

Checklist to help determine if your physiotherapy programme is ‘sufficiently similar’ to the New Zealand undergraduate physiotherapy programmes.

The curriculum studied by persons who have gained their primary physiotherapy qualification overseas **must be sufficiently similar** in theory and practice to the physiotherapy curricula undertaken by undergraduates in New Zealand over a minimum of four years full time academic study.

How do you know if your physiotherapy programme sufficiently similar?

Does your curriculum meet **all** these criteria?

Content	There is an overview of the physiotherapy programme	Yes / No
	There are clear module or paper descriptors	Yes / No
	The curriculum covers all five of the foundational abilities described on page 13 of the Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand Physiotherapy practice thresholds .	Yes / No
	There is clear evidence within the curriculum of the inclusion of clinical reasoning and reflective practice	Yes / No
Level of learning	Academic staff are listed with their qualifications	Yes / No
	Course objectives and learning outcomes for specific papers or modules are clearly set out.	Yes / No
	The assessment process employed to test the course objectives and learning outcomes is clear.	Yes / No
	Learning outcomes use a variety of words which denote a higher level of learning, such as (for example) ‘develop, compare, critique, examine, formulate, analyse, appraise, evaluate, interpret, justify, demonstrate’.	Yes / No
Evidence-based practice	Modules or papers include research methodology, academic writing, critical review of current literature, data gathering, statistical analysis and participation in the research process	Yes / No
	The integration of current evidence into practice is overt in the curriculum	Yes / No
	There are lists of recommended textbooks and references provided for each paper or module, which are current	Yes / No
Autonomous clinical practice	The curriculum includes approximately 1000 hours of supervised clinical practice, and there is a record for the individual, which details acuity level, clinical setting, and key areas covered.	Yes / No

	Your course of physiotherapy study enables graduates to practise autonomously, without referral from other health professionals, using sound evaluation, clinical reasoning, and reflective practice.	Yes / No
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If you answered No to any of these statements then your physiotherapy qualification is unlikely to be sufficiently similar to the New Zealand undergraduate physiotherapy programmes.

What are the options if your physiotherapy programme is not sufficiently similar to the New Zealand physiotherapy programmes?

If your undergraduate physiotherapy curriculum is not sufficiently similar to the New Zealand (NZ) physiotherapy curricula, the chances of becoming registered in NZ are unlikely unless:

- A. Your work history includes being registered and working in a country that does have a sufficiently similar physiotherapy programme and has a similar healthcare system to NZ.

or

- B. You have undertaken a postgraduate physiotherapy qualification that includes supervised clinical practice experience, in a country that has a sufficiently similar physiotherapy programme and a similar healthcare system to NZ.

Currently, the countries identified as having the most similar physiotherapy programmes to NZ include the Australia, Canada, Ireland, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

Each application is assessed individually, so even if you do meet the criteria described in A or B, registration is not guaranteed.

If you do not meet A or B, you may wish to enrol in an undergraduate physiotherapy programme in a country with a sufficiently similar physiotherapy programme to NZ, or in NZ. Some undergraduate physiotherapy programmes may offer partial credit for the study you have already done.