

# The Test of Competence – Myth buster

2019



## **Myth 1: The GCC does not need to run a test**

**Truth: The legislation says there has to be a test of competence in place for all non EU graduates.**

**Our starting point is that all come from CCE accredited courses and the test is based on the differences between accreditation criteria used by the CCEI members and GCC Education Standards.**

**All jurisdictions around the world have their own Board exams and the test of competence is the UK's Board exam.**

## **Myth 2: The test is too hard**

**Truth: Historically around a third fail first time. But this year there have only been two fails out of 15 candidates.**

**Prior to 2015 candidates had to pass all 4 parts of the test and if they failed one they had to resit the entire test. We therefore introduced a new category of 'insufficient evidence' where an applicant has to submit further evidence in relation to specific areas. There is no additional charge for this. All applicants who have submitted further evidence have gone on to successfully pass the TOC.**

## **Myth 3: Most applicants fail**

**Truth: The pass rate is higher for the version of the test introduced in 2015 than it was for the previous test.**

The pass rate for 2015 was lower than subsequent years, partly down to the fact that the test was so new, there was limited support for applicants and some applicants acknowledged that they had not properly prepared.

Institutions naturally prepare their graduates for the domestic marketplace and board exams in these jurisdictions significantly dictate the curriculum. We highlight to applicants those areas where applicants typically struggle or fail. Most applicants come from America and Australia.

## **Myth 4: The assessors are not representative of the profession**

**Truth: Assessors come from a variety of backgrounds and the GCC appoints on merit, meeting the required criteria for the role.**

**We have carried out two rounds of recruitment and will be recruiting further assessors in 2019.**

**Assessors are trained and provided with guidance on assessing the application and how to conduct the interviews.**

**The External Examiner provides informed, independent and impartial judgement on the TOC assessment process.**

## **Myth 5: The GCC does not run enough tests**

**Truth: Demand for the TOC has not exceeded the amount of spaces that we are able to provide with the current system of four dates per year.**

**Demand for the TOC has actually declined over the last 2 years to 21 applicants in 2018 and 2019 and peaked in 2016 with 33 applicants.**

## **Myth 6: The GCC does not support applicants through the test**

**Truth: Information and resources have been developed by the GCC over the last few years to assist applicants and their potential employer. The GCC has dedicated staff happy to speak to applicants.**

The World Congress of Students also provides information and the Royal College of Chiropractors has an online module with further in development. It is expected that sponsoring employers and professional associations will also provide guidance and support.

## **Myth 7: The test is too expensive**

**Truth: The fee is £2000 and is kept under review to ensure the test covers the costs of assessment. There is no profit and it does not cover GCC staff time. There is no additional charge for submitting further evidence.**

**Compared to Board exams around the world it is not out of step:**

**Australia and New Zealand: £2700 - £3000**

**Canada: £2000**

**USA: £3000**

## **Myth 8: It takes a long time to apply**

**Truth: There has to be rigour. Applicants must be serious, devoting time to making the application and interview. The TOC is rightly challenging and applicants have to understand how chiropractic works in the UK.**

**Applicants should**

- **read the guidance**
- **seek support from employers, professional associations**
- **speak to previous applicants**
- **take the RCC module**
- **read the Code**
- **complete the paperwork before the closing date.**

## **Myth 9: The GCC puts barriers in the way when someone fails the test**

**Truth: No it does not. The GCC provides feedback to every applicant, whether they pass or fail. Applicants are encouraged to take time to address the areas where they have weaknesses or a lack of understanding. They can also choose to submit a new application.**

**Not every applicant who fails chooses to resit the test. But those who have reapplied have subsequently passed the test.**

**Myth 10: Everyone who passes the TOC subsequently registers with the GCC**

**Truth: Applicants do not necessarily register straight away with the GCC upon passing the TOC and in some cases have not actually registered at all.**