

Developing our international application assessment process

Brendon Edmonds, Head of Regulatory Development and Performance
Education and Training Committee
June 2026

Our international application assessment process

HCPC legislation sets out how this route to registration must lawfully be operated

Documentary assessment of primary qualifications, further training and professional experience

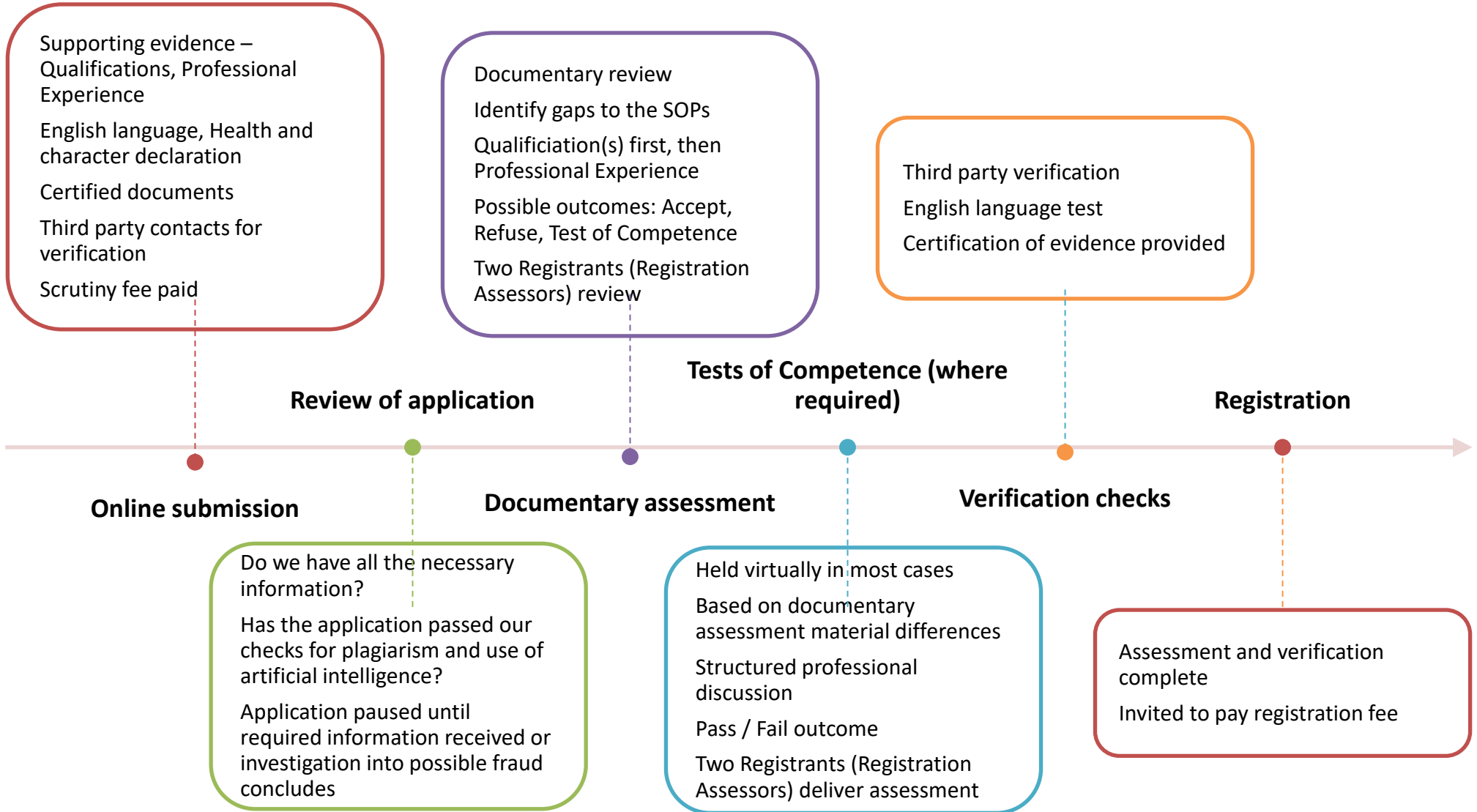
Comparability to Standards of proficiency

Have our assessors identified gaps?

Possible outcomes: Accept, Refuse or Require a Test of Competence

Certify and verify all evidence relied upon through assessment process

Overview of the international application process



Our assessors

Registrants with experience of wide range of practice settings / education settings

Initial and refresher training mandatory to undertake role

Work in pairs to reach joint decisions

Registrant pairs aim to have a mix of both practice and education-based settings

Applicant comparability

We are required to assess applicants' comparability to the standards of proficiency

Comparability is not necessarily equivalent to UK based programme

Applicants will require transition to UK – they may not have practiced to the same depth in areas, understand UK practice contexts and requirements

Induction and preceptorship needs will differ, tailored to the individual

Understanding suitability to UK roles and environments important when recruiting

Developing our international assessment process

Developments in the last two years

Review of assessment models

Reviewed other organisations and their international models (both UK and other countries)

Five models identified

Differing levels of assurance, impacts to applicants, costs to deliver

Affirmed our approach, but identified where we should develop

New English language requirements

Tests we now recognise (IELTs, TOEFL, OET)

Qualifying countries list determines requirement to submit a test

Became effective from 29 January 2025

Plagiarism and AI detection

Application and further documentation checked

Issues considered in relation to our plagiarism and AI use policy

Applicants refused where plagiarism found

Website guidance for applicants regarding use of AI and other sources

New course information form

Obtain more detail about an applicant's primary qualifications

Rebalancing assessment of documentary evidence

Remove submission of further information step

Applicants required to map application to proficiency standards

Preparing to deliver more tests

Introduced in November 2025

Developing our international assessment process

Further developments planned for this financial year

ToC process and supporting guidance

New test record requiring more detail in assessor findings

New assessor guidance detailing requirements for preparation and delivery of tests

New eLearning package for all assessors to complete

New ToC quality assurance mechanisms

To feedback on assessor performance and decision making

Internal audit mechanism – assessor adherence to guidance and processes

Clinically led audit – partners appointed to review test video and outcomes and provide feedback on test delivery and decision making