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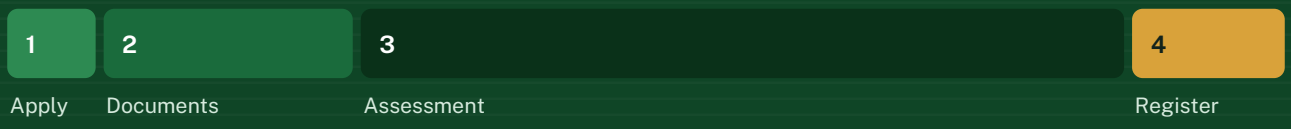
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Free licensing information for allied health professionals

United Kingdom | Health and Care Professions Council

HCPC registration guide

Step-by-step guide for radiographers applying through the HCPC international route

Typical end-to-end timeline: 3 to 6 months



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Before you start

This guide walks you through the HCPC registration process in the order it actually happens: what to prepare, what each stage involves, how long it usually takes, and what tends to slow people down. It is written for radiographers and is useful for most allied health professionals, because the process is largely the same across titles.

How to use it

- Read the whole guide once before paying any fee. Most delays start with a document that was missing or wrong at the beginning.
- Use the document checklist to collect everything before you open your application.
- Use the timeline planner to record reference numbers and dates. You will be asked for them.
- Check every requirement against the official website on the day you apply. Rules, fees and forms change.

Important
This is an independent guide based on personal experience of the process and on publicly available information. It is not affiliated with or endorsed by the Health and Care Professions Council or any other authority, and it is not legal, immigration or visa advice.
Only the regulator decides whether you are registered or licensed. No guide or consultant can guarantee a result or speed up a decision. Where this guide gives typical timelines, they are ranges seen in practice, not official service standards.
Never pay anyone who promises a guaranteed licence, an exam "shortcut" or a way around verification. Submitting false or altered documents can lead to a permanent ban.

HCPC at a glance

Regulator	Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), which regulates radiographers and other allied health professions across the UK.
Protected titles	"Radiographer", "diagnostic radiographer" and "therapeutic radiographer" may only be used by people on the HCPC register.
How you apply	Through the HCPC international application route, online. You pay a non-refundable scrutiny fee when you apply, and a registration fee if accepted.
English	For radiographers, IELTS Academic with an overall score of 7.0 and no element below 6.5, or an accepted equivalent such as OET. Some applicants are exempt; check the current rules.
Verification	HCPC verifies your qualification and registration with the issuing bodies. There is no DataFlow step.
Assessment	Two assessors compare your training and experience with the HCPC standards of proficiency. This normally takes around 60 working days once the application is complete.
Typical time	3 to 6 months, including time to gather documents and pass the English test.

English first
Book and pass your English test before you apply. It is the most common blocker for international radiographers.
Check whether HCPC accepts results combined from different test sittings for your test. If it does not, every element must meet the minimum in a single sitting.

How HCPC assesses you

Your application is judged against the standards of proficiency for radiographers. Assessors look at what your programme covered, how much supervised clinical practice you had, and what you have done since qualifying.

Experience can make up for differences in training, so describe your roles in detail: modalities, procedures, patient groups and responsibilities.

Possible outcomes

Accepted	You pay the registration fee and are added to the register.
Further information	HCPC asks for more evidence. The clock pauses until you reply.
Additional requirements	HCPC may require you to complete further learning or a period of supervised practice before you can be registered.
Refused	You receive reasons and information about the appeal process.

Step by step

1 Pass your English test

Typical time: 4 to 10 weeks

Unless you are exempt, take IELTS Academic or another accepted test and achieve the required scores. Results are only valid for a limited time, so check the validity window.

> **Tips from experience**
> Practise the writing and speaking components under timed conditions. Most near-misses are in writing.

2 Gather your documents

Typical time: 2 to 6 weeks

Collect every document on the checklist. HCPC needs evidence of your qualification, your programme content, your registration history and your character and experience.

What you need

- Passport.
- Degree certificate and full transcript.
- Programme details: modules, theory hours and clinical placement hours.
- Evidence of registration or licence in each country where you practised, with verification as HCPC instructs.
- References as required by the current application.
- English test result.
- Certified translations for documents not in English.

> **Tips from experience**
> Get your university to confirm clinical placement hours in writing, split by area.

3 Submit the online international application

Typical time: 1 to 2 weeks

Complete the online application, upload documents and pay the scrutiny fee. Describe your training and experience against the standards of proficiency as fully as the form allows.

> **Tips from experience**
> Write your experience by modality and procedure, not just by job title.

4 Verification and assessment

Typical time: 10 to 14 weeks

HCPC verifies your documents and sends your file to two assessors. If they need more information, HCPC writes to you.

> **Tips from experience**
> Check your email, including spam, and reply to any request quickly and completely.

5 Registration

Typical time: 1 to 4 weeks

If accepted, pay the registration fee. Once your name appears on the HCPC register, you can use the protected title and work as a radiographer in the UK.

Registration is renewed every two years and you must keep a record of your continuing professional development.

Document checklist

Identity

- [ ] Passport
- [ ] Name-change document, if needed

English

- [ ] IELTS Academic 7.0 overall, no element below 6.5, or accepted equivalent
- [ ] Result still within its validity period

Education

- [ ] Degree certificate
- [ ] Full transcript
- [ ] Programme details with theory and clinical placement hours

Registration

- [ ] Licence or registration from each country where you practised
- [ ] Verification of registration as HCPC requires

Experience and character

- [ ] References as required
- [ ] Detailed CV with modalities and procedures

Fees

- [ ] Scrutiny fee paid on application
- [ ] Registration fee ready if accepted

Timeline planner

Stage	Typical	Started	Completed	Reference / notes
English test passed	4-10 wks			
Documents gathered	2-6 wks			
Application submitted	1-2 wks			
Assessment complete	10-14 wks			
Registration fee paid	1 wk			
On the register	1-3 wks			

What usually causes delays

English scores	One element below 6.5, or results from separate sittings that HCPC does not combine.
Programme detail	No breakdown of modules and clinical hours.
Thin experience	CV that lists job titles without modalities, procedures or responsibilities.
Slow replies	Not answering requests for further information quickly.
Expired evidence	English result or other documents that expire while the case is open.

Working in the UK

- NHS trusts and private providers recruit international radiographers, and many adverts accept candidates who are close to registration.
- Visas, including the Health and Care Worker visa, are outside the scope of this guide. Immigration advice in the UK is regulated; use official UK government sources or a registered adviser.

Official sources

Bookmark these and check them before each paid step. If anything in this guide differs from the official page, the official page is correct.

Source	What it is for
hcpc-uk.org	HCPC: international applications, fees, English requirements, standards of proficiency
hcpc-uk.org register	Public register to confirm a registration
ielts.org	IELTS test information
occupationalenglishtest.org	OET test information

Glossary

HCPC	Health and Care Professions Council
Scrutiny fee	Non-refundable fee for assessing an international application
Standards of proficiency	What every registered radiographer must know and be able to do
IELTS / OET	English language tests accepted by HCPC
CPD	Continuing professional development

About this guide

Written by a radiographer who has been licensed in Dubai and Qatar and is registered with CORU in Ireland, and who went through these processes without a consultant. AB Solution is a free, independent information website. It is not a recruitment agency, an immigration adviser or a law firm, and it sells nothing.

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