



# COUNCIL FOR THE PROFESSIONS COMPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE

BENCHMARKING DOCUMENT

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Environmental Health

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**The Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine is issuing this Benchmarking Document for Environmental Health in the performance of its functions as defined by Article 27 of the Health Care Professions Act, Chapter 464 of the Laws of Malta and in terms of Article 28 Health Care Professions Act, Chapter 464 of the Laws of Malta and Subsidiary Legislation 454.16 Professions Complimentary to Medicine (Licence to Practice) Regulations.**

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# **Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine (MALTA)**

## **Benchmarking Document for Registration Requirements in the Environmental Health (EH) Register**

### **Introduction**

This document outlines Malta's Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine (CPCM) standards of proficiency for the Environmental Health profession. Via this document the CPCM is setting the minimum registration requirements for Environmental Health profession. These standards are the threshold standards considered necessary to protect members of the public and via which qualified applicants in the Environmental Health profession are able to apply for registration in the EH (Environmental Health) register kept by the CPCM.

This benchmarking document is to be adopted by the CPCM to evaluate and assess applications to be registered as Environmental Health Professionals and practice within the jurisdiction of Malta. They also serve as guidance to the CPCM on how to address substantive differences from these standards.

### **Description and Scope of Practice**

#### Occupational Description

The health of the community at large is the mission that all Environmental Health professionals have to keep in mind. A healthy environment free from disease and other environmental stressors and safe food are the objective sought after by the Environmental health professions. The Environmental Health Professionals' work is to prevent disease and create a health-supportive environment by:

- providing support and advice on Environmental Health, Public Health, and Food Legislation and Regulations
- investigating cases where public health is at risk
- inspecting, monitoring, sampling and taking other effective measures to safeguard public health
- auditing of food safety management systems and water systems
- providing recommendations and education campaigns on environmental health where necessary
- participating in research programmes
- keeping themselves updated on the latest research and regulations

To perform this work, the Environmental Health Professionals should have the following characteristics:

- committed to safeguard public health
- enthusiastic
- have good communication skills
- investigative
- meticulous
- proactive approach
- organised
- able to testify in court proceedings

## Level of Qualification

The CPCM considers applications from applicants who have successfully completed a BSc degree in Environmental Health of at least three years with a total of 180 ECTS credits at an MQF/EQF (Malta/European Qualification Framework) level of 6 or higher at an Institution recognised by the Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC) within the National Commission for Further and Higher Education in Malta (NCFHE).

The CPCM understands that a number of programmes may be at, or above, the standard outlined, and that there may be some exceptions, so applications will be taken on a case-by-case basis to verify that the standard requirements as outlined by this document is met.

Courses delivered online are not accepted.

### The applicant needs to:

- Provide a detailed transcript of Theoretical and Practical Training and Studies in hours associated with the Environmental Health Qualification and in relation with the syllabus performed by the accredited institution. This has to be endorsed in the original format by the Institution's Head/Registrar of the University/College; and
- Provide the course description, including study unit details.

## Language Proficiency

Proficiency in both the Maltese **and** English language is a core skill for the Environmental Health professional.

The CPCM requires those applicants who wish to register in the Environmental Health register, to provide proof of language proficiency as defined in Annex A.

## Evaluation of Application

On Evaluation of the application the Council may choose to do one or more of the following:

- Grant registration
- Ask for further clarification if and when required
- Ask for the applicant to attend an interview
- Reject the application if the qualification is not adequate and in line with this benchmark
- Be asked to carry out a period of supervised practice or undergo an aptitude test.

## Minimum curriculum requirements

This standard ensures that the curriculum meets the standards for professional knowledge, skills and attitudes as expected by CPCM and therefore the applicant would be considered fit to practise in Malta.

The CPCM is aware that standards are continuously being updated over time. This document refers to the minimum general subject areas (but not restricted to) that the course needs to offer for the applicant to be successfully considered as a Registered Environmental Health Professional. The course programme successfully completed will reflect the skills and knowledge base that ensure that an applicant, once registered, is able to work as an independent and autonomous professional.

The applicant must be registered with the national regulator in the country of origin (if the profession is regulated in that country).

The core modules expected to be covered in the course of studies should cover the following topics:

Food Quality and Safety

Environmental Issues

Public Health

Personal Skills and Development

Evidence Based practice

## **Practice and Training**

Applicants seeking registration will be required to submit documentary evidence of the supervised/mentored training in the form of either a student portfolio or a logbook duly signed by the supervisor. These will include the practical sessions undertaken showing the key defined learning objectives. The supervised training is expected to **be of a minimum of 200 hours**.

For those carrying out the training after graduation, the mentioned practice has to be carried out under the direct supervision of a CPCM registered and licensed Environmental Health professional with a minimum of 5 years work experience in the field or by the Environmental Health national regulator in the country of origin (if the profession is regulated in that country).

This document has been prepared by the CPCM Environmental Health Subcommittee in consultation with the Malta Environmental Health Officers Association July 2023

## ANNEX A

### **Language Proficiency Requirements by The Council for The Professions Complementary to Medicine**

The Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine requires applicants to meet the Council's level of Proficiency (both spoken and written) in one of the official languages in Malta, .

All professionals seeking registration are requested to present either one of the following:

1. A Maltese and English language certificate; **OR**
  - (i) An Ordinary Level MATSEC certificate (MQF level 3); OR  
<https://myexams.gov.mt/matsec-examinations/>
  - (ii) An Advanced/Intermediate Level MATSEC certificate (MQF level 4); OR  
<https://myexams.gov.mt/matsec-examinations/>
2. Any other proof of English or Maltese language Proficiency.

Additionally, should the applicant choose to opt for other forms of proving language proficiency, the applicant can opt for either one of the following Secure English Language Tests.

Should the applicant opt for this, the below is the list of Examining Boards recognized by the Council and the minimum required standards accepted by the Council in terms of the table below (or equivalent);

<b>Examining Board</b>	<b>TOEFL Internet-Based (iBT)</b>	<b>IELTS (Academic)</b>	<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>Occupational English Test (OET)</b>
<b>Required Level</b>	95	6.5	Advanced Certificate	B
<b>Remarks</b>	A writing score of at least 24 is required.	Required with a minimum of 6.0 in all elements.	A pass at a grade C or better is required.	A grade B or better is required in all components.

Any other Secure English Language Tests which are equivalent to those mentioned in the table above will also be considered.

