

International Genetic Counselling Credentialing: a Working Group of the TAGC

Template for Comparing Credentialing/Registration

Country	Australasia (Australia and New Zealand)
Date of completion	July 2016
Name of Credentialing Body/Registration Board	Human Genetics Society of Australasia (HGSA) Board of Censors for Genetic Counselling.
Website/Address	http://www.hgsa.org.au/education-training/genetic-counselling
Is there a separate credentialing/registration process for nurses? If yes, please give details of nursing credentialing group	Not applicable
Eligibility criteria to apply for certification/registration	Must have a Masters of Genetic Counselling degree and be working at a Genetic Counselor for the equivalent of 12 months full time.
Required criteria to apply for a Masters degree in Genetic Counseling	Undergraduate degree.
If there is a Masters Degree in Genetic Counseling, is this accredited? If so, by whom?	Two course: University of Melbourne and University of Sydney. Both accredited by the HGSA Board of Censors for Genetic Counselling.
Minimum length of time between completing the training requirements and applying for certification/registration	12 months
Number of cases used in Masters in Genetic Counseling course that can also be used in registration	Zero
Is there a written examination? Yes/no, please give details	No. The Certification process in Australasia can only be completed on the job and involves completing a portfolio of work over a minimum of 3 years full time. Details available at: http://www.hgsa.org.au/education-training/genetic-counselling
Who is examination assessed and ratified by? Please give details or say if not applicable	Not applicable
Portfolio of work submitted for certification/registration? yes/no (n.b. this question relates to certification/registration and not to a portfolio of work needed to complete a Masters degree in Genetic Counseling)	YES
Portfolio assessed by independent assessors? yes/no/not applicable	YES

Portfolio ratified by the Registration Board? yes/no/not applicable	YES
Candidate has an interview as part of the credentialing/registration process? yes/no	YES
What work is done for certification/registration?	A portfolio of work including cases reports, a log book of cases, literature review or published paper, simulated patient consultation, presentation and interview . Please see Guidelines for Training and Certification in Genetic Counselling at http://www.hgsa.org.au/education-training/genetic-counselling
Core competencies for practice as a genetic counselor, these are the skills that are assessed in the certification/registration process (and not only in the MSc course)	Yes, please see Guidelines for Training and Certification in Genetic Counselling at http://www.hgsa.org.au/education-training/genetic-counselling .
Is Genetic Counseling Supervision required, post-MSc completion , in order to obtain certification/registration? Please see Clarke et al (2007) ¹ for a definition of Genetic Counseling Supervision (i.e. this is different from clinical supervision with a geneticist, or peer supervision with another GC or manager, counseling supervision is with a counseling therapist/psychologist and focuses on counseling issues)	YES
Are certified/registered genetic counselors regulated? If so, by whom?	NO
What requirements exist to maintain certification/registration? How frequently is certification/registration maintained?	Certified genetic counsellors are expected to participate in a voluntary Maintenance of Professional Standards (MOPS) program administered by the HGSA BOC Genetic Counselling. Please see: http://www.hgsa.org.au/education-training/genetic-counselling .
Do you have an international policy on registration of genetic counselors trained outside your country? If so, please provide a link to this	YES. Please see http://www.hgsa.org.au/education-training/genetic-counselling/genetic-counselling-training-and-accreditation scroll down to "Genetic Counsellors Certified Overseas" heading

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Clarke A, Middleton A, Cowley L, Guilbert P, Macleod R, Clarke A, Tran V (2007) Report from the UK and Eire Association of Genetic Nurses and Counsellors (AGNC) supervision working group on genetic counsellor supervision. J Genet Couns. 16(2):127-42

Please briefly summarise what is required of international genetic counselors wanting to register/certify in your country

Overseas Certified/Registered Genetic Counsellors are required to complete a reduced portfolio. This is to ensure that all genetic counsellors certified by the HGSA have obtained the same minimum amount of clinical experience and have demonstrated the same competencies which have been assessed in the same manner. Clinical experience and the manner in which competencies have previously been assessed will determine the requirements to achieve HGSA certification. For more details, see guidelines for Overseas trained genetic counsellors at: <http://www.hgsa.org.au/documents/item/39>