Health impairments

You need to tell us about any impairments that may affect your ability to practise.

Impairment means any physical or mental impairment, disability, condition or disorder (including substance abuse or dependence) that detrimentally affects or is likely to detrimentally affect your ability to safely practise the profession.

Having an impairment will not necessarily prevent you from practising. However, we need to know what you are doing to manage your impairment. We may require current documentation about your diagnosis and/or treatment plan and a statement regarding your current fitness to practise from your treating health practitioner. It’s important that you provide all details of any impairments and how you are managing them when you submit your application. Your application may be delayed if we need to contact you for further information.

English language skills

One of the mandatory standards that you’ll need to meet to become registered is English language skills. That’s because as a health practitioner, you need to be able to understand patients and respond appropriately to their concerns or preferences.

There are a few pathways for how you may meet the English language skills registration standard, including:

- the primary language pathway
- combined secondary and tertiary qualifications pathway
- the extended education pathway, and
- by sitting an English language skills test via an AHPRA-approved provider.

You may be required to provide evidence of how you meet your Board’s English language skills registration standard.

If you haven’t completed six years of continuous full-time education taught and assessed solely in English in a recognised country, you may need to sit an English language test. Recognised countries include: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States of America. With the exception of South Africa, these countries are recognised by the Department of Home Affairs for the purposes of exempting applicants from having to sit a test to demonstrate English language skills. More information about recognised countries and the English language skills registration standard can be found on each Board website, accessible via the Registration Standards page.

Please note that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Board of Australia and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia have different pathways for English language skills, please visit their websites to find out more.
**How do I apply?**

You can apply for registration on line in three easy steps.

1. Create an account using the [online services portal](#) and complete your application.
2. Upload your documents and pay the required fees. Check that you have provided everything including certified copies of your proof of identity.
3. Wait for AHPRA to receive your results from your education provider.

You can track the progress of your application online.

Once we’ve received your graduate results from your education provider and are satisfied that you have met all the requirements for registration, we will then finalise your application.

**What happens next?**

After we have assessed your complete application, we will register you, register you with conditions or refuse your application.

We will let you know the outcome of your application. If you are registered, we will publish your name on the [national register of health practitioners](#), accessible from the AHPRA and Boards websites.

Once your name is on the national register of practitioners, you can start work as a registered health practitioner!

**What do I do if I’m not able to apply online?**

Our online application form asks a series of questions to ensure you are eligible to apply for registration online. If you are unable to apply online, you will be prompted to contact our customer service team for advice on how to apply. More information is available on our [Other Graduate Application Types](#) webpage.

**How long does it take to assess my application?**

Once we’ve received your graduate results from your education provider, we aim to finalise your application within two weeks. That’s if you’ve provided everything you need to prove you’ve met the requirements for registration. While we can’t finalise your application until after we’ve received your graduate results, we begin to assess your application beforehand so that it’s ready to go pending your results. That’s why we encourage you to submit your application early and to check whether you’ve provided everything you need to prove that you’ve met the requirements for registration. This is particularly important during end-of-year peak graduate period where we receive approximately 25,000 applications within a few months.