

# PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION FOR NZSTA MEMBERSHIP UNDER THE AGREEMENT FOR THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION CREDENTIALS 2008

**Updated January 2024**

These instructions apply to ASHA certificate holders, certified members of SAC, RCSLT and SPA and full members of IASLT applying for NZSTA membership under the Agreement for the Mutual Recognition of Professional Association Credentials (MRA) 2008.

1. Please read all instructions before completing and submitting your application to NZSTA.
2. Individuals who hold certification or full membership and were trained under an accredited programme in speech-language pathology/speech-language therapy by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC), the Irish Association of Speech & Language Therapists (IASLT), the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT), and Speech Pathology Association of Australia Limited (Speech Pathology Australia) are eligible to use the Application for NZSTA Membership under MRA when applying for membership with the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists' Association (NZSTA).
3. All applicants must review the requirements under MRA and determine if they meet the criteria. Applicants who do not meet the criteria under MRA may still be eligible to apply for membership of NZSTA through the Qualifications Approval Process. See <http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz/nzsta-membership/qualifications-approval-process> for more information.
4. All applicants must complete the entire application form, including the Consent and Declaration section. Failure to complete the entire application will result in the application being rejected.
5. The fee for an application under the Mutual Recognition Agreement must be submitted with your application. Incomplete payment will result in the application being rejected. The fee comprises a processing fee of \$225.00 and a pro-rated membership for the current calendar year and is non refundable.
6. All applicants must read and agree to abide by the NZSTA Principles and Rules of Ethics. This document can be accessed from the NZSTA website at <http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz/about-nzsta/ethics>.
7. All applicants must submit a current **Criminal Conviction Record**. A New Zealand criminal conviction record or equivalent overseas record that the applicant provides as part of their application, must be an original document and dated not more than 3 months prior to the date of receipt by the Board. It must be issued by the relevant police authority in their country of practice. An applicant must provide a criminal conviction record, or equivalent, for every country that they have lived in for 12 months or more in the last 10 years, over the age of 18 years.
8. All applicants must request a **letter of good standing** from their Home Association attesting that they:
  - a. hold current certification/membership (i.e., are a practising member of the profession)

- b. are in good standing (i.e. have paid the fees for the Home Association and have no outstanding complaints or disciplinary proceedings against them).
9. The **letter of good standing** must be dated and must be obtained no more than one year prior to submission for NZSTA membership. Letters dated more than one year prior to submission will **not** be considered and a current letter will be requested. All letters of good standing must be sent directly from the applicant's Home Association to NZSTA, and must be on association letterhead with an original signature of an authorised representative of the Home Association.
10. Applicants with speech-language therapy degree qualifications completed in a language other than English, or those for whom English is their second language must attach an **original copy** of IELTS "Academic" results. Applicants must have a score of seven or above in all four modules with no scores lower than a seven.
11. The following additional requirements must be met and evidence provided as specified below:

#### **ASHA**

ASHA certification holders: Certified<sup>1</sup> evidence of 1000 hours of speech-language therapy practice within the past 5 years. Speech-language therapy practice is defined as being engaged in the activities of speech-language therapy as a practitioner, administrator, educator, researcher or any combination of these and receiving remuneration for those activities. ASHA certification holders who graduated with a master's degree in speech-language therapy pathology prior to 1998: Certified<sup>1</sup> evidence of competency in dysphagia assessment, diagnosis and management, either through evidence of specific courses or previous experience. Please see *Guide to Evidence of Dysphagia Competency* on the NZSTA website.

#### **SAC**

Clinically certified members of SAC: Certified<sup>1</sup> evidence of having completed one year of supervised clinical speech language therapy practice in the country of certification. Clinical practice is defined as no less than 36 weeks of full time clinical practice of at least 30 hours per-week paid employment. Certified<sup>1</sup> evidence of 1000 hours of speech-language therapy practice within the past 5 years. Speech-language therapy practice is defined as being engaged in the activities of speech-language therapy as a practitioner, administrator, educator, researcher or any combination of these and receiving remuneration for those activities. Clinically certified members of SAC certified prior to 1999: Certified<sup>1</sup> evidence of competency in dysphagia assessment, diagnosis and management, either through evidence of specific courses or previous experience. Please see *NZSTA Guide to Evidence of Dysphagia Competency* on the NZSTA website.

#### **IASLT**

Full members of IASLT: Certified<sup>1</sup> evidence of 1000 hours of speech-language therapy practice within the past 5 years. Speech-language therapy practice is defined as being engaged in the activities of speech-language therapy as a practitioner, administrator, educator, researcher or any combination of these and receiving remuneration for those activities. Full members of IASLT certified prior to 1999:

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To be certified by an appropriate person – Justice of the Peace, Solicitor, Notary Public. <sup>1</sup> 'Certified evidence' is a "certified true copy". For more information see point 12.

Certified<sup>1</sup> evidence of competency in dysphagia assessment, diagnosis and management, either through evidence of specific courses or previous experience. Please see *Guide to Evidence of Dysphagia Competency* on the NZSTA website.

#### **RCSLT**

For applicable members of RCSLT: Demonstrated competency<sup>30</sup> in dysphagia assessment, diagnosis and management, either through evidence of specific courses passed or prior experience. Acceptable evidence would include completion of the Dysphagia Training and Competency Framework at a Level C signed by a RCSLT member. For members who graduated prior to 2015 the Dysphagia Training and Competency Framework is not sufficient on its own and will need to be supplemented with other evidence. For members who graduated after 2015 the Dysphagia Training and Competency Framework at a Level C signed by a RCSLT member is sufficient.

#### **Speech Pathology Australia**

Certified members of Speech Pathology Australia: Certified<sup>1</sup> evidence of having completed one year of supervised clinical speech language therapy practice in the country of certification. Clinical practice is defined as no less than 36 weeks of full time clinical practice of at least 30 hours per-week paid employment. Certified<sup>1</sup> evidence of 1000 hours of speech-language therapy practice within the past 5 years. Speech-language therapy practice is defined as being engaged in the activities of speech-language therapy as a practitioner, administrator, educator, researcher or any combination of these and receiving remuneration for those activities.

12. A **Certified true copy** is a photocopy which has been certified as a true copy by either a Solicitor/Lawyer/Notary or Justice of the Peace. Original document(s) which have been altered cannot be certified. Please note:- The Solicitor/Lawyer/Notary or Justice of the Peace **must** see the original document(s) and **must** provide the following on the copy:
  - a. PRINT his/her Name and Position/Title (must be a Solicitor/Lawyer/Notary or Justice of the Peace)
  - b. The date the certified true copy was made
  - c. The address and telephone number of the person certifying the document(s)
  - d. The signature of the person certifying the document(s)
  - e. A stamp or wording indicating "This photocopy is a true copy of the original document which has not been altered in any way", or wording of similar effect.
13. Applicants are advised to make copies of all original documents before sending these to the address on the application form.
14. Once membership is granted by NZSTA, the successful applicant will have the same rights and privileges and be subject to the same responsibilities, obligations and restrictions as all other NZSTA members. These include maintenance of membership through annual payment of fees, adherence to the Code of Ethics and participation in continuing professional development.
15. Should NZSTA membership lapse, applicants wishing to reinstate their application will be required to do so according to the policies and procedures in effect at the time of the new application.