



New Zealand
**Medical Radiation
Technologists Board**
Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke

Policy:

English language proficiency

August 2024

Policy title		English Language Proficiency
Reference number	20240820 MRTB English Language Policy	
Scope	This policy applies to all practitioners seeking registration with Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke the Medical Radiation Technologists Board	

Associated policy documents	File name
Registration	2021-May-V3-MRT-Registration.pdf (mrtboard.org.nz)

Revision schedule			
Version number	Version date	Approved by	Next review
One	June 2019	Medical Radiation Technologists Board	2021
Two	May 2021	Chief Executive	2023
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English Language Proficiency

Sections 16(a) and (b) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 require Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke | Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board) to be satisfied that an applicant can communicate effectively for practising in the scope for which they are seeking registration in Aotearoa New Zealand, and adequately comprehends English to protect the health and safety of the public.

This policy document sets out the Board's standard for applicants to meet the requirements for demonstrating English language proficiency.

Policy overview

Registration applicants must satisfy the Board that they can communicate effectively to practise in the medical imaging and radiation therapy profession. Their ability to communicate and comprehend English must be sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public.

English language is inclusive of speaking, reading, listening, and writing.

Demonstration of English Language Proficiency

Four pathways to Demonstrating English Proficiency

Registered practitioners wishing to work in New Zealand must demonstrate:

1. They have graduated from a Board-accredited qualification programme; or
2. English is their first language, and their primary qualification¹ is from an educational institution where English is the sole language of instruction and assessment, and located in one of the following countries recognised by the Board: Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America; or
3. They have continuously worked as a registered health practitioner² in an accredited medical imaging or radiation therapy facility in one of the recognised countries where English was the first and primary language. In addition, they must have worked in a role comparable to the scope of practice for which they are seeking registration, for a period of at least two (2)-years within the five (5)-years immediately prior to their application.

¹ The Board must be satisfied the primary qualification is equivalent to or as satisfactory as a prescribed qualification for the scope of practice in which the applicant is seeking registration.

² If the applicant works in a country where registration is not required to practise in the scope of practice for which they are seeking New Zealand registration, they must have worked in an accredited medical imaging and/or radiation therapy facility.

They will be required to provide the names and contact details of at least two referees who are senior health practitioners, who speak English as a first language, and who can attest to the applicant's ability to comprehend and communicate effectively in English within a clinical setting with patients and professional colleagues. Referees will be contacted directly by a Board delegate; or

4. They meet the required standards of a Board-approved English language test.

English language test

Applicants required to sit an English Language test will need to complete either the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test, or the Occupational English Test (OET), to the following standards:

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

1. The test was in the academic band of IELTS; and
2. A minimum score of seven (7) in each of the four sub-tests of listening, reading, writing, and speaking; and
3. The results are achieved in one sitting; and
4. IELTS results were achieved within two (2)-years immediately prior to their registration application.

In limited circumstances the test result may be more than two (2)-years prior to their application date. The applicant must have been in continuous employment as a registered medical imaging or radiation therapy practitioner in one of the recognised countries where English was the primary language of practice. They must have lodged their registration application within 12-months of finishing their last period of employment.

Occupational English Test (OET)

Pass with a minimum score of B in all four sections.

Ongoing competency requirements

Should concerns be raised about the communication competencies (including proficiency in English) of a practitioner registered with the Board, a competency review may be undertaken under sections 34 and 36 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.