

Assessment for Migration – Explanatory notes

This assessment is for the purposes of skilled migration to Australia.

The Department of Home Affairs has appointed the Occupational Therapy Council of Australia Ltd (OTC) as the skills assessing authority for skills assessment for occupational therapists. There is a Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) in place for this purpose. Occupational therapists wanting to apply for skilled migration in the category of ANZSCO 252411 – Occupational Therapy are required to undertake an assessment in compliance with the OTC requirements.

The assessment for migration is a desktop assessment of qualifications and English language proficiency.

The desktop assessment is for both Australian qualified practitioners (i.e. persons who have completed their qualifications in Australia as international students) and internationally qualified practitioners.

1. Submission of application

Email applications to migration@otcouncil.com.au.

Applications must include the following:

- Completed application form (in PDF or Word format)
- Completed payment form (in PDF or Word format) or proof of payment of the application fee to the OTC. Payment details are available in 'Schedule of fees' on our website.
- [Identification documents](#)
- [Occupational therapy qualification-related documents](#)
- [Evidence of English language proficiency](#)
 - [English test result](#) statement from the test provider, or
 - [Evidence of education](#) completed in one of the [recognised countries](#)

2. Identification documents

The practitioner must provide the following in high-resolution JPEG format as a clear colour photograph of each page of the original document. These photographs can be taken with a mobile phone camera.

- Birth certificate
- Passport
- Additional photo-bearing identification document (e.g. driver's license, national identity card)
- Photograph (no older than one month old, full facial)
- Evidence of name change, if relevant (e.g. marriage certificate, change of name certificate, deed poll, divorce papers, etc.)

To verify identity, the OTC will contact the practitioner via a brief unscheduled video call.

3. Occupational therapy qualification-related documents

Provide the following qualification papers:

- Testamur or letter of completion
- Associated academic transcript

The qualification must:

- Have been approved by the World Federation of Occupational Therapy (WFOT). WFOT approval cannot be considered retrospectively (i.e. if the institution or programme received WFOT approval after the time of graduation, this will not be sufficient to meet the criteria for assessment).
- Be comparable to an Australian Bachelor or Graduate Entry Master degree in accordance with Country Education Profiles produced by Australian Government, Department of Education and Training.

Include all contact details of the education provider in relation to the occupational therapy qualification.

4. Evidence of English language proficiency

If the practitioner has qualifications from one of the recognised countries, they can follow one of the education pathways. If not, they will need to follow the test pathway.

Recognised countries

Antigua and Barbuda	Anguilla	Australia
The Bahamas	Barbados	Belize
Bermuda	British Indian Ocean Territory	Canada
Cayman Islands	Dominica	Falkland Islands
Gibraltar	Grenada	Guernsey
Guyana	The Isle of Man	Jamaica
Jersey	Malta	New Zealand
Republic of Ireland	Saint Helena	Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
St Kitts and Nevis	St Lucia	St Vincent and the Grenadines
Trinidad and Tobago	The United Kingdom	The United States of America
US Virgin Islands		

Education pathways

A. The combined education pathway

To satisfy this pathway, the practitioner must have a combination of secondary education and tertiary qualifications, where they have carried out and successfully completed:

- At least two years of secondary education which was taught and assessed solely in English, in a recognised country, and
- Qualification/s for occupational therapy, which were taught and assessed solely in English in a recognised country.

Evidence required:

In addition to the occupational therapy qualification, practitioners will need to provide two of the following:

- Records of their secondary education from their secondary school.
- A letter from their secondary school stating that at least two years of their secondary school education was taught and assessed solely in English.
- Results from their secondary school education such as a General Certificate of Education.
- The syllabus of their secondary school education.

B. The school education pathway

To satisfy this pathway, English is the practitioner's main language and the practitioner has successfully completed:

- i. At least 10 years of primary and secondary school education which was taught and assessed solely in English in a recognised country, and
- ii. Qualification(s) for occupational therapy, which were taught and assessed in any country solely in English.

Evidence required:

In addition to the occupational therapy qualification, applicants will need to provide two of the following:

- The records of their primary and secondary education
- A letter from the primary and secondary schools stating that at least ten years of their primary and secondary education was taught and assessed solely in English.
- Results from their primary and secondary school education.
- The syllabus of their primary and secondary school education.

C. The advanced education pathway

To satisfy this pathway, the practitioner has successfully completed at least six years in total of (full-time equivalent) education, all taught and assessed solely in English in a recognised country which includes:

- i. Qualification/s for occupational therapy, and
- ii. Advanced education (tertiary) at a degree level (AQF level 7 or higher) which requires the practitioner to read, write, listen to and speak English.
 - A maximum of two years' break while obtaining the qualifications will be accepted.
 - The last period of education must have been completed no more than two years before applying for registration.

Test pathway

To satisfy this pathway, the practitioner must achieve the required minimum scores in one of the following English language tests and meet the requirements for test results.

1. Cambridge (C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency) (Paper and computer at test centre only)
 - Minimum overall score of 185.

- Minimum overall score of 185 in each of the three components: listening, reading, speaking.
 - Minimum score of 176 in the one component: writing.
 - When using two test sittings no score in any component of the test(s) for either test sitting is below 176.
2. International English Language Testing System (Academic) (IELTS) (Academic paper and computer at test centre only)
 - Minimum overall score of 7.
 - Minimum score of 7 in each of the three components: listening, reading, speaking.
 - Minimum score of 6.5 in the one component: writing.
 - When using two test sittings no score in any component of the test(s) for either test sitting is below 6.5.
 3. Occupational English Test (OET) (On paper or computer based in testing centre)
 - Minimum score of B in each of the three components: listening, reading, speaking.
 - Minimum score of C+ in the one component: writing.
 - When using two test sittings no score in any component of the test(s) for either test sitting is below C+.
 4. Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) (Computer at test centre only)
 - Minimum overall score of 66.
 - Minimum score of 66 in each of the three communicative skills: listening, reading, speaking.
 - Minimum score of 56 in one communicative skill: writing.
 - When using two test sittings no score in any of the communicative skills for either test sitting is below 56.
 5. Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based test (TOEFL iBT)
 - Minimum total score of 94.
 - 24 for listening, 24 for reading, 24 for writing, and 23 for speaking.
 - When using two test sittings no score in any of the test sitting sections is below: 20 for listening, 19 for reading, 24 for writing, and 20 for speaking.
 6. Other English language tests approved by the National Boards from time to time and published on the Board's website with the required minimum scores.

The OTC will only accept test results from:

- One test sitting, or
- A maximum of two test sittings in a 12-month period.
 - For the purposes of calculating time, if an applicant relies on test results from two sittings in a 12-month period, time begins to run from the date of the earlier sitting.
 - Results from different test providers cannot be combined.

The following requirements apply to the English language test results.

Test results will be accepted if they were obtained:

1. within the two years before the date the practitioner lodges an application for registration, or
2. more than two years before the date the practitioner lodges an application for registration if, in the period since the test results were obtained, the practitioner lodges the application for registration within 12 months of finishing the last period of employment and:

- a. has been continuously working as a registered health practitioner in the occupational therapy, profession (starting within 12 months of the test date) where English was the main language of practice in one of the recognised countries, or
 - b. has been working continuously in another relevant health, disability or aged-care related role where English was the main language of practice in one of the recognised countries and the role requires the practitioner to read, write, listen to and speak English in the working environment.
3. more than two years before the date the practitioner lodges an application for registration if, in the period since the test result was obtained, the practitioner:
 - a. has been continuously enrolled in a Board-approved program of study (which started within 12 months of the test date) and successfully completed subjects in each semester, with no break from study apart from the education provider's scheduled holidays, AND
 - b. lodges an application for registration within 12 months of completing the Board-approved program of study.

The Department of Home Affairs (DoHA) may require occupational therapists to meet separate English language proficiency standards even though the OTC has assessed the practitioner as meeting all its English language requirements.

5. Translation of documents

If any of the practitioner's supporting documents are in a language other than English, a translated document must form part of the application.

An assessment will not be undertaken unless translations are provided.

If the documents are translated in Australia, the translator must be accredited by the [National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters \(NAATI\)](#). The [Australian Institute for Interpreters and Translators \(AUSIT\)](#) Directory of Translators provides a current list of qualified, active AUSIT members who have NAATI accreditation in translating.

If the documents are translated in a country outside Australia, the translator must be approved by the authorities in the country where the translation is made. The [International Federation of Translators \(IFT\)](#) provide a list of translation associations, some approved by authorities to provide certified translations. The Australian embassy, high commission or consulate in the country where the translation is made should be contacted if uncertain.

If the translation provided is incomplete or inaccurate, the practitioner will be required to provide translations completed by a NAATI-accredited translator.

These translated documents must be sent as a JPEG and the practitioner should include some form of reference in the filename for each document so the OTC can relate them to each other, for example, 'birth certificate 2 original.jpg' and 'birth certificate 2 translation.jpg'.

6. Authenticity of documents

If the documents provided is suspected as fraudulent, they will be provided to the Department of Home Affairs (DoHA) for investigation. The OTC will not progress with the assessment until advice has been received from DoHA.

7. Documents unavailable

Practitioners who are unable to obtain the required documents should attach a Statutory Declaration to the application form identifying which documents they cannot obtain and explaining the reason for this.

Practitioners in Australia should complete a [Commonwealth Statutory Declaration](#). If a practitioner is overseas, the Statutory Declaration must be witnessed by a notary public.

8. Privacy and personal information

The OTC adheres to the *Privacy Act 1998*, which governs the collection, use and disclosure of personal information.

Practitioners may request details about the personal information OTC holds, its purpose, and how it is managed.

Data is gathered from applicants and education providers.

Information is collected with the practitioner's consent and used only for its intended purpose.

Personal information is not shared with third parties unless legally required.

OTC ensures data is accurate and up to date. Practitioners should notify OTC of any changes. Data is stored securely and deleted when no longer needed. The OTC informs practitioners about what data is collected and why.