

Recognition of Comparable International Qualifications under Article 12 (2) (a)

Executive Summary and Recommendations

1. Introduction

This paper is for discussion on a proposed procedure for recognising comparable international qualifications under Article 12 (2) (a) of the Health Professions Order 2001

The Committee is advised that the proposed procedure will establish a list of comparable international qualifications which will be published by the HPC and regularly reviewed.

Decision

The Committee is asked to agree the process set out in this paper and recommend the list in table 1 of comparable qualifications to the Education and Training Committee.

2. Background Information

Article 12 (2) (a) of the Health Professions Order 2001 directs the Education and Training Committee to establish a procedure to:

“Assess whether a qualification awarded outside the United Kingdom is of a comparable standards to a qualification mentioned in paragraph (1) (a) and it shall, where it sees fit, keep a list of qualifications which are of a comparable standard which it shall publish and keep under review.”

The procedure should be based on the historical work undertaken by Registration Assessors. It is advised that, prospective international registrants could be approved without the need to use Registration Assessors to continue to re-check qualifications.

The proposed procedure is laid out as follows:

1. Executive collects data from the HPC Registration database (LISA) on qualifications
2. Executive checks data for approved qualifications against registration data for the profession, total rejections and total approvals
3. Registration Committee reviews list and recommends to the Education & Training Committee that the list of comparable qualifications is updated to include the new additions

The proposed process will use a minimum of '10' approved applications to define a programme as comparable before recommending it is included on the list.

The list of comparable qualifications may end up being limited to specific countries, from which HPC received the majority of international applications. On the basis of

recent statistical analysis of the nationality of applicants applying via the International route it is not likely to be more than 15 - 20 institutions globally from approximately 6 countries of origin.

Ongoing monitoring of continued comparability of the list will take place every 5 years. This will mean that an application will be tested for comparability by a Registration Assessor. If it is approved for registration it will remain on the list, if it is not, all future applications will be sent out to Registration Assessors and the qualification will be removed from the list. The Committee will be notified of any changes.

The table below shows qualifications that have been approved for registration and lists the number of applications in which it has been listed by the applicant. The committee is asked to consider this table is recommended to the Education and Training Committee as the first publishable list of comparable qualifications meeting the requirements of Article 12 (2) (a).

PROFESSION	COUNTRY	NAME OF INSTITUTION	NAME OF QUALIFICATION	YEAR OF GRADUATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF GRADUATES APPROVED FOR HPC REGISTRATION
PHYSIOTHERAPY	NEW ZEALAND	Auckland University of Technology	BSc Health Science (Physiotherapy)	2001	10
PHYSIOTHERAPY	AUSTRALIA	Queensland University	BSc Physiotherapy	2000	11
PHYSIOTHERAPY	AUSTRALIA	Queensland University	BSc Physiotherapy	2001	12
PHYSIOTHERAPY	AUSTRALIA	University of Sydney	BSc Physiotherapy	2001	16
PHYSIOTHERAPY	AUSTRALIA	University of Sydney	BSc Physiotherapy	2002	11
PHYSIOTHERAPY	SOUTH AFRICA	Stellenbosch University	BSc Physiotherapy	2002	13
PHYSIOTHERAPY	SOUTH AFRICA	University of Witwatersrand	BSc Physiotherapy	2002	21

3 Financial Implications

The financial implications of this process are:

- 3.1. Over time it is estimated that only 75% of applications will need to be sent out for assessment. A direct impact will be a decreased reliance on Registration Assessors to undertake the entire workload of reviewing applications.
- 3.2. Increased improvement in turnaround time to process international applications (currently 25 working days from point of application to point of registration, estimated improvement 10 working days from receipt of application to point of registration).

4. Resource Implications

None

5. Appendices

None