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Dear Applicant

1. Thank you for your enquiry about registration as a veterinarian in New Zealand.
2. The Veterinary Council of New Zealand will consider your application on an individual basis.
3. Before approving registration 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
  - if you are seeking registration on the basis of a pass in a prescribed examination or assessment, also have a veterinary science degree or diploma of not less than 4 years of study
4. **Registration policy - veterinary qualifications and examinations and assessments accepted by the Veterinary Council**  
Under current policy, registration, without further examination, is granted to graduates 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
  - have passed a prescribed registration examination or assessment programme

The Council recognises the following authorities (and the schools and the primary veterinary degrees accredited by them):

**(a) Australasian Veterinary Boards' Council (AVBC)**

The Council accepts veterinary degrees from these schools accredited by the AVBC:

**New Zealand:** Massey

**Australia:** Sydney, Melbourne, Murdoch, Queensland

**(b) Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)**

The Council accepts veterinary degrees from these schools accredited by RCVS:

**United Kingdom:** Glasgow, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Bristol, Cambridge and London

**South Africa:** Pretoria

**Ireland:** National University of Ireland. This is restricted to those who graduated up to and including 1988. Those who graduated from 2004 are also recognised - see below

- (c) **American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)**  
The Council accepts veterinary degrees from these schools accredited by AVMA:  
**USA:** Auburn, California, Colorado State, Cornell, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa State, Kansas State, Louisiana State, Michigan State, Minnesota, Mississippi State, Missouri, North Carolina State, Ohio State; Oklahoma State; Oregon State; Pennsylvania; Purdue; Tennessee; Texas A & M; Tufts; Tuskegee; Virginia-Maryland; Washington State; Wisconsin-Madison  
**Canada:** Montreal; Guelph; Prince Edward Island; Saskatchewan.  
**Europe:** Utrecht  
The National University of Ireland (from 2008)
- (d) **European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE)**  
The Council recognises the veterinary degree from the following school assessed by EAEVE as a result of recognition by the AVBC:  
**Ireland:** National University of Ireland (Dublin) graduates from 2004 onwards  
The Council does not currently recognise degrees of other EAEVE assessed schools (unless they have also been accredited by RCVS, AVMA or VSAAC)

The Council also recognises the following prescribed registration examinations and assessment programmes:

- (a) Veterinary Council of New Zealand, New Zealand National Veterinary Examination (NZNVE)
- (b) Australasian Veterinary Boards Council, Australian National Veterinary Examination (ANVE)
- (c) Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Membership examination (MRCVS by examination)
- (d) American Veterinary Medical Association, Certificate of the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG)
- (e) Canadian National Examining Board Licensing Examination (NEB)

## 5. 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”.

Council considers that effective English and communication skills are required to practise as a veterinarian in New Zealand. Adequate achievement in a test of English communication skills is the best way to ensure that veterinarians can understand English and communicate effectively

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 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
- gain an average score of 7 or more
- (for applications received after 1 January 2008) score at least 6.5 in each band of the four individual components of listening, reading, writing and speaking

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 4 years of the previous 5 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

**6. 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.

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

Unless overseas-qualified veterinarians hold a recognised qualification or a pass in a prescribed examination or assessment (listed in 4 above), the Council requires them 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 5 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. The current cost of the Preliminary Examination is \$1,000.00 and the Final Examination is \$5,000.00.

Registration examination candidates should refer to the Council's website [www.vetcouncil.org.nz](http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz) for further information on the examination process.

**8. Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (TTMR)**

If you are applying for registration under TTMR you should use the TTMR registration application form. Under TTMR **all the required documentation and fees are to be submitted with the application** for the registration to be deemed valid immediately.

**9. 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.

**10. Fees**

Refer to page 5 of the application form. Please note that registration application fees are non-refundable and that the applications of those who have not submitted all the required documentation or meet any required conditions become invalid after six months and applicants must reapply. This does not apply to examination candidates.

**11 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 **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 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

Anthea Black  
Executive Officer - Registration