Registering with the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand

Te Kaunihera Pūtaiao Hauora o Aotearoa (MSCNZ). For anaesthetic technicians and operating department practitioners who trained outside New Zealand.

YOUR REGISTRATION BODY

Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand
Te Kaunihera Pūtaiao Hauora o Aotearoa (MSCNZ)

Checked against the Council's pages in October 2026. If anything here differs from what the Council says, the Council 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/new-zealand-registration-mscnz. Ethicare never charges candidates. This is general information, not immigration advice.

Every route

UK route

UK-qualified and HCPC-registered, including ODPs.

Generally eligible with two years' experience. Supervised practice may be set.

Individual assessment

Every other overseas qualification.

Weighed against the Council's criteria, on its own merits.

ROUTE 1 OF 4

YOUR ROUTE

UK route (HCPC-registered)

✓ A UK qualification in anaesthetic technology or operating department practice, and HCPC registration in good standing.

✓ Two years' full-time equivalent anaesthetic technology experience since qualifying.

The board makes the final decision when you apply.

The steps

1

Complete the Council's Eligible check

An early read on whether you can apply, before you spend anything.

The form is on the Council's website.

2

Do the Mauri Ora course now

The Foundation Course in Healthcare and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. You upload the certificate with your application.

It's online, so it's the step you can start today.

3

Gather your qualification and course documents

A certified copy of your qualification, plus transcript, syllabus and clinical logbook.

Certified by a solicitor, notary public, Justice of the Peace or officer of the court. The course documents (transcript and syllabus in English, logbook where you have one) are asked of every internationally qualified applicant, UK-trained included.

4

Evidence your experience

An employer statement with dates, contracted hours and job title, and your CV.

Make the full-time equivalent hours unambiguous. Vague statements are a common cause of delay.

5

Identity, registration and good standing

Certified passport and photo, current registration, and good standing under six months old.

The photo is certified on the back as a true likeness. Include certified evidence of any name change and certified translations of anything not in English.

6

Two references, sent straight to the Council

One personal, one professional, on the Council's templates.

The professional one ideally comes from a registered anaesthetic technician, or a recent lecturer or employer. Tell your referees to expect an email from the Council.

7

Police checks

From every country you've lived or worked in for 12 months or more since you were sixteen.

From the national police authority, sent directly to the Council, and no more than six months old. Third-party pre-employment checks aren't accepted.

8

Show your English

An English-medium qualification, or IELTS or OET.

IELTS asks for 7.0 in listening, reading and speaking and 6.5 in writing; OET a B. The online and at-home versions aren't accepted. Check the live policy before you book.

9

Apply in the portal

NZ$828, non-refundable. Up to 12 weeks if your qualification needs full assessment.

Check your email and the portal for requests, and reply quickly.

10

Supervision or a Work-Based Assessment

The Council may set a period of supervised practice.

Either is set when you're registered, and happens in your first job.

11

Your practising certificate

NZ$520 for the first one. You need it before you work.

It isn't issued until you're resident, or can show you're moving. Renew before 7 April each year; after that the fee is NZ$729.

12

Your visa health and police checks

Separate from registration.

Separate from registration, for Immigration New Zealand. If you're coming for more than 12 months, expect a medical by one of its panel physicians and, in most cases, a chest X-ray, for everyone on the application, children included. The certificate must reach Immigration New Zealand within three months of being signed, and you'll need police certificates too. General information, not immigration advice: our visa guide.

ROUTE 2 OF 4

YOUR ROUTE

UK route (HCPC-registered)

✓ A UK qualification in anaesthetic technology or operating department practice, and HCPC registration in good standing.

With less than two years' experience you can still apply. The Council may ask for a Work-Based Assessment in practice.

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ROUTE 3 OF 4

YOUR ROUTE

Individual assessment

Your qualification, registration and experience are weighed individually against the Council's criteria. Every application is considered on its own merits.

✓ Two years' full-time equivalent anaesthetic technology experience since qualifying.

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What it costs

Registration, internationally qualified	NZ$828.00
First practising certificate, anaesthetic technology	NZ$520.00
Late renewal, after 7 April	NZ$729

GST included. Fee notices in effect from 16 February 2026, checked 17 October 2026.

Questions people ask

SUPERVISION

Will I need supervised practice?

Possibly. The Council may set a period of supervised practice when you start, and if you have less than two years' experience you may do a Work-Based Assessment in practice. Each application is assessed individually.

YOUR APPLICATION

I'm a UK-trained ODP. Can I apply?

Yes. Since 1 April 2025 the anaesthetic technician scope covers operating departments, radiology, intensive care, maternity and emergency departments, much closer to the ODP role. With a UK qualification and HCPC registration in good standing, you use the UK route. The Council decides.

Do I still need my course documents if I trained in the UK?

Yes. The transcript, syllabus and logbook are asked of every internationally qualified applicant.

Can my references come through me?

No. They go straight from your referees to the Council, as do your police checks.

Can I get my practising certificate before I move?

No. It isn't issued until you're resident here or can show you're moving.

Does Ethicare charge candidates?

No, never.