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# Comparable qualification assessment form

Practitioners seeking registration who hold a master’s level psychotherapy qualification, or comparable, can apply to the Board for recognition of comparability via the tertiary pathway. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that their qualification meets the criteria expected for a comparable qualification.

Applicants must complete this application form correctly and provide all evidence required. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant. All applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis. A complete application may take a minimum of 6-8 weeks to be processed. Additional requests for information extend the assessment timeframe.

Further to completing the assessment form guide, applicants are required to provide clear documentation/evidence that they meet policy criteria.

Evidence may include:

* Course curriculum/programme content/course outline (covering course aims, objectives and assessment methods)
* Paper descriptions (if available)
* Final assessment processes/descriptions
* Certified copy of academic transcripts
* Certified copy of certificates
* Additional documented information from the psychotherapy training provider

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| Applicants may be asked to have their qualification verified by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) as being equivalent to a New Zealand master’s level qualification. If you have already had your qualification assessed by NZQA, please include this with your application. |

Registration via professional development pathway

Applicants who are unable to provide evidence that their formal qualification meets the criteria expected for a comparable qualification will be directed to proceed with the registration process via the professional development pathway. This was created for practitioners who have a mixture of psychotherapy skill, knowledge and professional development but whose tertiary psychotherapy qualification is not accepted as comparable.

Two critical assessments on the professional development pathway must be met – an initial and final assessment. Organisations approved to carry out assessments are:

* Australian and New Zealand Society of Jungian Analysts
* New Zealand Association of Psychotherapists
* New Zealand Association of Child and Adolescent Psychotherapists.

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| Name of qualification: | |
| Documentation provided:  Course curriculum/programme content/course outline  Paper descriptors (if available)  Certified copy of academic transcripts  Certified copy of course certificates  Other supporting documentation | |
| 1. Master’s level psychotherapy qualification (all scopes) | |
| Describe and provide evidence from your psychotherapy qualification of the following. | |
|  | * 1. Understanding of lifespan human development. |
|  | * 1. Theory of psychotherapeutic models. |
|  | * 1. Social and cultural dynamics. |
|  | * 1. Awareness of cultural competencies and your own cultural identity and diversity of worldviews. |
|  | * 1. Research skills. |
|  | * 1. Professional development, including understanding of ethics and professional conduct. |
|  | * 1. A basic understanding of Aotearoa New Zealand law as it applies to the practice of psychotherapy. |
|  | * 1. Therapist self-care. |
|  | * 1. Development of psychotherapeutic skills, including evidence that you have an understanding of and ability to competently apply knowledge of: * interpersonal dynamics * coping mechanisms * psychopathology and psychiatric disorders * a basic understanding of pharmaceuticals commonly used in the treatment of mental conditions * effects of trauma and abuse (sexual, physical and psychological) or neglect * establishing and maintaining a therapeutic alliance * ability to reflect on own and others’ process * listening and verbal skills * a range of effective and appropriate interventions * assessment, formulation and treatment planning * risk assessment and management * managing the boundaries of time and space. |

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| 1. Supervised clinical psychotherapy practice | |
| Describe and provide evidence from your psychotherapy qualification of the following. | |
|  | * 1. Competent use of supervision and other resources to improve practice. |
|  | * 1. A minimum of two full academic years of clinical supervised practice during qualification with weekly supervision throughout at least one year. |

Section 3 applies to those seeking registration within the Psychotherapist Scope of Practice with Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist Specialism. If you are not seeking registration within this scope, go to section 4.

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| 1. Psychotherapist Scope of Practice with Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist Specialism | |
| Describe and provide evidence from your psychotherapy qualification of the following. | |
|  | * 1. Competence in: * in-depth understanding of infant, child and adolescent development, including psychological, emotional, social cognitive and maturational development * knowledge of infant, child and adolescent mental health * knowledge of infant, child and adolescent psychological/psychiatric disorders * knowledge of learning disabilities/special educational needs * knowledge of developmental delays/developmental disruptions * understanding of the effects on children of abuse (sexual, physical and psychological) and trauma * understanding of multi-disciplinary approaches to working with children, adolescents and families * understanding of child protection procedures, statutory and legislative requirements, Family Court procedures * understanding of systemic approaches to working with children, adolescents and families * knowledge of family dynamics * ability to work with parents, caregivers, the child’s wider social network (school, GP, statutory bodies) * understanding of non-verbal communication * understanding of the symbolism of play * ability to conduct an assessment and develop a treatment formulation, including a mental status report. |
|  | * 1. Have undertaken a mother and infant observational study as per the Tavistock model conducted over 2 years. |
|  | * 1. Supervised therapeutic practice with children, adolescents and families. |

Psychotherapists practising in Aotearoa New Zealand will have undertaken a process of reflection on their own cultural identity, will recognise the diversity of worldviews (both within and between cultural groups) and will understand the theories of power relations and the impact of colonisation processes. They will also recognise the impact that their personal culture has on their professional practice. For example, any action that diminishes, demeans or disempowers the cultural identity and wellbeing of an individual would be considered unsafe cultural practice.

Overseas trained psychotherapists who cannot provided evidence of this requirement will have a condition on their scope of practice that will require them, within 12 months of being registered, to provide evidence of competence in the above areas.

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| 1. Competence to practise in the Aoteaora New Zealand context | |
| Describe and provide evidence from your psychotherapy qualification of the following or provide a written a statement (not more than 600 words) showing how you demonstrate competence in these areas. | |
|  | * 1. The Treaty of Waitangi and relevance to psychotherapy practice in bicultural Aotearoa New Zealand. |
|  | * 1. Cultural and social dynamics and safety specifically relevant to bicultural Aotearoa New Zealand. |
|  | * 1. Understanding of the Aoteaora New Zealand health sector and the Aotearoa New Zealand legal system including working with the Accident Compensation Corporation, Health and Disability Commissioner including the Health and Disability Commissioner (Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers’ Rights) Regulations 1996 and the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. |

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| 1. Length of training within your qualification | |
| Describe and provide evidence from your psychotherapy qualification of the following. | |
|  | * 1. Minimum of 3 academic years. |

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| 1. Tutor contact hours within your qualification | |
| Describe and provide evidence from your psychotherapy qualification of the following. | |
|  | * 1. Minimum of 300 hours. |

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| 1. Number of supervised clinical practice hours | |
| Describe and provide evidence from your psychotherapy qualification of the following. | |
|  | * 1. 150 hours within your qualification (must be relevant to the scope of practice you are applying for). |

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| 1. Personal therapy requirement | |
| Describe and provide evidence from your psychotherapy qualification of the following. | |
|  | * 1. A minimum of 120 hours. Some hours may be prior to training, but it is suggested that a minimum of 60 hours are undertaken during training. Personal therapy may include some hours of group therapy but must also consist of individual psychotherapy with a practitioner trained in the modality of the trainee. |

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| 1. Final clinical assessment requirement/process | |
| Describe and provide evidence from your psychotherapy qualification of the following. Please note that the final clinical assessment is a clinical case study, not an academic thesis. | |
|  | * 1. Includes a case study, clinical supervisory reports and an oral account of therapeutic practice. |

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| Signature: |
| Date: |
| Print name: |