

Introduction

The *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* (Act) (s 21(1)(a)) provides that a person who holds an academic award in veterinary science, awarded of completion of study extending over at least 4 academic years, from a university, college or institution approved in writing by the Board on the advice of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council may be granted full registration. An applicant who is a graduand of an award referred to in the Act s 21(1)(a) may apply for full registration and be granted provisional registration by the Board for a period of 3 months.

The Act (s 21(1)(b)) provides that full registration may be granted to a person who holds a degree in veterinary science extending over at least 4 academic years (not referred to in the Act s 21(1)(a)) and at the time it was granted was accepted in the country in which it was granted as sufficient for qualification for the practice of veterinary science in that country and has, if required by the Board, passed the examination required by the regulations.

Accordingly, the Board has discretion as to whether an applicant for full registration with the above qualifications is required to pass the Australasian Veterinary Exam (AVE). The Board generally relies on advice from the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) to determine if satisfactory completion of the AVE is required for full registration.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clearly define under what circumstances the Board may grant full registration with emphasis on applications under the Act s 21(1)(b) and the circumstances in which the Board may exercise its discretion to grant full registration without requiring the applicant to pass the AVE.

Policy

1. Graduates from a university, college or institution compliant with s 21(1)(a) may be granted full registration by the Board
2. Graduands from a university, college or institution compliant with s 21(1)(a) may be granted provisional registration by the Board (s 24(2)) for a period of up to 3 months.
3. Graduates from a university, college or institution compliant with s 21(1)(b) with qualifications listed below as approved on advice from the AVBC may be granted full registration without the requirement to pass the AVE if:
 - i. Graduates are from American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education (AVMA CoE) accredited schools and have passed the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam (NAVLE).
 - ii. Graduates are from American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) listed veterinary colleges of the world and have passed the examination process of the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) and the NAVLE or the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) and the NAVLE.
 - iii. Graduates are from AVMA listed veterinary colleges of the world and have attained membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (MRCVS) by examination.
 - iv. Where the relevant qualification has not been taught in English, the applicant must provide proof of meeting English language requirements as outlined by the AVBC.
4. Graduates from a university, college or institution compliant with s 21(1)(b) with qualifications that have not been approved on advice from the AVBC may be granted full registration without the requirement to pass the AVE if they are considered by the Board to be highly qualified and experienced veterinarians in that they possess qualifications required for specialist registration in Australia. Registration under this provision will only be granted subject to conditions pursuant to s 19(3).

Procedure

1. Applications for full registration under s 21(1)(a):
 - a. Applications for full registration by graduates under s 21(1)(a) must be submitted to the Board's office with the required accompanying documents as specified in the Application Form.
 - b. Applications for full registration by graduands under s 21(1)(a) must be submitted to the Board's office with the required accompanying documents as specified in the Application Form. Graduands may be granted provisional registration for a period of up to 3 months if the Board is satisfied the applicant has met all the requirements of the award referred to under s 21(1)(a) but for the conferring of the award.
2. Applications for full registration under s 21(1)(b):
 - a. Applications for full registration by graduates under s 21(1)(b) must be submitted to the Board's office with the required accompanying documents as specified in the Application Form.
 - b. Applicants who are graduates from AVMA accredited schools who have passed the NAVLE may be granted full registration under s 21(1)(b) without the requirement to pass the AVE.

- c. Applicants who are graduates from AVMA listed veterinary colleges of the world and who have passed the ECFVG and the NAVLE or the PAVE and the NAVLE may be granted full registration under s 21(1)(b) without the requirement to pass the AVE.
- d. Applicants who are graduates from AVMA listed veterinary colleges of the world and have attained MRCVS by examination may be granted full registration under s 21(1)(b) without the requirement to pass the AVE.
- e. Applicants who are graduates from a university, college or institution compliant with s 21(1)(b), with qualifications that have not been approved on advice from the AVBC, may be granted full registration without the requirement to pass the AVE under the following circumstances:
 - i. Applicants are considered by the Board to be highly qualified and experienced veterinarians in that they possess qualifications which are eligible for specialist registration in Australia
 - ii. Applicants must include the following additional documents with their application
 - i. Full curriculum vitae including proof of required qualifications
 - ii. Submission from the proposed employer who is a veterinarian or veterinarian representing the employer endorsing the applicant and confirming the lack of availability of highly qualified and experienced graduates who are eligible for full registration
 - iii. Completed Supervising Veterinarian Declaration by the nominated supervisor who is a registered specialist not subject to any conditions
 - iii. Registration under this provision is subject to the following conditions pursuant to s 19(3):
 - i. The registrant must possess qualifications eligible for specialist registration in Australia and must apply for specialist registration in NSW within 3 months of being granted full registration
 - ii. The registrant must only perform restricted acts of veterinary science within their area of proposed specialty on behalf of the nominated employer, or another employer approved by the Board, under the supervision of a registered specialist approved by the Board whose registration is not subject to any conditions and only within NSW
 - iii. In the event the registrant is not granted specialist registration within 12 months, the registrant must request that the Board remove his or her name from the Register pursuant to section 27(1)(a).
3. The granting of full registration with conditions under 2(e) is based on the person possessing qualifications eligible for specialist registration in NSW. Accordingly, if the AVBC fails to provide a recommendation to the Board for specialist registration in the proposed area of specialty within 12 months of the person being granted full registration the person does not possess the qualifications eligible for specialist registration and may be removed from the Register under s 27(2)(a).
4. A person granted full registration with conditions under 2(e) above and who has subsequently been granted specialist registration may apply to the Board for these conditions to be varied.
5. The above procedure does not limit or otherwise affect the operation of the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992* or the *Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997*.

Monitoring

1. The Board is required to review the list of universities, colleges and institutions accredited by the AVBC at least annually.
2. The Board may request a random audit of registrants and unsuccessful applicants under s 21(1)(b) from the Registrar.
3. The Board may request a list of applicants granted full registration under 2(e) above from the Registrar and compare details provided in the initial application with those submitted in the Annual Return.
4. The Board will review the requirements for granting full registration under s 21(1)(b) without the requirement to pass the AVE annually and consult with the universities and the profession more widely as required.

Training and Communication

The Registrar is responsible for ensuring that all persons who are involved in making a decision in relation to the granting of registration receive training in the implementation of this policy.

Conflict of Interest

Members of the Board must comply with the Code of Conduct for Board Members in relation to decisions regarding the granting of registration.

Review

This policy shall be reviewed annually or as required to ensure that it remains appropriate to the operations of the Board and compliant with the relevant legislation.