



VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Ministry of Welfare

REGULATION

on the education, rights and obligations of biomedical scientists and criteria for granting of licences and specialist licences, No. 1132/2012.

SECTION I

General provisions.

Article 1

Scope.

This Regulation applies to biomedical scientists holding licences and specialist licences from the Medical Director of Health under Articles 2 and 5.

SECTION II

Licences.

Article 2

Professional title.

The right to use the professional title of biomedical scientist and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those who have been granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 3

Criteria for granting of a licence.

A licence under Article 2 may be granted to those who have completed a BS degree in biomedical science followed by one year's study leading to a diploma in biomedical science from the biomedical science programme of the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences.

A licence may also be granted on the basis of education from a state within the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. Recognition of professional qualifications and competence of a biomedical scientist who meets the criteria of Directive 2005/36/EC, on the recognition of professional qualifications, with subsequent amendments, is subject to Regulation on recognition of professional qualifications and competence of healthcare practitioners from other EEA states, No. 461/2011, or to Nordic Convention on a common Nordic labour market for certain health professionals and veterinarians, No. 36/1993 (*cf.* Amendment No. 6/2001).

A licence may also be granted to those who have completed a comparable qualification from an educational institution in a state outside the EEA or Switzerland, which is recognised as such by Icelandic health authorities, and by health authorities in the state where the education took place.

Other criteria for the issue of a licence are subject to Article 12.

Article 4

Opinions.

Before a licence is granted under Article 2 on the basis of education outside Iceland under the third paragraph of Article 3, the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the biomedical science programme of the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences, with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the criteria for education under the first paragraph of Article 3, for granting of a licence.

The Medical Director of Health may elicit opinions from other bodies, as deemed necessary.

SECTION III

Specialist licences in biomedical science.

Article 5

Specialist licences.

The right to use the title of specialist in a specialty or specialised field of biomedical science and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 6

Criteria for specialist licences.

Specialist licences may be granted in clinical specialist field or specialised fields of biomedical science. This is subject to the criterion that the specialist training of the applicant is defined as being within the specialist field or specialised field for which he/she applies for a specialist licence.

The relevant specialist field or specialised field shall have a solid theoretical basis, and an equivalent shall exist in a recognised international forum.

A specialised clinical field or specialist field refers to research in biological sciences.

In order to be entitled to receive a specialist licence under Article 5 a biomedical scientist shall fulfil the following standards:

1. he/she shall be licensed as a biomedical scientist in Iceland under Article 2; and
2. he/she shall have completed a master's or doctoral degree in biomedical science from a recognised university, or hold an equivalent education; and
3. he/she shall have worked as a biomedical scientist after graduation under indent 2 for the equivalent of at least two years full-time in the specialty or field for which the application for a specialist licence is made. If he/she has worked less than full-time, the duration shall be proportionately longer.

Up to twelve months full-time may be subtracted if the person has been employed in the relevant specialised clinical field alongside doctoral studies.

Further criteria for the granting of a specialist licence are subject to Article 12.

Article 7

Application and opinions.

An application for a specialist licence in biomedical science, together with documents confirming education and professional experience, and other necessary documents, shall be submitted to the Medical Director of Health.

Before a specialist licence is granted under Article 5 on the basis of education outside Iceland, the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the biomedical science programme of the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences, with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the criteria of Article 6.

The Medical Director of Health may appoint a special committee to evaluate and comment upon applications for specialist licences.

The Medical Director of Health may elicit opinions from other bodies, as deemed necessary.

SECTION IV

Rights and obligations.

Article 8

Professional standards and responsibility.

A biomedical scientist shall show respect for the patient and perform his/her tasks vigilantly and conscientiously and in accordance with the professional standards required of the profession at any time.

A biomedical scientist must be aware of his/her duties and respect ethical rules of the profession, maintain his/her knowledge and professional skill, and master innovations in his/her field of work.

A biomedical scientist shall be familiar with legislation and regulations applying to healthcare practitioners and healthcare services, and other legislation and government directives, as applicable.

A biomedical scientist is responsible for the research in biological sciences he/she carries out.

A biomedical scientist shall recognise his/her professional limitations, and seek the assistance of another healthcare practitioner as necessary.