

APPENDIX 4

Recognition of the qualifications in occupational therapy, diagnostic radiography/radiation therapy, podiatry/chiropractic and speech and language therapy, obtained outside the EEA member states.

In the case of persons with qualifications obtained outside the EEA member states, the Directive provides that each member state can assess such qualifications according to its own national rules.

In relation to professional qualifications in occupational therapy, diagnostic radiography/radiation therapy, podiatry/chiropractic and speech and language therapy, the Minister for Health and Children is the competent authority for the assessment of these professional qualifications and the process is administered by the Health Service Executive (HSE) (National Validation Office (NVO)). The HSE/Minister for Health is advised in this function by the Association of Occupational Therapists (AOTI), the Irish Institute of Radiography and Radiation Therapy (IIRRT), the Podiatry Recognition of Overseas Qualifications Committee (PROQC), and the Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists (IASLT) respectively.

An administrative process, similar to that contained in Directive 2005/36/EC, is in place for the assessment of non-EEA qualifications. It involves stricter verification of qualifications and work experience; compensation measures are not offered if qualifications do not immediately meet Irish standards. Such applications will be issued with a decision letter within 6 months. The assessment process is administered by the National Validation Office to which any queries should be addressed.

Each application is assessed on a case-by case basis and the qualifications of an applicant are compared for their equivalence to the Irish qualifications required to work in the public health sector.

The profession which the applicant wishes to pursue in Ireland must be the same as that for which s/he is qualified in the country where the qualification was obtained, If the activities covered by the profession in the home and the host country are not comparable, then the qualifications cannot be recognised. If the activities are comparable but deficits in the qualifications are identified, subsequent post-qualification professional experience of the applicant is considered. If deficits remain, qualifications cannot be recognised.

You must submit a personal application on the appropriate form clearly stating the profession you wish to practise, with documentary evidence of your eligibility to practise in the country where you obtained your qualification, your qualifications and your post-qualification professional experience. Please see detailed requirements on each application form.

The assessment of qualifications is without prejudice to any right to work or to residency in Ireland. It is a matter for each individual to satisfy work permit/visa requirements. Non-EEA nationals should access the Department of Enterprise,

Trade and Employment website (www.entemp.ie) for information on Work Permits and the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform website (www.justice.ie) in relation to residency. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment requires Working Permit Visa/Green Card applicants from non-EEA countries to have their professional qualifications recognised. Non-EEA nationals should be aware that certain health professionals, including Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Therapists, have recently been removed from category (ii) of the Green Card scheme which had been put in place to facilitate non-EEA nationals who wished to work in Ireland and who were qualified in a restricted number of strategically important occupations.

AUGUST 2010,

(This document may be updated periodically and you should ensure it is in date at the time of your application)