

Dear Kathleen

Comments on the recent IELTS requirement changes.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity given to me to express my opinion with regards to the rule implemented recently by the Nursing and midwifery board of South Australia. I have completed my bachelor of Nursing program in 2010 and looking forward to obtain the registration as a nurse which enables me to practice as a Graduate or a Registered nurse within Australia.

I came to Australia in 2006 and started my first year of nursing program in the South Australian Institute of Business and Technology and completed the Certificate IV successfully and admitted into the University of South Australia with the intention of becoming a Nurse after completing the program.

However in 2009 when we are half way through the program the NMBSA implemented this rule which prevent us obtaining the registration unless we have the IELTS score of 7 in each module in Academic.

I and all my other international students strongly disagree with this partial and unfair decision put into practice and still believe that the Authority will consider my below mentioned facts and the comments from other professionals and waver the rule at least for students who have already started the program when the rule was announced.

The reasons for my decision are:-

1. The Australian government deserves the rights to implement rules at anytime in order to protect the public, however the Authority also must have thought about the International students who get lost after completing a degree worth \$ 60,000.
2. We learnt specifically about t he Australian Healthcare system and this degree will become just a piece of paper if we take this to our country or to any other country unless we spent more time and money to study about the healthcare system of the country where we intend to practice.
3. Students select a degree that has a demand within the community and intention of obtaining a job in that relevant field thus applying such a rule for those who have already started the program could be considered as an unfair and inappropriate decision taken at an inappropriate time.

4. It is understandable that communication skills are extremely important in a professional such as healthcare conversely a University degree program cannot be completed successfully to a student who does not have the English skills; Three to four years programs are taught and assessed in English. On the other hand I believe that the University degree programs are underestimated due to these types of rules.

5. There are students who fail to score 7 for some module that was scored 7 in the exams taken before however that is not an issue with the student English skills, but could be some other external factor.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely

M.Dinesh

The University of South Australia