

## Assessing Osteopaths with Overseas Qualifications- Explanatory Information

This document provides information about the assessment process for overseas-trained osteopaths seeking registration in Victoria. It also provides information for osteopaths requiring a skills assessment for migration to Australia under the Skilled Migration Program.

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### 1. Registration

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Australia is a Commonwealth comprising six States and two Territories:

Australian Capital Territory;  
New South Wales;  
Northern Territory;  
Queensland;  
South Australia;  
Tasmania;  
Victoria; and  
Western Australia.

Registration of osteopaths in Australia is a State and Territory responsibility as opposed to a federal responsibility.

There is separate registration legislation in each jurisdiction of Australia. The Osteopaths Registration Board of Victoria is a statutory body with responsibility for registration of osteopaths in Victoria. Contact details for other State and Territory registration Boards in Australia relating to osteopaths are in Appendix 1.

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### 2. General Skilled Migration to Australia

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A person intending to migrate to Australia under the General Skilled Migration Program must obtain a skills assessment before applying to the Australian Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA).

The Osteopaths Registration Board of Victoria (the Board) is an approved assessing body for the profession of Osteopathy.

Assessment for persons not currently registered with one of the Australian registration boards with responsibility for Osteopathy is by examination, known as the Examination for Overseas Trained Osteopaths.

Please note that the Board does not provide advice about migration matters. Further information about the General Skilled Migration program can be obtained from DIMIA by telephoning 131 881 (within Australia) or +61 26 264 1111 or visiting DIMIA's website at [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au).

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### 3. Eligibility to undertake the Examination for Overseas Trained Osteopaths

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To be eligible to sit for the Examination for Overseas Trained Osteopaths evidence of each the following must be provided:

(a) successful completion of a course of study in Osteopathy at an overseas institution of at least 3 years full time duration;

(b) proficiency in English. This is discussed in more detail below; and

(c) if registered as an osteopath in any other country/ies, a letter from the registering authority/ies confirming "good standing".

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### 4. English Language Requirements

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High-level English language skills are essential to the practice of Osteopathy in Australia. Applicants must submit evidence with their application that they have sufficient English language skills to work as an Osteopath in an English language environment. Applicants must meet one of the following before their application will be assessed:

➤ have English as a first language. For the purposes of this assessment this means birth in a country where English is an official language and secondary education is undertaken in English. Suitable evidence includes a birth certificate or photograph page of your passport and school documentation indicating that the language of instruction was English; or

➤ provide evidence that osteopathic studies were in English; or

➤ provide evidence of a pass in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a minimum overall score of Band 7 in the academic level.

For further information about the IELTS contact:

**IELTS Australia**

GPO Box 2006

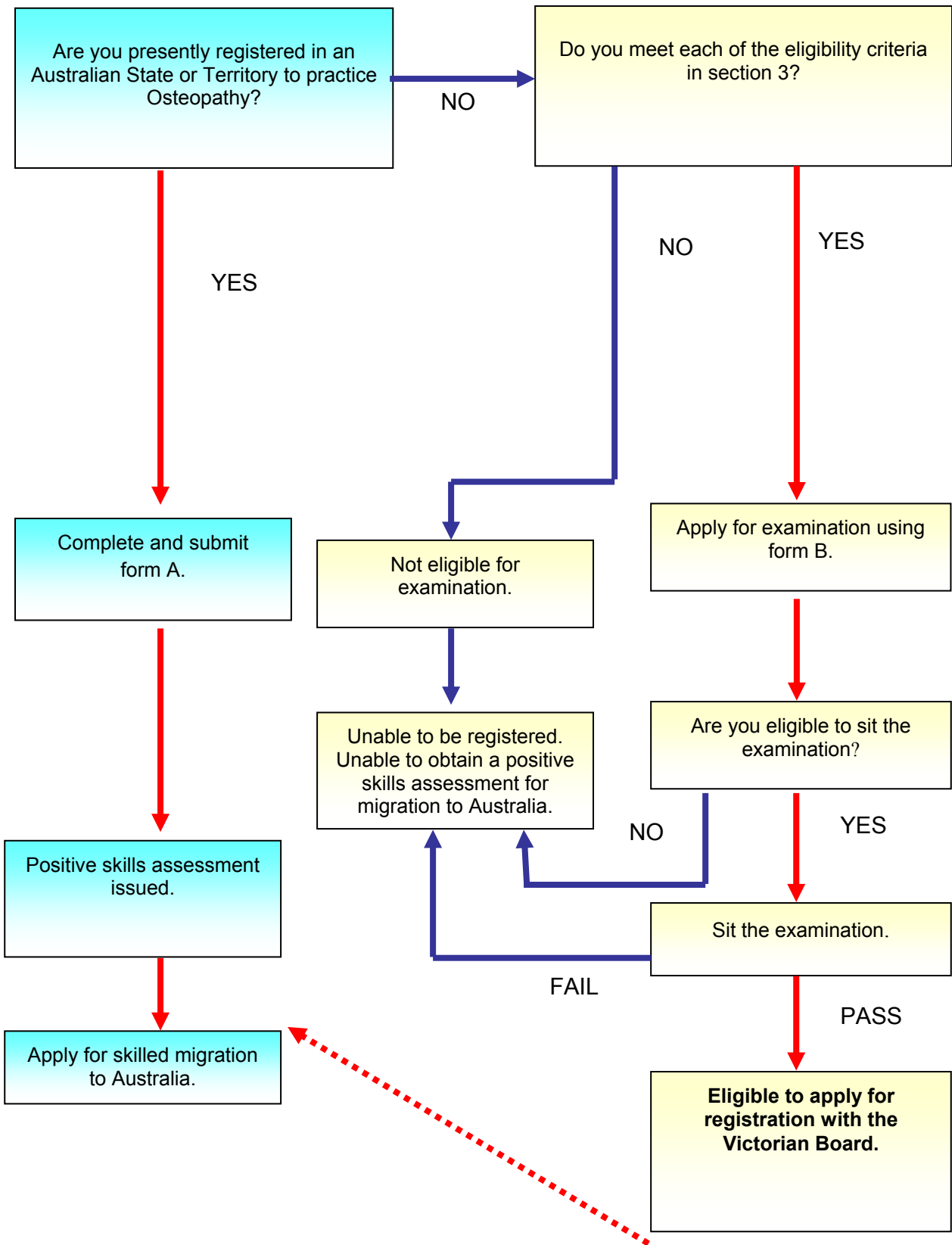
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Tel: 61 2 6285 8222

Fax: 61 2 6285 3233

E-mail: [ielts@idp.edu.au](mailto:ielts@idp.edu.au)

Website: <http://www.ielts.org>



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## 6. *Format of the Examination for Overseas Trained Osteopaths*

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The Examination for Overseas Trained Osteopaths is in four parts; the time allocation for each part is set out below:

	<b>HOURS</b>
WRITTEN EXAMINATION	3.0
CLINICAL PRACTICUM (2 patient cases)	3.0
VIVA VOCE (2 patient cases)	1.5
CLINICAL SKILLS EXAMINATION	1.5
TOTAL HOURS	9.0

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### 6.1 *Written Examination (MCQ)*

The standard expected of candidates for the Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) Written Examination is benchmarked against registered osteopaths in Victoria.

The Written Examination is a 180-item multiple-choice paper that will assess the candidate's knowledge of core basic sciences. While there is a heavier emphasis upon the neuromusculoskeletal system, candidates are expected to be able to demonstrate wide basic science knowledge. There will also be some clinically based Multiple Choice Questions that further explore the clinical application of core health science knowledge.

Candidates must achieve a pass grade in the MCQ to be able to proceed to the Clinical Examinations.

**Candidates who do not successfully complete the MCQ may apply to re-sit at the next scheduled examination session, usually in 6 months time.**

### 6.2 *Clinical Examinations*

The standard expected of candidates for the Clinical Examinations is that achieved by graduates of osteopathic degree courses accredited by the Osteopaths Registration Board of Victoria.

The Clinical Examinations evaluate the candidate's knowledge in the following aspects of clinical practice:

- Case History Taking;
- Physical Examination;
- Neuro-Musculo-Skeletal Examination;
- Differential Diagnosis;
- Diagnostic Imaging – use and interpretation;
- Clinical Laboratory and Special Studies Evaluation;
- Therapeutic Techniques; and
- General Case Management.

The Clinical Examinations comprise clinical practicum, viva voce and clinical skills examination.

#### 6.2.1 *Clinical Practicum*

The Clinical Practicum (2 patient cases) assesses proficiency in conducting a case history; general and Osteopathic examination; ability to arrive at a diagnostic conclusion or working hypothesis; ability to relate the principles of Osteopathy to the patient and to apply Osteopathic techniques and management to the case.

The Clinical Practicum Examination is designed in such a way as to resemble the practice situation as closely as possible, commencing with the case history and ending with the application of Osteopathic technique and management.

#### 6.2.2 *Viva Voce*

The Viva Voce comprises differential diagnostic evaluations and case planning derived from brief presenting symptoms of two theoretical patients.

#### 6.2.3 *Clinical Skills Examination*

The candidate will be required to demonstrate proficiency in the use of the generic diagnostic and clinical assessment skills required of a primary contact practitioner.

All three sections of the Clinical Examinations must be successfully completed at the one examination sitting.

**Candidates who do not successfully complete all sections of the Clinical Examinations may apply to re-sit at the next scheduled examination session, usually in 6 months time.**

All sections of the Clinical Examinations must be successfully completed within 2 years of passing the Written Examination i.e. candidates who passed the MCQ more than 2 years previously will not be permitted to re-sit the Clinical Examinations.

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## 7. *Candidate Guide*

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The Examination Candidate Guide contains information about the examination format and content, and includes a sample multiple choice question paper.

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## **8. Examination Schedule, Venues and Fees**

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The Examination for Overseas Trained Osteopaths is usually held twice yearly in June/July and November/December.

Candidates may sit for the Written Examination in Australian capital cities with the consent of the local Registration Board.

To allow time for marking of the Written Examination, notification of results and to make arrangements for the

Clinical Examinations, the Clinical Examinations are usually held within 3-4 weeks after the candidate sits for the Written Examination.

The Clinical Examinations are conducted at a university Osteopathic teaching facility.

The Schedule of Fees for the examination is set out in Appendix 2.

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## **9. Notification of Results**

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The results of the Written Examination (MCQ) will usually be available within 2 weeks.

The results of the Clinical Examinations need to be ratified by the Board. This means that results for the Clinical Examinations cannot be released until after the Board's next meeting.

As the Board meets at 6-weekly intervals it may take up to 6 weeks for notification of the results of the Clinical Examinations.

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## **10. Appeals**

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The appeals process is not a means of circumventing the normal assessment procedures. Except in very limited circumstances (such as an error in summation of marks) a successful appeal will not lead to an examination result being altered. If an appeal is upheld, the usual outcome is the opportunity for the candidate to re-sit part or all of the examination.

Appeals against examination results will only be accepted when based on the following grounds:

1. an error or technical problem involving the examination process; or
2. evidence of ill will or bad faith demonstrated by a person involved in the examination;

Appeals should be lodged with the Board's Registrar.

The appeals fee is payable at the time of lodgement of the appeal. The appeals fee is refundable in the event that the appeal is successful.

Candidates who believe they have good cause to appeal against the outcome of their examination may lodge an appeal by registered post within four weeks from the release of results to candidates.

An Appeals Committee shall be convened to deal with all appeals. Every effort shall be made to deal with the appeal within three months from the lodgement of the appeal.

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## **11. Withdrawal from examination**

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Candidates who cannot attend an examination for any reason must notify the Board at the earliest opportunity.

Candidates are advised to withdraw from the examination if an accident, illness or other unforeseen factors are likely to adversely affect examination performance.

In the case of withdrawal, examination fees will be refunded in accordance with the Schedule of Fees in Appendix 2.

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## **12. Further information**

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If after reading this document you have any questions, please address them to the:

Registrar  
Osteopaths Registration Board of Victoria  
Collins Street West, Melbourne Vic 8007  
Tel: 03 9286 1880  
Fax: 03 9286 1880  
Email: registrar@osteoboard.vic.gov.au  
Web: www.osteoboard.vic.gov.au

**Please ensure that this document is the most current issue. The Osteopaths Registration Board of Victoria may alter this document without notice.**

**CONTACT DETAILS AS AT SEPTEMBER 2005**

<p><b>A.C.T.</b></p> <p>Chiropractors &amp; Osteopaths Board of the Australian Capital Territory  <b>Registrar:</b> Ms Kathleen Taylor                  PO Box 976                  CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608  <b>Chairman:</b> Mr Alan Skelton  <b>Ph:</b> (02) 6205 1634  <b>Fax:</b> (02) 6205 1602                  Email: alan.skelton@act.gov.au                  Web: www.health.act.gov.au/healthregboards</p>	<p><b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b></p> <p>Chiropractors Board of South Australia  <b>Registrar:</b> Mr Peter Martin                  PO Box 229                  TORRENSVILLE PLAZA SA 5031  <b>Chairman:</b> Dr Philip Donato  <b>Ph:</b> (08) 8443 9669 Ext 221  <b>Fax:</b> (08) 8443 9550                  Email: cbsa@sboards.com.au                  Web: www.sboards.com.au</p>
<p><b>NEW SOUTH WALES</b></p> <p>Osteopaths Registration Board of New South Wales  <b>Acting Registrar:</b> Ms Jennifer Caldwell                  PO Box K599                  HAYMARKET NSW 1238  <b>Chairman:</b> Mr Robert Fendall  <b>Ph:</b> (02) 9219 0233  <b>Fax:</b> (02) 9211 9318                  Email: osteoreg@doh.health.nsw.gov.au                  Web: www.osteoreg.health.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p><b>TASMANIA</b></p> <p>Chiropractors and Osteopaths Registration Board of Tasmania  <b>Registrar:</b> Ms Jayne Wilson                  GPO Box 792                  HOBART TAS 7001  <b>Chairman:</b> Dr Heather Pearson  <b>Ph:</b> (03) 6224 9331  <b>Fax:</b> (03) 6224 9700                  Email: corb@regboardstas.com</p>
<p><b>NORTHERN TERRITORY</b></p> <p>Chiropractors &amp; Osteopaths Board of the Northern Territory  <b>Registrar:</b> Ms Carolyn Wilson                  GPO Box 4221                  DARWIN NT 0801  <b>Chairman:</b> Mr Michael Duffy  <b>Ph:</b> (08) 8999 4157  <b>Fax:</b> (08) 8999 4196                  Email: healthprofessions.ths@nt.gov.au</p>	<p><b>VICTORIA</b></p> <p>Osteopaths Registration Board of Victoria  <b>Registrar:</b> Mr Mark Strickland                  PO Box 248                  COLLINS STREET WEST VIC 8007  <b>President:</b> Dr Philip Tehan  <b>Ph:</b> (03) 9286 1888  <b>Fax:</b> (03) 9286 1880                  Email: registrar@osteoboard.vic.gov.au                  Web: www.osteoboard.vic.gov.au</p>
<p><b>QUEENSLAND</b></p> <p>Osteopaths Board of Queensland  <b>Executive Officer:</b> Mr Jim O’Dempsey  <b>Assistant Registrar:</b> Mrs Debby Ramsay                  GPO Box 2438                  BRISBANE QLD 4001  <b>Chairman:</b> Dr Graeme Sanders  <b>Ph:</b> (07) 3225 2532  <b>Fax:</b> (07) 3225 2527                  Email: osteopathy@healthregboards.qld.gov.au                  Web: www.osteoboard.qld.gov.au</p>	<p><b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b></p> <p><b>Osteopaths Registration Board of Western Australia</b>  <b>Registrar:</b> Mr Kim I Bradbury                  PO Box 959                  SOUTH PERTH WA 6951  <b>Chairman:</b> Ms Lisa Campbell-Tovey  <b>Ph:</b> (08) 9368 2633  <b>Fax:</b> (08) 9368 2677                  Email: egbank@bigpond.com</p>

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**APPENDIX 2 - Schedule of Fees**

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All fees are payable to the Osteopaths Registration Board of Victoria prior to the examination.

Fees are payable by bank cheque, money order or cash.

<b>Examination Process</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Eligibility Assessment (Form B) – Application for Assessing Eligibility to undertake the Examination (non-refundable).	\$300
General Skilled Migration Program Assessment (Form A) (non-refundable).	\$100
Written Examination (per attempt).	\$200
Withdrawal from the Written Examination when the Board receives more than one week's written notice of withdrawal.	Refund of 80% of exam fee
Clinical Examinations (per attempt).	\$2,300
Withdrawal from the Clinical Examinations when the Board receives more than ten days written notice of withdrawal.	Refund of 80% exam fee
Appeals.	\$500

Any accommodation, travel and associated costs are borne by the candidate.