

Policy on the application of the English Language Skills Registration standard

1 January 2012

English language skills registration standard

Introduction

The English Language skills registration standard (the standard) was implemented by the Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) on 1 July 2010. The standard outlines exemptions which applicants for registration may be eligible to claim.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clarify how exemptions to the standard are to be applied to applications for registration.

Scope of application

The standard states:

“This standard applies to all internationally qualified applicants and applicants who are international students seeking registration in Australia.” (Please see Definitions below).

Applicants for general registration and certain types of limited registration under the Health Practitioner National Regulation National Law Act (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory are required to meet the requirements of the standard.

Applicants applying for student registration, provisional registration or limited registration (for postgraduate training or supervised practice pursuant to s66 of the National Law) are not required to meet the requirements of the standard until applying for general registration.

If required to meet the standard, evidence of a current English language (EL) test result is required (*Note: these test results must comply with the current requirements of the standard*).

Exemptions:

A. Applicants who completed at least the last two years of secondary education and all of their tertiary (pharmacy) qualifications taught and assessed in English in one of the following countries:

- Canada
- Republic of Ireland
- New Zealand
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
- South Africa
- Australia

B. Applicants who are graduates of a Board approved program of study, and whose EL test results are more than two years old:

Those interns whose EL test results meet the current EL standard but which have expired at the time of applying for general registration may apply for an exemption.

An exemption will only be considered if accompanied by proof that the applicant has continuously participated in a Board approved program of study since the EL test was undertaken and the applicant, using English as the primary language of practice in a country where English is the native or first language, has completed a minimum of 1000 hours of supervised practice or if he/she was employed in an equivalent capacity (excludes being employed as a dispensary assistant, pharmacy technician or pharmacy sales assistant) within a 12 month period, each and every year until applying for registration, otherwise a new test must be undertaken and a current test result presented at registration

C. Internationally qualified applicants commencing an internship on or after 1 July 2010 – with a current EL test result at 1 July 2010

Those interns whose EL test results met the current EL standard at 1 July 2010 but expired after commencement of supervised practice approved by the Board may apply for an exemption.

An exemption will only be considered if the applicant provides evidence of the following - using English as the primary language of practice in a country where English is the native or first language, has completed a minimum of 1000 hours of supervised practice or if he/she was employed in an equivalent capacity (excludes being employed as a dispensary assistant, pharmacy technician or pharmacy sales assistant) within a 12 month period, each and every year until applying for registration, otherwise a new test must be undertaken and a current test result presented at registration.

No further exemptions to those outlined in the standard and this policy are authorised by the Board.

The Board reserves the right at any time to revoke an exemption and/or require an applicant to undertake a specified English language test.

Definitions

National Law Act – Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act as in force in each state and territory.

EL Test – English language test, examples of which are provided in the Pharmacy Board of Australia English language skills registration standard.

Current EL standard – IELTS (academic): an overall total score of 7.5 with a minimum score of 7 in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking) in one sitting; or, OET - an overall pass with grades A or B only in each of the four components in one sitting. Results must have been obtained within two years prior to applying for general registration.

International students - applicants who did not complete all their secondary schooling in Australia.

Internationally qualified applicants – pharmacists who completed their pharmacy qualification overseas (other than New Zealand) who have completed the applicable Australian Pharmacy Council assessments and examinations

Board approved program of study – Australian and New Zealand pharmacy courses approved by the Board

Date of issue

1 January 2012

Review

This policy will commence on 1 January 2012. The Board will review this policy at least every three years.