

Criminal record checks

Applicants applying for registration on the basis that they hold an unrecognised chiropractic qualification (route 2), must provide a report from the national repository of criminal records for each and every jurisdiction in which they have either lived or practised since the age of 18 and where the period in total is 12 months or more.

Why do I need a criminal record check?

The General Chiropractic Council has a statutory duty to protect patients and the public. As part of the registration process the Registrar must be sure, as far as is possible, that those applicants for registration are of good character before allowing them access to the chiropractic profession in the UK. One of the ways we do this is by requiring applicants to provide criminal record checks from countries they have either lived or worked.

Do I need to provide you with a report if I was born in a different country?

You only need to do so if you lived in that country after the age of 18, or need to show us evidence of a conviction during the period you lived there.

I studied in a different country to the one I lived in at the time. Do I have to provide a report for the period I was studying?

You must if you spent 12 months or more in total in that country. Therefore, if you spent each semester at college over 4 or 5 years, but spent the recess in your home country, this is likely to amount to a period in excess of 12 months in total

I practised as a chiropractor in one country for only a month. Do I need to provide a criminal record check from that country?

Yes, you must send us criminal record checks from every country where you have practised irrespective of how long you worked there.

I have a conviction. Will be still be able to register?

Having a conviction, caution or reprimand does not debar you from registration. However, we do consider these to be serious and will investigate to ensure there are no potential risks to patients before we grant you registration. We will look at your application holistically and take a view based on all of the information you provide and, although we will look to see whether there have been similar cases in the past, we will view your application individually. This is because your circumstances may be different to someone else's and we aim to be both proportionate and fair to all applicants.

My offence involved alcohol and/ or drugs. Does this make a difference?

Yes, where alcohol or drugs are involved, the GCC will need to ensure that there are no underlying health problems, such as alcohol addiction, which would negatively impact on your

patients. For this reason you may be asked either to provide a medical report from your GP or the Registrar may request that you undertake a health assessment with a consultant psychiatrist.

Please be aware that if you are asked to provide additional information on your health in relation to an alcohol or drugs offence, we will not register you until we have considered your full application and made a decision.

I would like to know whether my conviction will stop me being registered, before I take the Test of Competence.

If you have a conviction and are concerned that it may prevent you from achieving registration, please get in touch with us before you take the Test of Competence. You will need to provide us with:

- Full details of the offence, including the date, name of the offence and sentence
- Evidence of the offence, such as a criminal record check showing the details you have given above and will show whether there are any more offences to take into consideration
- Your observations on the offence, for example, how it happened and whether there were any mitigating circumstances.

While we cannot guarantee that you will be registered as we look at your application as a whole, we can tell you whether the conviction, of itself, will preclude you from registration.

Jamie Button
Registrations Manager
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