

**PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR RADIOGRAPHY AND CLINICAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINATIONS OF FOREIGN QUALIFIED SONOGRAPHERS IN THE
CATEGORY DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASOUND**

A. INTRODUCTION

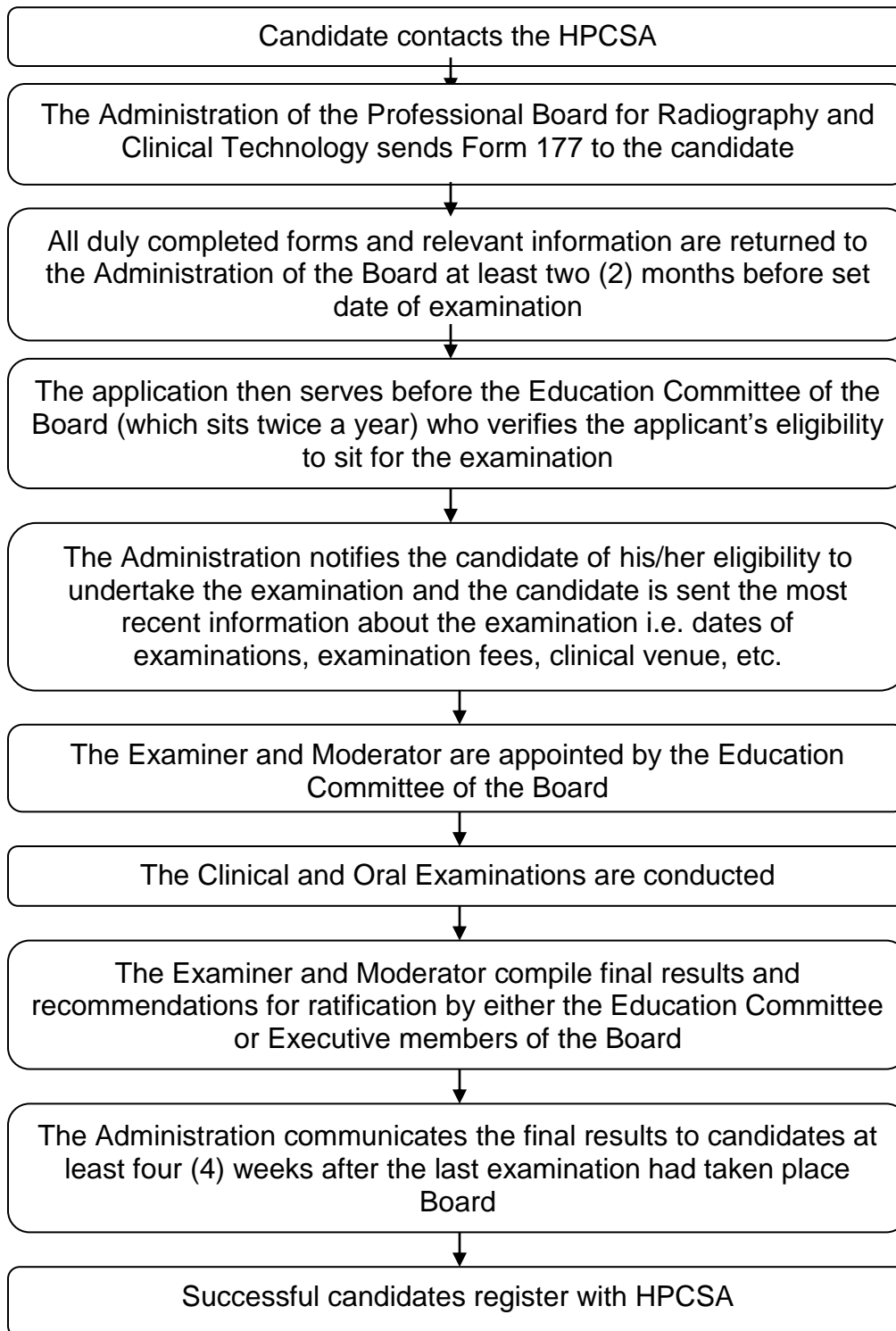
All individuals who practice any of the health care professions incorporated in the scope of the HPCSA are obliged by the Health Professions Act, 1974, to register with the HPCSA, such that failure to do so constitutes a criminal offense.

In terms of the policy of the Professional Board for Radiography and Clinical Technology all foreign qualified candidates are required to challenge the entry examination in order to determine their registrability with HPCSA. Registration with HPCSA does not imply that employment is guaranteed. The onus for finding employment rests with the candidate.

B. ADMISSION CRITERIA

1. Only candidates who are registrable, if applicable, in the country where they have obtained their radiography qualification will be allowed to sit for the examination.
2. Basic schooling of at least twelve (12) years must precede the training in radiography/ultrasound.
3. The duration of the training should have been a minimum of 2 years post Diploma or as a single qualification with minimum period of three years.
4. The training should be of an acceptable and comparable to academic standard and the candidate should have had adequate clinical training in line with the South African requirement.

C. APPLICATION AND EXAMINATION PROCESS



D. PURPOSE OF EXAMINATION

The purpose of the examination is to establish that all foreign qualified sonographers applying to work in South Africa are able to -

1. apply knowledge and skills to perform and adapt techniques applicable to the clinical condition of the patient;
2. care for the patient responsibly and efficiently to ensure that the welfare and safety of the patient is maintained;
3. apply appropriate health and safety regulations, ethical principles and codes of practice in performance of techniques;
4. demonstrate competency in the execution of ultrasound protocols;
5. display knowledge and understanding of equipment used;
6. operate equipment effectively and competently;
7. produce images of diagnostic quality;
8. express ability to recognize normal and abnormal appearances of anatomy;
9. display knowledge of Quality Assurance and Quality Control with regards to image quality and equipment function;
10. display an awareness and understanding of the South African health care system;
11. provide a report of findings to clinicians.

E. ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION

1. A duly completed Form 177 with relevant documentation must be submitted two (2) months prior to the set date of the examination.
2. Approval to sit for the examination must be granted by the Education Committee of the Board.
3. A non-refundable examination fee has to be paid to HPCSA four (4) weeks prior to the set date of the examination.

F. VENUE OF EXAMINATION

1. The examination will be conducted at a venue approved by the Professional Board for Radiography and Clinical Technology.
2. Candidates are responsible for their own traveling and accommodation costs.

G. FORMAT OF EXAMINATION

The examination is held once a year in June/July of each year.

Part: 1 Theoretical Examination

The examination consists of one two (2) hour paper which is set at third year level.

This examination covers the integration of the following: physics, anatomy, pathology and ultrasound protocols.

Part 2: Clinical Examination

1. The venue for the clinical examination is approved by the Education Committee of the RCT Board.
2. During this examination, candidates are required to perform two (2) ultrasound examinations as well as an oral examination.
3. Time allocation: Half an hour for each clinical examination and half an hour for the oral examination.

4. *ULTRASOUND EXAMINATION*

Use of other display modes e.g. Doppler; M-mode where applicable in:

- (1) Abdominal and pelvic scanning.
- (2) Obstetrics 18-23 week scan (detailed anatomy scan).

ORAL: On any of the expected competencies.

5. The candidate will be assessed on the following:
 - Correct interpretation of the request for the ultrasound scan
 - Appropriate room and patient preparation
 - Demonstration of good patient care and communication
 - Minimization of biological effects using the ALARA principles
 - Appropriate use of ultrasound equipment and controls settings, for the production of optimum quality images
 - Use of the appropriate ultrasound scanning protocols
 - Technical quality of the images produced
 - Documentation of the procedure including images for anatomy and pathology
 - Provision of a written report of the findings

H. CALCULATION OF FINAL MARK

A pass mark of 65% for the clinical examination and 50% for the theory must be obtained as a final mark.

I. FULFILLMENT FOR REGISTRATION

A pass mark of 65% for each clinical assessment must be obtained.

A pass mark of 50% for the theory paper must be obtained.

A candidate is required to obtain an overall final mark of 50% in order to register with HPCSA.

A candidate will be allowed to sit for the entry examinations for a maximum of two (2) times.

J. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF SYLLABI

1. Application of ultrasound physics
2. Abdominal and pelvic scanning protocols including Doppler where necessary
3. Obstetric scanning protocols including Doppler where necessary
4. Pelvic ultrasound
5. Small parts ultrasound
6. Vascular ultrasound
7. Report writing

K. SUGGESTED READING LIST

BOOKS		
Title	Author/s	Publisher
Obstetric Ultrasound How, Why and When. 4 th Revised Edition.	Chudleigh, T., Smith, A., Cumming, S. (2015)	Philadelphia: Churchill Livingstone / Elsevier 9780702031700
Clinical Sonography – A Practical Approach. 4 th Edition	Sanders R. & Winter T.C. (2012)	Philadelphia: Lippincott. 9781469811475
Manual of Diagnostic Ultrasound. 2 nd Edition	Palmer, P.E.S. (2013)	World Health Organization (Online).
Ultrasound physics and technology: How, Why and When.	Gibbs, V., Cole, D. & Sassano, A. (2011)	China: Elsevier

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www.sasuog.org.za

L. REMARKING OF SCRIPTS

Only candidates who had obtained a pass rate of 45-49% in the theoretical examination may apply for their scripts to be remarked.

Half (50%) of the examination fee will be charged for a re-mark.

The Committee Coordinator may be contacted for information about the fee involved and procedure to follow.

Should a candidate fail the clinical examination, no re-assessment will be allowed.

M. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further enquiry contact:

Email: RCTBoard@hpcsa.co.za