

English language skills: Information for graduates

All registered health practitioners need to be able to communicate with the people in their care, with other healthcare professionals, and keep clear and accurate health records. Everyone must meet their National Board's English language skills standard, which supports safe practice.

The [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia](#) and the [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia](#) have different English language skills requirements, which can be found on their websites.

There are four pathways that you can use to demonstrate to your Board that you are competent in the English language. Each of the pathways and their requirements are outlined in the [English Language skills registration standard](#).



Combined education pathway

- a. at least two years of your **secondary education** were taught and assessed solely in English in a **recognised country**, and
- b. your **qualification(s)** for your profession were taught and assessed solely in English in a **recognised country**.



School education pathway

English is your **main language**, and

- a. at least 10 years of your **primary** and **secondary** school education were taught and assessed solely in English in a **recognised country**, and
- b. your **qualification(s)** for your profession were taught and assessed solely in English.



Advanced education pathway

You have successfully completed at least six years in total of **full-time equivalent** education, all taught and assessed solely in English in a **recognised country**, with a maximum of two years break while studying, which includes:

- a. your **qualification(s)** for your profession, and
- b. **advanced education** (tertiary) at a degree level where you had to read, write, listen to and speak English.

You must apply for registration within two years of finishing your education.



Test pathway

If you cannot meet the other pathways, this pathway is most suitable for you. You will need to sit an English language test accepted by your National Board, meet certain test requirements and achieve the minimum scores. If you've sat an accepted English language test before (for example, for study or migration purposes), you may be able to use those test results in your application for registration.

Use our [pathway selection tool](#) to determine which pathway is most suitable for you.