



Recognition of professional qualifications

Speech and Language Therapists – Applicant Guidance

This guidance is in two parts:

- Part one - general applicant guidance - meeting the standards of proficiency
- Part two - meeting the standards of proficiency relating to feeding eating / drinking / swallowing impairments (FEDS)

Part one:

General applicant guidance - meeting the standards of proficiency

The purpose of part one of this guidance is to provide general information for recognition applicants regarding professional qualification(s) meeting the standards of proficiency required to practise as a speech and language therapist in Ireland.

One of the functions of the Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board is to set the standards of proficiency for speech and language therapists. The standards of proficiency are the threshold standards required for practise of the profession in Ireland. They are the knowledge, skills, competencies and professional attributes required and are the standards required for all entrants to the register.

As part of the recognition process, you must demonstrate to the Registration Board that your professional qualification meets the standards of proficiency required to practise and evidence must be provided to this effect. Additional education and training and / or post qualifying work experience gained in the profession will be considered if deficits are identified in the formal qualification.

The recognition process will look for evidence in a professional qualification(s) that you have attained **all** of the standards of proficiency (knowledge, skills, competencies and professional attributes) required to practise as a speech and language therapist in Ireland.

Types of evidence include:

- Academic content of qualifications
- Clinical experience during education
- Additional education and training / CPD which has been undertaken in this area
- Evidence / confirmation of work experience in this area and demonstration of the required competencies in the workplace



An application for recognition of professional qualifications when assessed may have substantial differences (deficits) identified in meeting any or all of the standards of proficiency required to practise as a speech and language therapist in Ireland.

If the Board identifies that your professional qualification has a deficit in **any** standard which is not addressed by any evidence of additional training or post qualifying work experience, a deficit will remain and this will result in a compensation measure being applied i.e. the choice of a period of adaptation (supervised practise) which may be supplemented by additional training to address the deficits or an aptitude test based on the deficits identified.

These compensation measures will be determined by the Registration Board according to the extent of the deficits identified in your professional qualification meeting the standards of proficiency.

Assessments are carried out on a case by case basis and no indication of deficits in a professional qualification(s) can be given until a full application for recognition is submitted. The registration process cannot be commenced until a successful letter of recognition has been obtained from the Registration Board.

Part two: Meeting the standards of proficiency relating to feeding eating / drinking / swallowing impairments (FEDS)

The purpose of part two of this guidance is to raise awareness for applicants applying for recognition of professional qualifications in speech and language therapy for what is anticipated by the Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board to be a common area whereby certain professional qualifications may have substantial differences (deficits) in meeting the standards of proficiency.

This relates to the following standards of proficiency in the area of feeding / eating / drinking / swallowing impairments:

- Provision of a quality service: 5.1
- Knowledge, understanding and skills: 6.1 (g), 6.1 (i), 6.1 (n), 6.1 (r), 6.2

You must present evidence as part of your recognition application that you have attained the standards to enable you to work independently with people of any age with feeding/eating/drinking/swallowing difficulties.

If you have not yet applied for recognition of your professional qualification and have identified that you have not undertaken any professional training to address the feeding / eating / drinking / swallowing components of the standards of proficiency or have not completed this at a sufficient level to meet the standards, it is recommended that you complete professional training / study in your country of origin



prior to applying for recognition of your professional qualification. You may wish to approach universities which offer speech and language therapy programmes to see if they offer a single subject module type enrolment.

If you wish to undertake study / training in this area in Ireland before applying, it is strongly recommended that you investigate available options prior to your arrival. If you are based in Ireland you should explore available options and you may also be able to explore distance learning options with educational providers outside of Ireland.

Any such learning outcomes from study / additional training will be required to meet the standards of proficiency for speech and language therapists in Ireland.

If you apply or have already applied for recognition of your professional qualification and do not provide such evidence to address any deficits identified, compensation measures will apply.

You must however also be mindful as stated in the general guidance that other deficits may be identified in meeting the standards and as such assessment is not limited to the specific standards set out above. Evidence will be assessed to determine if your professional qualification meets all of the standards of proficiency.

You must always read the full standards of proficiency for speech and language therapists, the application form and the general recognition guidance for recognition of professional qualifications when planning to submit your application. All documentation is available on www.coru.ie.

Should you require further information please contact - recognition@coru.ie