



GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATES

New Zealand Anaesthetic Technicians' Registration Examination

The Registration Examination is independent of the AUT theoretical learning programme and is the final assessment required by NZATS for recognition of skills and knowledge in anaesthetic clinical practice which is inclusive of, but not limited to, subject matter covered in the anaesthesia papers. The candidate will be expected to have a wide knowledge of Operating Room practice and patient care. A list of likely topics for both Part I and Part II is listed on the NZATS website. Suggested reference reading is included in the AUT syllabus.

Examination Requirements

The prospective candidate must have completed the Diploma in Applied Sciences (Anaesthetic Technology) or provide evidence of qualifications gained overseas.

If an overseas-trained candidate is currently employed in New Zealand as an anaesthetic technician that person must hold current NZATS Provisional Registration and must also provide evidence of NZ residency status or citizenship.

The following documentation must be presented by the New Zealand Diploma-trained candidate:

- Evidence of registration with NZATS as a trainee.
- Completed Application Form including passport-sized photograph
- Evidence of completion of the Diploma.
- If a candidate has been unsuccessful in any of the Diploma papers that trainee is not eligible to sit the Registration Examination. In some circumstances, AUT may grant an extension and a specific time-frame for the completion of the Anaesthetic Technology II paper. Written confirmation will be required from AUT to confirm this before the trainee may be registered to sit the Registration Examination.

- A summary of training time in hours.
- Evidence of other relevant qualification (e.g. nursing, paramedic, diploma of military medicine).
- Evidence time dispensation as approved by NZATS.
- Full payment of the examination fee (cheques only).

For candidates other than those who trained in NZ hospitals and have not attained the NZ Diploma qualification the following will be required:

- Evidence of qualification
- Training Institution
- Date Qualified
- New Zealand Provisional Registration Card (Photocopy)
- Evidence of NZ Residency Status
- New Zealand employing hospital
- Supporting letter from employing hospital management
- Full payment of the examination fee (cheques only).

All the above listed requirements must be forwarded to the Examination Secretary by the due date that will be approximately 4 weeks prior to the examination.

Incomplete documentation will be returned to the candidate minus a 10% administration fee. Failure to present application requirements and documentation by the stated post-date will forfeit the trainee's eligibility to sit that examination.

If a candidate withdraws for any reason after the Examination Secretary has completed processing the documentation a 10% administration fee will be charged.

7.3 Examination Format

Part I

The Part 1 section will be held at the **beginning of both February and September** followed approximately six weeks later, i.e. mid-March and mid October by the Part II section. The dates for the examinations will be published on the web-site each year.

The candidate is required to complete a written MCQ examination of 1.5 hours duration. The candidate must attain a pass mark of 75% to proceed to the Part II section.

The MCQ examination will be formatted from a wide range of topics that are relevant to the candidates' Scope of Practice. A list of the topics is posted on the NZATS web-site.

Strict examination conditions will be adhered to. Candidates can sit this regionally, supervised by either an NZATS examiner or an

NZATS board member. Venues will be on the application forms and students will need to commit to a venue.

The fee to sit the Part I will be \$150.00.

Failure to pass Part I will result in candidates having to re-sit in six months (at the earliest). If candidates fail twice, approval from NZATS Examination Board Executive is required before the examination can be sat again.

Part II

Part II section will be held in **March and October**, 4 - 6 weeks following Part I and will be held in Auckland, Palmerston North or Christchurch.

The Part II section will consist up to 15, 7minute Structured, Clinical Examinations' (OSCEs).

The fee to sit the Part II examination will be \$495.00.

Examination Process – Part II

The OSCEs will consist of up to 15 stations.

During this examination the candidate will move in a controlled sequence from station to station.

The traditional **Machine check Component of the Registration Exams has gone**. It has been replaced with up to 5 OSCE stations with the focus on testing, checking or describing the function of a particular part of the machine. A pass in all these OSCE stations is required.

The other stations may include short scenarios, written answers or the candidate may be asked viva questions. The candidates may also be asked to demonstrate a specific skill at a station. The candidates will rotate through the stations at 7-9 minute intervals.

An overall pass rate of 12 out of the 15 OSCEs must be achieved. Examples of OSCEs will be posted on the web-site. The range of topics is as for the Part I MCQ questions.

The observer who is not an examiner in training will not attend examination meetings nor contribute in any way to the outcome of any candidates result.

7.5 Further Conditions

Fees

Fees for Parts I and II to be verified as appropriate by the NZATS accountant. Fees may be subject to change as required.

Refund:

Candidates will be eligible for a refund if they notify the secretary of their withdrawal 10 days prior to the exam.

Illness or other circumstances

If a candidate withdraws on the day of the examination due to illness or bereavement the examination fee will be credited to the next scheduled examination. Candidates in these circumstances will not be charged a 10% processing fee. However, should there have been an increase in the fee structure, any difference between the fees of the two examination must be paid by the candidate. A medical certificate will be required (candidate to be encouraged to see a local doctor).

Feedback

Candidates will have the opportunity to provide feedback on process, venue, format and documentation, however:

Complaints Process

There is a complaints process available to candidates. All complaints must be brought to the attention of the Exam Facilitator on the day of the exam. The complaint must then be sent in writing and post marked within 7 days of the date of the exam, to the Exam Facilitator at:

C/o Sonia Botica
Examinations' Secretary
Level 2, Operating Theatres
Short Stay Surgical Unit
Greenlane Site
Greenlane
Auckland

The NZATS Executive, in consultation with the moderators and examiners, may change the format of the Registration Examination.

The NZATS Executive, in consultation with the moderators and examiners, may review the examination fee to meet the expenses of conducting the examination.

Candidates will be notified of their results by courier post. No candidate will be advised by telephone, e-mail or direct conversation.