



PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION FOR NZSTA MEMBERSHIP UNDER THE AGREEMENT FOR THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION CREDENTIALS 2008

These instructions apply to ASHA certificate holders, certified members of CASLPA, RCSLT and Speech Pathology Australia and full members of IASLT applying for NZSTA membership under the Agreement for the Mutual Recognition of Professional Association Credentials (MRA) 2008.

1. Please read all instructions before completing and submitting your application to NZSTA.
2. Any questions should be directed to the NZSTA Executive Officer. Alternatively see the MRA webpage <http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz/nzsta-membership/mutual-recognition-agreement-1> for additional information.
3. Individuals who hold certification/full membership in speech-language pathology/speech language therapy by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA), the Irish Association of Speech Language Therapists (IASLT), the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT), and the Speech Pathology Association of Australia Limited (Speech Pathology Australia) are eligible to use the Application for NZSTA Membership Under MRA when applying for membership with the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists' Association (NZSTA).
4. All applicants must review the requirements under MRA and determine if they meet the criteria. Applicants who do not meet the criteria under MRA may still be eligible to apply for membership of NZSTA through the Qualifications Approval Process. See <http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz/nzsta-membership/qualifications-approval-process> for more information.
5. All applicants must complete the entire application form, including the Consent and Declaration section. Failure to complete the entire application will result in the application being rejected.
6. Full payment of \$600 (in New Zealand Dollars), must be submitted with the application. Incomplete payment will result in the application being rejected.
7. All applicants must read and agree to abide by the NZSTA Code of Ethics. This document can be accessed from the NZSTA website at <http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz/about-nzsta/ethics>
8. All applicants must request a **letter of good standing** from their Home Association attesting that they;
 - a. hold current certification/membership (i.e., are a practising member of the profession)
 - b. are in good standing (i.e., have paid the fees for the Home Association and have no outstanding complaints or disciplinary proceedings against them).

¹ 'Certified evidence' is a "certified true copy". For more information see point 12.

9. The **letter of good standing** must be dated and must be obtained no more than one year prior to submission for NZSTA membership. Letters dated more than one year prior to submission will **not** be considered and a current letter will be requested. All letters of good standing must be sent directly from the applicant's Home Association to NZSTA, and must be on association letterhead with an original signature of an authorised representative of the Home Association.
10. Applicants with speech-language therapy degree qualifications completed in a language other than English, or those for whom English is their second language must attach an **original copy** of IELTS "Academic" results. Applicants must have a minimum average score of 8.0 across each of the four categories with a minimum score of 8.5 in the spoken module.
11. The following additional requirements must be met and evidence provided as specified below:

ASHA

ASHA certification holders:

Certified¹ evidence of 1000 hours of speech-language therapy practice within the past 5 years. Speech-language therapy practice is defined as being engaged in the activities of speech-language therapy as a practitioner, administrator, educator, researcher or any combination of these and receiving remuneration for those activities.

ASHA certification holders who graduated with a master's degree in speech-language therapy pathology prior to 1998:

Certified¹ evidence of competency in dysphagia assessment, diagnosis and management, either through evidence of specific courses or previous experience. Please see *Guide to Evidence of Dysphagia Competency* on the NZSTA website.

CASLPA

Clinically certified members of CASLPA

Certified¹ evidence of having completed one year of supervised clinical speech language therapy practice in the country of certification. Clinical practice is defined as no less than 36 weeks of full time clinical practice of at least 30 hours per-week paid employment.

Certified¹ evidence of 1000 hours of speech-language therapy practice within the past 5 years. Speech-language therapy practice is defined as being engaged in the activities of speech-language therapy as a practitioner, administrator, educator, researcher or any combination of these and receiving remuneration for those activities.

Clinically certified members of CASLPA certified prior to 1999:

Certified¹ evidence of competency in dysphagia assessment, diagnosis and management, either through evidence of specific courses or previous experience. Please see *NZSTA Guide to Evidence of Dysphagia Competency* on the NZSTA website.

¹ 'Certified evidence' is a "certified true copy". For more information see point 12.

IASLT

Full members of IASLT:

Certified¹ evidence of competency in dysphagia assessment, diagnosis and management, either through evidence of specific courses or previous experience. Please see *Guide to Evidence of Dysphagia Competency* on the NZSTA website.

RCSLT

Certified members of RCSLT:

Certified¹ evidence of competency in dysphagia assessment, diagnosis and management, either through evidence of specific courses or previous experience. Please see *Guide to Evidence of Dysphagia Competency* on the NZSTA website.

Speech Pathology Australia

Certified members of Speech Pathology Australia:

Certified¹ evidence of having completed one year of supervised clinical speech language therapy practice in the country of certification. Clinical practice is defined as no less than 36 weeks of full time clinical practice of at least 30 hours per-week paid employment.

12. A **Certified¹ true copy** is a photocopy which has been certified as a true copy by either a Solicitor/Lawyer/Notary or Justice of the Peace. Original document(s) which have been altered cannot be certified. Please note:-

The Solicitor/Lawyer/Notary or Justice of the Peace **must** see the original document(s) and **must** provide the following on the copy:

- a. PRINT his/her Name and Position/Title (must be a Solicitor/Lawyer/Notary or Justice of the Peace)
 - b. The date the certified true copy was made
 - c. The address and telephone number of the person certifying the document(s)
 - d. The signature of the person certifying the document(s)
 - e. A stamp or wording indicating "This photocopy is a true copy of the original document which has not been altered in any way", or wording of similar effect.
13. Applicants are advised to make copies of all original documents before sending these to the address on the application form.
14. Once membership is granted by NZSTA, the successful applicant will have the same rights and privileges and be subject to the same responsibilities, obligations and restrictions as all other NZSTA members. These include maintenance of membership through annual payment of fees, adherence to the Code of Ethics and participation in continuing professional development.
15. Should NZSTA membership lapse, applicants wishing to reinstate their application will be required to do so according to the policies and procedures in effect at the time of the new application.

¹ 'Certified evidence' is a "certified true copy". For more information see point 12.

16. Individual Signatory Associations may request specific information on the success and failure of this application should the applicant apply for mutual recognition with any of the other associations.
17. Non-identifying information may be used in the compilation of reports to go to all parties of the Agreement to monitor its functioning. This report will not be released to the general public. Parties external to the Agreement may be supplied only with general information on the statistics.
18. An applicant's membership status will be made accessible to the public should NZSTA membership be granted.

¹ 'Certified evidence' is a "certified true copy". For more information see point 12.