



Policy on the eligibility requirements and identity verification for candidates of the New Zealand Registration Examination (NZREX Clinical)

Policy statement

Applicants for the NZREX Clinical must meet the following requirements:

- Hold an acceptable [primary medical qualification](#).
- Satisfy Council's [English language requirements](#) as at the date of the NZREX Clinical examination to which they have applied.
- Have passed one of the prerequisite examinations within 5 years of the NZREX Clinical examination date to which they have applied.
- Do not hold registration with the Medical Council of New Zealand within the special purpose postgraduate training scope of practice.

Applicants may sit the NZREX Clinical multiple times but must meet Council's eligibility requirements each time they apply.

Candidates must also meet our identity verification requirements.

Requirements to apply for NZREX Clinical

Primary medical qualification

Applicants must have a recognised primary medical qualification from a medical school listed in the [World Directory of Medical Schools](#). Information about recognised primary medical qualifications can be found on our [website](#).

English language requirements

Applicants must satisfy the Council that their ability to communicate in and comprehend English is sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public, by demonstrating they meet one of the requirements set out in the Council's [policy on English language requirements](#).

Prerequisite examinations

Applicants must hold a pass, within 5 years of the NZREX Clinical date to which they have applied, in one of the following examinations:

- [Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board \(PLAB\) test Part 1](#)
- [Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination \(MCCQE\) Part I](#)
- [Australian Medical Council MCQ](#)
- [United States Medical Licensing Examination \(USMLE\) Steps 1 and 2 \(Clinical Knowledge\)](#)

Primary source verification

Applicants' primary medical degrees and prerequisite examination results (PLAB, MCCQE, or AMC MCQ) must be primary source verified, through EPIC. These credentials must be verified **prior** to an application for NZREX Clinical being submitted.

If the prerequisite examination is the USMLE Steps 1 and 2, the applicant must submit a transcript request through the [Federation of State Medical Boards](#) (FSMB) to release results directly to the Medical Council of New Zealand. Information about primary source verification can be found on our [website](#).

Photo identification

Each applicant must:

1. include with their application to sit the NZREX Clinical a photocopy of a current, valid passport and a passport-size photograph taken within 4 months of the application; and
2. complete a declaration that the photograph has been taken within 4 months of their application.

Applicants are, in addition, required to verify their identity with ECFMG as part of the primary source verification process.

The photo will be used on an applicant’s NZREX Clinical identification badge and used to enable Council staff to accurately identify candidates on the day of the NZREX Clinical.

Proof of identity on day of examination

Applicants must show either a current passport or New Zealand Driver Licence, valid on the day of the NZREX Clinical, as evidence of their identity before being admitted to the examination.

If the photos do not match the appearance of the candidate, as assessed by the Examinations Director on the day of the examination, the candidate will not be allowed to sit the examination and no refund will be given.

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	Replaces #301510 and 301490
February 2029	Scheduled for review