



HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR RADIOGRAPHY AND CLINICAL TECHNOLOGY

GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINATIONS OF FOREIGN QUALIFIED RADIOGRAPHERS IN THE CATEGORY ULTRASOUND

1. PREAMBLE

These assessment guidelines underpin the commitment of the Radiography and Clinical Technology (RCT) Board towards ensuring the competency of health practitioners registers falling within the ambit of the Board. The guidelines under the overall mandate of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) is to protect the public and promote the health of all people in South Africa by ensuring high standards of education and training.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the examination guidelines are to ensure that practitioners with foreign qualifications are fit to practice within the South African context. Practitioners with foreign qualifications should approach Universities approved by the RCT Board for their Board examinations. It is thus, crucial that the Board uses standardized examinations and assessment criteria across Universities.

These guidelines are to:

- 2.1 Ensure a clear framework of principles, regulations and procedures all Universities should follow when conducting the Board examinations.
- 2.2 Ensure alignment of assessment practices across all Universities participating in the HPCSA Board examinations.
- 2.3 Provide a framework for the management of quality of the Board examinations for foreign qualified practitioners.

3. ADMISSION CRITERIA

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

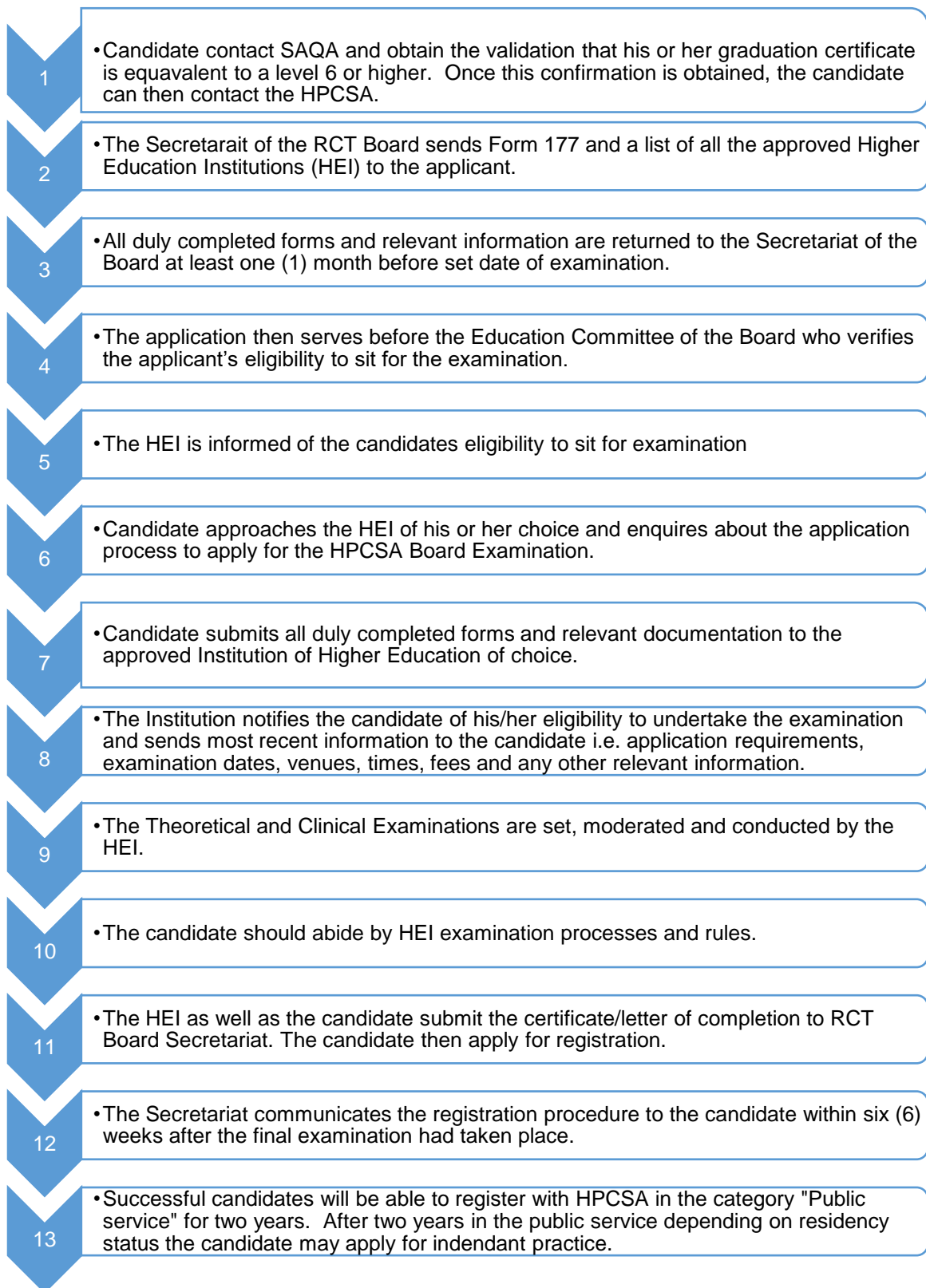
In terms of the policy of the Professional Board for Radiography and Clinical Technology all foreign qualified candidates are required to challenge the entry examination in order to determine their eligibility to register with HPCSA. Registration with HPCSA does not imply in any way that employment is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

The following admission criteria must apply:

- 3.1 Only candidates who qualify for registration (if applicable) to practice in the country where they have obtained their first radiography qualification will be allowed to sit for the examination.
- 3.2 The duration of the radiography training should have been a minimum of three (3) successful years. Should the duration of the training be less than three (3) years, the candidate should be advised to approach an accredited training institution to apply to upgrade their qualification. The rules and requirements of that institution will apply. The onus for arranging this rests solely with the candidate and is not a function of the Board.

3.3 The candidate's radiography training should be of an academically acceptable standard and must be comparable to the academic standard of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The candidate should further have had two years clinical training post-graduation in line with the South African requirement.

4 APPLICATION AND EXAMINATION PROCESS



5 PURPOSE OF EXAMINATION

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

- 5.1 Apply knowledge and skills to perform and adapt techniques applicable to the clinical condition of the patient.
- 5.2 Care for the patient responsibly and efficiently to ensure that the welfare and safety of the patient is maintained.
- 5.3 Apply appropriate health and safety regulations, ethical principles and codes of practice in performance of techniques.
- 5.4 Demonstrate competency in the execution of ultrasound protocols.
- 5.5 Display knowledge and understanding of equipment used.
- 5.6 Operate equipment effectively and competently.
- 5.7 Produce images of diagnostic quality.
- 5.8 Express ability to recognize normal and abnormal appearances of anatomy.
- 5.9 Display knowledge of Quality Assurance and Quality Control with regards to image quality and equipment function.
- 5.10 Display an awareness and understanding of the South African health care system.
- 5.11 Provide a report of findings to clinicians.

6 ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION

Approval for entry to the examination must be granted by the Education, Training and Registration Committee of the Professional Board for Radiography and Clinical Technology.

The candidate must comply with the application and examination requirements set by the HEI. Failure to comply will result in exclusion from the examination.

7 EXAMINATION PRINCIPLES FOR HEI

The Board Examination must be founded on good principles of practice. The following principles shall apply-

- 7.1 The HEI must communicate the purpose of the Board Examination and format of the Board Examination to its candidates prior to assessment.
- 7.2 The Board Examination should include a wide range of assessment approaches and methods that are fit for purpose; the use of integrated assessment is recommended.
- 7.3 Quality assurance is integral to assessment and is the responsibility of the relevant HEI.
- 7.4 The Board Examination must be *Fair* and set in accordance to HEI standard principles ensuring that candidates are treated equally and in an unbiased manner and that all candidates have access to the appeal mechanisms of the HEI.
- 7.5 The Board Examination must be *Transparent*, to ensure that assessors, candidates and moderators understand the system and have the assurance that it is well planned and properly regulated.
- 7.6 The Board Examination must be *Reliable*, in ensuring that the accuracy and consistency of the results and judgements made. This would be evident in that the same judgments pertaining to standards of assessments, assessment evidence and marks would be attained regardless of who the assessor is or how many different people are assessing.
- 7.7 The Board Examination must be *Valid*, in ensuring that the Board Examination assesses what it was set out to assess in respect outcomes stated in Section 6 of this document.

- 8.8 The Board Examination must be *Clear*, in ensuring that the language used clearly expresses the requirements against which student performance is measured and that it incorporates a mechanism to avoid assessor/moderator deviation, inconsistency and error.

8 FORMAT OF EXAMINATION

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

Part: 1 Theoretical Examination

- 8.1 The examination consists of one two (2) hour paper which is set at third year level.
- 8.2 This examination covers the integration of the following: physics, anatomy, pathology and ultrasound protocols.

Part 2: Clinical Examination

- 9.1 During this examination, candidates are required to perform two (2) ultrasound examinations as well as an oral examination.
- 9.2 Time allocation: Half an hour for each clinical examination and half an hour for the oral examination.
- 9.3 *ULTRASOUND EXAMINATION*
- Use of other display modes e.g. Doppler; M-mode where applicable in:
- a. Abdominal and pelvic scanning.
 - b. Obstetrics 18-23 week scan (detailed anatomy scan).

ORAL: On any of the expected competencies.

- 9.4 The candidate will be assessed on the following: - Correct interpretation of the request for the ultrasound scan
- a. Appropriate room and patient preparation
 - b. Demonstration of good patient care and communication
 - c. Minimization of biological effects using the ALARA principles

- d. Appropriate use of ultrasound equipment and controls settings, for the production of optimum quality images
- e. Use of the appropriate ultrasound scanning protocols
- f. Technical quality of the images produced
- g. Documentation of the procedure including images for anatomy and pathology
- h. Provision of a written report of the findings

10 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.

11 FULFILLMENT FOR REGISTRATION

- 11.1 A pass mark of 65% for each clinical assessment must be obtained.
- 11.2 A pass mark of 50% for the theory paper must be obtained.
- 11.3 A candidate is required to obtain an overall final mark of 50% in order to register with HPCSA.
- 11.4 A candidate will be allowed to sit for the entry examinations for a maximum of two (2) times.

12 BRIEF OVERVIEW OF SYLLABI

- 12.1 Application of ultrasound physics
- 12.2 Abdominal and pelvic scanning protocols including Doppler where necessary
- 12.3 Obstetric scanning protocols including Doppler where necessary
- 12.4 Pelvic ultrasound
- 12.5 Small parts ultrasound
- 12.6 Vascular ultrasound
- 12.7 Report writing

13 SUGGESTED READING LIST

Title	Author/s	Publisher
Obstetric Ultrasound How, Why and When. 4th Revised Edition.	Chudleigh, T., Smith, A., Cumming, S. (2015)	Philadelphia: Churchill Livingstone / Elsevier 9780702031700
Clinical Sonography – A Practical Approach. 4th Edition	Sanders R. & Winter T.C. (2012)	Philadelphia: Lippincott. 9781469811475
Manual of Diagnostic Ultrasound. 2nd 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

14 REMARKING OF SCRIPTS

- 14.1 Only candidates who had obtained a pass rate of 45-49% in the theoretical examination may apply for their scripts to be remarked.
- 14.2 Half (50%) of the examination fee will be charged for a re-mark.
- 14.3 The Committee Coordinator may be contacted for information about the fee involved and procedure to follow.
- 14.4 Should a candidate fail the clinical examination, no re-assessment will be allowed.

15 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further enquiry contact:

RCT Board Secretariat
Professional Board for Radiography and Clinical Technology
HPCSA
P.O. Box 205
PRETORIA
0001

Email: RCTBoard@hpcsa.co.za

Tell: +27 12 338 9300