

## HGSA REQUIREMENTS FOR GENETIC COUNSELLORS TRAINED, CERTIFIED, OR REGISTERED OVERSEAS

Published 3 February 2023. Refer to the online [HGSA Policies and Position Statements](#) for Genetic Counsellors for more detailed and current information

CANADA (CBGC)	Genetic counsellors who have trained overseas may apply to the Professional Practice Committee for MHGSA status. MHGSA genetic counsellors working in Australia or New Zealand will then be eligible to undertake the FHGSA Clinical Certification process once they can demonstrate that they meet the clinical practice, supervision, and CPD requirements.
	CCGC genetic counsellors certified by the CBGC will be eligible to apply for FHGSA Clinical Certification by Reduced Portfolio. They will need to be working in Australia or New Zealand in order to apply.
EUROPE (EBMG)	Genetic counsellors who have trained overseas may apply to the Professional Practice Committee for MHGSA status. MHGSA genetic counsellors working in Australia or New Zealand will then be eligible to undertake the FHGSA Clinical Certification process once they can demonstrate that they meet the clinical practice, supervision, and CPD requirements.  The HGSA doesn't currently have any reduced portfolio or modified requirements for EBMG Registered Genetic Counsellors.
SOUTH AFRICA (HPSCA)	Genetic counsellors who have trained overseas may apply to the Professional Practice Committee for MHGSA status. MHGSA genetic counsellors working in Australia or New Zealand will then be eligible to undertake the FHGSA Clinical Certification process once they can demonstrate that they meet the clinical practice, supervision, and CPD requirements.
	HPSCA Registered genetic counsellors are eligible to apply for MHGSA. They will need to be working in Australia or New Zealand in order to apply to undertake FHGSA Clinical Certification by Reduced Portfolio.
UK (GCRB)	Genetic counsellors who have trained overseas may apply to the Professional Practice Committee for MHGSA status. MHGSA genetic counsellors working in Australia or New Zealand will then be eligible to undertake the FHGSA Clinical Certification process once they can demonstrate that they meet the clinical practice, supervision, and CPD requirements.
	GCRB Registered genetic counsellors will be eligible to make a submission for Reciprocal FHGSA Clinical Certification (with some portfolio requirements). They will need to be working in Australia or New Zealand in order to apply.
USA (ABGC)	Genetic counsellors who have trained overseas may apply to the Professional Practice Committee for MHGSA status. MHGSA genetic counsellors working in Australia or New Zealand will then be eligible to undertake the FHGSA Clinical Certification process once they can demonstrate that they meet the clinical practice, supervision, and CPD requirements.
	CGC genetic counsellors certified by the ABGC are eligible to apply for MHGSA. They will need to be working in Australia or New Zealand in order to apply to undertake FHGSA Clinical Certification by Reduced Portfolio.

## OVERSEAS REQUIREMENTS FOR HGSA TRAINED, CERTIFIED, OR REGISTERED GENETIC COUNSELLORS

Published 3 February 2023. Refer to the overseas bodies for more detailed and current information

	OVERSEAS BODY REQUIREMENTS	OVERSEAS REFERENCE DOCUMENT	NOTES:
CANADA (CBGC)	<p>Exam Pathway B- Candidates who are graduates of a Masters program in Genetic Counselling, at an international university that is not ACGC accredited. Candidates applying through Pathway B must submit their first application within 5 years of graduation.</p> <hr/> <p>FHGSA: Exam Pathway D-Candidates who are graduates of a Masters program in Genetic Counselling at an international university, have a current certification from, are in good standing with, the HGSA. Although clinical experience in a genetic counselling role in Canada is strongly encouraged, it is not a requirement.</p>	<p><a href="#">Canadian Board of Genetic Counselling-Certification</a> (last updated November 2022)</p>	<p>Pathway A-Candidates who are graduates of a Masters program in Genetic Counselling accredited by an <a href="#">Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC)</a> accredited program. This category does not apply, as HGSA is an <a href="#">American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC)</a> Recognised Accrediting Body, but HGSA courses are not accredited by the ACGC. The ACGC is also an ABGC Recognised Accrediting Body, but the ACGC (course accreditation) and ABGC (certification) are separate bodies.</p> <p>Logbook and referees may require involvement of a CBGC or ABGC certified genetic counsellor.</p> <p>Candidates who meet the criteria to apply to write the Canadian certification examination are considered to be 'Board Eligible'. This term is used by the candidate at their discretion (e.g. for job applications). The CBGC does not deem a candidate eligible to write the examination until their application has been approved.</p>
EUROPE (EBMG)	<p>Practitioners may apply for entry onto the European register system with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-current registration in the country of origin/training</li> <li>-two years of work experience, with at least 1 of these years in Europe</li> <li>-two European references and the evidence of their national registration.</li> <li>-regular relevant CPD</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">European Board of Medical Genetics: European Registration Process</a></p> <p><a href="#">European Board of Medical Genetics: 8. International Arrangements</a> (Published 11/19/19, dated 03.May.2018, to be reviewed every 5 years)</p>	<p>There is no route to registration available to genetic counsellors who have trained outside of Europe who do not hold valid and current registration in the country in which they trained.</p> <p>The HGSA Board of Censors for Genetic Counselling has been assessed and approved by the EBMG as a national registration system.</p>
SOUTH AFRICA (HPSCA)	<p>Board evaluation requires the submission of a portfolio of evidence demonstrating acquired skills and knowledge in various areas as required by the national curriculum for the various disciplines of registration (i.e. genetic counsellor).</p> <p>MHGSA? Those with foreign qualifications who do not provide satisfactory proof of internship and/or are not registered as medical scientists outside South Africa shall be required to perform internship for a period of 24 months.</p> <hr/> <p>FHGSA? Foreign graduates (South African citizens or Foreign Nationals) who have proof of sufficient intern training and who have been working in a diagnostic/clinical environment and registered with an approved foreign authoritative body will need to complete a minimum of six (6) months of supervised practice, as decided by the board. Please note that foreign applicants will need to practice in public service until they obtain South African residency/citizenship.</p>	<p><a href="#">Health Professions Council of South Africa-Medical and Dental Professions Board</a></p> <p><a href="#">Guideline for the registration of qualifications not prescribed for registration as Medical Scientists: CMS 04 (V1 2020)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Regulations relating to the registration of persons who hold qualifications not prescribed for registration: Published under Government Notice R101, Government Gazette 31859, 6 February 2009</a></p>	<p>Unclear whether practical placement during Masters would suffice as “internship”, or if this is more aligned with achievement of FHGSA.</p> <p>To work in independent practice, the practitioner is required to be a South African Citizen. Otherwise, Registration/practice is restricted to the public service.</p>

UK (GCRB)	<p>Genetic counsellors who have completed a ‘recognised’ overseas MSC in Genetic Counselling but who have not yet completed certification/registration in their home country will have to gain clinical experience, working for at least 2 years in the UK as a Genetic Counsellor before being eligible to apply for registration by completing a full UK portfolio. The GCRB will accept MSc courses approved by the Human Genetics Society of Australasia</p>	<p><a href="#">Prospective Registrants - Genetic Counsellor Registration Board</a></p> <p><a href="#">UK Registration of Overseas Genetic Counsellors Version 2 Date: March 2020</a></p> <p><a href="#">Applicant Guidelines Version 9 Date: October 2022</a></p>	
USA (ABGC)	<p>Exam eligibility: Category 4</p> <p>Internationally trained Genetic Counselors who hold a current registration/certification from an international body and who have earned a master’s degree from a genetic counseling program that has achieved accreditation/ recognition from an ABGC recognized accrediting body may be eligible to apply for the examination. Applicants who are determined eligible through this pathway will have three attempts within five years from the date of ABGC recognition of the accrediting body or the date of individual registration/certification, whichever is more recent.</p>	<p><a href="#">ABGC - American Board of Genetic Counseling</a></p> <p><a href="#">Information for the American Board of Genetic Counseling Certification Examination Bulletin</a></p>	<p>HGSA is an <a href="#">ABGC Recognised Accrediting Body</a>.</p> <p>Need written clarification and awaiting update to the Examination Bulletin on whether Category 4 applies to new graduates who hold Active Registration status with the HGSA, or to graduates of HGSA Accredited programs prior to ABGC recognition (12 May, 2020).</p>

Additional helpful documentation:

[American Board of Genetic Counselors and HGSA Recognition Letter](#)

[Canadian Board of Genetic Counselors and HGSA Recognition Letter](#)