

Fact sheet

Updated July 2019

Graduate applications for nursing and midwifery

Introduction

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) undertakes functions as set by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). The NMBA regulates the practice of nursing and midwifery in Australia, and one of its key roles is to protect the public. The NMBA does this by developing registration standards, professional codes, guidelines and standards for practice which together establish the requirements for the professional and safe practice of nurses and midwives in Australia.

This fact sheet addresses common queries about applying for initial registration as a graduate of an NMBA-approved nursing and/or midwifery program of study.

I am a student of nursing and/or midwifery but I have not graduated yet. Can I apply for registration as a nurse or midwife before I graduate?

You can apply for registration four to six weeks before completing your program of study. Students of nursing or midwifery about to graduate can go online to apply early for registration as a nurse or a midwife. An [online graduate service](#) is available on the AHPRA website for final year students in approved programs of study.

Online applications are also open for enrolled nurses due to complete an approved program of study to qualify for registration as a registered nurse or midwife. Refer to [Enrolled to Registered Nurse or Midwife applications](#).

What is an approved program of study for nursing or midwifery?

Approved programs of study are those programs leading to registration and endorsement. You can access a list of [approved programs of study](#) on the NMBA website.

I am both a nursing and midwifery graduate. Can I use the online application form to apply?

Graduates wishing to apply for registration as both a nurse and a midwife cannot apply online and must apply using the correct [hard copy form](#) available for download on the NMBA website.

What happens after I complete my application online or by hard copy and mail it to the AHPRA office in my state or territory?

If you apply for registration by the [online graduate service](#), you will receive your *Graduate Online Application Next Steps Checklist* by email. This document outlines what supporting documents you must provide in hardcopy.

You will then need to send the following completed documents to the AHPRA office in your state or territory:

- *Graduate online application next steps checklist*
- other supporting documents, and
- [TELG-40 English language skills requirements form](#)

AHPRA will:

- assess your application and supporting documentation
- confirm its decision for registration and, if your application for registration has been approved, and
- publish your name on the [Register of practitioners](#) (national register).

What evidence do I need to provide to show that I meet English language skills as a nurse or midwife?

All applicants, including internationally qualified applicants, who seek initial registration in Australia, must demonstrate English language skills that meet the requirements detailed in the NMBA's [English language skills registration standard](#).

If I am registering as a nurse and/or midwife, why must I meet the English language skills registration standard?

The *English language skills registration standard* is a best practice regulation that protects the public. It helps ensure that nurses and midwives can communicate effectively in English to provide safe care to their clients.

Does the NMBA's English language skills registration standard apply to students?

No. This registration standard does not apply to students of nursing or midwifery. When a student completes an NMBA-approved program of study successfully and applies for registration as an enrolled nurse, registered nurse and/or midwife, the student will then need to meet the NMBA's *English language skills registration standard*.

To whom does the NMBA's English language skills registration standard apply?

The *English language skills registration standard* applies to all applicants, including internationally-qualified applicants, applying for initial registration as an enrolled nurse, registered nurse and/or midwife in Australia.

What is an internationally qualified applicant?

An internationally qualified applicant is a person who has obtained an initial nursing and/or midwifery qualification in a country outside Australia.

How soon after registration am I eligible to start working as a nurse or midwife?

As a new graduate registered with the NMBA, you are eligible to start working as a nurse or midwife as soon as your name is published on the [national register](#).

How long does my registration last?

Registration for nurses and midwives is renewed annually by 31 May regardless of how long you were registered during the previous 12 months. The National Law states that the period of a practitioner's registration can be for no more than 12 months. Hence, a national annual renewal date was set.

If you are a graduate who registered within two months prior to the 31 May annual renewal date you are registered to practise until 31 May of the following year. Check the [national register](#) if you are not sure when your registration is due for renewal.

AHPRA will send a reminder when registration is due so it is important to make sure your contact details with AHPRA remain current including your email address and contact phone number. Look out for the reminder as confirmation that online renewal is open. After receiving your reminder, go to the [AHPRA login page](#).

A [schedule of fees](#) for initial registration and annual renewal, including the late payment fee for renewal applications received during June is outlined on the NMBA website. There are no pro-rata fees for the registration period.

If you do not renew your registration by 31 May, or within the one month late period, your name will be removed from the national register and your registration will lapse in accordance with the National Law.

For more information

- Information on how to apply online and access to application forms is available under [Graduate Applications](#) on the AHPRA website
- Other important information to help you apply for registration as a nurse or midwife is also available under [Registration and Endorsement](#) and [Registration Standards](#) on the NMBA website
- Visit www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au under *Contact Us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 9275 9009 (overseas callers)

Document control

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