

Nutrition Society of Australia (NSA)



NSA Voluntary Register of Nutritionists

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THE NUTRITION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (NSA): A BRIEF HISTORY

Interest in forming a scientific society for nutritionists in Australia began to grow in the early 1970s. Australian scientists had long been recognised in animal nutrition and there was increasing interest in the science of human nutrition. The first step was taken by a small group of scientists in Melbourne led by Dr Richard Read of Deakin University, who convened a meeting in March, 1974, to form the Melbourne Group of a proposed Nutrition Society of Australia. The first scientific meeting was held at the University of Melbourne in August 1976. The Society has held a scientific meeting each year since then. The Society has seen an increasing proportion of its membership drawn from the field of human nutrition since that time. This development reflects not only the continued interest of Australians in all aspects of human nutrition but also substantial reductions in funding for research and teaching in animal nutrition. These changes have, if anything, made more important the role of the Society in providing a forum in which human and animal nutritionists can meet and exchange knowledge and discuss issues and points of view on nutrition science.

The NSA comprises a group of qualified, practising scientists and educators from divergent disciplines who are brought together by a common interest in the research and application of nutrition. We meet locally and nationally at an Annual Scientific Meeting to discuss specific scientific topics. Our Annual Scientific Meeting is the only national forum where all aspects of nutrition are reported and enthusiastically discussed. Our focus is mutual scientific support of members and our aim is to be at the hub of Australian nutrition related science. Our members include human nutritionists and dietitians, medical practitioners and nurses, agricultural scientists and veterinarians, food scientists, teachers and students. Our core goal is to increase and communicate the scientific value and relevance of nutrition science to Australian industry and consumers.

Modern professions – opportunities and perils

Alongside an increase in the number of professions, the desire for external oversight and transparent accountability also grows. Professional boundaries in the health sector are under pressure from the dynamic changes in the knowledge base, changes in the organisation of health and social services, and an increasingly demanding litigious consumer-oriented society. Therefore, a modern profession is one which must by necessity be dynamic and include continuing professional development. This in turn requires a strong discipline base whereby research has an organic relationship with practice: answering questions that arise in practice, shaping and redefining the evidence base for practice. Modern professions are also increasingly required to speak with a unified voice and to show rigorous oversight of their discipline. It is therefore vital that a coherent and rigorous accreditation process in the nutrition field is maintained, with the overall aim to: 'Promote safe, sound and effective practice in Nutrition for the benefit and protection of the public and industry'.



BACKGROUND TO NSA REGISTRATION OF NUTRITIONISTS IN AUSTRALIA

Introduction

The need for a system to validate the credentials of Australian nutritionists was first discussed by a Nutrition Society of Australia working party at RMIT University in 2000. Following discussions with stakeholders, a questionnaire was circulated in December 2000 to a total of 150 nutrition professionals, and a range of organisations with interest in this issue, including government agencies, food companies and member bodies of FANO (Federation of Australian Nutrition Organisations). The results of the questionnaire indicated an overwhelming support for a registration system whereby a register of qualified nutrition practitioners is created and maintained by the Nutrition Society of Australia. Both in the UK and New Zealand, accreditation of nutritionists has been in place for a number of years and the systems used are operating successfully.

Why is registration for nutritionists important?

The growth of public interest in the relationship between dietary intake and health is evident from the large number of articles, books, television and radio programs that now deal with nutrition related topics. In parallel with this trend is a demand for services and resources to inform and advise the public about ways to modify dietary intake with a view to optimising health. The public interest in nutrition is also reflected in the "reorientation of the broader Australian health sector via policies and health promotion initiatives" and the growth in the proportion of dietitians being employed in community nutrition and/or health promotion (Hughes and Somerset, 1997, p.40). However, apart from the Dietitians Association of Australia accreditation program (Accredited Practising Dietitian – APD) which recognises dietitians, who make up a small and specialised section of the broader nutrition community, there is as yet no system in Australia for recognising nutritionists who are not also trained as dietitians.

Nutrition practitioners often work in areas *outside* the health sector, such as in the media, in the food industry, in sport and recreation, in community development and in the education sector. As there is no regulation or control over practitioners calling themselves nutritionists, a multitude of untrained or minimally trained individuals portray themselves as nutritionists. This situation opens the possibility for misinformation to the public and other clients. Consequently there is a clear need for a registration program that addresses the problem. While nutrition knowledge and skills are a prerequisite for all nutritionists, most nutrition practitioners also require additional training and skills related to their specific area of practice. In the same way that the dietetic profession recognises a basic training in nutrition with further training in clinical nutrition skills as the basis for accreditation as a dietitian, there is now a need for other specialties in nutrition to define their basic requirements for professional recognition.

Problems of public confidence in nutrition advice

The mass media are an important source of information on nutrition for many in the general population and therefore have enormous potential to influence dietary behaviour. Commercial interests, especially the increasing proliferation of new 'diets' and dietary therapies have led to misleading and conflicting messages about the benefits of certain foods and the public can be confused by the inconsistency of these messages. Statutory or



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credible voluntary registration and accreditation schemes for professionals are important, to protect clients and the public.

Purpose of an accreditation system

As stated in the Nutrition Society UK Code of Ethics 'The purpose of the Register is to establish a list of appropriately qualified persons and in so doing to distinguish individuals who have received an approved level of training and experience from others who have not'.

Government and self regulation of health professionals

An understanding of how NSA registration of nutritionists could be achieved was developed through an investigation into the current status of regulation of health agencies by government and the practice of self regulation undertaken by professional organisations in Australia. The most relevant and recent documentation produced to date has been the Victorian Government Department of Human Services Discussion Paper: 'Regulation of the Health Professions in Victoria' (October 2003) which deals with the issues of:

- Criteria for accreditation
- Regulation of unregistered health professionals.

According to the discussion paper 'Self-regulation is recommended as a regulatory tool where the implications of non-compliance by members of a profession with its standards of practice are not catastrophic' (Office of Regulatory Reform 1995, p.27 quoted in Victorian Government Department of Human Services, 2003, *Regulation of the health professions in Victoria*, Policy and Strategic Projects Division, Canberra).

The Australian Health Minister's Advisory Council (AHMAC) criteria for regulation **by statute**, is based on the particular profession demonstrating that its practice presents serious risks to public health and safety and that these risks can be minimised by regulations. The rationale for regulation is further supported by the claim that 'given the majority of currently self regulated health professions are unlikely to meet the AHMAC criteria' (this would include nutritionists) there is considerable scope for self regulation to be improved and strengthened. (Victorian Government Department of Human Services, 2003, *Regulation of the health professions in Victoria*, p.126). Hence opening the way for accreditation of nutrition practitioners through a society based self-regulation process.

WHAT IS NUTRITION SCIENCE?

Definition of the science and practice of nutrition

The definitions used by the UK Nutrition Society for the science and practice of nutrition and the function of a nutritionist have been adapted for guidance in Australia:

- The *science* of nutrition encompasses all the physiological processes and biological interactions which occur between living organisms and the foods they consume, including the psychological, sociological, environmental (including ecological), cultural and technological factors which influence food choice, with a particular focus on the consequences for health.
- The *practice* of nutrition is to advance, apply and promote understanding of the effects of dietary components (from farm to plate) on growth, development, reproductive capacity, health and well-being in the population.



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- The *function* of a nutritionist can include research, but should also be: to elicit, disseminate and apply scientific knowledge drawn from the relevant sciences to promote health and prevent diet-related illness in the population.

A nutritionist can clearly have a diverse range of professional functions and operate in a wide variety of settings. Depending on the setting, a nutritionist may be involved in providing information and or training programs, in identifying new issues and directions or developing, implementing and evaluating nutrition policy. Depending on the context they may also have to deal with environmental, educational, economic, legal, social, as well as health-related issues. Because of the diversity of functions there are many disciplines other than nutrition with the potential to contribute to the nutritionist's knowledge and skills. It follows that a range of different educational pathways can prepare individuals for the practice of nutrition. Nonetheless, it is essential that all nutrition practitioners must have, as part of their training, exposure to a basic core of knowledge and skills in the science and practice of nutrition.

In summary: Nutrition science explores the capacity of an organism to nourish itself including factors that affect this capacity. It defines supply and requirements in terms of nutrients. It studies the effects of nutrient supply on the organism's functions, such as physical activity, in health and disease. Nutrition science studies the effect of diet on metabolism and the interaction of the genes with nutrients and is inclusive of social and environmental dimensions to the food and health relationship.

THE CHALLENGES FOR NUTRITIONISTS IN AUSTRALIA

Given the evidence of cynicism and public distrust of expertise in the community, statutory or responsible voluntary registration and accreditation schemes for professionals are an important way to protect client organisations, industry and the public. The challenge for nutritionists is to have a system that is workable and will be promoted and supported by their members and recognised by stakeholders and employers.

ABOUT THE NSA'S VOLUNTARY REGISTER

The NSA has established a system to validate the credentials of nutritional scientists, which will place successful applicants on a **Register of Nutritionists**. This process will recognise and encourage high standards of professional training in nutrition by the award of the letters **RNutr.** and the title **Registered Nutritionist**. The Register also includes a **Register of Public Health Nutritionists**, a specialist category of *Registered Nutritionists* which requires additional and specific qualifications and specific experience in public health nutrition. Registration confers the award of the letters **RPHNutr.** and the title **Registered Public Health Nutritionist**. The Register also includes a Register of Animal Nutritionists with specialised qualifications and experience in animal nutrition and confers the award of the letters **RANutr.** and the title **Registered Animal Nutritionist**. Each category is preceded by an initial three year "**Associate Nutritionist**" classification for new graduates. Subsequent accreditation to full registration in either of the three categories is based on experience and specialist training as discussed later.



PURPOSE OF THE NSA REGISTER

The key purpose of the **Register of Nutritionists, Public Health Nutritionists, and Animal Nutritionists** is to protect the public. It comprises a list of appropriately qualified persons and in so doing, distinguishes individuals who have received an approved level of professional training from others who have not. At the same time, the Register is a source of information on suitably qualified individuals, for those seeking advice on nutrition or offering employment in the field of nutrition. The NSA's Register provides an opportunity to recognise and encourage appropriate high standards of training and achievement in nutrition by the award of the letters *ANutr.*, *R Nutr.*, *RPHNutr.*, *RAnNutr.*

The NSA's Register also promotes professional development in nutrition. It facilitates the creation of formal links between registrants and stakeholders. It promotes wider appreciation of the roles fulfilled by *Registered Nutritionists* of all kinds. It helps to enable registrants to mutually support each others' personal and professional development.

SUMMARY OF THE REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Objectives of a registration system for nutritionists in Australia

- to provide consumers, employers and others who seek human nutrition services or advice with a way of identifying professionals who have achieved the accreditation standard
- to promote excellence in nutrition practice through recognition of appropriate education, professional development and achievement
- to provide a framework for personal and peer responsibility for continuing professional development
- to promote cohesion and collaboration between the various bodies involved in nutrition
- to increase the influence of evidence-based practice in nutrition with the public, media, employers and decision-makers
- to provide a framework for accountability of nutrition practitioners to the community
- to encourage stakeholders and employers to consider professional registration for nutritionists, public health nutritionists and animal nutritionists as a relevant criteria in job advertisements and career paths.

Principles of the "Registration System":

- is voluntary, equitable and accessible and is achieved through consistent, defensible and transparent processes
- is nationally consistent and determined by a properly constituted committee of nutrition professionals from the NSA
- registration must be maintained through continuing professional development



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- provides an identifier that is restricted to the accredited group and clearly identifies them as professionals who are appropriately qualified and have demonstrated the recognised competencies of a nutritionist
 - recognises formal and informal processes of learning occurring through life experience and in the workplace, in a way that is appropriate to the needs of the profession and the community
 - requires demonstration of appropriate competencies, knowledge, skills, attributes and attitudes
 - takes into account the wide range of backgrounds, disciplines and workplace applications of nutritionists
 - is compatible with equivalent overseas accreditation systems to allow cross-accreditation.

Criteria for NSA Registration

As most applicants will be recent graduates, this section deliberately concentrates on initial registration at the Associate level. Outlined below are the minimum criteria for initial accreditation to the level of **Associate Nutritionist (ANutr.)**:

An appropriate qualification in science at Bachelor level or equivalent which includes a major sequence in human nutrition and at least one other related subject area (including physiology, biochemistry, public health, consumer affairs, physical education/human movement, food science or other as determined on an individual basis by the NSA Registration Committee). Plus interaction with peers, continuing professional development (see below) and commitment to the NSA Code of Professional Conduct.

OR

Demonstration of current and past practice over a minimum three year period directly related to the discipline of human nutrition combined with undergraduate and/or postgraduate training in another science discipline and current membership of the Nutrition Society of Australia, or other as determined on an individual basis by the NSA Registration Committee. Plus interaction with peers, continuing professional development (see below) and commitment to the NSA Code of Professional Conduct.

Maintenance of registration would require demonstration of active participation in continuing professional development. This could include (but not limited by) evidence of involvement in some or all of the following:

- Attendance at conferences, seminars, workshops, continuing education and training program relevant to human nutrition.
- Professional supervision /mentoring and/or peer review.
- Contributions to changes/improvements in service delivery, health promotion initiatives, policy development, quality assurance activities and research.
- Presentations at conferences and other significant professional development programs.
- Publication of research findings in recognised peer reviewed journals.



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- Contributions to book chapters in reputable texts.
 - Publication of review articles in recognised peer reviewed journals.
 - Contribution to consumer understanding of nutrition/health issues through public media.
 - Others as deemed appropriate by the Registration Committee.

Logistics and costs of registration

Registration will involve an initial assessment based on the above criteria, followed by three-yearly review of professional development evidence. The costs involved have been kept to a minimum, but involve two types of payment: (i) an initial fee for processing the application, and (ii) a scrutiny fee for three-yearly assessment of the professional development (PD) evidence, or a change of category.

An applicant must upon acceptance of their qualifications to be accredited by the NSA, **become a member of the Society** to receive certification as a Registered Nutritionist or Associate Nutritionist and be placed on the NSA Register of Nutritionists. To maintain registration status, an individual must submit the professional development proforma with evidence attached every three years, with the required processing fee. A new certificate of accreditation will be issued every three years subject to these stipulations and the subjects name will be reaffirmed on the register for another three-year period. If membership lapses or professional development criteria are not met, an individual will be removed from the register of Registered Nutritionists maintained by the NSA.

- **Initial application fee for registration:** **\$150** (does not include annual NSA membership fee)
- **Three yearly PD assessment** **\$150** (does not include annual NSA membership fee)
- **Change of category** **\$100** (does not include annual NSA membership fee)

HOW THE REGISTER WORKS

The **Registration Committee** oversees and advises the Society about initial and continuing registration. The Chairman of the Registration Committee is a member of NSA National Council and reports directly to the NSA National Council.

Members of the Registration Committee are elected from the NSA membership as required, serve for a period of three years, and may be eligible for re-election.

The Registration Committee's main duties are to:

- Inspect the documentation submitted by applicants for registration and make recommendations to the NSA National Council as to acceptance or rejection of individuals to be placed on the Register of Nutritionists.
- Oversee the maintenance of the Register.



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- Approve the professional education and qualifications required for registration and set standards for continuing registration.
 - Consider complaints about professional standards of a registrant and, if necessary, remove the registrant from the Register.

For further information about the administration of registration, consult:

The NSA Constitution and **NSA Council Rules and Guidelines** on the Society's website www.nsa.asn.au.

Professional Affairs Committee

A Professional Affairs Committee oversees professional affairs in the NSA, including all aspects of registration. The Professional Affairs Committee is made up of senior members of the NSA appointed by the NSA National Council. The Professional Affairs Committee constitutes an **Appeal Committee** or **Panel** that acts as an arbiter in cases of appeal against a decision of the Registration Committee.

Registration Advisory Committee

A Registration Advisory Committee (RAC) provides academic, industry and legal advice to the Registration Committee as required. The RAC is made up of experts in the fields of nutrition, the media, consumer affairs and the law. Members of the RAC are appointed by invitation of the NSA Council for a period of three years and need not be NSA members.

HOW TO APPLY – NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

The Register is open to members of the NSA and individuals wishing to join the NSA, who have prescribed levels of qualifications and training or evidence of competency and who complete the application forms. Applicants for registration must agree to abide by the Society's **Code of Ethics and Statement of Professional Conduct**.

There are two steps to apply for registration:

- 1)** *Read carefully and fully this document "Australian Voluntary Register of Nutritionists". This tells you about registration and how to apply.*
- 2)** *Complete a registration form, which can be downloaded from the NSA website (www.nsa.asn.au) – and send the completed form, attached documentation and fee as described below.*

Note: To have registration granted once the Registration Committee have approved your application, you must be a member of NSA or have applied for membership and pay the required membership fee. You may apply for membership and registration at the same time, but membership *per se* does not guarantee placement on the Register of Nutritionists.



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Complete a **Nutritionist Registration Application Form** for the scrutiny of your application, and send it with the following documents to the NSA Registration Committee, PO Box 949, Kent Town, South Australia, 5071.

1. A concise, detailed CV showing evidence of the necessary qualifications.
2. Certified photocopies of certificate(s) of relevant qualifications and official transcripts of results.
3. A certified copy of a marriage certificate if there has been a name change.
4. The names of THREE academic or professional referees.
5. Overseas qualifications must be assessed against Australian standards by AEI (www.aei.gov.au/AEI/qualificationsrecognition)

CATEGORIES OF REGISTRATION

There are **three categories** of registration (Nutritionist, Public Health Nutritionist, Animal Nutritionist), each of which must be preceded by a three year period as an Associate Nutritionist (**ANutr.**) by recent graduates. If an applicant can show evidence of higher degree training or specialist training (including practical application for Public Health Nutritionists) in a nutrition field over a minimum of three years post initial degree, they may be eligible for immediate accreditation to the higher relevant category.

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What is the difference between Full and Associate registration?

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*Associate registration (**ANutr**) applies to qualified graduates with a BSc or other suitable qualification in nutrition or appropriate subject (as determined by the Registration Committee), who do not yet have enough experience to develop all the competencies required for full registration as a Nutritionist.*

*Registration as a Nutritionist (**RNutr, RPHNutr, RANutr**) applies to graduates with a BSc with honours and postgraduate qualification in nutrition or appropriate subject.*

OR

*Persons with current Associate registration (**ANutr**) plus relevant experience, normally 3 years or longer (with a higher degree involving practical application in the case of Public Health Nutritionists).*

OR

Persons with an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in a science field with an extensive history of employment in and/or contribution to the nutrition profession, as deemed suitable by the NSA Registration Committee.



ASSOCIATE REGISTRATION IN NUTRITION (ANutr)

The **Register of Associate Nutritionists** confers the award of the letters **ANutr.** and the title **Associate Nutritionist**. These designations recognise high standards of training that result in the award of a BSc majoring in nutrition, or other suitable qualification (*as determined by the Registration Committee*).

The designations are designed to assist the recent graduate to develop a career in nutrition science so that they can make rapid transition to full registration, with evidence of professional development, normally after three years of relevant professional experience in the practice of nutrition.

The Society reserves the right to vary the number of years experience required before full registration is granted, and regards relevant professional experience as employment within an organisation rather than self employment as suitable for evidence of professional development.

The requirements for registration as an **Associate Nutritionist** are (1 or 2 or 3) AND 4:

1. A BSc degree (or similar) or postgraduate degree awarded by a university or institute of higher education after satisfactory completion of a course of study which includes a major sequence in human nutrition and at least one other related subject area deemed acceptable by the NSA.

Or:

2. An acceptable degree from a university or higher education institution authorised to award degrees in nutrition or other appropriate subject. This will normally be a course with a sound basis in biosciences with major specialisation in nutrition science.

Or:

3. Alternative qualification that is acceptable to the Registration Committee, that develops competences in nutrition.

And:

4. All registrants must be able to satisfy the Registration Committee that they have adequate skills in written and verbal communication in English, and basic proficiency in the use of information technology.

Referees

THREE academic referees must be identified who are willing to certify that the applicant:

- Holds the requisite educational qualification(s) in nutrition.
- Has competence in nutrition for professional practice.
- Is of good character.

Referees have a responsibility to the public and to the registrant.



REGISTRATION IN NUTRITION (RNutr)

The **Register of Nutritionists** confers the award of the letters **RNutr.** and the title **Registered Nutritionist**. These designations recognise high standards of training that result in the award of a BSc plus a minimum of three years experience in a nutrition field (or a post graduate degree specialising in nutrition with experience, the total equivalent to be not less than three years) as deemed appropriate by the Registration Committee. In many cases it is anticipated that this three year period will be spent as a registered "**Associate Nutritionist**", however this is not mandatory. The Society reserves the right to vary the number of years experience required before full registration is granted.

The requirements for registration as a *Registered Nutritionist* are (1 or 2 or 3) AND 4 AND 5:

1. A BSc degree (or similar) or postgraduate degree awarded by a university or institute of higher education after satisfactory completion of a course of study which includes a major sequence in human nutrition and at least one other related subject area deemed acceptable by the NSA.

Or:

2. An acceptable degree from a university or higher education institution authorised to award degrees in animal nutrition or other appropriate subject. This will normally be a course with a sound basis in biosciences with major specialisation in nutrition science.

Or:

3. Alternative qualification that is acceptable to the Registration Committee, that develops competences in nutrition.

And:

4. Completion of a higher degree by research or course work in a related field or suitable work experience in the nutrition area (not self employment), the total of which must be not less than three years post initial Bachelors degree graduation and at the discretion of the Registration Committee.

And:

5. All registrants must be able to satisfy the Registration Committee that they have adequate skills in written and verbal communication in English, and basic proficiency in the use of information technology.

Referees

THREE academic referees must be identified who are willing to certify that the applicant:

- Holds the requisite educational qualification(s) in nutrition.
- Has competence in nutrition for professional practice.
- Is of good character.



REGISTRATION IN PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION (RPHNutr)

The **Register of Public Health Nutritionists** confers the award of the letters **RPHNutr.** and the title **Registered Public Health Nutritionist.** These designations recognise high standards of professional training in a postgraduate course (including practical application), deemed acceptable by the NSA, plus experience in public Health Nutrition. The total time post initial Bachelors degree graduation not to be less than three years. In many cases it is anticipated that this three year period will be spent as a registered "**Associate Nutritionist**", however this is not mandatory

The Society reserves the right to vary the number of years experience required before full registration is granted.

The requirements for registration as a Registered Public Health Nutritionist are (1 and 2 and 3):

1. A BSc degree (or similar) or postgraduate degree awarded by a university or institute of higher education after satisfactory completion of a course of study which includes a major sequence in human nutrition and at least one other related subject area deemed acceptable by the NSA.

And:

2. Completion of a higher degree in a public health related field (including practical application) and suitable experience in the public health sector, the total of which must be not less than three years post initial Bachelors degree graduation and at the discretion of the Registration Committee, or extensive work experience in the field of public health nutrition as deemed suitable by the NSA Registration Committee.

And:

3. All registrants must be able to satisfy the Registration Committee that they have adequate skills in written and verbal communication in English, and basic proficiency in the use of information technology.

Referees

THREE academic referees must be identified who are willing to certify that the applicant:

OR

- Holds the requisite educational qualification(s) in public health nutrition.
 - Has competence in public health nutrition for professional practice.
 - Is of good character.
- Referees have a heavy responsibility to the public and to the registrant.



REGISTRATION IN ANIMAL NUTRITION (RAnNutr)

The **Register of Animal Nutritionists** confers the award of the letters **RAnNutr.** and the title **Registered Animal Nutritionist.** These designations recognise high standards of training that result in the award of a BSc or a post graduate degree specialising in animal nutrition or experience in animal nutrition, over a period of not less than three years. In many cases it is anticipated that this three year period will be spent as a registered "**Associate Nutritionist**", however this is not mandatory. The Society reserves the right to vary the number of years experience required before full registration is granted.

The requirements for registration as a *Registered Animal Nutritionist* are (1 or 2 or 3) And 4 And 5:

1. A BSc degree (or similar) or postgraduate degree awarded by a university or institute of higher education after satisfactory completion of a course of study which includes a major sequence in animal nutrition and at least one other related subject area deemed acceptable by the NSA.

Or:

2. An acceptable degree from a university or higher education institution authorised to award degrees in animal nutrition or other appropriate subject. This will normally be a course with a sound basis in biosciences with major specialisation in animal nutrition science.

Or:

3. Alternative qualification that is acceptable to the Registration Committee, that develops competences in animal nutrition.

And:

4. Completion of a higher degree by research or course work in a related field or suitable experience in the animal nutrition area, the total of which must be not less than three years post initial Bachelors degree graduation and at the discretion of the Registration Committee.

And:

5. All registrants must be able to satisfy the Registration Committee that they have adequate skills in written and verbal communication in English, and basic proficiency in the use of information technology.

Referees

THREE academic referees must be identified who are willing to certify that the applicant:

- ◆ Holds the requisite educational qualification(s) in animal nutrition.
- ◆ Has competence in animal nutrition for professional practice.
- ◆ Is of good character.



IMMEDIATE FULL REGISTRATION

Applicants may be eligible for **full registration immediately** if they have an acceptable or approved qualification, and significant current relevant professional experience, normally lasting THREE consecutive years, in nutrition or a relevant specialist category of nutrition such as nutrition science, public health nutrition or animal nutrition. This may include postgraduate studies, hence completion of a PhD or similar in a nutrition related field may provide adequate training for full registration immediately (at the discretion of the Registration Committee). See details as presented in the previous section.

Full registration and its designations constitute formal recognition of professional competence, high standards of training, achievement and experience.

HOW TO APPLY FOR INITIAL FULL REGISTRATION

Provide:

1. A concise, detailed CV showing evidence of the necessary professional qualifications and current experience, for at least three years within the last five years (and relevant higher degree where applicable and mandatory for Public Health Nutritionists).
2. Certified photocopies of all degrees and certificate(s) of relevant qualifications and official transcripts, showing all subjects taken and results.
3. The names of THREE academic or professional referees.
4. A statement to explain how you have developed professional competency at practical or specialist levels.

TRANSITION FROM ASSOCIATE TO FULL REGISTRATION

Normally, after THREE (in the last five years), consecutive years of appropriate professional practice and or advanced qualifications as described in the previous section, in the field of nutrition, public health nutrition or animal nutrition and evidence of relevant professional development, an *Associate Registrant* will become eligible for full registration as a Registered Nutritionist (**R Nutr.**) or Registered Public Health Nutritionist (**RPHNutr.**) or Registered Animal Nutritionist (**RAnNutr.**).

Choice of specialist category will depend on the evidence of current scope of practice and on future career path. Associate Registrants will be required to submit evidence of their professional development in the form of a portfolio supported by a recent CV and a certified copy of additional qualification(s) if relevant; and at least ONE professional reference.



HOW TO APPLY TO TRANSFER FROM ASSOCIATE TO FULL REGISTRATION

Provide:

1. An up-to-date concise CV;
2. Portfolio showing evidence of relevant professional development, normally acquired during THREE years of contemporary (in the last five years) professional experience;
3. Certified photocopies of higher degrees and/or certificate(s) of relevant post-basic qualifications, and transcripts, showing subjects studied and results;
4. The name of at least ONE professional referee.

CONTINUING REGISTRATION

Continued registration is **subject to continued membership of the Society** and payment of the annual NSA membership fee.

Registration will be reviewed on a three yearly basis and will require evidence of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and a re-registration fee (evaluation of CPD fee). A new certificate of registration will then be granted for the following three-year period and the individual's name will be reaffirmed on the Register for a further three year period.