



## **REGISTRATION CASE SAMPLES**

The following case samples illustrate the application of the registration framework to different categories of therapists depending on their practice experience in Singapore and qualifications. The case samples also address common questions raised by the different groups of therapists.

The case samples are not exhaustive. Every registration application will be reviewed and individual registration outcomes may differ if the circumstances surrounding the application differ from the case samples.

### **Experienced Therapists who are currently practising in Singapore**

#### **Case 1: Therapists with more than 1 year of professional practice experience in Singapore and who possess Recognised Qualifications**

Min graduated from Nanyang Polytechnic with a Diploma in Occupational Therapy in 2007 and is working as an Occupational Therapist (OT) in a community hospital in Singapore. She has a total of 5 years of working experience in Singapore as an OT when registration starts.

Min should apply for registration as soon as registration starts. While her application is being processed by the Council, Min can continue to practice as an OT in Singapore.

#### *Registration Outcome*

Min's basic professional qualification, the Diploma in Occupational Therapy from Nanyang Polytechnic, is found on the Council's **List of Recognised Qualifications** for OT. She also has 5 years of working experience in Singapore. Min will be granted **Full Registration**.

**Important Note:** The same applies to Physiotherapists (PTs) and Speech-Language Therapists (SLTs) with more than 1 year of professional practice experience in Singapore and have a qualification that is found on the Council's list of Recognised Qualifications.

#### **Q1: What are the other qualifications that are recognised by the Council for therapists who have been practising in Singapore for some time?**

##### *For Occupational Therapists*

OTs who are already practising in Singapore at the time registration starts and possess qualifications that are found on the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) List will also be deemed to have recognised qualifications.

### For Physiotherapists and Speech-Language Therapists

PTs and SLTs who are currently practising in Singapore and whose qualifications were previously reviewed by MOH as part of the work pass review process may also be considered to have qualifications equivalent to those on the Council's List of Recognised Qualifications. All such applications will be reviewed accordingly by the Council, and the final decision for registration, and any conditions/restrictions that may be imposed will depend on the specific application details.

#### **Q2: What if Min's basic professional qualification was not found on the Council's list of Recognised Qualifications or the WFOT list?**

Please refer to case example under Case 2.

#### **Case 2: Therapists with more than 1 year of professional practice experience in Singapore and who do not possess Recognised Qualifications**

Jon graduated from XYZ University with a Bachelor of Physiotherapy in June 1992 and had been practising in Singapore since year 2000. He is currently in private practice. He had neither taken the Physiotherapy Qualifying Examination (QE) at the Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) nor the the Singapore Physiotherapy Association's (SPA) Membership Examination offered between year 1996 to 2006.

Jon should apply for registration as soon as registration starts. While his application is being processed by the Council, Jon can continue to practice as a Physiotherapist (PT).

#### Registration Outcome

Jon's basic professional qualification, Bachelor of Physiotherapy from XYZ University is not found on the Council's List of Recognised Qualification for Physiotherapy, and he had not taken any of the acceptable qualifying examinations. With his 13 years of practice experiences in Singapore, Jon will be registered and will be granted **Restricted Registration**. The restrictions imposed will be determined based on Jon's working experiences (past and current) and post-graduate qualifications (if any).

**Important Note:** The same applies to OTs and SLTs with more than 1 year of professional practice experience in Singapore and have a qualification that is NOT found on the Council's list of Recognised Qualifications.

#### **Q1: Would Jon's registration outcome be different if he had passed the Physiotherapy QE conducted by NYP?**

Yes. If Jon has passed the QE, he will be granted **Full registration**.

#### **Q2: Are SPA's Membership Examinations considered equivalent to the QEs conducted by NYP?**

For therapists currently practising in Singapore, the SPA's Membership Examinations conducted between year 1996 and 2006 are considered equivalent to the QE.

If Jon had passed the examinations conducted during the stipulated period, he will be granted **Full registration**.

### **Q3: Are there similar Membership Examinations for OTs and SLTs?**

NYP also conducts the QE for OT. There are no similar examinations for SLTs in the past. However the SLT QE will start in the later part of 2013.

### **Case 3: Therapists with less than 1 year of professional practice experience in Singapore and who possess Recognised Qualifications**

Christen possesses an MSc Speech and Language Sciences from University College London, United Kingdom. She has been practising as a Speech-Language Therapist in the Singapore General Hospital since December 2012.

Christen should apply for registration as soon as the registration starts. While her application is being processed by the Council, Christen can continue to practice as a Speech-Language Therapist.

#### *Registration Outcome*

Christen's basic professional qualification, MSc Speech and Language Sciences from the University College London is found on the Council's List of Recognised Qualifications. However, when registration started, she has less than 1 year of practice experience in Singapore. Christen will be eligible for **Conditional Registration (on the pathway to Full Registration)**.

If Christen is able to provide her supervision reports as stipulated in the Supervision Requirement (Grace Period) and completes her stipulated supervised practice period satisfactorily during the grace period, she will be granted **Full Registration**.

<p><b>Important Note:</b> The same applies to OTs and PTs with less than 1 year of professional practice experience in Singapore and have a qualification that is found on the <u>Council's list of Recognised Qualifications</u>.</p>
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### **Q1: What are the other qualifications that are recognised by the Council for therapists who have been practising in Singapore for some time?**

Please refer to case example under Case 1, Q1.

### **Q2. What proof of supervised practice should Christen produce?**

- a) Christen's supervisor must be eligible for Full Registration and have at least 3 years of practice experience in Singapore
- b) Christen's supervisor must complete the Council's Supervisor Assessment Report for Christen at the point of application, and at intervals specified in the Supervision Requirements (Grace Period).

**Q3. What if the Council finds her supervision report not satisfactory? Or what if Christen is unable to produce any proof of supervised practice?**

If her supervision report is not satisfactory or if she is unable to produce any proof of supervised practice, she will be granted **Conditional Registration (on the pathway to Full Registration)** and will need to complete a period of supervised practice under a Supervisor who will need to be Fully Registered with at least 3 years of professional practice experience in Singapore.

**Q4: What if Christen's basic professional qualification was not found on the Council's list of Recognised Qualifications?**

Christen will be eligible for **Conditional Registration (on the pathway to Restricted Registration)**.

When she completes her supervised practice period satisfactorily under Conditional Registration, she will be eligible for **Restricted Registration**. The restrictions imposed will be determined based on her working experiences (past and current) and post-graduate qualifications (if any).

**Important Note:** The same applies to OTs and PTs with less than 1 year of professional practice experience in Singapore and have a qualification that is NOT found on the Council's list of Recognised Qualifications, or whose qualifications are not considered equivalent to those on the Council's list of Recognised Qualifications.

**Case 4 - Therapists who are currently not practising and who possess Recognised Qualifications (Return to Practice)**

Stacey possesses a Master of Speech Language Pathology from the University of Sydney. She had practised as a SLT in a private organisation in Singapore between year 2006 and 2009 (ie. 3 years of past working experience). In December 2009, Stacey stopped practice to pursue her passion in music full-time. After the registration starts in 2013, Stacey completed her music programme and decides to return to practise. She has accepted an offer of employment from a community hospital to start work as a SLT in July 2013.

Stacey should apply for registration as soon as possible and before she starts practising again.

**Registration Outcome**

Stacey's basic professional qualification, Master of Speech Language Pathology from the University of Sydney is found on the Council's List of Recognised Qualification. Upon the start of registration, Stacey has previous working experience of more than 1 year in Singapore. However, from December 2009 to July 2013, she is unable to show 200 hours of practice within the last 3 years. Stacey will be considered "Returner to Practice" and she will be granted **Conditional Registration (on the pathway to Full Registration)**. She will need to complete a period of supervision under a Supervisor who will need to be Fully Registered with at least 3 years of professional practice experience in Singapore.

**Important Note:** The same applies to OTs and PTs who are currently not practising and whose qualifications can be found on the Council's list of Recognised Qualifications.

**Q1: What are the other qualifications that are recognised by the Council for therapists who have been practising in Singapore for some time?**

Please refer to case example under Case 1, Q1.

**Q2. What happens if Stacey can show 200 hours or more of practice experience within the last 3 years?**

Stacey will be granted **Full Registration** if she can show 200 hours or more of practice experience within the last 3 years.

**Q3: What if Stacey's basic professional qualification was not found on the Council's list of Recognised Qualifications?**

*If Stacey's basic professional qualification was not found on the Council's list of Recognised Qualification, she will be granted **Conditional Registration (on the pathway to Restricted Registration)**. She will need to complete a period of supervision under a Supervisor who will need to be Fully Registered with at least 3 years of professional practice experience in Singapore.*

*If she can show 200 hours or more of practice experience within the last 3 years, Stacey will be granted **Restricted Registration**. The restriction imposed will depend on her working experience, training and qualifications.*

**Important Note:** *The same applies to OTs and PTs whose qualification is NOT found on the Council's list of Recognised Qualifications, have prior professional practice experience in Singapore, and wish to return-to-practice.*

## **New Therapists practising in Singapore for the first time**

### **Case 5: Local Graduates with no prior practice experience in Singapore and who possess Recognised Qualifications**

Pei Lin graduated from Nanyang Polytechnic with a Diploma in Physiotherapy in April 2013. She has a job offer from a Voluntary Welfare Organisation and will be starting work as a PT in June 2013.

Since Pei Lin has no prior practice experience in Singapore, she is considered a new therapist and she must register with the Council before she can start working.

#### Registration Outcome

Pei Lin's basic professional qualification, Diploma in Physiotherapy from NYP is found on the Council's List of Recognised Qualification. As she has no prior practice experience, she will be granted **Conditional registration (pathway to Full registration)**, and will need to complete a period of supervised practice. Her supervisor will need to be fully registered with at least 3 years of professional practice experience.

**Important Note:**

1. The same applies to OTs and SLTs who have no prior practice experience in Singapore and have a qualification that is found on the Council's list of Recognised Qualifications.
2. The registration outcome also applies to **International** OTs, PTs and SLTs (**Fresh Graduates and Experienced Therapists**) with no prior practice experience in Singapore and who possess qualifications found on the Council's List of Recognised Qualifications.

**Q1. Why are Experienced International Therapists without prior practice in Singapore considered New Therapists?**

Experienced International Therapists, who have not practiced in Singapore before, are new to the healthcare system and standards of practice expected in Singapore and are therefore considered New Therapists.

**Q2: What if Pei Lin's basic professional qualification is not found on the Council's list of Recognised Qualifications?**

Please refer to case example under Case 6.

**Case 6: Graduates with no prior practice experience in Singapore and who do not possess Recognised Qualifications**

Ken graduated from XYZ University with a BSc Occupational Therapy with Honours. He will be coming to Singapore in September 2013 after the registration had started and would like to practise as an OT.

Since Ken has no prior practice experience in Singapore, he will be considered a new therapist and he must register with the Council before he can start working. Ken must also have an offer of employment to be eligible to apply for registration.

Registration Outcome

Ken's basic professional qualification, BSc Occupational Therapy with Honours from XYZ University is not found on the Council's List of Recognised Qualifications. He also has no prior practice experience, Ken will be informed to take the Qualifying Examination for OT at NYP.

Upon passing his QE, Ken will be granted **Conditional registration (pathway to Full Registration)**, and will need to complete a period of supervised practice. His supervisor will need to be fully registered with at least 3 years of professional practice experience.

**Important Note:**

1. The same applies to PTs and SLTs who has no prior practice experience in Singapore and have a qualification that is NOT found on the Council's list of Recognised Qualifications.
2. The registration outcome also applies to **International** OTs, PTs and SLTs (**Fresh Graduates and Experienced Therapists**) with no prior practice experience in Singapore and have a qualification NOT found on the Council's List of Recognised Qualifications.

**Q1. What if Ken does not have an offer of employment in Singapore?**

He will need to have an offer of employment in Singapore to apply for registration. Without it, he cannot apply for registration.

**Q2. What if Ken decides not to take the QE or if he takes the QE and does not manage to pass?**

If Ken decides not to take the QE or if he takes and does not pass after the maximum 2 attempts allowed, he will not be registered as his basic qualification is NOT found on the Council's List of Recognised Qualifications.