



**OTAGO**  
POLYTECHNIC  
Te Kura Matatini ki Otago



> Health and Wellbeing Careers > Nursing Competency Assessment

# Competency Assessment Programme for International Registered Nurses.

This programme is offered to international registered nurses who have met initial Nursing Council criteria and have been directed to complete a Competence Assessment Programme in order to learn curriculum content specific to practice in the New Zealand health care system. It aims to provide learning opportunities for nurses who have undertaken their nursing studies outside of New Zealand, and prepare them for registration and employment in New Zealand.

## PROGRAMME DETAILS:

This programme includes ten days of theory followed by 240 hours (6 weeks) in clinical practice. Nurses undertaking this programme will need to demonstrate ability to meet Registered Nurse Competencies (Nursing Council of New Zealand, 2007) at the completion of their programme.

## DURATION:

Programme duration is 8-12 weeks. Eight (8) weeks is the minimum duration for the successful completion of the theory and clinical courses. The Nursing Council allows one (1) re-enrolment for the clinical course if the student does not pass. That would then extend the duration of the programme for that student to 12 weeks and would incur an additional fee.

## LOCATION:

The programme is offered in Dunedin with clinical placements in Dunedin, the greater Otago Region or Southland. Please note: Nurses are responsible for all related expenses, including transport, meals, accommodation and uniforms, while on clinical placement.

## LEARNING OPTIONS:

Full-time attendance at theory and clinical courses.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FEES\*:

NZD \$5,550 (approximately, including GST).

## ADDITIONAL COSTS\*:

Compulsory insurance fee: NZD \$162. Administration fee: NZD \$300. Additional charge for optional homestay: NZD \$1000. There may also be additional costs related to the clinical course.

## PROGRAMME DATES:

There are **four intakes** in 2010, with programmes starting 25 January, 23 April, 6 August and 15 October. There are a maximum number of students accepted, per intake. Once each intake has been filled, qualified applicants will be placed on a waitlist and notified of their status.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Applications are accepted anytime, however, if you wish to be accepted for a specific intake your preference must be noted on your application form. All necessary documentation and fees must be received by Otago Polytechnic no later than two weeks before the starting date.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Internationally qualified registered nurses seeking entry must provide the original written notification from the Nursing Council of the requirement to complete a competence assessment programme before registration.

International applicants (with the exception of Australia) must meet English language requirements laid down in the Nursing Council's policy for overseas nurses prior to entry to the competence assessment programme.

Approved English language assessments are:

- Academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a minimum score of 7.0 in reading, listening, writing and speaking. (Scores higher than 7.0 are preferred and will facilitate achievement in the programme); OR
- Occupational English Test (OET) with a B band in each section.

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#### SELECTION PROCEDURE:

All internationally registered nurses who meet the English Language entry requirements provide written notification from Nursing Council that they may enter a Competency Assessment Programme, provide certified copies of their passport, visa, transcript, references and CV will be considered for entry into this programme. However, acceptance is dependant on the availability of places in the requested intake. Preference is given to nurses with higher IELTS scores and degree preparation.

#### COURSES IN THE COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME:

##### **Theory: BN 714: Professional Nursing Practice (5 Credits) (Level 7)**

Aim: The aim of this course is to provide learning opportunities for international registered nurses about the legal, ethical, cultural and evidence-based aspects of professional nursing in New Zealand. It provides the basis for developing knowledge and skills for meeting some of the Registered Nurse Competencies. This course runs over four (4) days and is assessed later, the date to be advised.

##### **Theory: BN 713: Health Assessment (Adult) and Nursing Skills (10 Credits) (Level 7)**

Aim: The aim of this course is to ensure the student's knowledge and skills in adult health assessment and practical nursing skills are evidence-based and current for the New Zealand health system environment. This course runs over six (6) days and has assessed components one of which must be passed before commencing clinical. The other assessment is later, the date to be advised.

##### **Clinical: BN 711: Nursing Practice (15 Credits) (Level 7)**

Aim: The clinical course commences immediately following the two theory courses. The aim is that through experiential learning you will be able to orientate yourself to nursing practice in New Zealand and demonstrate your ability to meet the Nursing Council Registered Nurses Competencies. Successful completion of this course as well as the theory courses will mean you are eligible to apply for registration with the Nursing Council. If you do not achieve the competencies by the end of the clinical course you may re-enrol.

Hours: At least 240 hours of fulltime, rostered duties at an approved clinical provider. Information on approved clinical providers is available from the Programme Coordinator for this Competency Assessment Programme.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For inquiries about requirements for obtaining an Annual Practising Certificate contact the Nursing Council of New Zealand (Te Kaunihera Tapui o Aotearoa).

#### Contact details:

##### **Postal Address:**

PO Box 9644  
Wellington 6141  
NEW ZEALAND

##### **Street Address:**

Level 12  
Mid City Tower  
139-143 Willis Street  
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**Telephone:** +64 4 385 9589 (Option 2)

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**Website:** [www.nursingcouncil.org.nz](http://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz)

Contact Otago Polytechnic for more information about this programme. or to discuss your specific requirements.

#### Otago Polytechnic School of Nursing Contact Details:

**Freephone (in New Zealand):** 0800 762 786

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\*DISCLAIMER: While every effort is made to ensure that this sheet is accurate, Otago Polytechnic reserves the right to amend, alter or withdraw any of the contained information. The fees shown in this document are indicative ONLY. Both domestic and international fees are subject to change and are dependent on the development and implementation of Government policies. Please note that additional fees may from time to time be required for external examination, NZQA fees and/or additional material fees.