Registering with the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia

Known as the MRPBA, and run through Ahpra. For diagnostic radiographers, radiation therapists and nuclear medicine technologists who trained outside Australia.

YOUR REGISTRATION BOARD

Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia
Through Ahpra (MRPBA)

Checked against the Board's and Ahpra's pages in October 2026. If anything here differs from what the Board says, the Board is right, and it makes every registration decision.

Every application is assessed individually, and the board makes every registration decision. The latest version, with questions that work out your likely route, is at ethicareresourcing.com/guides/australia-registration-mrpba. Ethicare never charges candidates. This is general information, not immigration advice.

Every route

Trans-Tasman mutual recognition

If you're registered in New Zealand now, with a current practising certificate, as a medical imaging technologist, radiation therapist or nuclear medicine technologist.

A New Zealand qualification without a current practising certificate doesn't use this route: you apply like any other overseas applicant.

Comparable regulator (the fast lane)

Diagnostic radiography and radiation therapy degrees approved by the UK's HCPC (finished 2010 to 2030) or Ireland's CORU (finished 2013 to 2030).

Treated as substantially equivalent, so generally no portfolio assessment and no exam. Not available for nuclear medicine.

Recognised international qualification

If your exact qualification is on the Board's short list.

The match must be exact on institution, award title and year. A different year at the same institution doesn't count.

Qualification assessment

For everyone else.

The Board assesses your portfolio. If it finds your qualification substantially equivalent, you go straight to registration. If it finds it relevant to the profession, you pass the National exam first. If neither, it doesn't currently support registration.

ROUTE 1 OF 5

YOUR ROUTE

Trans-Tasman mutual recognition

✓ Current New Zealand registration with a practising certificate.

Your New Zealand registration is recognised under mutual recognition.

The Board makes the final decision when you apply.

The steps

1

Keep your New Zealand registration current

Mutual recognition rests on current registration and a current practising certificate.

A New Zealand qualification without a current practising certificate doesn't use this route, so don't let either lapse while you plan.

2

Apply to Ahpra under mutual recognition

The Board's pathways page sets out what it needs from you.

Follow the Board's pathways page for the mutual recognition application, and ask us if anything isn't clear.

3

Get your state radiation licence

Registration doesn't cover it, and each state and territory issues its own.

It's the step people forget until they have a start date. Your employer will normally guide you through it.

4

Your visa health and police checks

Separate from registration, for the Department of Home Affairs.

If you're a New Zealand citizen, you don't apply for a work visa in advance. Otherwise, most people we support move on an employer-sponsored 482. The Department tells you which health examinations you need, often a medical and a chest X-ray, and issues a HAP ID so a clinic can book you. Overseas, you must see one of its approved panel physicians. Everyone on the application is examined, children included. You'll need police certificates too. General information, not immigration advice: our visa guide.

ROUTE 2 OF 5

YOUR ROUTE

Comparable regulator (the fast lane)

✓ A HCPC-approved course, within the Board's dates.

Your qualification is treated as substantially equivalent, so you generally won't need a portfolio assessment or the exam.

The Board makes the final decision when you apply.

The steps

1

Confirm your division

You register as a diagnostic radiographer.

The three divisions are registered separately, each with its own education pathway.

2

Check your course is on the comparable regulator list

HCPC (finished 2010 to 2030) or CORU (finished 2013 to 2030).

It covers diagnostic radiography and radiation therapy only. If your course fits, it's treated as substantially equivalent, so generally no portfolio assessment and no exam. The Board's page.

3

Show your English

Check the Board's English standard before you book a test.

It sets out the accepted tests and exemptions. Minimum scores changed for tests taken on or after 23 April 2026, and results are valid for two years.

4 Gather your documents

Certified copies, clean scans, and good standing ordered last.

Passport and any name-change evidence, your degree certificate and full transcript, clinical placement evidence, your registration history, an up-to-date CV with no gaps, and certified translations. Each authority you've been registered with in the last five years sends a certificate of good standing straight to Ahpra. They're generally valid for three months, so order them last.

5 Apply to Ahpra and the Board

AU$460 due at application, or AU$410 in New South Wales.

Submit a complete, well-organised application in your division, then reply quickly to any questions. Ahpra completes most full assessments in four to six weeks once the application is complete.

6 Get your state radiation licence

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7 Your visa health and police checks

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ROUTE 3 OF 5

YOUR ROUTE

Comparable regulator (the fast lane)

✓ A CORU-approved course, within the Board's dates.

Your qualification is treated as substantially equivalent, so you generally won't need a portfolio assessment or the exam.

The Board makes the final decision when you apply.

The steps

1

Confirm your division

You register as a diagnostic radiographer.

The three divisions are registered separately, each with its own education pathway.

2

Check your course is on the comparable regulator list

HCPC (finished 2010 to 2030) or CORU (finished 2013 to 2030).

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ROUTE 4 OF 5

YOUR ROUTE

Recognised international qualification

✓ An exact match on the Board's recognised list.

You skip the portfolio assessment and generally the exam.

The Board makes the final decision when you apply.

The steps

1

Confirm your division

You register as a diagnostic radiographer.

The three divisions are registered separately, each with its own education pathway.

2

Check the exact match on the recognised list

Institution, award title and year must all match.

A different award year at the same institution isn't a match. The Board's list.

3

Show your English

Check the Board's English standard before you book a test.

It sets out the accepted tests and exemptions. Minimum scores changed for tests taken on or after 23 April 2026, and results are valid for two years. If you trained in South Africa, plan for a test: South African schooling and degrees no longer meet the education routes.

4

Gather your documents

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ROUTE 5 OF 5

YOUR LIKELY ROUTE

Qualification assessment

The Board will assess your portfolio. If it finds your qualification substantially equivalent, you go straight to registration. If it finds it relevant to the profession, you'll pass the National exam first.

The Board makes the final decision when you apply.

The steps

1

Confirm your division

You register as a diagnostic radiographer.

The three divisions are registered separately, each with its own education pathway.

2

Prepare your portfolio for assessment

The Board compares your degree with the Australian standard. AU$660, non-refundable.

It looks at whether your course was recognised by a regulator where you trained, whether it was externally accredited, its level (AQF 7 for a substantially equivalent outcome) and whether it covered the core topics: anatomy, physiology and pathology, patient care, communication, radiation physics and safety, CT and contrast, plus your division's own (projection radiography and fluoroscopy). Your transcript and clinical placement evidence matter most.

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5 Apply to Ahpra and the Board

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Submit a complete, well-organised application in your division, then reply quickly to any questions. Ahpra completes most full assessments in four to six weeks once the application is complete.

6 If the Board asks, pass the National exam

Only if it finds your qualification relevant rather than equivalent. AU$787.

A written assessment with a common part, a part for your division and Australian material such as radiation safety law. Check the format on the Board's exam pages before you prepare.

7 Get your state radiation licence

Registration doesn't cover it, and each state and territory issues its own.

It's the step people forget until they have a start date. Your employer will normally guide you through it.

8 Your visa health and police checks

Separate from registration, for the Department of Home Affairs.

Most people we support move on an employer-sponsored 482. The Department tells you which health examinations you need, often a medical and a chest X-ray, and issues a HAP ID so a clinic can book you. Overseas, you must see one of its approved panel physicians. Everyone on the application is examined, children included. You'll need police certificates too. General information, not immigration advice: our visa guide.

What it costs

Application for general registration	AU$230
Registration fee	AU$230, or AU$180 if you'll be based in New South Wales. Both fees are due when you apply: AU$460, or AU$410 in New South Wales.
Portfolio assessment, if your qualification isn't already recognised	AU$660, non-refundable
National exam, if the Board requires it	AU$787

From the schedule in effect from 1 October 2026, checked 17 October 2026 against the Board's fees page. Your state radiation licence has its own fee.

Questions people ask

REGISTRATION AND THE EXAM

Will I have to sit the National exam?

Not automatically. Applicants recognised as substantially equivalent, including those on the comparable regulator route or with a recognised qualification, generally don't. If the Board assesses your qualification as relevant to the profession rather than equivalent, you pass the exam before you can register.

What is the exam like?

A written, knowledge-based assessment with a part common to all three divisions, a part for yours, and Australian material such as radiation safety law and culturally safe practice. The Board reviews the format, so check its exam pages before you prepare.

What level does my degree need to be?

An Australian bachelor's degree (AQF level 7) is the bar for a substantially equivalent outcome. One level lower, or AQF 5 from a comparable regulator country, can still be assessed as relevant to the profession.

Is registration enough to start work?

No. Registration is national, but each state and territory licenses the use of radiation separately, so you'll usually need a radiation licence where you work too. Employers normally help with it.

ENGLISH AND DOCUMENTS

Do I need an English test?

Check the Board's English language standard before you book anything. It sets out the accepted tests and the exemption routes. Minimum scores changed for tests taken on or after 23 April 2026, and a result is valid for two years.

I trained in South Africa. Does my English count?

South Africa was removed from Ahpra's recognised-country list, and the transition ended on 18 March 2026. South African schooling and degrees no longer meet the education routes, so plan for a test.

When should I order my certificate of good standing?

Last. Ahpra generally treats them as valid for three months from issue, and each authority sends theirs straight to Ahpra.

TIMING, VISAS AND JOBS

How long does it take?

Ahpra says most full assessments take four to six weeks once the application is complete. A portfolio assessment comes before that and has no fixed length. Apply three to six months before you want to start.

Do I need an ASMIRT or ANZSNM skills assessment?

Not generally, to register. That's a migration step for certain visas, most often the points-tested ones (189, 190 and 491). On an employer-sponsored 482 it isn't generally needed to register. Confirm with your employer and the Department of Home Affairs.

Can I apply for jobs before I'm registered?

You can start the conversation, but many Australian employers want registration in place, or well under way, before they finalise a role. Get your application moving first, and don't resign or relocate until your eligibility is confirmed.

Does Ethicare charge candidates?

No, never. If we're representing you, we help secure the role and sponsorship and guide the timing of your registration. The decision always rests with the Board.