

MEDICAL SERVICES TEAM - FACT SHEET

English Language Proficiency IELTS

It is a prerequisite of the NSW Medical Board and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) that all International Medical Graduates (IMGs) requiring registration in NSW meet the national English Language Proficiency requirement.

A high level of English language proficiency is essential to enable practitioners to communicate with patients, other doctors and health professionals, and for maintenance of professional standards.

1. What is IELTS?

IELTS is the International English Language Testing System. It measures ability to communicate in English across all four language skills; Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. The test was developed by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, The British Council and IDP Education Australia. The test is administered at least once a month by IELTS Australia and The British Council at over 300 centres worldwide.

2. When should I take the IELTS test?

If you are planning to apply for positions at CHW you must have sat and passed IELTS to be eligible for appointment. **At the time of applying for a position you must have passed IELTS within the last 18 months.**

3. How do I apply to sit the IELTS test?

You must apply to a test centre to take an IELTS test. Once you have applied, the test centre will confirm your IELTS test date and time. For more information on how to apply for the test, please refer to the following website address http://www.ielts.org/candidates/how_to_apply.aspx

4. Which IELTS test do I complete?

IELTS is available in two formats; Academic and General Training. **All IMGs are required to complete the Academic Module.** These modules assess whether a candidate is ready to study or train in the medium of English at an undergraduate or postgraduate level.

5. What score do I need to obtain to be eligible to apply for NSW Medical Registration?

To be eligible to apply for NSW Medical Registration, you **must achieve a minimum score of 7 in each of the four components in one sitting.** If you do not obtain a 7 in each of the four components, arrangements will need to be made to resit the test.

6. Are there alternative English proficiency tests that will be accepted by the NSW Medical Board?

Yes.

- Completed and obtained an overall pass in the Occupational English Test (OET) administered by the Centre for Adult Education with grades A or B only in each of the four components in one sitting; or
- A pass in the Professional Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) in the United Kingdom; or
- A pass in the New Zealand Registration Examination (NZREX) in New Zealand.

Please note - Results must have been obtained within **2 years prior to applying for NSW Medical registration.**

7. Under what circumstances will results be accepted if they are greater than two years old?

IELTS (or approved equivalent) results more than two years old will be accepted if accompanied by proof that you have **actively maintained continuous employment as a medical practitioner in a country where English is the native or first Language.** Test results must comply with the current requirements of this policy.

8. Under what circumstances can I apply for an Exemption?

If you provide evidence to the NSW Medical Board of **secondary education** in English in one of the countries, listed below, where English is the native or first Language:

- Canada
- Republic of Ireland
- New Zealand
- United Kingdom and Northern Ireland
- United States of America
- South Africa

9. How do I find out more information about the IELTS test?

Contact the IELTS Test Centre in your country on all matters relating to the administration of the IELTS English test, examination dates and its associated procedures. The website address is www.ielts.org