

An Bord Altranais Policy on Category 11 Equivalence/Recognition

Background

An Bord Altranais at its meeting of the 18th November, 2010, approved a policy based on its current systems to:

1. Recognise valid credentials acquired by registered nurses and midwives from institutions outside the Republic of Ireland.
2. The standards and criteria shall be applied to determine the equivalence of programmes undertaken outside Ireland and for the period (January 2002 to September 2011) where programmes (not approved by An Bord Altranais) have been undertaken within the Republic of Ireland. This time frame will be ring fenced.

The following outlines the standards and procedures that apply to the An Bord Altranais Category 11 equivalence/ recognition of credentials acquired by nurses and midwives outside the Republic of Ireland or within the Republic of Ireland during the specified time frame.

This policy may be reviewed from time to time as determined by the Board

To apply for category 11 equivalence/recognition please ensure you fulfil the responsibilities below. Apply in writing to Mr Thomas Kearns, Education Officer, Post Registration Education and Standards. If you have any queries please contact Mr Kearns at (01) 6398500 or tkearns@nursingboard.ie

Standard:

Responsibility of the Applicant

1. The Registered Nurse/Midwife must apply to the Education Department of An Bord Altranais by letter and provide An Bord Altranais with verifiable evidence through an objective and reliable transcript from an education provider. (This is an outline of the programme and should be available from the college)
2. The Registered Nurse/Midwife is responsible for providing the evidence requested.
3. Further information and clarification may be sought directly from the applicant or through enquiry to the educational provider.
4. The submission must provide clear evidence in relation to the programme (structures, processes and outcomes) and it must confirm that the applicant has completed the programme, provide a statement of results and confirm the achievement of a stated award.
5. The transcript (original) must provide proof that the programme and award has local/national accreditation/validation.
6. The transcript must provide an explicit detailed breakdown of the theoretical and clinical inputs associated with the programme. It should specify at what level the programme is benchmarked against a national or European framework of qualifications (if appropriate).

Responsibility of An Bord Altranais

7. All material provided shall be copied and maintained within An Bord Altranais on a unique individual/applicant file.
8. Original documentation submitted to An Bord Altranais will be returned to the applicant.
9. An officer of An Bord Altranais shall evaluate an applicant against agreed criteria and prepare a report for a three member sub-group of the Education and Training Committee
10. The systematic evaluation of the application will be in accordance with the approved An Bord Altranais approval criteria.
11. Documents in a language other than English must be accompanied by a notarised translation.
12. The granting of An Bord Altranais Category 11 equivalence is on an individualised case by case basis.
13. The granting of An Bord Altranais Category 11 equivalence to programmes that satisfy the ring fenced criteria will be a decision of the appointed three person sub-group of the Education and Training Committee of An Bord Altranais.
14. A decision shall be issued by An Bord Altranais to the applicant within two weeks of the sub-committee meeting.
15. A decision to refuse Category 11 equivalence may be appealed in writing to the Chief Education Officer of An Bord Altranais within 21 days of the decision letter date. This appeal will be heard by the Education and Training Committee of An Bord Altranais at its next scheduled meeting.
16. A response will be issued within 21 days of the Education and Training Committee meeting that considers the appeal.
17. The decision of the Education and Training Committee is final.
18. An Bord Altranais will maintain a database of programmes that have received Category 11 equivalence.