Registering with the New Zealand Psychologists Board

Te Poari Kaimātai Hinengaro o Aotearoa (NZPB). For psychologists who trained outside New Zealand.

YOUR REGISTRATION BODY

New Zealand Psychologists Board
Te Poari Kaimātai Hinengaro o Aotearoa (NZPB)

Checked against the Board'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/new-zealand-registration-nzpb. Ethicare never charges candidates. This is general information, not immigration advice.

Every route

Trans-Tasman mutual recognition

Registered with Ahpra.

You transfer, rather than being assessed from scratch.

Overseas assessment, prescribed country

Trained in Canada, Ireland, South Africa, the UK or the USA.

Tends to be quicker and cheaper. The same standard.

Overseas assessment

Trained anywhere else.

A closer look at your course content, so allow longer.

ROUTE 1 OF 3

YOUR ROUTE

Trans-Tasman mutual recognition

✓ Registered as a psychologist with Ahpra in Australia.

You transfer your registration rather than going through the full overseas assessment. The transfer must be complete before you start work.

The board makes the final decision when you apply.

The steps

1

Transfer under mutual recognition

With your current Ahpra registration.

Follow the Board's trans-Tasman page. The transfer must be complete before you start work.

2

Your annual practising certificate

NZ$797. You need it before you practise.

The Board lists a NZ$92 disciplinary levy separately and doesn't say whether it sits on top, so budget as if it does.

3

Your visa health and police checks

Separate from registration.

If you're an Australian citizen, you don't apply for a work visa. 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 3

YOUR ROUTE

Overseas assessment, prescribed country

✓ Trained in Canada, Ireland, South Africa, the UK or the USA.

The Board calls these prescribed countries. Applications tend to be quicker and cheaper to process, but the standard is the same.

The board makes the final decision when you apply.

The steps

1

Run the Board's Self-Assessment of Eligibility

The first step, before the non-refundable fee.

It also settles your scope: psychologist, clinical, counselling, educational, neuropsychologist, intern or trainee. Most international applicants apply as psychologist or clinical psychologist. If your programme was largely online or low-residency, settle that here.

2

Check you're registered where you trained and where you live

Both are expected.

The Board asks whether your qualification would lead to registration where you got it. If not, New Zealand is unlikely.

3

Evidence your 1,500 supervised hours

The most scrutinised part. Start it first.

Supervised practice completed as part of your qualification, counted from when you began practising semi-independently, with at least half in service-related work. Show what the hours consisted of, how much was direct client work, and who supervised you, how often and how.

4

Gather your qualification documents

Six years of psychology study, full course content, and accreditation evidence.

Undergraduate and postgraduate content, plus your endpoint evaluation or licensing exam, and proof of current registration in good standing.

5

Three references, on the Board's template

At least one from a senior psychologist registered overseas.

Include a copy of that referee's registration. Each referee should have known you professionally for 12 months or more (not family or friends), and references must be signed within three months or emailed directly to the Board.

6

Police records

From every country you've lived in for more than three months in the last five years.

Requested directly from the police, with all your names, and no more than six months old. Explain any conviction in a letter: it isn't an automatic bar.

7

Show your English, if you need to

Only if English isn't your first language and you didn't qualify in English in Australia, Canada, South Africa, the UK, Ireland or the US.

IELTS Academic only: 7.5 overall, 7.0 in every section, within the last two years. One Skill Retake results are accepted.

8

Apply to the Board

NZ$720, non-refundable.

Reply quickly to any queries: speed of response is the biggest thing you control.

9

Plan for Raka Māui

A condition of registration, completed within two years.

For overseas-trained psychologists approved on or after 1 July 2026. The Board's Cultural Safety Guidelines and the free Foundation Course in Cultural Competency are a good start before you move.

10

Your annual practising certificate

NZ$797. You need it before you practise.

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ROUTE 3 OF 3

YOUR ROUTE

Overseas assessment

The Board looks at your course content in more depth, so allow longer. The standard is the same for everyone.

The board makes the final decision when you apply.

The steps

1

Run the Board's Self-Assessment of Eligibility

The first step, before the non-refundable fee.

It also settles your scope: psychologist, clinical, counselling, educational, neuropsychologist, intern or trainee. Most international applicants apply as psychologist or clinical psychologist. If your programme was largely online or low-residency, settle that here.

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4

Gather your qualification documents

Six years of psychology study, full course content, and accreditation evidence.

Undergraduate and postgraduate content, in detail, because the Board examines it more closely, plus your endpoint evaluation or licensing exam, and proof of current registration in good standing.

5

Three references, on the Board's template

At least one from a senior psychologist registered overseas.

Include a copy of that referee's registration. Each referee should have known you professionally for 12 months or more (not family or friends), and references must be signed within three months or emailed directly to the Board.

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Only if English isn't your first language and you didn't qualify in English in Australia, Canada, South Africa, the UK, Ireland or the US.

IELTS Academic only: 7.5 overall, 7.0 in every section, within the last two years. One Skill Retake results are accepted.

8

Apply to the Board

NZ$1,080, non-refundable.

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What it costs

Application, trained in a prescribed country	NZ$720.00
Application, trained elsewhere	NZ$1,080.00
Practising certificate, 12 months or less	NZ$797.00
Disciplinary levy, 2026/27	NZ$92.00, listed on its own

GST included. Fees Notice in force from 5 February 2026, checked 17 October 2026.

Questions people ask

YOUR SCOPE

Which scope do I apply in?

The one your training and supervised practice evidence. Most international applicants apply as psychologist or clinical psychologist. The Board's self-assessment helps you work it out before you pay.

My training was mostly online. Does that matter?

It can. Largely online, weekend or summer-intensive programmes may not meet the Board's requirement, so ask through the self-assessment first.

SUPERVISED HOURS

Which hours count toward the 1,500?

Hours completed as part of your qualification, from when you began practising semi-independently under supervision. Early practica generally don't count.

AFTER REGISTRATION

What is Raka Māui?

The Board's cultural competence programme. For overseas-trained psychologists approved on or after 1 July 2026, it's a condition of registration, completed within two years. It isn't a mark against you.

I'm registered in Australia. Does that help?

Yes. You transfer under trans-Tasman mutual recognition instead of the full assessment, and it must be complete before you start work.

ETHICARE

Does Ethicare charge candidates?

No, never.