Zealand.

Registration examination candidates should refer to the Council's website www.vetcouncil.org.nz for further information on the examination process and current fees.

Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (TTMR)

If you are registered in Australia you can apply for registration under the TTMR provisions using the TTMR registration application form. Under TTMR all the required documentation and fees must be submitted with the application for the registration to be deemed valid immediately.

Section 12 of the Veterinarians Act 2005

Under section 12 of the Veterinarians Act 2005 if the Council proposes to decline an application for registration the Council must give the applicant the information on which the proposed decision is based; and give the applicant a reasonable opportunity to make submissions and be heard either personally or by counsel or agent, in respect of the matter.

Fees

Refer to page 7 of the application form or <http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz/fees.php>

Validity of Applications

Registration applications are valid for six months following receipt. At the expiry of six months if the applicant has not provided the further information required or entered the examination process, the registration application lapses and another application is required.

The registration and application documentation of applicants who do not proceed or enter the examination process is disposed of after 2 years of date of receipt.

Guidance on applying for registration or to sit the New Zealand National Veterinary Examination

- Complete the registration application form and have it witnessed, **signed and officially stamped or a seal affixed** by a Notary Public or Commissioner of Oaths (for those applying from overseas) or anyone authorised under the Oaths and Declarations Amendment Act 2001 including a Justice of the Peace, solicitor or Notary Public (for those 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 affixed** by a Notary Public or Commissioner of Oaths (for those applying from overseas) or anyone authorised under the Oaths and Declarations Amendment Act 2001 including a Justice of the Peace, solicitor or Notary Public (for those applying from within New Zealand).
- Have a copy of your degree parchments **signed and officially stamped or a seal affixed** directly onto the copy of the document by a Notary Public or Commissioner of Oaths (for those applying from overseas) or anyone authorised under the Oaths and Declarations Amendment Act 2001 including a Justice of the Peace, solicitor or Notary Public (for those applying from within New Zealand).
- Arrange with every registration authority you are currently registered with to supply a letter certifying your current registration and stating that you are in good standing and are not, or have not, been subject to any disciplinary or other proceedings. If the letter of good standing is not in English please provide a copy in English which is certified by an appropriate authority as an accurate translation of the original.

Please forward your completed application to:

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

Recognised Institutions, Qualifications, Assessment and Examination

Programmes for Registration as a Veterinarian: Notice 2011

Pursuant to sections 8(1)(a) and (b) of the Veterinarians Act 2005, the Veterinary Council of New Zealand ("the Council") in this notice¹ recognises and prescribes:

- the following institutions and degrees or diplomas offered by those institutions for the purposes of section 6(1)(a) of the Veterinarians Act 2005; and
- a pass in the following examinations and assessment programmes for the purposes of section 6(1)(b) of the Act.

Honorary veterinary degrees are not recognised for registration purposes.

Recognised Institutions and Degrees²

New Zealand

Massey University, Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Australia

Charles Sturt University, Bachelor of Veterinary Science

James Cook University, Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Murdoch University, Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery

University of Melbourne, Bachelor of Veterinary Science

University of Queensland, Bachelor of Veterinary Science

University of Sydney, Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Europe

United Kingdom

University of Bristol, Bachelor of Veterinary Science

University of Cambridge, Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine

University of Edinburgh, Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery

University of Glasgow, Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery

University of Liverpool, Bachelor of Veterinary Science

University of London (Royal Veterinary College), Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine

University of Nottingham, Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery

Netherlands - recognised from the date of accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

State University of Utrecht, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Ireland

National University of Ireland, Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (restricted to those who graduated up to and including 22 March 2001 and from 2004 onwards)

Germany

Justus Liebig University Giessen, degree in Veterinary Science (restricted to those who graduated up to and including 22 March 2001 and who are eligible to be registered as a veterinarian in Germany)

Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, degree in Veterinary Science (restricted to those who graduated up to and including 22 March 2001 and who are eligible to be registered as a veterinarian in Germany)

University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, degree in Veterinary Science (restricted to those who graduated up to and including 22 March 2001 and who are eligible to be registered as a veterinarian in Germany)

Free University of Berlin, degree in Veterinary Science (restricted to those who graduated up to and including 22 March 2001 and who are eligible to be registered as a veterinarian in Germany)

Denmark

The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, degree in Veterinary Science (restricted to those who graduated up to and including 22 March 2001 and who are eligible to be registered as a veterinarian in Denmark)

South Africa

University of Pretoria, Bachelor of Veterinary Science

United States of America - recognised from the date of accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Auburn University (Alabama), Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

University of California, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Western University of Health Sciences (California), Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Colorado State University, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Cornell University (New York), Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

University of Florida, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

University of Georgia, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

University of Illinois, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Iowa State University, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Kansas State University, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Louisiana State University, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Michigan State University, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

University of Minnesota, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Mississippi State University, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

University of Missouri, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

North Carolina State University, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Ohio State University, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Oklahoma State University, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Oregon State University, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

University of Pennsylvania, V.M.D. Programme

Purdue University (Indiana) Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

University of Tennessee, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Texas A&M University, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Tufts University (Massachusetts), Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Tuskegee University (Alabama), Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Virginia-Maryland University, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Washington State University, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Canada - recognised from the date of accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

University of Calgary (Alberta), Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

University of Guelph (Ontario), Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

University of Montreal, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

University of Prince Edward Island, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

University of Saskatchewan, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Mexico - recognised from the date of accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

West Indies - recognised from the date of accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Ross University (St Kitts), Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Prescribed Examinations

Veterinary Council of New Zealand, New Zealand National Veterinary Examination³
Australasian Veterinary Boards Council, Australian National Veterinary Examination
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Membership examination (MRCVS by examination)

Prescribed Assessment Programmes

American Association of Veterinary State Boards, Programme for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) certificate
American Veterinary Medical Association, Certificate of the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG)
Canadian National Examining Board Licensing Examination

Holding a recognised qualification or a pass in a prescribed examination or assessment is one of the requirements that applicants for registration are required to meet. Applicants must also:

- meet the minimum standards for practising as a veterinarian as set out in the notice published in the *New Zealand Gazette*, 4 August 2011, No. 118, page 3314;
- satisfy the English language requirements of section 6(2) of the Veterinarians Act 2005 by sitting and passing a Council approved English test to the required level if English is not their first language; and
- (in the case of those holding a pass in a prescribed examination or assessment) also hold a veterinary science degree or diploma of not less than four years of study.

Further detail on these requirements is set out in the registration application and examination documentation available on the Council's website

www.vetcouncil.org.nz

¹This notice replaces the Veterinary Council Amendment Notice 2009 (No.1) published in the *New Zealand Gazette*, 11 June 2009, No. 84, page 1938.

²The changes to the 2009 notice are required to give effect to Council's recognition of:

- new veterinary degree programmes at Charles Sturt and James Cook universities (accredited by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council)
- a new veterinary degree programme at the University of Nottingham (accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons)
- veterinary degree programmes at the University of Calgary, Cornell University, the National Autonomous University of Mexico and Ross University (accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association)
- the American Association of Veterinary State Boards Programme for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE)

³The detailed examination requirements are documented in the *New Zealand National Veterinary Examination Candidate Handbook* produced from time to time by the Veterinary Council and available on the Council's website.