
Comparable qualifications list

Executive Summary

In a paper to the Education and Training Committee on 6 September 2018, it was outlined that a future step in the development of the comparability model would be to begin a process of researching information in regards to the next largest population of incoming applicants, in line with the agreed comparability criteria.

The Executive have carried out research in this regard and this will be outlined in the following paper and proposing qualifications for inclusion on the list.

Previous consideration	The Committee last received a paper on advanced practice at its ay 2020 meeting
Decision	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve the revised list of comparable qualifications as per Appendix A;• Instruct the Executive to develop the Comparable Qualifications List further in line with the Comparability Model.
Next steps	If agreed the executive will further develop the list.
Strategic priority	The strategic priorities set in 2018 are no longer current. We are developing a new strategy that we aim to confirm at the end of 2020.
Risk	Strategic risk 1-3: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• failure to deliver effective regulatory functions;• failure to anticipate and respond to changes in the external environment; and• failure to be a trusted regulator and meet stakeholder expectations. <p>Risk appetite. The following sections are relevant to this paper:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public protection - The Council takes a minimal approach to public protection risks. Public protection is our aim and our strategy and processes are intended to provide this.

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- Compliance - The Council takes a minimal approach to compliance and regulatory risk. We will meet the law, regulations or standards in place to protect the public and employees and to protect data.

Financial and
resource
implications

Resource and financial implications are accounted for in the Registration Department planning for 2020-2021.

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Comparable Qualification List

1. Current functioning of the Comparable Qualifications List

The Comparable Qualifications List (CQL; the List) has been in use since June 2017 when the Committee approved the first qualifications for physiotherapists. Since this date, further research has been carried out for both physiotherapists and radiographers which has led to additions of qualifications to the List. At present, there are a total of 49 qualifications on the List. These qualifications cover two professions (physiotherapists and radiographers), and four countries (Australia, New Zealand, Ireland and Portugal).

1.1 Statistical data

1.1.1 From 12 June 2017, when the List was first approved, up to 12 June 2020, the Executive has used the CQL provision in a total of 605 cases. There are currently a further 43 cases in progress.

1.1.2 The use of CQL in the 605 cases mentioned above has saved a total of approximately £99,220 in partner fees alone. There are also other associated resource and cost savings, relating to the assessment of the professional qualifications process. For those applicants who were registered using the CQL, the average processing time is considerably shorter. In research undertaken in 2018, CQL applications took just 26 working days on average rather than 45 working days for international applicants.

1.2 Annual monitoring

1.2.1 Annual monitoring takes place on the CQL to ensure the process is functioning to the required standard. This includes the following:

1.2.2 Fitness to Practise (FTP) – each year a list of all those registrants who have gained entry to the Register through the CQL are passed to FTP for analysis to ensure we are not receiving a higher rate of complaints from those involved in the CQL process.

1.2.3 Assessment – each year, one application per programme on the List, where at least one application has been received, needs to be assessed in the traditional way, by two Registration Assessors, to ensure it is still deemed to meet our Standards of Proficiency.

1.2.4 Regulation – every two years, the relevant overseas regulators are contacted to check for any changes to programmes on the CQL.

2. Selection Criteria and research carried out for proposed additions to the CQL

The following selection criteria was applied:

2.1 Profession:

The Executive reviewed the past three years (2017, 2018 and 2019) of applications received to identify where the highest number of overseas qualified applications were received. After physiotherapists and radiographers which have been the subject of previous research, the next professions with the highest amount of overseas applications are occupational therapists, paramedics and biomedical scientists. These three professions were taken forward to the next stage of selection.

2.2 National level:

A list of applications capturing the last three years of submissions was organised by country of qualification for the aforementioned three professions. It was decided at this stage to proceed initially with research into Australian paramedics as this was where there was the highest proportion of applications had been received.

2.3 Qualification level:

There must be at least three previous accept decisions for admission to the Register based on a given qualification and these need to involve at least six different assessors. Only qualifications that meet the above criteria and have a success/acceptance rate of 95% will be put forward for potential inclusion on the List. The Executive carried out research on the calendar years 2017, 2018 and 2019 of all paramedic applications received from Australia. In total, 617 applications were involved in the research. This included 48 courses from 26 educational institutions.

2.4 Results

2.4.1 A total of eleven qualifications met the criteria for proposed inclusion to the List. These are outlined in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1.

University name	Course title	Year(s) that qualifications were gained	Total number of applications received	Total number of applications accepted based on primary qualification	Success rate	Total number of assessors used
Australian Catholic University	Bachelor of Paramedicine	2015-2019	58	58	100%	9
Australian Catholic University	Bachelor of nursing / bachelor of paramedicine	2015-2019	34	34	100%	9
Charles Sturt University	Bachelor of Clinical Practice (Paramedic)	2010-2019	110	109	99%	9
Edith Cowan University	Bachelor of Science (Paramedical Science)	2015-2019	26	26	100%	9
Flinders University	Bachelor of Paramedic Science	2013-2018	23	23	100%	7
Griffith University	Bachelor of Paramedicine	2018-2019	10	10	100%	9
Queensland University of Technology	Bachelor of Paramedic Science	2014-2018	33	33	100%	9
University of Western Sydney	Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedicine)	2016-2018	24	24	100%	9
Victoria University	Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic)	2013-2018	34	34	100%	9
Monash University	Bachelor of Emergency Health (Paramedic)	2014-2018	32	32	100%	9
Monash University	Bachelor of Emergency Health and Paramedic Practice	2018	6	6	100%	6

2.4.2 The total amount of applications received across the three calendar years for these eleven qualifications is 390. Of these 390, 389 were accepted based on the given qualification. This is an average success rate of 100%. There was just one programme that had a success rate of 99%.

2.4.3 If these programmes had been part of the CQL for the three calendar years reviewed, there would have been a total saving of £63,960 which is £21,320 per year in assessor fees alone. If this were added to our current savings of £99,220 in a three year period, it would make a total of approximately £161,180 savings on assessor fees alone in three years.

2.4.4 It should be noted that paramedics in Australia are regulated by the Paramedicine Board of Australia (PBA), which is part of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). We have established a good relationship with AHPRA as they also regulate physiotherapists in Australia and so they already support the CQL in this capacity. We have made contact with the PBA to establish a relationship and they are happy to work with us on this project.

3. The updated list of comparable qualifications for approval

3.1 As a result of the detailed analysis of historical application registration data relating to paramedics from Australia, supported by the regulatory information obtained, the Executive proposes an updated Comparable Qualifications List for approval. The additional qualifications to be considered are noted in Appendix A.

3.2 In addition to the previously approved physiotherapy and radiography qualifications from Australia, New Zealand, Portugal and Ireland, the proposed List would now also contain eleven qualifications for paramedic practice from Australia.

4. Future steps and recommendations

4.1 The Executive proposes to finalise the list of Australian paramedics for Committee's approval.

4.2 The Executive proposes further research into any other paramedic qualifications that can be added to the CQL from outside Australia.

4.3 The Executive proposes further research into the inclusion of occupational therapists and biomedical scientists to the CQL.

4.4 The Executive proposes to conduct further research into the suitability of adding South African qualifications in physiotherapy and also radiography qualifications from Italy, India, Philippines and Nigeria to the CQL. These were previously de-prioritised because although the qualifications suggested a high degree of comparability, we had not been able to establish reliable information regarding the regulatory process in these countries. The Executive proposes that this be looked into again now to see if any progress can be made.

Appendix A

Comparable Qualifications

The Education and Training Committee (ETC) has assessed the qualifications included in this list as being of a comparable standard to an equivalent HCPC-approved qualification awarded in the UK.

The assessment of a qualification's comparability is based primarily upon the outcome of applications for admission to the HCPC register made by holders of that qualification. The comparability process does not involve the detailed approval or monitoring of an educational programme, but the ETC does keep the comparability of qualifications under review. The publication of this list is discretionary and the ETC reserves the right to remove a qualification from this list at any time.

This list was published on 10 September 2020 and supersedes all previous lists.

Physiotherapists

Australia

Australian Catholic University
Bachelor of Physiotherapy
Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)

Bond University, Gold Coast
Doctor of Physiotherapy

University of Canberra
Master of Physiotherapy

Charles Sturt University
Bachelor of Physiotherapy

Curtin University
Bachelor of Science (Physiotherapy)
Master of Physiotherapy

Flinders University

Master of Physiotherapy

Griffith University
Master of Physiotherapy

James Cook University
Bachelor of Physiotherapy

La Trobe University
Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Physiotherapy Practice
Master of Physiotherapy Practice

University of Melbourne
Doctor of Physiotherapy

Monash University
Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)

University of Newcastle
Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)

University of Notre Dame
Bachelor of Physiotherapy
Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)

University of Queensland
Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)
Master of Physiotherapy Studies

University of South Australia
Bachelor of Physiotherapy
Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)
Master of Physiotherapy (Graduate Entry)

University of Sydney
Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy)
Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) (Honours)
Master of Physiotherapy (Graduate Entry)

Ireland

Royal College of Surgeons
Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy (Honours)

University College Dublin
Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy (Honours)

University of Limerick
Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy

Trinity College Dublin

Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy

New Zealand

The Auckland University of Technology
Bachelor of Health Science in Physiotherapy

The University of Otago
Bachelor of Physiotherapy
Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)

Portugal

Instituto Politécnico de Coimbra - Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde de Coimbra
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa - Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde de Lisboa
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

Instituto Politécnico do Porto - Escola Superior de Saúde
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

Instituto Politécnico de Setúbal - Escola Superior de Saúde
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

Universidade de Aveiro - Escola Superior de Saúde de Aveiro
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

CESPU - Instituto Politécnico de Saúde do Norte - Escola Superior de Saúde do Vale do Ave
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

CESPU - Instituto Politécnico de Saúde do Norte - Escola Superior de Saúde do Vale do Sousa
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

Escola Superior de Saúde do Alcoitão
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

Escola Superior de Saúde da Cruz Vermelha Portuguesa
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

Escola Superior de Saúde Egas Moniz
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

Escola Superior de Saúde Jean Piaget de Algarve
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

Escola Superior de Saúde Jean Piaget de Vila Nova de Gaia
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

Escola Superior de Saúde Jean Piaget de Viseu
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

ISAVE - Instituto Superior de Saúde
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

Universidade Fernando Pessoa / Fundação Ensino E Cultura "Fernando Pessoa"
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

Universidade Atlantica
Licenciatura em Fisioterapia

Diagnostic Radiographers

Portugal

Instituto Politécnico De Coimbra, Escola Superior De Tecnologia Da Saúde De Coimbra
Imagem Medica e Radioterapia

Paramedics

Australia

Australian Catholic University
Bachelor of Paramedicine
Bachelor of nursing / bachelor of paramedicine

Charles Sturt University
Bachelor of Clinical Practice (Paramedic)

Edith Cowan University
Bachelor of Science (Paramedical Science)

Flinders University
Bachelor of Paramedic Science

Griffith University
Bachelor of Paramedicine

Queensland University of Technology
Bachelor of Paramedic Science

University of Western Sydney
Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedicine)

Victoria University
Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic)

Monash University
Bachelor of Emergency Health (Paramedic)
Bachelor of Emergency Health and Paramedic Practice