

# Overseas Qualifications Fact Sheet

## Are my overseas qualifications recognised in Australia?

If you would like to join AMT, you must hold a nationally recognised Australian qualification. AMT does not accept overseas qualifications.

## What are the current nationally recognised qualifications for massage therapists?

The main nationally recognised qualifications for massage therapists are the HLT42021 Certificate IV in Massage Therapy Practice and the HLT52021 Diploma of Remedial Massage.

## What is the framework for nationally recognised qualifications?

The Australian Qualifications Framework (commonly known as the AQF) is a unified system of national qualifications in schools, vocational education and training centres (government and private providers) and the higher education sector (mainly universities). Qualifications delivered within this framework range from Certificate I through to Doctoral degrees. The AQF links all these qualifications and is a highly visible, quality-assured national system of educational recognition. For more information about the AQF, please visit the AQF website: <https://www.aqf.edu.au/>

National Competency Standards were introduced for massage therapy in 2002 as part of the Health Training Package. Nationally recognised training for massage therapists is currently delivered exclusively through the VET (Vocational Education and Training) sector in government (TAFE) and private Registered Training Organisations (RTOs).

## How do I gain recognition with the qualifications I have?

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is an alternative pathway to achieve nationally recognised certificate and diploma qualifications via an RTO. An RPL will assess your acquired skills, knowledge and abilities by matching your previous training, work or life experiences to the requirements of a nationally recognised qualification or a Statement of Attainment for part of a qualification.

## Who will issue my qualification?

It will come from an Australian Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

## How do I find an RTO?

We suggest visiting the [myskills.gov.au](https://myskills.gov.au) site and searching for at least three RTOs against the current course codes (HLT42021 and HLT52021). Your search should include at least one or two private RTOs and TAFE colleges to achieve a good understanding of variation and delivery of service.

AMT is unable to recommend or endorse one RTO over another.

## What should I have ready prior to talking with an RTO?

The more documentation you have about your training, particularly in terms of hours, content and clinical experience, the smoother the process will be.



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## What questions should I ask an RTO?

- How is your RPL structured?
- How long will Recognition of Prior Learning take? (This process varies between organisations as well as how much evidence and documentation you have about yourself)
- What evidence and documentation is required?
- Do you take work experience and continuing education into consideration?
- What costs are involved?
- Will you issue me with a qualification?

## Does AMT accept a Letter of Equivalence for membership?

No, only a HLT42021 Certificate IV in Massage Therapy Practice and the HLT52021 Diploma of Remedial Massage are accepted.

## Once I have gained a nationally recognised qualification, can I practice anywhere in Australia?

Yes.

## Once I have gained a nationally recognised qualification, can I become a health fund provider?

Yes but you need to meet a number of requirements first. Becoming a member of a professional massage therapist association such as AMT would be your first step.

## What is some of the commonly used terminology that I am likely to experience when seeking RPL?

**Assessment** is a process of making professional judgement on collected evidence, to enable an assessor to decide whether competency has been achieved.

**Competency standards** are specifications of performance determined by specific industries that set out the skills, knowledge and attitudes required to operate effectively in an industry or profession. Competency standards are made up of units of competency, which are themselves made up of elements of competency, together with performance criteria, a range of variables and an evidence guide.

**Gap Training** is where knowledge of skill are identified, a training plan can be prepared to complete the competency or qualification.

**Qualification** in the vocational education and training sector, a qualification is the formal certification issued by a Registered Training Organisation. A qualification means a person has achieved all the requirements for that qualification, as specified in an endorsed National Training Package or an accredited course.

### Registered Training Organisation (RTO)

An RTO is an organisation registered to issue nationally recognised qualifications or statements of attainment for units of competency from training packages or accredited courses. This is the organisation that issues your recognition.

### Statement of Attainment

A nationally recognised statement awarded for the attainment of units of competency that partially contributes to completion of a qualification.

### Training Package

A Training Package is a set of nationally endorsed standards and qualifications used to train, assess and recognise the skills and knowledge that people need to perform effectively in the workplace.

### Unit of Competency

This is a description of the job or work function that you need to perform and the standard of performance and knowledge required to be competent.



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