Education and Training Committee

9 September 2021

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Comparable Qualifications List update

Executive Summary

Following a Council decision in 2017, we developed a list of international qualifications that meet our Standards of Proficiency. This list was compiled using the data we hold for international applications received. To maintain the integrity of the Comparable Qualifications List (CQL), we have a number of controls in place. One of these controls is an annual audit which includes assessing one application per year through the full assessment process.

Through our annual auditing checks, it was found that one qualification no longer meets our Standards of Proficiency. There has been one application for this qualification since this qualification has been on the CQL, and this person is not on the Register. This is the first time since June 2017 when the CQL was created, that our quality assurance processes have identified a qualification on the CQL no longer meets out standards.

The Registration team has reviewed our current CQL process and this paper includes recommendations to further improve the maintenance and quality assurance of the CQL.

Appendices	Appendix 1. The updated Comparable Qualifications List. Appendix 2. Links to relevant ETC papers from 24 November 2016, 2 March 2017 and 12 June 2017.
Previous consideration	Executive Leadership Team, (ELT)
Decision	ETC is asked to consider and approve the recommendations of removal of a programme from the CQL and improvements to the maintenance and quality assurance of the CQL.
Next steps	If the recommendations are approved, these changes will be implemented by the Registration team. The published CQL will be revised. The updated CQL contained within this ETC paper will be uploaded to the website by the Communications Department. There will be internal communications for the Registration team to ensure they are all aware of the change.
Strategic priority	Through this work, we are engaging the strategic priority one, to continually improve and innovate.

Financial and resource implications	The resource and financial implications for related CQL activity is accounted for in the Registration Department planning for 2021-2022.
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1. Overview of the current Comparable Qualifications List

The Comparable Qualifications List (CQL) 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, radiographers and paramedics which has led to additions of qualifications to the CQL. At present, there are a total of 60 qualifications on the CQL. These qualifications cover three professions (physiotherapists, radiographers and paramedics), and four countries (Australia, New Zealand, Ireland and Portugal).

1.1 <u>Statistical data</u>

1.1.1   From 12 June 2017, when the CQL was first approved, up to 17 August 2021, the Executive has used the CQL process in a total of 656 applications. There are currently a further 85 applications in progress.

1.1.2   The use of CQL for the 656 applications since 2017 has resulted in efficiency saving of approximately £107,500. 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 <u>Maintenance and quality assurance of the CQL</u>

1.2.1   The quality assurance processes in place to maintain the integrity of the CQL includes the following:

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

1.2.3   Annual assessment – each year, one application per programme on the CQL, where at least one application has been received, is retrospectively assessed via the normal international registration process. That means two Registration Assessors review the qualification, to ensure it still meets our Standards of Proficiency. All checks thus far have come back as meeting our standards with the exception of one physiotherapy qualification from Portugal (which is the subject of the recommendation to remove a qualification from the CQL in this paper).

1.2.4   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. To date, these checks have not found any FTP complaints about those who Registered via the CQL process.

2. Findings from the CQL quality assurance activities

2.1   In our annual assessment audit, Licenciatura em Fisioterapia from Universidade Fernando Pessoa was found to no longer meet our Standards of Proficiency by our Registration Assessors.

2.2   It should be noted that in the instance of Licenciatura em Fisioterpia from Universidade Fernando Pessoa, we have not received any other applications through the CQL since this qualification was added.

2.3   While this is the first time a qualification on the CQL has been found to no longer meet our standards and we need to manage the removal of that qualification from the list effectively it demonstrates that our quality assurance processes are working.

3. Recommendations

3.1. Removal of programme

3.1.1   As a result of the above assessment audit finding, it is recommended that this programme be removed from the CQL.

3.2 Improvements to our CQL maintenance and quality assurance arrangements

3.2.1   We propose to add the following to our quality assurance arrangements

3.2.2   Live audits - The first application received each year for a CQL qualification will be sent for review by two Registration Assessors. This will be as a minimum standard. We will not process any other applications for the given qualification until this assessment has taken place and confirmed to meet out standards. This will avoid the risk of any applications coming onto the Register through the CQL process, if the annual assessment audits have not been passed.

3.2.3   We will also complete an assessment audit at six monthly intervals as described above. This will be subject on the volume of applications received for a given programme on the CQL. Where an application has not been received in the first six months of the audit year, we will continue with the annual check.

3.2.3   If we do not receive any applications from the CQL qualifications in a given year, then that qualification should be considered for removal from the CQL. The removal of a qualification would be subject to ETC approval. Currently, the process is that if an application is not received for a period of five years, it will be removed from the CQL.

3.2.4   Currently, we accept applications where the qualification has been gained in the last ten years from when the application is received. We propose that moving forward, we accept applications whereby the qualification must be gained in the same year, or after, the earliest date of the qualification gained and accepted as part of our research. For example, if in our research to qualify for entry to the CQL, the oldest qualification date was 2017, we would only allow applicants who gained their qualification in 2017 or after to go through the CQL route.

Appendix 1

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 9 September 2021 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 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

Appendix 2

Education and Training Committee paper, 24 November 2016

Education and Training Committee paper, 2 March 2017

Education and Training Committee paper, 12 June 2017