



COUNCIL FOR THE PROFESSIONS
COMPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE

Benchmarking document

Medical Laboratory
Science

The Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine is issuing this Benchmarking Document for Medical Laboratory Science 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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Introduction

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

This benchmarking document has been adopted by the CPCM to evaluate and assess applications to be registered as Medical Laboratory Scientists and practise 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

Biomedical Scientists are qualified professionals who must be registered with the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine in the respective register as Medical Laboratory Scientists. Through laboratory investigations, Medical Laboratory Scientists carry out various scientific test to support the diagnosis and provide results which held other medical professionals in the prevention and treatment of pathological conditions.

Level of Qualification

- Number of ECTS of the course programme should be equivalent to that of the University of Malta as approved with the CPCM;
- Verification from the National Commission for Further & Higher Education; that the awarding body is recognised and verified;
- MQF/EQF level rating of at least 6;
- Proof (supervised) that candidate has been exposed to the practical aspect of the following subjects and number of hours for each (or part thereof):
 - Haematology, Haemostasis/Coagulation and Flow Cytometry 60 hours
 - Clinical Chemistry 40 hours
 - Immunology 40 hours
 - Blood Transfusion 40 hours
 - Histopathology 80 hours
 - Microbiology 80 hours

In cases where the number of hours requested cannot be proven, candidate shall be requested to sit an interview with a possibility of refusal; adaptation period including supervised portfolio and/or practical experience; or approval.

The applicant needs to:

- Provide a detailed transcript of Theoretical and Practical Training and Studies in hours associated with the Orthoptics 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.
- Provide the course description, including study unit details.

Language Proficiency

More details on the Council's level of Proficiency in the English Language can be found at Annexe A at the end of this document.

Evaluation of Application

On evaluation of the application the Council may choose to do one of the following:

- Grant registration;
- Ask for further clarification 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; and
- 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 Medical Laboratory Scientists. 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 practitioner.

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.

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 Medical Laboratory Scientists and the logbook duly signed. Hours of practice included as part of Research Projects will be assessed on a case by case basis.

CPCM MALTA

Other CPCM documents to be considered in conjunction with this Benchmarking Document:

1. Codes of Professional and Ethical Conduct

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/regcounc/cpcm/Documents/Codes%20of%20Professional%20and%20Ethical%20Conduct%20-%20March%202019.pdf>

2. Code of Practice (Medical Laboratory Science)

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/regcounc/cpcm/Documents/Medical%20Laboratory%20Science%20Code%20of%20Practice.pdf>

This document has been prepared by the CPCM Medical Laboratory Science Subcommittee –
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ANNEXE 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 in the English or the Maltese Language.

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

1. A Maltese 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/>
 - (iii) A Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate.
<https://www.um.edu.mt/arts/malti/korsijiet/medicalmaltesecourse>
2. The applicant can provide evidence that his/her professional qualification(s) (on the basis of which he/she is applying for registration) was/were acquired through the medium of English or Maltese and that practice placements in that/those qualification(s) were undertaken and supervised through the medium of English or Maltese; **OR**

3. The applicant can provide evidence that s/he has **lived in and practised** his/her profession through the medium of English or Maltese in a country that has English or Maltese recognised as the official language of that country for a period of **not less than 2 years in the past five-year period; OR**
4. 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);

Examining Board	TOEFL Internet-Based (iBT)	IELTS (Academic)	Cambridge	Occupational English Test (OET)
Required Level	95	6.5	Advanced Certificate	B
Remarks	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.