
UK and international applications for registration Policy for applications made after a refusal (March 2026)

Introduction

This policy sets out how the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) considers registration applications that are refused, and how subsequent or repeat applications are assessed. It outlines:

- the legal framework governing registration decisions;
- the process for assessing new applications following a refusal; and
- how repeat applications and readmissions are managed.

1. The legal framework

Applications for registration with the HCPC are considered under:

- the [Health Professions Council \(Registration and Fees\) Rules Order of Council 2003](#) (the 'registration rules'), and
- the [Health Professions Order 2001](#) (the 'HPO').

Under **Article 9(1)** of the HPO, a person seeking admission to the Register is entitled to be registered if they meet the conditions set out in **Article 9(2)**. These include:

- submitting an application in the prescribed form and manner;
- holding an approved qualification or having met the requirements through an aptitude test or adaptation period;
- demonstrating capability for safe and effective practice in accordance with Article 5(2); and
- evidence good health and good character to satisfy the Education and Training Committee (ETC) that an applicant is capable of safe and effective practice.

Where the HCPC refuses an application, the applicant must be notified in writing, including:

- the reasons for refusal; and
- information about their right to appeal.

Any right of appeal must be submitted **within 28 days** of the refusal decision being sent.

Where an application is refused due to plagiarism, the HCPC's [plagiarism policy](#) will apply. This may result in refusal of future applications on the same grounds.

2. New applications following a refusal to join the Register

Applicants may submit a new application after a refusal, provided that the relevant fee is paid. A decision maker (a senior member of the Registration Department) will review the new application in full. All applications are considered on their own merits, in line with HCPC policies, guidance, and established decision-making practices.

International applications refused for not meeting the standards of proficiency

If new information is provided, it will be referred to an Assessor from the applicant's profession. The Assessor will evaluate whether the new evidence demonstrates that the applicant now meets the standards of proficiency.

If the standards of proficiency are met, the applicant will receive an acceptance decision and will be registered, subject to payment and completion of verification checks.

Applicants must clearly identify any new information being submitted. New information will be cross-checked against previous applications. Where no new information has been provided, and the applicant has resubmitted material previously considered, the application will be rejected.

International applications refused for not meeting the standards of proficiency and standards of conduct, performance and ethics relating to good character

Where a previous refusal was based on both standards of proficiency and character:

1. The new information will first be reviewed by a decision maker to assess whether the applicant now demonstrates good character.
2. If the character concern is resolved, the application will be referred to an Assessor to review the standards of proficiency evidence.
3. If the standards of proficiency are met, the applicant will be accepted, subject to verification and payment of the registration fee.
4. If character concerns remain, the application will be refused, and the applicant notified of the reasons and their right to appeal.

UK and international applications refused for not meeting the standards of conduct, performance and ethics relating to good character

Where a previous refusal related solely to character, the decision maker will consider whether the new information demonstrates good character.

If satisfied, the application will proceed and the applicant will be registered, subject to verification checks and payment of the registration fee.

3. Readmission applications

Where an individual has previously been registered and was subsequently removed from the Register for protection of title or other reasons indicating potential concerns about character or health (but not through the fitness to practise process), any readmission application will be reviewed by a decision maker.

They will assess whether the new evidence demonstrates that the applicant is of good character and capable of safe and effective practice. If satisfied, the application will proceed to registration, subject to verification checks and payment of the registration fee.

4. Refusal decisions

Where a decision maker intends to refuse an application, and the applicant has paid the relevant fee, a draft decision outlining the reasons for refusal will be prepared. Once finalised, it will be sent to the applicant, along with information about their right to appeal.

5. Repeat applications

There is no statutory waiting period before an applicant may reapply. However, submitting multiple applications without **substantial and verifiable remediation** will result in the original decision being reappplied.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to address the reasons for any refusal before reapplying.