Registering with the Medical Radiation Technologists Board

Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke, known as the MRTB. For radiographers, sonographers and MRI, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy professionals who trained outside New Zealand.

YOUR REGISTRATION BOARD

Medical Radiation Technologists Board
Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke (MRTB)

Checked against the Board's website, mrtboard.org.nz, in October 2026. If anything here differs from what the Board says, the Board is right, and the Board 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/new-zealand-registration-mrtb. Ethicare never charges candidates. This is general information, not immigration advice.

Every route

Trans-Tasman mutual recognition

If you're registered in Australia now, with a current practising certificate, in medical imaging, radiation therapy or nuclear medicine.

Your Australian registration is recognised. It doesn't cover sonography or MRI. The Board's mutual recognition page

Overseas-trained assessment

For most people who trained outside New Zealand and Australia.

The Board compares your training with New Zealand's standard, then looks at your recent work and references. In our experience most overseas-trained imaging professionals are registered with an initial period of supervision. Each application is assessed individually, but in our experience candidates from comparable health systems, such as the UK, Ireland and Canada, tend to need less supervision, or none, depending on how many years they've practised.

The online exam

Offered when the Board decides, after assessing you, that your qualification isn't equivalent to New Zealand's standard. It's decided case by case, for every scope.

A formal route to registration, not a penalty, sat online with a remote supervisor. The Board's exam page

MRI through experience

If you work in MRI without a postgraduate MRI qualification, wherever you trained.

An approved medical imaging or radiation therapy degree, at least two and a half years of full-time MRI practice, and a pass in the Board's MRI exam.

Trainee scopes

If you're training in nuclear medicine, sonography or MRI on a course the Board approves.

You register as a trainee, naming your clinical site and supervisor.

ROUTE 1 OF 6

YOUR LIKELY ROUTE

Trans-Tasman mutual recognition

Your Australian registration is likely to carry across under mutual recognition.

This is a guide to what usually happens, not a decision. Only the Board can tell you which route applies.

The steps

1

Check your scope is covered

Mutual recognition covers medical imaging, radiation therapy and nuclear medicine.

It doesn't cover sonography or MRI. If you also work in one of those, that part goes through the full overseas assessment.

2

Keep your Australian registration current

You need current Australian registration and a current practising certificate when you apply.

Mutual recognition rests on both, so don't let either lapse while you plan the move.

3

Apply to the Board under mutual recognition

The Board's mutual recognition page sets out exactly what it needs.

It's a shorter application than the overseas route. Follow the Board's mutual recognition page, and ask us if anything isn't clear.

4

Arrange good standing and police checks

Certificates from your regulator, police checks and your declarations.

Ask your regulator to send a certificate of good standing straight to the Board, timed to arrive when your application is ready, because they expire. Police checks cover every country you've lived in for twelve months or more since you were sixteen, through the Board's chosen provider. Declare any disciplinary history, even if minor or resolved.

5 Your visa health and police checks

Separate from registration, for Immigration New Zealand.

If you're an Australian citizen, you don't apply for a work visa. Otherwise, most work visas need a job offer from an accredited employer. If you're coming for more than twelve months, Immigration New Zealand will want a medical examination by one of its panel physicians and, in most cases, a chest X-ray. Everyone on the application is examined, children included. The certificate must reach Immigration New Zealand within three months of being signed, so don't book too early. You'll need police certificates for your visa as well. This is general information, not immigration advice: our visa guide has more.

6 Get your practising certificate

The certificate that lets you start work, renewed every year.

Once you're registered, you apply for your annual practising certificate. You need both before you can work. The Board asks mutual recognition applicants to wait until they live in New Zealand, or can show they're moving, before applying for it. Keep a record of your professional development from your first day.

ROUTE 2 OF 6

YOUR LIKELY ROUTE

Overseas-trained assessment

The Board will assess whether your qualifications and experience are equivalent to New Zealand's standard. Each application is assessed individually, but in our experience candidates from comparable health systems, such as the UK, Ireland and Canada, tend to need less supervision, or none, depending on how many years they've practised. If it decides your qualification isn't equivalent, it may offer you its online exam as a route to registration.

This is a guide to what usually happens, not a decision. Only the Board can tell you which route applies.

The steps

1 Choose your scope

Pick the work your qualification trained you for.

Register for the work your qualification trained you to do, whatever your job title is now. CT, mammography and angiography all sit inside medical imaging. MRI and sonography are scopes of their own. If you're unsure, ask us before you apply.

2 Do the Board's online eligibility check

A few minutes on the Board's website, before you spend anything.

The New Zealand benchmark is a bachelor's degree, and the Board looks at what you studied and your clinical hours as well as the level.

3 Gather the record of your training

Certificates, transcripts, your course curriculum and your logbook.

Certified copies of your qualification certificates, and transcripts showing your modules and clinical placement hours. The full curriculum you were taught, from your year rather than today's prospectus. Your clinical logbook, and your thesis if your course had one. Check who may certify copies, and the exact wording, before you pay anyone.

4 Gather the record of your work

Your CV, the Board's experience form and a certificate from each employer.

An up-to-date CV with every period accounted for: a one-line reason for a break is better than a gap. The Board's clinical experience form, filled in from your records so it matches your CV. A certificate of employment from every employer in the last five years, starting with the oldest. If the Board asks for evidence of two years' overseas employment, it wants start and end dates, weekly hours and your job title.

5 Line up your references

Referees who know your clinical work, plus two character certificates.

Choose referees who have supervised your clinical work recently. Tell them it's for New Zealand registration, which scope, and that the Board wants clinical detail, dates and a clear view of your competence, on letterhead. You'll also need two certificates of good character, one personal and one professional. Two of your referees should be senior colleagues, because they can also cover your English (step 7).

What a good reference looks like

Too vague: "I have known Sam for some years. Sam is hard-working and a pleasure to work with."

What the Board needs: "As Imaging Lead, I have directly supervised Sam for three years. Sam independently performs general X-ray, CT and MRI to a high standard, including complex and emergency cases, and consistently demonstrates safe, patient-centred practice."

6 Arrange good standing and police checks

Certificates from every regulator, police checks and your declarations.

Ask every regulator you've been registered with to send a certificate of good standing straight to the Board, timed to arrive when your application is ready, because they expire. Police checks cover every country you've lived in for twelve months or more since you were sixteen, through the Board's chosen provider. Declare any disciplinary history, even if minor or resolved.

7 Show your English through your referees

You may not need a test: your registered practice can count.

The Board's English language policy accepts two senior referees in place of a test if you've had at least two years of continuous registered practice in the five years before you apply, in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK or the USA. Check the policy to confirm it fits you exactly.

8 Apply, then reply quickly

Upload, pay and submit, then answer any questions fast.

Start on the Board's portal, upload clean colour scans, clearly named, and pay the fee. Before you submit, ask yourself whether a stranger could find everything without emailing you. It helps to have someone read it first, and we can do that. Afterwards, watch your email, including spam: a request left for three weeks adds three weeks.

9 If the Board offers you its exam

Only if it decides your qualification isn't equivalent. Sat online, with ID checks.

You'll need two forms of ID, one of them government-issued with your photo, and your authorisation code. If you can't prove who you are on the day, you lose the fee, so have your documents ready. The Board's exam page has the details.

10 Your visa health and police checks

Separate from registration, for Immigration New Zealand.

Most work visas need a job offer from an accredited employer. If you're coming for more than twelve months, Immigration New Zealand will want a medical examination by one of its panel physicians and, in most cases, a chest X-ray. Everyone on the application is examined, children included. The certificate must reach Immigration New Zealand within three months of being signed, so don't book too early. You'll need police certificates for your visa as well. This is general information, not immigration advice: our visa guide has more.

11

Get your practising certificate

The certificate that lets you start work, renewed every year.

Once you're registered, you apply for your annual practising certificate. You need both before you can work. Keep a record of your professional development from your first day.

ROUTE 3 OF 6

YOUR LIKELY ROUTE

Overseas-trained assessment

The Board will assess whether your qualifications and experience are equivalent to New Zealand's standard. In our experience, registration with an initial period of supervision is the most common outcome for overseas-trained imaging professionals. If it decides your qualification isn't equivalent, it may offer you its online exam as a route to registration.

This is a guide to what usually happens, not a decision. Only the Board can tell you which route applies.

The steps

1

Choose your scope

Pick the work your qualification trained you for.

Register for the work your qualification trained you to do, whatever your job title is now. CT, mammography and angiography all sit inside medical imaging. MRI and sonography are scopes of their own. If you're unsure, ask us before you apply.

2

Do the Board's online eligibility check

A few minutes on the Board's website, before you spend anything.

The New Zealand benchmark is a bachelor's degree, and the Board looks at what you studied and your clinical hours as well as the level.

3

Gather the record of your training

Certificates, transcripts, your course curriculum and your logbook.

Certified copies of your qualification certificates, and transcripts showing your modules and clinical placement hours. The full curriculum you were taught, from your year rather than today's prospectus. Your clinical logbook, and your thesis if your course had one. Check who may certify copies, and the exact wording, before you pay anyone.

4 Gather the record of your work

Your CV, the Board's experience form and a certificate from each employer.

An up-to-date CV with every period accounted for: a one-line reason for a break is better than a gap. The Board's clinical experience form, filled in from your records so it matches your CV. A certificate of employment from every employer in the last five years, starting with the oldest. If the Board asks for evidence of two years' overseas employment, it wants start and end dates, weekly hours and your job title.

5 Line up your references

Referees who know your clinical work, plus two character certificates.

Choose referees who have supervised your clinical work recently. Tell them it's for New Zealand registration, which scope, and that the Board wants clinical detail, dates and a clear view of your competence, on letterhead. You'll also need two certificates of good character, one personal and one professional. Two of your referees should be senior colleagues, because they can also cover your English (step 7).

What a good reference looks like

Too vague: "I have known Sam for some years. Sam is hard-working and a pleasure to work with."

What the Board needs: "As Imaging Lead, I have directly supervised Sam for three years. Sam independently performs general X-ray, CT and MRI to a high standard, including complex and emergency cases, and consistently demonstrates safe, patient-centred practice."

6 Arrange good standing and police checks

Certificates from every regulator, police checks and your declarations.

Ask every regulator you've been registered with to send a certificate of good standing straight to the Board, timed to arrive when your application is ready, because they expire. Police checks cover every country you've lived in for twelve months or more since you were sixteen, through the Board's chosen provider. Declare any disciplinary history, even if minor or resolved.

7 Show your English through your referees

You may not need a test: your registered practice can count.

The Board's English language policy accepts two senior referees in place of a test if you've had at least two years of continuous registered practice in the five years before you apply, in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK or the USA. Check the policy to confirm it fits you exactly.

8 Apply, then reply quickly

Upload, pay and submit, then answer any questions fast.

Start on the Board's portal, upload clean colour scans, clearly named, and pay the fee. Before you submit, ask yourself whether a stranger could find everything without emailing you. It helps to have someone read it first, and we can do that. Afterwards, watch your email, including spam: a request left for three weeks adds three weeks.

9 If the Board offers you its exam

Only if it decides your qualification isn't equivalent. Sat online, with ID checks.

You'll need two forms of ID, one of them government-issued with your photo, and your authorisation code. If you can't prove who you are on the day, you lose the fee, so have your documents ready. The Board's exam page has the details.

10 Your visa health and police checks

Separate from registration, for Immigration New Zealand.

If you're an Australian citizen, you don't apply for a work visa. Otherwise, most work visas need a job offer from an accredited employer. If you're coming for more than twelve months, Immigration New Zealand will want a medical examination by one of its panel physicians and, in most cases, a chest X-ray. Everyone on the application is examined, children included. The certificate must reach Immigration New Zealand within three months of being signed, so don't book too early. You'll need police certificates for your visa as well. This is general information, not immigration advice: our visa guide has more.

11

Get your practising certificate

The certificate that lets you start work, renewed every year.

Once you're registered, you apply for your annual practising certificate. You need both before you can work. Keep a record of your professional development from your first day.

ROUTE 4 OF 6

YOUR LIKELY ROUTE

Overseas-trained assessment

The Board looks at every qualification individually, comparing your course and clinical hours with New Zealand's. In our experience, registration with an initial period of supervision is the most common outcome for overseas-trained imaging professionals. We've also found that many applicants who trained outside the UK, Ireland, Canada and Australia are asked to sit the Board's online exam. Each application is assessed individually.

This is a guide to what usually happens, not a decision. Only the Board can tell you which route applies.

The steps

1 Choose your scope

Pick the work your qualification trained you for.

Register for the work your qualification trained you to do, whatever your job title is now. CT, mammography and angiography all sit inside medical imaging. MRI and sonography are scopes of their own. If you're unsure, ask us before you apply.

2 Do the Board's online eligibility check

A few minutes on the Board's website, before you spend anything.

The New Zealand benchmark is a bachelor's degree, and the Board looks at what you studied and your clinical hours as well as the level.

3 Gather the record of your training

Certificates, transcripts, your course curriculum and your logbook.

Certified copies of your qualification certificates, and transcripts showing your modules and clinical placement hours. The full curriculum you were taught, from your year rather than today's prospectus, with a certified translation if it isn't in English. Your clinical logbook, and your thesis if your course had one. Check who may certify copies, and the exact wording, before you pay anyone. The Board compares your course with New Zealand's, so the curriculum and clinical hours are worth getting exactly right.

4 Gather the record of your work

Your CV, the Board's experience form and a certificate from each employer.

An up-to-date CV with every period accounted for: a one-line reason for a break is better than a gap. The Board's clinical experience form, filled in from your records so it matches your CV. A certificate of employment from every employer in the last five years, starting with the oldest. If the Board asks for evidence of two years' overseas employment, it wants start and end dates, weekly hours and your job title.

5 Line up your references

Referees who know your clinical work, plus two character certificates.

Choose referees who have supervised your clinical work recently. Tell them it's for New Zealand registration, which scope, and that the Board wants clinical detail, dates and a clear view of your competence, on letterhead. You'll also need two certificates of good character, one personal and one professional. Two of your referees should be senior colleagues, because they can also cover your English (step 7).

What a good reference looks like

Too vague: "I have known Sam for some years. Sam is hard-working and a pleasure to work with."

What the Board needs: "As Imaging Lead, I have directly supervised Sam for three years. Sam independently performs general X-ray, CT and MRI to a high standard, including complex and emergency cases, and consistently demonstrates safe, patient-centred practice."

6 Arrange good standing and police checks

Certificates from every regulator, police checks and your declarations.

Ask every regulator you've been registered with to send a certificate of good standing straight to the Board, timed to arrive when your application is ready, because they expire. Police checks cover every country you've lived in for twelve months or more since you were sixteen, through the Board's chosen provider. Declare any disciplinary history, even if minor or resolved.

7 Show your English through your referees

You may not need a test: your registered practice can count.

The Board's English language policy accepts two senior referees in place of a test if you've had at least two years of continuous registered practice in the five years before you apply, in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK or the USA. Check the policy to confirm it fits you exactly.

8 Apply, then reply quickly

Upload, pay and submit, then answer any questions fast.

Start on the Board's portal, upload clean colour scans, clearly named, and pay the fee. Before you submit, ask yourself whether a stranger could find everything without emailing you. It helps to have someone read it first, and we can do that. Afterwards, watch your email, including spam: a request left for three weeks adds three weeks.

9 Be ready for the online exam

Many applicants with your background are asked to sit it. Sat online, with ID checks.

You'll need two forms of ID, one of them government-issued with your photo, and your authorisation code. If you can't prove who you are on the day, you lose the fee, so have your documents ready. The Board's exam page has the details.

10 Your visa health and police checks

Separate from registration, for Immigration New Zealand.

Most work visas need a job offer from an accredited employer. If you're coming for more than twelve months, Immigration New Zealand will want a medical examination by one of its panel physicians and, in most cases, a chest X-ray. Everyone on the application is examined, children included. The certificate must reach Immigration New Zealand within three months of being signed, so don't book too early. You'll need police certificates for your visa as well. This is general information, not immigration advice: our visa guide has more.

11

Get your practising certificate

The certificate that lets you start work, renewed every year.

Once you're registered, you apply for your annual practising certificate. You need both before you can work. Keep a record of your professional development from your first day.

ROUTE 5 OF 6

YOUR LIKELY ROUTE

Overseas-trained assessment

For MRI, your postgraduate MRI qualification is what makes the difference, wherever you trained. If the Board assesses it as comparable to New Zealand's, together with your MRI experience, you may register without the exam. If it doesn't, it may offer you the exam as a route to registration. Mutual recognition doesn't cover MRI, so this is your route even if you're registered in Australia.

This is a guide to what usually happens, not a decision. Only the Board can tell you which route applies.

The steps

1 Choose your scope

Pick the work your qualification trained you for.

Register for the work your qualification trained you to do, whatever your job title is now. CT, mammography and angiography all sit inside medical imaging. MRI and sonography are scopes of their own. If you're unsure, ask us before you apply.

2 Do the Board's online eligibility check

A few minutes on the Board's website, before you spend anything.

The New Zealand benchmark is a bachelor's degree, and the Board looks at what you studied and your clinical hours as well as the level.

3 Gather the record of your training

Certificates, transcripts, your course curriculum and your logbook.

Certified copies of your qualification certificates, and transcripts showing your modules and clinical placement hours. The full curriculum you were taught, from your year rather than today's prospectus. Your clinical logbook, and your thesis if your course had one. Check who may certify copies, and the exact wording, before you pay anyone.

4 Gather the record of your work

Your CV, the Board's experience form and a certificate from each employer.

An up-to-date CV with every period accounted for: a one-line reason for a break is better than a gap. The Board's clinical experience form, filled in from your records so it matches your CV. A certificate of employment from every employer in the last five years, starting with the oldest. If the Board asks for evidence of two years' overseas employment, it wants start and end dates, weekly hours and your job title.

5 Line up your references

Referees who know your clinical work, plus two character certificates.

Choose referees who have supervised your clinical work recently. Tell them it's for New Zealand registration, which scope, and that the Board wants clinical detail, dates and a clear view of your competence, on letterhead. You'll also need two certificates of good character, one personal and one professional. Two of your referees should be senior colleagues, because they can also cover your English (step 7).

What a good reference looks like

Too vague: "I have known Sam for some years. Sam is hard-working and a pleasure to work with."

What the Board needs: "As Imaging Lead, I have directly supervised Sam for three years. Sam independently performs general X-ray, CT and MRI to a high standard, including complex and emergency cases, and consistently demonstrates safe, patient-centred practice."

6 Arrange good standing and police checks

Certificates from every regulator, police checks and your declarations.

Ask every regulator you've been registered with to send a certificate of good standing straight to the Board, timed to arrive when your application is ready, because they expire. Police checks cover every country you've lived in for twelve months or more since you were sixteen, through the Board's chosen provider. Declare any disciplinary history, even if minor or resolved.

7 Show your English through your referees

You may not need a test: your registered practice can count.

The Board's English language policy accepts two senior referees in place of a test if you've had at least two years of continuous registered practice in the five years before you apply, in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK or the USA. Check the policy to confirm it fits you exactly.

8 Apply, then reply quickly

Upload, pay and submit, then answer any questions fast.

Start on the Board's portal, upload clean colour scans, clearly named, and pay the fee. Before you submit, ask yourself whether a stranger could find everything without emailing you. It helps to have someone read it first, and we can do that. Afterwards, watch your email, including spam: a request left for three weeks adds three weeks.

9 If the Board offers you its exam

Only if it decides your qualification isn't equivalent. Sat online, with ID checks.

You'll need two forms of ID, one of them government-issued with your photo, and your authorisation code. If you can't prove who you are on the day, you lose the fee, so have your documents ready. The Board's exam page has the details.

10 Your visa health and police checks

Separate from registration, for Immigration New Zealand.

If you're an Australian citizen, you don't apply for a work visa. Otherwise, most work visas need a job offer from an accredited employer. If you're coming for more than twelve months, Immigration New Zealand will want a medical examination by one of its panel physicians and, in most cases, a chest X-ray. Everyone on the application is examined, children included. The certificate must reach Immigration New Zealand within three months of being signed, so don't book too early. You'll need police certificates for your visa as well. This is general information, not immigration advice: our visa guide has more.

11

Get your practising certificate

The certificate that lets you start work, renewed every year.

Once you're registered, you apply for your annual practising certificate. You need both before you can work. Keep a record of your professional development from your first day.

ROUTE 6 OF 6

YOUR LIKELY ROUTE

MRI through experience

Without a postgraduate MRI qualification, you'd usually register through MRI experience: an approved imaging or radiation therapy degree, at least two and a half years of full-time MRI practice, and a pass in the Board's MRI exam. That applies wherever you trained.

This is a guide to what usually happens, not a decision. Only the Board can tell you which route applies.

The steps

1 Choose your scope

Pick the work your qualification trained you for.

Register for the work your qualification trained you to do, whatever your job title is now. CT, mammography and angiography all sit inside medical imaging. MRI and sonography are scopes of their own. If you're unsure, ask us before you apply.

2 Do the Board's online eligibility check

A few minutes on the Board's website, before you spend anything.

The New Zealand benchmark is a bachelor's degree, and the Board looks at what you studied and your clinical hours as well as the level.

3 Gather the record of your training

Certificates, transcripts, your course curriculum and your logbook.

Certified copies of your qualification certificates, and transcripts showing your modules and clinical placement hours. The full curriculum you were taught, from your year rather than today's prospectus. Your clinical logbook, and your thesis if your course had one. Check who may certify copies, and the exact wording, before you pay anyone.

For MRI through experience, you'll also need evidence of at least two and a half years of full-time MRI practice that meets the Board's requirements.

4 Gather the record of your work

Your CV, the Board's experience form and a certificate from each employer.

An up-to-date CV with every period accounted for: a one-line reason for a break is better than a gap. The Board's clinical experience form, filled in from your records so it matches your CV. A certificate of employment from every employer in the last five years, starting with the oldest. If the Board asks for evidence of two years' overseas employment, it wants start and end dates, weekly hours and your job title.

5 Line up your references

Referees who know your clinical work, plus two character certificates.

Choose referees who have supervised your clinical work recently. Tell them it's for New Zealand registration, which scope, and that the Board wants clinical detail, dates and a clear view of your competence, on letterhead. You'll also need two certificates of good character, one personal and one professional. Two of your referees should be senior colleagues, because they can also cover your English (step 7).

What a good reference looks like

Too vague: "I have known Sam for some years. Sam is hard-working and a pleasure to work with."

What the Board needs: "As Imaging Lead, I have directly supervised Sam for three years. Sam independently performs general X-ray, CT and MRI to a high standard, including complex and emergency cases, and consistently demonstrates safe, patient-centred practice."

6 Arrange good standing and police checks

Certificates from every regulator, police checks and your declarations.

Ask every regulator you've been registered with to send a certificate of good standing straight to the Board, timed to arrive when your application is ready, because they expire. Police checks cover every country you've lived in for twelve months or more since you were sixteen, through the Board's chosen provider. Declare any disciplinary history, even if minor or resolved.

7 Show your English through your referees

You may not need a test: your registered practice can count.

The Board's English language policy accepts two senior referees in place of a test if you've had at least two years of continuous registered practice in the five years before you apply, in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK or the USA. Check the policy to confirm it fits you exactly.

8 Apply, then reply quickly

Upload, pay and submit, then answer any questions fast.

Start on the Board's portal, upload clean colour scans, clearly named, and pay the fee. Before you submit, ask yourself whether a stranger could find everything without emailing you. It helps to have someone read it first, and we can do that. Afterwards, watch your email, including spam: a request left for three weeks adds three weeks.

9 Prepare for the MRI exam

Part of the MRI experience route. Sat online, with ID checks.

You'll need two forms of ID, one of them government-issued with your photo, and your authorisation code. If you can't prove who you are on the day, you lose the fee, so have your documents ready. The Board's exam page has the details.

10 Your visa health and police checks

Separate from registration, for Immigration New Zealand.

If you're an Australian citizen, you don't apply for a work visa. Otherwise, most work visas need a job offer from an accredited employer. If you're coming for more than twelve months, Immigration New Zealand will want a medical examination by one of its panel physicians and, in most cases, a chest X-ray. Everyone on the application is examined, children included. The certificate must reach Immigration New Zealand within three months of being signed, so don't book too early. You'll need police certificates for your visa as well. This is general information, not immigration advice: our visa guide has more.

11

Get your practising certificate

The certificate that lets you start work, renewed every year.

Once you're registered, you apply for your annual practising certificate. You need both before you can work. Keep a record of your professional development from your first day.

What it costs

Registration, if you qualified overseas	NZ$922.00
Your first practising certificate	NZ$510.00 in the fee notice, but the Board's guidance for overseas applicants says the first one is free once you've completed the cultural competency courses. Ask the Board which applies to you.
Annual disciplinary levy	NZ$34.50

The fees include GST and are the same for every scope. Add the exam fee if you need to sit it, and your own costs for police checks, certified copies, translations and any English test. From the **fee notice in effect from 16 February 2026**, checked 17 October 2026. If you're moving with Ethicare, ask us whether your package covers the practising certificate.

Questions people ask

SUPERVISION

What is supervised practice?

For your first period in New Zealand, you work under the oversight of an experienced colleague. It gives you time to get to know New Zealand's health system, its equipment, its clinical protocols and how teams work.

Will I have to work under supervision?

Quite possibly. In our experience, most overseas-trained imaging professionals start with a supervised period. Each application is assessed individually, but in our experience candidates from comparable health systems, such as the UK, Ireland and Canada, tend to need less supervision, or none, depending on how many years they've practised. The Board decides each application individually and sets any supervision as a condition of your registration.

Does supervision mean my experience isn't valued?

No. It's a normal part of registering for many overseas-trained professionals, and it says nothing about the quality of your qualifications or experience.

How long does supervision last?

The Board sets it in your registration conditions, so it varies from person to person. Ask the Board when you apply, or ask us what we've seen for people with a similar background.

What does supervision mean for my job offer?

Your employer must be able to provide a supervisor who meets the Board's requirements. Ask about it before you accept a role, so you know the team can support you from your first day.

THE ONLINE EXAM

Who has to sit the exam?

Nobody automatically. The Board first assesses whether your qualifications and experience are equivalent to New Zealand's standard. If it decides they aren't, it may offer you the online exam as a route to registration. That's decided case by case, for every scope, including MRI and sonography.

I have a postgraduate MRI qualification. Will I need the exam?

Not necessarily. For MRI, the postgraduate qualification is what makes the difference, wherever you trained, including the UK, Ireland and Canada. If the Board assesses it as comparable to New Zealand's, together with your MRI experience, you may register without the exam. Without one, you'd usually register through MRI experience, which includes the Board's MRI exam. Mutual recognition with Australia doesn't cover MRI.

Does it matter whether it's a certificate, diploma or master's?

The Board looks at what the course covered and your clinical hours as well as the level, so send the full transcript and course outline with your application.

I trained outside the UK, Ireland, Canada and Australia. Will I sit the exam?

In our experience, many applicants who trained elsewhere are asked to sit the Board's online exam. Each application is assessed individually, so the Board decides once it has looked at your qualification and experience.

Is the exam a penalty?

No. It's a formal, recognised route, and the Board runs one for every one of its five scopes.

How is it sat?

Online, with a remote supervisor who checks your identity: two forms of ID, one of them government-issued with your photo, plus your authorisation code. You pay the fee in advance, and you lose it if you can't prove who you are on the day, so have your documents ready before you book.

ENGLISH

Do I need an English test?

Not always. If you've had at least two years of continuous registered practice in the five years before you apply, in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK or the USA, the Board's English language policy lets two senior referees show your English instead.

Which test should I take?

IELTS (Academic) or OET. Many clinicians find OET more natural because it's set in medical situations. Choose the one that plays to your strengths.

What if I narrowly miss one part?

You need the minimum in every part, so you'll generally need to sit it again. The Board's rules on combining results from two sittings are specific, so check its policy before relying on that.

How long do results last?

Usually about two years. Sitting the test early and then taking months over the rest of your application is a common reason for paying to sit it again.

DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES

Do I need separate registration for CT or mammography?

No. CT, mammography and angiography all sit inside the medical imaging scope, with the right training. MRI and sonography are separate scopes.

My name is different on some documents. What do I do?

Include a marriage certificate, deed poll or equivalent, so the Board can link every document to you.

What if my referee has left that job?

That's fine, as long as they knew your clinical work. Another supervisor who knows your work can step in too.

When should I ask for certificates of good standing?

Close to when the rest of your application is ready. They expire, and a certificate that lapses before the Board assesses you has to be requested again.

Can I add documents after I've applied?

Yes. If the Board asks for more, you provide it during the assessment. Replying quickly and fully keeps things moving.

TIMING AND WORK

Can I apply before I have a job?

Yes, and usually you should. Employers in New Zealand generally want you registered, or clearly on track, before they move your application forward.

Do I need to be registered before an interview?

Not always for a first conversation, but being registered, or clearly on track, makes you a

much stronger candidate.

How long does it take?

The Board doesn't publish a processing time for overseas applications, so ask it when you apply. A complete, well-prepared application is the best way to keep it short.

Can I work while I wait?

No. You can't work in a registered role until you're registered and hold a current practising certificate, so plan your start date around both.

Is registration the same as a visa?

No. The Board decides your registration and Immigration New Zealand decides your visa. They run side by side, and you need both. Our visa guide explains the visa side.

ETHICARE

Can Ethicare check my application?

Yes. We can read your documents and references before the Board does and point out anything likely to cause a delay. The decision is always the Board's.

Does Ethicare charge candidates?

No, never. Employers pay for our recruitment service. If you're moving with us, ask whether your package covers your practising certificate.

Register your interest

The Board's website ↗