

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – COMPARABLE QUALIFICATIONS

1. What is Article 12 (2) (a)?

The Health Professions Council (HPC) is an organisation that must operate under the legislation which was approved by the UK Parliament.

Article 12 (2) (a) refers to the legislation set out in the Health Professions Order, which states:

“The Education and Training Committee shall determine procedures to: assess whether a qualification awarded outside the United Kingdom is of a comparable standards to a qualification mentioned in paragraph (1) (a) and it shall, where it sees fit, keep a list of qualifications which are of a comparable standard which it shall publish and keep under review.”

This means that the HPC has set up a process which has resulted in it publishing a regular list of comparable qualifications.

2. What process does HPC use to determine that the qualification is comparable?

The HPC uses historical registration data. It is the cumulative experience of assessing the following three things:

The same qualification awarded ten times from the same Institution and approving not less than ten instances of the qualification from the same graduation year.

Each of the above involves HPC making an individual assessment ten times and approving each one before it decides that a qualification is comparable to UK Standards. If nobody is rejected HPC presumes that the qualification is 100% comparable only on the basis of a graduation year.

3. Why does my qualification not appear on this list, even though I went to the same institution and did the same degree course that is listed?

Qualifications are usually awarded to an individual on a specific date. If your qualification looks the same as the ones listed we still cannot approve it automatically.

The HPC will not add a qualification per se unless it has seen enough make that decision.

Indeed, qualifications may retain the same title but the content of the training undertaken to achieve a qualification may vary from year to year. That is why HPC must assess at least ten from the same year to determine that the qualification is indeed comparable to UK Standards.

4. Why won't you approve my institution because you know that for the last five years the qualification and graduation year have been comparable and added to your list?

The HPC does not have any powers to approve an institution or qualification that is operated outside the UK. It is limited to the functions set in its current legislation, the Health Professions Order (2001)

The content of training and the associated qualification that is awarded to an individual may be changed, updated or modified by an Institution at any time.

That is why HPC must assess at least ten from the same year to determine that the qualification is indeed comparable to UK Standards. It is important that HPC uses its own historical data and does not make any assumptions about a qualification or an institution.

5. Why would you put me on the Register automatically, I have got a NARIC statement that my degree is comparable?

The HPC requires you to demonstrate how you meet the Standards of Proficiency in order to be put onto the HPC Register. HPC can only register those people who are able to fulfil these criteria.

NARIC is a separate organisation from HPC. The qualification assessment that it makes does not use the HPC Standards of Proficiency as the foundation for its report.

6. What is a comparable qualification?

A comparable qualification is an educational award that is given to an individual who has undertaken training that is equal to the training in the United Kingdom.

7. How does the HPC prove that a qualification is comparable?

The HPC received lots of applications from people who have trained and worked outside the UK. It follows a process laid out in legislation that allows us to look at the training, experience and education before deciding if this is all equal to the standards required to practise in the UK.

Some international qualifications that are awarded are enough to equip an individual with all the necessary skills, knowledge and experience that would be required for registration. It is this that makes it comparable to an approved UK qualification.

In order for the comparable qualification to appear on the list published by HPC it has to be assessed enough times to ensure that it really meets the standards.

8. Why won't you assess my qualification and add it to this list if you think it's comparable?

HPC must see a qualification enough times to ensure that it really meets the same standard as an approved UK qualification.

The HPC Education and Training Committee have determined that an assessment must be made ten times. The qualification must be approved for registration with nobody from the graduation year being rejected before HPC will add it to the list.