

Media Statement

HPCSA FOREIGN CURRICULA REQUIREMENTS AND REVIEW PROCESS

06 June 2024

For immediate release

Pretoria – The HPCSA, together with the 12 Professional Boards under its ambit, is established to provide for control over the education, training, and registration for practicing of health professions registered under the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974.

Practitioners that hold qualifications not prescribed for registration are required to submit several documents including, curricula, for review by Professional Boards, to establish whether the education and training standard and the duration of study undertaken is equivalent to that offered by accredited South African educational institutions.

Should the curriculum review reveal the foreign training to be neither equivalent nor satisfactory, registration will be denied. Curriculum that may not be equivalent but is deemed satisfactory will require applicants to sit for a medical board examination to determine whether they possess adequate professional knowledge, skill and competence to practice medicine.

Foreign qualified practitioners are required to provide details of their academic curricula for the medical degree studied indicative of the following:

- Subjects covered in every year of study.
- Content of each subject.
- Learning outcomes for subjects.
- Assessment criteria and method.
- Hours of study, theory, and clinical exposure.

In addition, the following evidence is required, regarding the foreign university the applicant studied from:

- Letter of recognition of programme from the country's National Department of Health and/or National Department of Health.

- Proof of accreditation by the Medical Council/Regulator from country of institution, signed and stamped.

Applicants are further required to provide:

- Proof of academic English proficiency course (IELTS) (less than 2 years) if language of tuition was not English.
- Any other information that the Board may require.

Once all the required documents are received, the application would be tabled for review by the Curriculum Review Task Team, whose recommendations would be submitted for consideration by the Medical Education, Training and Registrations Committee (METRC) of the Medical and Dental Professions Board (MDB). After consideration of the Curriculum Review Task Team recommendations, the METRC will submit the resolutions to the Board for noting. The HPCSA's Education and Training Division communicates the resolutions of the METRC to the applicant(s).

Recognition of foreign curricula is valid for 3 years, after which another curriculum will be required

The list of recognised foreign universities is available on the HPCSA website www.hpcsa.co.za

The delay in finalisation of the curriculum review process may be as a result of the following reasons:

- Non-submission of compliant documents from the applicants
- Submission of website listings instead of authentic documents from the foreign institutions
- Non-submission of signed, dated, and stamped recognition letters from the National Department of Health/Education and the letter from medical council/regulator.
- Applicants experiencing difficulties in obtaining the curriculum documents from their respective foreign universities.

For additional information, please visit the registration section on the HPCSA website www.hpcsa.co.za. Practitioners requiring specific information can log a service request through the HPCSA self-service portal [Support Home Page \(custhelp.com\)](http://Support Home Page (custhelp.com)) .

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About the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)

The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) also known as Council is a statutory body established under the Health Professions Act, 56 of 1974. The HPCSA is committed to protecting the public and guiding the professions. The mission of the HPCSA is quality and equitable healthcare for all.

Protecting the public and guiding the professions

President: Prof. MS Nmutandani, Vice President: Dr S Sobuwa, Registrar: Dr M Masike, Executive Company Secretariat: Adv. N Sipeka

The HPCSA is mandated to regulate the health professions in the country in aspects of education, training and registration, professional conduct, and ethical behaviour, ensuring Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and fostering compliance with healthcare standards.

To safeguard the public and guide the professions, registration in terms of the Act is a prerequisite for practising any of the health professions registrable with Council.

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