



HOMOEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Equivalency Assessment Procedure for Foreign Qualifications in Homoeopathy

Introduction

Any individual applying for registration as a Homoeopathic practitioner with the Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa (AHPCSA) with any foreign qualification is required to follow a particular process aimed at gaining such registration. This process is dictated by the AHPCSA, in line with the education requirements for registration and education processes within South Africa.

The Homoeopathic Association of South Africa (HSA), as representative of the profession in South Africa, has developed this process for equivalency assessment with a view to standardising the process of evaluation of the applicant by the tertiary institutions responsible.

It is important to note that the HSA does not play any direct role in evaluating the qualifications with either the AHPCSA, Durban University of Technology (DUT) or University of Technology (DUT) as these processes are implemented by the institutions concerned. However, as mentioned above, the HSA acts as a mediator of the process followed and minimum process requirements for further assessment by either of the two institutions

As such, this document is solely intended to provide a guideline to all relevant stakeholders involved.

Equivalency Process

The following process is an outline of the steps required to be followed by the applicant. Where applicable, reference should be made to the **POLICY DOCUMENT: CRITERIA FOR REGISTRATION OF PERSONS WITH QUALIFICATIONS OTHER THAN THE MASTERS IN TECHNOLOGY: HOMOEOPATHY** from the AHPCSA.

1. The applicant will be required to undergo an evaluation of their qualification by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) before proceeding with their application to the AHPCSA.
2. Upon completion of the SAQA evaluation, the applicant will be required to provide all information as required by and to the AHPCSA, whereupon the AHPCSA (once satisfied that all requirements of the application have been met) will refer the application for the consideration by the Professional Board of Homoeopathy, Naturopathy and Phytotherapy (PBHNP).
3. The PBHNP will consider, amongst other things, the provided official SAQA evaluation which would have made a determination as follows:
 - a. Confirmation of the SA equivalent rating of the qualification of at least a Bachelors in Technology level; or
 - b. Confirmation that SAQA is not able to assess the qualification held by the applicant; or



- c. Confirmation that the SA equivalent rating of the qualification is less than that of a Bachelors in Technology level
4. The PBHNP will then make further recommendations to the applicant according to the following criteria:
- a. The applicant is able to provide Confirmation of the SA equivalent rating of their qualification of at least a Bachelors in Technology level from SAQA**
- The applicant will be referred to either the University of Johannesburg or Durban University of Technology for a competency assessment. The purpose of the assessment shall be to determine whether the applicant has a competency in Homoeopathy equivalent to that of a graduate holding a Masters in Technology: Homoeopathy.
 - The referral and assessment shall be conducted in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding entered into between the Council and the said education institutions.
 - The cost of the assessment shall be for the account of the applicant and shall be payable to the institution concerned prior to the evaluation taking place.
 - Either of the two institutions will then make a recommendation to the PBHNP regarding competency of the applicant concerned and whether:
 - The candidate is suitable for immediate registration;
 - Additional modules/subjects are required prior to registration;
 - The candidate should be required to enrol for the M.Tech Hom. programme
 - The PBHNP, after receipt of such recommendation and evaluation of the application, will in turn make recommendations to the AHPCSA and applicant as to further proceedings.

b. Confirmation that SAQA is not able to assess the qualification held by the applicant

The PBHNP shall take into consideration the following:

- that the applicant has combined formal qualifications, including a stand alone qualification in Homoeopathy of not less than 4 years;
- that the qualification/s include the following critical areas:
 - understanding of normal and abnormal structure and function (e.g. Anatomy, Physiology);
 - basic and applied natural sciences (e.g. Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry)
 - clinical evaluation and diagnosis (e.g. Diagnostics);
 - disease patterns and processes (e.g. Epidemiology, Immunology);
 - pathology and mechanisms of disease (e.g. Systemic pathology, General pathology)
 - homoeopathic pharmaceutical principles and practice (e.g. Homoeopharmaceutics);
 - homoeopathic philosophy and materia medica (e.g. Materia medica);
 - clinical homoeopathic training (e.g. Clinical homoeopathy)
- That the qualification was not obtained by way of distance learning **where more than 50% of** the qualification is completed by way of distance/correspondence learning and that the following areas have not been completed by correspondence training:
 - clinical evaluation and diagnosis (e.g. Diagnostics)
 - pathology and mechanisms of disease (e.g. Systemic pathology, general pathology)
 - supervised clinical homoeopathic training (including: Clinical homoeopathy)
- The applicant will be referred to either the University of Johannesburg or Durban University of Technology for a competency assessment. The purpose of the assessment shall be to determine whether the applicant has a competency in



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Homoeopathy equivalent to that of a graduate holding a Masters in Technology: Homoeopathy.

- The referral and assessment shall be conducted in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding entered into between the Council and the said education institutions.
- The cost of the assessment shall be for the account of the applicant and shall be payable to the institution concerned prior to the evaluation taking place.
- Either of the two institutions will then make a recommendation to the PBHNP regarding competency of the applicant concerned and whether:
 - The candidate is suitable to immediate registration;
 - Additional modules/subjects are required prior to registration;
 - The candidate should be required to enrol for the M.Tech Hom. programme
- The PBHNP, after receipt of such recommendation and evaluation of the application, will in turn make recommendations to the AHPCSA and applicant as to further proceedings.

c. Confirmation that the SA equivalent rating of the qualification is less than that of a Bachelors in Technology level

- The PBHNP will reject the application for the purposes of registration and the applicant will be referred by AHPCSA to either the University of Johannesburg or Durban University of Technology to undergo a process of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) with a view to being placed/admitted into the M.Tech Hom programme. The RPL process will be conducted according to the applicable institution's policy on such a process.
5. Any RPL process as mentioned in 4c) will be conducted according to the applicable institution's policy on such a process.
6. The competency assessment as mentioned in 4 a) and 4 b) above will be conducted according to the following procedure as agreed to by the Departments of Homoeopathy of the University of Johannesburg and Durban University of Technology:

Purpose

The purpose of such a competency assessment will be to determine the competency of the individual applicant with regards to practicing within the South African environment as a registered Homoeopathic practitioner when considering all that is required from such registration. This competency assessment will also assess the quality of training held by the applicant and identify which, if any, areas may be lacking. The institutions will then be required to make any recommendation regarding registration or additional training required to the AHPCSA.

Frequency

Competency assessments will be conducted by either institution as follows (precise dates will be determined by the applicable institution):

- All assessments will be conducted on an annual basis with all applications received and processed at least 90 days before the date of examination

Structure

It has been agreed that each institution shall assume responsibility for the setting of the annual examination, while moderated by the other institution, on an alternate basis. Where required, either institution may approach the HSA Education Committee with a view to providing external examiners to assist in the evaluation process.



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Note: the applicant will be advised by the relevant institution as to which study materials to use and the areas to be examined in a timely fashion prior to the conduction of the examinations.

The competency assessment, conducted over a period of two to three days, will consist of **three theoretical** and **two practical** examinations as below (the descriptions are intended only as outlined below are a broad indication as to the contents of each examination):

THEORY

1. Homoeopathy Theory

Description (*including but not limited to*):

- a. Homoeopathic philosophy
- b. Materia medica
 - i. Direct (Materia Medica)
 - ii. Applied (Clinical Homoeopathy)

2. Homoeopathic Pharmacy Theory

Description (*including but not limited to*):

- a. Homoeopathic pharmaceutical principles and practice

3. Medical Sciences Theory

Description (*including but not limited to*):

- a. Understanding of normal and abnormal structure and function (e.g. Anatomy, Physiology);
- b. Clinical evaluation and diagnosis (e.g. Diagnostics);
- c. Disease patterns and processes (e.g. Epidemiology, Immunology);
- d. Pathology and mechanisms of disease (e.g. Systemic pathology, General pathology)

PRACTICAL

1. Case/Clinical Evaluation

Description (*including but not limited to*):

- a. The applicant will be required to conduct a complete case evaluation including:
 - i. case taking,
 - ii. clinical examination,
 - iii. formulation of treatment regimen,
 - iv. recommendations to the patient,
 - v. provide differential diagnosis,
 - vi. discuss the case with the examiners

2. Homeopathic Pharmacy

Description (*including but not limited to*):

- a. The writing of a prescriptions
- b. Interpretation of prescriptions
- c. The demonstration of appropriate compounding and dispensing techniques
- d. The formulation of Homoeopathic medicines

Results

Results of these examinations will be made available to the AHPCSA and PBHNP, including appropriate recommendations as contemplated in 4 a, b, c above.

7. The flow diagram on page 5 provides guidance on the process to be followed by the applicant.



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Flow Diagram

