



Education and Registration Standards Committee

27 February 2014

Registration applications from outside of the European Economic Area

Classification	Public
Purpose	For noting
Issue	This paper outlines a Professional Standards Authority report on the processes used by the nine health and care professional regulatory bodies in the UK to register applicants trained outside of the European Economic Area (EEA).
Recommendation	To note the content of this paper
Financial and resourcing implications	None
Equality and diversity implications	None
Communications implications	None
Annexes	None
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Background

1. The Professional Standards Authority (PSA) was asked by the Department of Health to review the processes the nine health and care regulators used to oversee the registration applications from individuals outside of the European Economic Area (EEA).
2. The PSA undertook a desk-based exercise researching information available on the regulators websites which allowed them to compile a document setting out what they could find about the processes of each regulator. This enabled PSA to ask specific questions of each regulator where they required further information.
3. This paper describes the findings of the PSA rapid report and provides the Committee with assurance that the GOsC processes for applications received from those outside of the EEA are sound.

Discussion

4. The PSA report recognises that as it was only as a desk-based exercise they are unable to report on the performance of the regulators in following their described processes. However, the PSA were able to identify 'dimensions of assurance' under which they summarised the regulators processes and provided information about the processes of each regulator.
5. The table below sets out the 'dimensions of assurance'; a summary of the PSA narrative, and the GOsC response as listed in the report. Some additional text has been added in italics to help further explain the GOsC processes.

Dimension of assurance	PSA summary	GOsC response
Language ability	PSA identified that in the majority of cases IELTS was used. In some cases, other examination results were acceptable.	Preferred qualification is academic IELTS with minimum overall score of 7.0 and no score of less than 7.0 in any section. Other equivalents were accepted. The requirement is waived for applicants from Australia, New Zealand and the USA whose first language is English.
Identity checking	PSA identified that all regulators required either originals or certified copies of key documents including photographic evidence as proof of ID.	Photocopy of passport or national ID card on application. Original passport or ID card required at Assessment of Clinical Performance. Where application is made from outside of the UK, certified copy of passport is required.

<p>Proof of overseas qualification: is the qualification recognised?</p>	<p>PSA advised that most regulators require the applicant to hold a recognised qualification or a qualification which meets is the equivalent of UK standards. PSA noted that many regulators engage with UK NARIC – the National Academic Recognition Information Centre – whereas in some cases there is a specific assessment of applications to determine how their qualification and experience equips them for practise in the UK.</p>	<p>Applicants must provide certified copy of their osteopathic qualification, certified copy of their academic transcript including results for each module, course guidelines/handbook.</p> <p>GOsC ensures institution exists, makes contact if necessary, visual check of certificate, check name on qualification against application. Checks are based on general guidance from NARIC.</p> <p><i>Qualification information is then sent for assessment to establish whether it is equivalent to a UK qualification. Following this, the applicant is subject to a written and clinical test to ensure they meet the Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS).</i></p>
<p>Proof of registration overseas</p>	<p>PSA noted that the majority of regulators require certificates of good standing or the equivalent from the applicants' country of qualification or country where they practise. PSA also noted that in general the requirement was for these documents to be submitted directly to the regulator from another institution in order to provide a greater degree of assurance.</p>	<p>If they are registered with a regulatory body in their country of origin applicants must provide evidence.</p> <p>GOsC seeks to obtain a Certificate of Current Professional Standing from the relevant regulatory body and any fitness to practise records where possible.</p>

Evidence of experience/practise overseas	PSA report that in some cases the applicant must complete a specific period of practise overseas which must be evidenced through a detailed CV and employer references.	Applicants must complete a Further Evidence of Practise Questionnaire. Requires applicant to relate experience to the <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards</i> , including providing anonymised patient records where possible. Only after successful completion of the completed questionnaire can applicants proceed to the Assessment of Clinical Performance. <i>As part of the written assessment, GOsC asks for description of background practice and Continuing Professional Development. They are also asked to provide example cases to demonstrate they meet the OPS</i>
Additional training/adaptation programmes/exam required in UK	PSA report that in some cases applicants must pass an exam or complete an adaptation programme.	Applicants must pass the Assessment of Clinical Performance, a practical based exercise. Applicants are asked to manage and treat two new patients as they would in practice over a period of three hours. Held at an osteopathic training institute in London, applicants are assessed against the <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards</i> . <i>If an applicant fails any of the assessments they are provided with written reports indicating development areas that they can take away to private training providers to address. These development areas are linked to the OPS.</i> <i>GOsC does not offer any period of training or adaptation. GOsC has recently published guidance on periods of adaptation for applicants and training providers.</i>
Other checks and forms of assurance	These were specific to each regulator.	Police check from country of origin. Enhanced check for regulated activity (Disclosure and Barring Service) Character Reference form. Health Reference form. Passport sized photograph for ID card (optional) Proof of indemnity insurance All non-English documents must be accompanied by translations by an official agency, a university language department

		or the British Embassy or High Commission be on headed paper and signed by the translator. Certified copies of documents are accepted.
Currency of documents and other decisions	These were specific to each regulator.	No time limit between either: successful completion of the Further Evidence of Practise Questionnaire and applying to sit the Assessment of Clinical Performance; or, between completing the Assessment of Clinical Performance and applying for registration, although it should be noted that this is under review.
Notable practice	The PSA reported notable practise specific to each regulator if any was identified.	Thorough pre-examination process against <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards</i> .

6. The full version of the rapid review report can be found at: <http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/docs/default-source/special-reviews-and-investigations/131010-international-registrations-rapid-review-final.pdf?sfvrsn=0>
7. In addition, PSA also asked the regulators to provide the number of registration applications received annually from those outside of the EEA. For GOsC, the number of applications received is so few that it is not possible to draw any conclusions on trends and this is reflected in the report.
8. The Head of Registration and Resources, Senior Registration Officer and Professional Standards Manager have reviewed the PSA report and the responses from each regulator. They are content with the position of the GOsC in relation to the processes applied for registration applications from those individuals applying from outside of the EEA and, at this stage, are not recommending any procedural changes.

Recommendation: to note the content of this paper.