

Table 1: IQN Documentation required by the Nursing Council

Registration Element	Evidence	Rationale
<i>Identity</i>	Two forms of current photo identification, one of which must be a passport. While evidence of name changes is not required <i>per se</i> , verified identification supporting different names used in other documentation (e.g., evidence of qualifications) must also be supplied.	This confirms the applicant's identity.
<i>Licensing/ Registration</i>	Verification of registration or licensing for the country in which the applicant received their initial nursing education, and other countries where they are registered. This must be sent directly to CGFNS by the authority concerned	This ensures that the applicant has met the formal standards required to practice as a nurse following their education, holds the nursing registration(s) that they claim, and identifies any history of unsafe practice, conduct violations, etc. that might affect the Council's view of whether they are both fit and competent to practise safely. This last element is needed to satisfy sections 16(e), (f), and (g) of the HPCA.
<i>English Language Competence</i>	Evidence of IELTS/OET results, submitted by the applicant. This is not required if the applicant qualifies for an Education- or Registration-based evidence pathway. ¹	This ensures that the applicant can communicate in English to a level that enables safe practice. This is an explicit legislative requirement under sections 16(a) and (b) of the HPCA.
<i>Nursing Qualifications</i>	Academic transcripts of the applicant's initial education as a nurse. These must be supplied directly to CGFNS by the relevant institution, and the institution is also required to complete an educational history form. This must demonstrate educational equivalence to a New Zealand Bachelor's Degree/ NZQF level 7 or higher to gain Registered Nurse registration, although qualifications at a lower level may lead to an applicant being offered Enrolled Nurse registration.	This ensures that the applicant has the education that they claim, and that this education is of a sufficient standard – including both educational rigour and appropriate content knowledge – to enable them to practise safely in Aotearoa New Zealand, as per sections 12 and 15(2) of the HPCA.
<i>Recency of Practice</i>	Evidence from employers of employment within the past five years (e.g., support letters). Applicants are only required to submit sufficient evidence to meet the Council's requirement of 2500 practice hours, rather than all employment over the past five years.	This ensures that the applicant has applied their knowledge and skills recently, so that the Council can have confidence that they understand and are competent to practise safely in modern nursing environments.
<i>Fitness to Practise</i>	An International Criminal History Check for countries in which the applicant has resided for 12 months or more in the last 7 years. A Ministry of Justice criminal records check is also required if the applicant has lived in Aotearoa New Zealand for six months or more.	This ensures that the nurse does not have a criminal record that would make them unfit to practise in Aotearoa New Zealand. Where convictions exist, they must be evaluated in light of section 16(c) of the HPCA, as well as general principles and requirements regarding public safety.

¹ Information on these pathways can be found under the English Language Standards and Competencies on the Nursing Council's website:

<https://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz/IQN/H5.aspx>