



VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Ministry of Welfare

**[REGULATION
on the education, rights and obligations of alcohol and
drug addiction counsellors and criteria for granting of licences]¹⁾,
No. 1106/2012,
as amended by Regulation No. 621/2014.
¹⁾ Regulation No. 621/2014, Art. 1.**

SECTION I

General provisions.

Article 1

Scope.

This Regulation applies to alcohol and [drug addiction counsellors]¹⁾ licensed by the Medical Director of Health under Article 2.

¹⁾ Regulation No. 621/2014, Art. 2.

SECTION II

Licences.

Article 2

Professional title.

The right to use the professional title of alcohol and [drug addiction counsellor]¹⁾ and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those who have been granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

¹⁾ Regulation No. 621/2014, Art. 2.

Article 3

Criteria for granting of a licence.

A licence under Article 2 may be granted to those who have completed education under Article 4 in the field of alcohol and [drug addiction counselling]¹⁾, which is judged by the Medical Director of Health to be valid.

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 an alcohol and [drug addiction counsellor]²⁾ 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.

A licence may also be granted to those who have completed a comparable qualification from an educational body 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.

An applicant shall meet at least the following minimum conditions for education and training:

1. he/she shall have worked full-time for three years, or 6,000 hours, in alcohol and [drug addiction counselling]¹⁾ at a medical institution, where a cross-disciplinary team under the professional direction of a full-time physician provides alcohol and [drug addiction treatment]¹⁾; and

2. he/she shall have received teaching amounting to 300 hours. The tuition shall encompass the pharmacology of addictive and mind-altering substances, alcohol and drug prevention, procedures and professional conduct as a counsellor as well as the ideology and ethics of alcohol treatment; and
3. he/she shall have received guidance from a qualified healthcare professional in group work, counselling, interviewing and consultation meetings, totalling 225 hours, of which 75 hours should be direct mentoring.

The applicant's knowledge shall be verified by an examination, and his/her proficiency certified by the professional director of the institution at which the education took place.

The Medical Director of Health makes proposals, in consultation with institutions providing education in alcohol and [drug addiction counselling]¹⁾, and the Medical Director of Health's expert council on alcohol and [drug addiction counselling]²⁾, and others deemed qualified by the Medical Director of Health, with regard to the education requirement for alcohol and [drug addiction counselling]²⁾, and how this shall be organised. The Medical Director of Health shall submit the proposals to the Minister for confirmation.

Further conditions for the granting of a licence are listed under Article 4.

^{x)} Regulation No. 621/2014, Art. x. ²⁾ Regulation No. 621/2014, Art. 2. ³⁾ Regulation No. 621/2014, Art. 3.

Article 4

Further criteria for granting of a licence.

An applicant for a licence as an alcohol and [drug addiction counsellor]¹⁾ under Article 2 who is from a state outside the EEA and Switzerland, with which Iceland has not made an agreement on recognition of professional qualifications and competence, shall submit *inter alia* documentary evidence of nationality, content and duration of education, in addition to an examination certificate, a licence if the profession is an authorised profession in the applicant's state of origin, intended employment in Iceland, and any other documents and certificates deemed by the Medical Director of Health to be necessary for the issue of a licence.

Before an application for a licence is evaluated, as applicable a certified copy must be submitted of an application for residence and work permits, together with a signed contract of employment.

A requirement may be made for knowledge of the Icelandic language and Icelandic healthcare legislation, and other legislation and government directives deemed necessary to the work of an alcohol and [drug addiction counsellor]¹⁾, especially with regard to patients' safety and communication with patients.

Should it not have been demonstrated, in the judgement of the Medical Director of Health, that the applicant's qualification fulfils the criteria under the first paragraph, an applicant may be required to submit to a test of competence to demonstrate that he/she possesses the professional knowledge and competence required in an alcohol and [drug addiction counsellor]¹⁾. The test shall be organised and administered by the Medical Director of Health's expert council on alcohol and [drug addiction counselling]¹⁾, in consultation with the Medical Director of Health.

A licence is issued when the applicant commences work in Iceland.

¹⁾ Regulation No. 621/2014, Art. 2.

Article 5

Opinions.

Before a licence is granted under Article 2, the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the Medical Director of Health's expert council on alcohol and [drug addiction counselling]¹⁾ with regard to the qualifications of the applicant and if he/she fulfils the educational criteria for qualifications under the fourth paragraph of Article 3, for granting of a licence.

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

¹⁾ Regulation No. 621/2014, Art. 2.