

ULTRASOUND QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA.

INFORMATION ON THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS:

Ultrasound qualifications obtained outside Australia are not immediately accepted and recognised for registration in Australia. The Australian Institute of Radiography assesses qualifications obtained outside Australia for Radiographers, Radiation Therapists and Sonographers.

To gain recognition of ultrasound qualifications gained outside Australia, qualifications are assessed for equivalency with the Australian standard at the time of qualifying. The application for assessment is considered by the AIR Overseas Qualifications Assessment Panel. Assessments are based on equivalency at undergraduate academic and clinical levels. Post graduate education and clinical experience may be taken into consideration in the assessment process.

The assessment is based on guidelines from the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR), a branch of the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). Information on equivalency is available on their website: www.dest.gov.au/noosr See *Country Education Profiles* and 'Medical Radiation Science' occupation in the *Guide to Professional Recognition in Australia*.

Application is by completion of the Application for Assessment Form, along with supporting documentation as indicated on the form. Documentation is required on the course completed by the applicant as well information from past and present employers outlining the applicant's post-qualification ultrasound experience .

The assessment takes up to 16 weeks and the current fee is AUD\$700.00 plus Goods & Services Tax (GST) of AUD\$70.00 if resident in Australia. (See *Method of Payment*)

The assessment will result in one of three decisions:

- **Acceptance** for Medical Ultrasound in the form of a **Certificate of Recognition in Ultrasound**.
- **Conditional rejection** – until evidence is produced of successful completion of a period of further approved training.
- **Rejection** – until evidence is produced of successful completion of an accredited ultrasound course that meets the Australian Standards.

Applicants whose Ultrasound Qualifications are accepted will be issued a **Certificate of Recognition in Ultrasound** which is an eligibility requirement for Accreditation by the Australasian Sonographers Accreditation Registry (**ASAR**) which recognises ultrasound skills for employment as a Sonographer in Australia.

See *Section D Sonographer Registration* of this document and www.asar.com.au

A **Certificate of Recognition in Ultrasound** is required for Immigration purposes in the skilled migration category. The AIR assesses ultrasound applicants' qualifications under the following code:

ASCO Code 2391- 17 Sonographer.

See www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled for further information.

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

Payment for the assessment is to be included with your application and is accepted as a bank cheque in Australian Dollars drawn on an Australian Bank or by MasterCard, Visa Card or American Express.

Overseas currency is not accepted. Do not send cash.

Cheques to be made payable to: "*Australian Institute of Radiography.*"

The current cost of the assessment is AUD\$700.00 plus GST of AUD\$70.00 if resident in Australia.

Click here for the [Application for Assessment of Qualifications obtained outside Australia Form.](#)

GUIDE TO COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FOR ASSESSMENT FORM - ULTRASOUND

A) SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

Your application will not be processed until all the requested supporting documentation is received.

1) CERTIFIED COPIES:

Do not send original documents, as their return cannot be guaranteed. Certified copies are to be submitted.

A "*Certified Copy*" of a document means a copy authorised or stamped as being a true and correct copy of the original document by a person or agency recognised by the law of your country. In Australia, it must be certified by a Justice of the Peace, Commissioner for Declarations or a person before whom a statutory declaration may be made. e.g. accountant, lawyer, doctor, police officer.

2) ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS:

If English is not your first language, you are required to provide evidence of understanding and fluency in English. The AIR requirement is evidence of:

-Overall Band Score of not less than **7 Academic** in the **IELTS** English Language Test* *or* - **Level B** results in the 4 Sections of the Australian Occupational English Test (**OET**)# *or* - evidence of completion of professional training in English or 3 years' experience where English is the first language.

This evidence is required before your application will be finalised.

*Contact: www.ielts.org or

Language Australia for information on **OET in Australia**: www.languageaustralia.com.au

Telephone Language Australia on +61 3 9612 2600.

3) TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS NOT IN ENGLISH:

All documents not in English must be accompanied by a certified English translation of the original by an accredited translator.

4) SECTION C: EMPLOYER VERIFICATION OF CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Pre-qualification clinical experience should be documented in your university course syllabus.

Section C of the Application Form relates to your *post qualification clinical experience*:

Substantiated evidence is required from your past and present employers verifying your Ultrasound experience. Employer evidence of 'recency of practice' i.e. the last five years, is a minimum requirement. This substantiated evidence of clinical experience should be from a Chief Sonographer, Head of Department or similar and written on hospital or employer's letterhead paper. The letter/s are to state:

- The start and end dates of your employment as a Sonographer at the hospital/centre and employment hours per week in ultrasound.
- The work performed by you, including duties and responsibilities. A percentage breakdown of workload is required e.g.50% general ultrasound, 40% Obstetric & Gynaecology and 10% Vascular, etc.

Note:

A personal employment history or resume is **not acceptable as a substitute for the above**. An employer letter stating dates of employment only and/or a job description is insufficient and **not acceptable**.

Letters from your employers need to be original or certified copies or they will not be accepted. See **Certified Copies**.

Professional Development: Other references, which you consider will support your application may be included but are not essential. e.g Seminar Presentation or Participation.

B) APPEAL AGAINST ASSESSMENT FINDINGS:

You have a right of appeal against the findings and recommendations of the Overseas Qualifications Assessment Panel. An appeal must be in writing and signed by you (the applicant). *An e-mail or faxed copy is not acceptable*. The letter is to state clearly the grounds for the appeal and include supporting documentation relating to the grounds for the appeal.

The cost of the Appeal process is AUD\$200.00. This payment must be submitted with the Appeal documentation. If you are a resident in Australia this cost is to include GST and therefore will be AUD\$220.00.

The Appeal is to be lodged within three (3) months of the date of the Assessment Panel decision.

Post Letter of Appeal to:

The Executive Officer
Australian Institute of Radiography
PO Box 1169
COLLINGWOOD. Vic. 3066
AUSTRALIA.

The Appeal is decided and resolved by the Council of the Australian Institute of Radiography, whose decision is final.

C) FEE HELP:

This loan scheme is available for courses that have been recommended by the relevant assessing authority for recognition of your profession.

FEE-HELP is a government loan scheme to pay fees for bridging courses or study to enable overseas trained professionals to meet the requirements for entry into their profession in Australia.

To be eligible for the loan scheme, an overseas trained professional must fulfill certain residency and other requirements.

See www.goingtouni.gov.au or FEE-HELP hotline on 1800 020 108

D) SONOGRAPHER REGISTRATION:

Sonographers are required to be registered before gaining employment in Australia.
For further details contact:

Australasian Sonographers Accreditation Registry (ASAR)
Secretariat
PO Box 745
CASTLE HILL NSW 1765
AUSTRALIA

Tele: 61 3 02 8850 1144
Fax: 61 3 02 8850 1177

Website: www.asar.com.au

E) EMAIL US:

*** Queries on the assessment of qualifications gained outside Australia may be made by [Email](#).*

E.M. Badawy
Executive Officer
Thursday 16th June 2005