

The Farriers Registration Council



Established under the
Farriers (Registration) Act 1975

GUIDE TO APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION BY OVERSEAS FARRIERS

Issued by:

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Context

This Guide is written in accordance with:

- The Farriers (Registration) Act 1975¹ as amended by the Farriers (Registration) (Amendment) Act 1977 and the Farriers (Registration) Act 2017
- The Farriers Registration Council (Disciplinary Committee) Procedure Rules 1976 (Statutory Instrument 1976/700)
- The Rules and Procedures of the Farriers Registration Council
- The Register of Farriers and Registration Policy and Procedures

The profession of farriery is regulated throughout Great Britain (GB) (England, Scotland and Wales) by the Farriers Registration Council (FRC); regulation is inclusive of the Isle of Wight and the Scottish and Welsh Islands. Regulation is **not** inclusive of Northern Ireland, The Isle of Man or The Channel Islands.

The contents of this Guide set out the prescribed terms and conditions for farriers wishing to apply for Registration in Part 1 of the Register of Farriers. Part 1 of the Register denotes registration for those wishing to be established to practice farriery in GB.

This Guide is one of two that set out the FRC's procedures for the registration of overseas farriers who wish to work permanently in GB, or undertake temporary work, farrier training, farrier-related work experience or participate in farriery competitions in GB. Applicants are encouraged to engage early with the FRC to ensure they are applying under the correct procedure.

**** Swiss Nationals**

- Swiss nationals who started their farriery qualification process before the 1 January 2021 can apply for recognition in the UK under the EU rules in force before the end of the Transition Period, up until 1 January 2024. Please contact the FRC directly for further information.

**** Common Travel Area**

- The Common Travel Area (CTA) is a long-standing arrangement between the UK, the Crown Dependencies (Bailiwick of Jersey, Bailiwick of Guernsey and the Isle of Man) and Republic of Ireland. Under the CTA, British and Irish citizens can move freely and reside in either jurisdiction and enjoy associated rights and privileges, including the right to work, study and vote in certain elections. The following procedures continue to enable Irish nationals to apply for recognition of professional qualifications after the end of the Transition Period.

¹ Available to view at www.farrier-reg.gov.uk

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Introduction

Background

1. The practice of farriery throughout GB (England, Scotland and Wales) is regulated under the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975, which requires all persons engaged in farriery to be registered with the Farriers Registration Council (FRC). It is a criminal offence to shoe horses (including your own) or engage in farriery in GB while not registered as a farrier; to do so may render an offender liable to criminal prosecution. A conviction carries a fine of up to £1,000, plus costs and will result in a criminal record.
2. Farriery is defined in Section 18 of the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 as:

“any work in connection with the preparation or treatment of the foot of a horse for the immediate reception of a shoe thereon, the fitting by nailing or otherwise of a shoe to the foot or the finishing off of such work to the foot.”
3. The FRC is designated by Government as the National Competent Authority for the profession of farriery in GB.

UK Qualifications for Registration

4. The FRC's prescribed course of training for registration purposes under Section 7(1)(b) of the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 is an Apprenticeship in Farriery, including periods of block release college training, on the job training with an Approved Training Farrier (ATF), completion of an End Point Assessment (EPA) and award of the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (DipWCF) Qualification. Completion of the Apprenticeship in Farriery includes a requirement to have achieved a GCSE, Grade C in English or equivalent.
5. The Apprenticeship in Farriery is currently delivered within GB by three Colleges (Herefordshire, Ludlow and North Shropshire College, Myerscough College and Warwickshire College Group) and further details on the Apprenticeship may be obtained from any of the Colleges. Details of the Farrier Standard and the EPA Assessment Plan may be found at <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/farrier-v1-0>. The DipWCF syllabus may be found on the WCF website: www.wcf.org.uk

Applications for Registration from Overseas Farriers

6. Overseas applications for registration may be made by persons who; have worked regularly and gainfully, for at least two (2) years as a farrier in an area outside GB; hold a professional farriery qualification; and can demonstrate that they meet the minimum English Language competencies required for registration.
7. To become registered in the Register of Farriers an overseas applicant is required to either:
 - A. Hold a qualification recognised by the FRC (*see Procedure A on pages 8-9*)
 - OR
 - B. Be successful in completing and passing an 'Aptitude Test' (*see Procedure B on pages 10-14*)
 - OR

Have their home state qualification assessed against the GB standard for registration. This may allow an applicant automatic registration if there are no

substantial differences identified OR require the applicant to sit and pass either a full / or partial 'Aptitude Test' (see Procedure B on pages 10-14)

OR

- C.** Successfully complete an Apprenticeship in Farriery including the EPA / DipWCF (see Procedure C on page 15)

Making an Application

8. Applicants must: complete the form relevant to their type of application; provide the appropriate supporting documents; pay the appropriate fee; provide proof of identity and submit the papers to the Registrar at the FRC Offices. If an applicant chooses to mail their application papers they are advised to do so by recorded mail or special delivery. The application must be completed in English and certified English translations of supporting documents must be supplied.
9. Under the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 it is an offence for any person to procure a false or fraudulent representation or declaration of any kind. The FRC reserves the right to contact any person it considers necessary in order to verify the accuracy of information given.
10. If an incomplete application is received the applicant will be informed in writing that the application is not considered acceptable, with reasons. If no written response is received from the applicant within one (1) calendar month of this written notification all documentation will be returned to the applicant and the application will be void. Applicants may however re-submit the same documentation, together with the additional information or correction needed, as a new application if they wish.
11. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application in writing and may be invited to attend the FRC office for a briefing on relevant legislative requirements and regulatory matters. If any part of this Guide is unclear please contact the FRC for further assistance.

Visas

12. Should the applicant be required to visit GB to complete any training as part of their application, it is their responsibility to obtain an appropriate visa, if applicable. The Council accepts no liability for persons who choose to travel without the correct visa for the duration and nature of their visit.
13. Entry to the Register of Farriers allows the registrant to legally practice farriery within GB, it is not an alternative to securing a visa or meeting the UK Immigration Regulations required for residency or to work within the UK.

How your Information will be used

14. The information contained in your application will assist the FRC to process your application for registration as quickly as possible. We may share your information with the Council's Approvals Committee as part of the assessment process, with the Colleges and the Assessing Body approved by the FRC to deliver the End Point Assessment (EPA) / DipWCF. We may check your information with any referees, Approved Training Farriers (ATFs) or any employers named in support of your application. We may also check with the body that awarded your farriery qualification in your home state.
15. At the point of registration your name, address, qualifications, telephone numbers, e-mail address, website (where given) and date of entry onto the Register will be entered in the

FRC Database. The Register is made available in an abbreviated format on the FRC website and published in the FRC publication, The Farriers Bulletin.

Requirements to be a Registered Farrier

16. Registered Farriers in GB are regulated by the FRC and are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the requirements set out in the 'Farrier, ATF and Apprentice Code of Professional Conduct' (this publication is available to view at www.farrier-reg.gov.uk). The Guide describes the principles of good farriery practice, standards of competence, care and conduct expected of Registered Farriers in all aspects of their professional work. Breaches of these rules may result in farriers being removed from the Register of Farriers. Farriers should also be aware of and comply with relevant national legislation, including the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 and the Animal Welfare Act 2006.
17. Registered Farriers are required to;
 - pay an annual Retention Fee to maintain their registration
 - to submit an annual return of any criminal convictions or police cautions that are not deemed as spent for the purposes of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
 - to hold suitable Professional (Business) Indemnity Insurance to cover their professional activities
 - to carry out Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and to continue their professional education by keeping up to date with the developments in farriery, and to keep their knowledge and skills up to date throughout their working life

Appeals against non-Registration

18. An appeal against a decision made by the FRC in respect of an application made under the procedures set out in this Guide should be submitted to the FRC's Disciplinary Committee by writing to the Registrar of the FRC stating the reasons for appeal. An appeal must be lodged within fourteen (14) days of the notification of a decision by the FRC.

Warning

19. Applicants may not engage in farriery in GB independently until they have been notified in writing that they have been entered in the Register of Farriers in their own right.
20. Entry to the Register of Farriers provides the entitlement to legally practice farriery within GB, it is not an alternative to securing a visa or meeting the UK Immigration Regulations required or residency or to work within the UK.

FEES (as at 1 January 2022)

(Fees are reviewed annually)

21. The preferred method of payment for application fees is by electronic payment. Payments may be made by either Credit/Debit card over the telephone, BACS (bank transfer) or via the FRC website (Sage Pay). The following fees are indicative and are subject to change. Other fees may be payable for training dependent upon the circumstances. Considerable expense can be incurred in processing applications and the FRC reserves the right to impose additional fees in individual cases if the costs are higher than normal.

- **Recognised Qualification – Registration Fee (Procedure A) £201.00**

This is the initial cost of registration and is payable by all applicants upon entry to the Register of Farriers.

- **Initial Overseas Application Processing Fee (Procedure B) £250.00**

This fee may also include a right to practice farriery for a short preparation/revision period of up to 4 weeks at an approved college, and only under direct college supervision and instruction, in preparation for the 'Aptitude Test'. Any travel, college tuition/attendance, Aptitude Test entry and accommodation expenses are **not** included.

Once an applicant has successfully completed the 'Aptitude Test' they may apply for registration upon payment of the Registration Fee, as set out under Procedure A.

- **Overseas Application – Assessment Route (within Procedure B) £675.00 additional fee payable**

This fee includes a paper-based assessment and evaluation of the applicant's home state qualification, against the requirements for registration in GB, by the Council. If appropriate, this fee may also include a short preparation/revision period of up to 4 weeks at an approved college, and only under direct college supervision and instruction, in preparation for the 'Aptitude Test'. Any travel, college tuition/attendance, Aptitude Test entry and accommodation expenses are **not** included.

The Registration Fee is payable upon registration in the Register of Farriers (See: Procedure A)

- **Retention Fee £402.00**

This fee is for the annual renewal of the registration and is payable no later than the 31 December of each year (not the anniversary of entry to the Register).

Procedure A: FRC Recognised Qualifications

For applicants with a farriery qualification recognised by the FRC

- A.1 The FRC recognises the following farriery qualifications for automatic registration purposes:

Examining / Assessor Body	Qualification / Course of Training
Worshipful Company of Farriers (WCF)	End Point Assessment (EPA); completed at the end of the Apprenticeship in Farriery, including award of the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (DipWCF) - <i>(for Apprentices who commenced training after 1 September 2019.)</i>
Worshipful Company of Farriers (WCF)	WCF Diploma in Farriery (QCF); (also known as the Diploma of the WCF or DipWCF); [or the Registered Shoeing Smith (RSS) until October 1979]; awarded following completion of an Apprenticeship in Farriery or approved equivalent recognised by the FRC.
British Army	Certified Military Farrier (CMF); formerly known as Military Farrier Class II until March 2006. Completed at the end of the Army Course of Training, including award of the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (DipWCF)
American Farriers Association	Certified Journeyman Farrier (CJF); plus two years subsequent experience regularly and gainfully engaged in the shoeing of horses outside GB.

- A.2 Applicants holding one of the above recognised qualifications may apply directly to the FRC for registration in the Register of Farriers either on line at www.farrier-reg.gov.uk or by mail. Documentation including the completed registration form, qualification certificate, proof of identity, an annual return and the registration fee should be submitted to the FRC. Proof of identity in the form of a photocopy of the identity page and outer cover of a passport, national ID card, or photo driving licence are acceptable.
- A.3 Those applying on the basis of holding the American Farrier Association's CJF must also include at least two (2) references from an accountant or employer, and a veterinary surgeon or from clients on headed note paper to support two (2) years post qualification regular and gainful experience. If the CJF examination was not undertaken in English the applicant will be additionally required to demonstrate their English Language competency (See Paragraph B.3).
- A.4 Those applying on the basis of holding the DipWCF examination achieved outside GB must include at least two (2) references on headed notepaper from an accountant or employer, and a veterinary surgeon or clients to support at least four (4) years regular and gainful experience outside GB. If the examination was not undertaken in English the applicant will be additionally required to demonstrate their English Language competency (See Paragraph B.3).
- A.5 The Registrar may contact the relevant Examinations Board to confirm the validity of qualifications. Once the application has been assessed and the Registrar is satisfied that the application fulfils registration requirements the applicant's name will be added to the Register of Farriers.

- A.6 Upon registration applicants will be sent an introductory letter and a copy of the 'Farrier and Apprentice Code of Professional Conduct'. A Registration Card and Vehicle Window Sticker for the year of registration will be issued as soon as possible thereafter.
- A.7 Applicants will be able to practise farriery within GB on their own account as soon as the Registration Form and Fee have been accepted in writing from the FRC and their name has been added to the Register of Farriers. Any original documents will be returned to the applicant by recorded delivery.
- A.8 Entry to the Register of Farriers provides the entitlement to legally practice farriery within GB, it is not an alternative to securing a visa or meeting the UK Immigration Regulations required for residency or to work within the UK. (See <https://www.gov.uk/apply-to-come-to-the-uk> for more information on applying for a visa).

Procedure B: Professional Farriery Qualification

For applicants with an unrecognised professional farriery qualification and experience gained outside of GB

Eligibility and Overview:

- B.1 Farriers who have gained at least two (2) years professional working experience outside of GB, hold a professional Farriery Qualification and who can demonstrate that they meet the minimum English Language competencies required for registration may be eligible to make an Overseas Application for Registration.

**** Swiss Nationals:** Swiss nationals who started their farriery qualification process before the 1 January 2021 can apply for recognition in the UK under the EU rules in force before the end of the Transition Period, up until 1 January 2024. Please contact the FRC directly for further information.

- B.2 For the purposes of submitting an Overseas Application the farriery qualification achieved outside of GB must be awarded or authenticated by a body recognised in the home country in respect of that qualification or examination.
- B.3 Applicants are required to demonstrate their English Language competency at the initial application stage, by providing evidence of either a GCSE in English at Grade C or above (or equivalent); an International English Language Testing Certificate (IELTS) at Level 6 or higher (Academic Test); or by demonstrating completion of a nationally recognised Diploma level course and/or examination (or higher level of study) undertaken in English.
- B.4 Depending on their previous training and qualification, the overseas applicant would be advised that they could be eligible for one, or more of the following:
- a) Direct Route - To take the Aptitude Test at the earliest opportunity; this could include a short preparation/revision period of up to 4 weeks at an approved college and only under direct college supervision and instruction. Any additional training above the maximum 4 weeks permitted for the Aptitude Test Preparation in a college, if being undertaken within GB, must be completed as an Approved Apprentice, affiliated to a college, employed by an ATF and following an approved course of training.

OR

- b) Assessment Route - To undertake an assessment of the applicant's home state farriery qualification against the GB requirements for registration (the Apprenticeship in Farriery and End Point Assessment (EPA)/DipWCF). The outcome of the assessment will determine if the applicant is suitable for direct registration; or required to undertake an Aptitude Test; or if their application should be declined on the grounds that the identified differences are so substantial the applicant would be required to commence an Apprenticeship in Farriery to meet the requirements for registration.

You are encouraged to familiarise yourself with all application processes before submitting an application to the Council.

Application Process

Stage 1 – Submit Application

B.5 To make an application the following documentation should be submitted to the Council:

- the Application Form completed in English.
- proof of identity; e.g. identity page and outer cover of passport, national ID card or photo driving licence, certified copies are preferred to original documents.
- proof of English Language competency. This should be either be a GCSE in English at Grade C or above (or equivalent); an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) certificate at Level 6 or higher (Academic Test); or evidence of completion of a nationally recognised Diploma level course and/or examination (or higher level of study) undertaken in English.
- at least two (2) statements supporting that the applicant has been regularly and gainfully engaged in shoeing horses for at least two (2) years. The references which must be written in English, should be signed, dated and on headed notepaper. The references should seek to demonstrate the applicant's working experience, professionalism, willingness to learn, adaptability and their understanding and adherence of professional conduct.
- full detail on the applicants farriery training and examination, to include:
 - full qualification title;
 - the syllabus for the qualification completed (for the correct year / date of completion);
 - detail on duration i.e. number of years/months undertaken to complete the qualification;
 - whether the study was full time or part time;
 - whether the training was workplace or college based; and
 - a copy of the qualification certificate(s), certified copies are preferred to original documents
- an annual return of contact details, insurance details and any criminal convictions or police cautions that are not deemed as spent for the purposes of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
- any other professional education and training; e.g. CPD attainment
- additional references from clients may assist the consideration of the application
- the initial application processing fee - once a completed application has been submitted to the FRC, this fee is non-refundable

Stage 2 – Application Screening

B.6 Once the application documents have been submitted, they will be considered by the Registrar to ensure they meet the application criteria. A letter will be sent to the applicant to determine whether their application has been accepted in principle, and what the next stages of the application process will entail for them based on their previous training and qualification. [See Paragraphs B.7 – B.10 for Direct Route and Paragraphs B.11 – B.19 for Assessment Route]

Applications that fail to meet the application criteria will be returned with an explanation as to why the application criteria was not met.

Stage 3 – Application Routes

Direct Route

- B.7 Applicants who have completed at least 3.5 years farriery training, and hold an associated qualification awarded by a competent national awarding body; or persons who have achieved eligibility to sit the DipWCF Examination on a programme of training outside of GB **may** not be required to undertake the assessment route. This exception operates at the Council's discretion and depends on the exact nature of the individual's prior training and experience. Such applicants are likely to be allowed to directly take the Aptitude Test at the next opportunity; each application will be assessed on its merits, i.e. on an individual basis.
- B.8 For candidates offered the Direct Route this could include the opportunity to practice farriery for a short preparation/revision period of up to 4 weeks at an approved college, and only under direct college supervision and instruction. Any additional training above the maximum 4 weeks permitted for the Aptitude Test Preparation in a college, if being undertaken within GB, must be completed as an Approved Apprentice, affiliated to a college, employed by an ATF and following an approved course of training.
- B.9 A list of ATFs is available from the office on request or on the FRC website www.farrier-reg.gov.uk

Aptitude Test

- B.10 The Aptitude Test is set as the End Point Assessment (EPA) / Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (DipWCF) taken at the end of the Apprenticeship in Farriery. The EPA/DipWCF is completed in three parts, consisting of a practical, theoretical and oral element. See: <https://www.wcf.org.uk/dipwcf> and <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/farrier/> for full details on the assessment criteria and content. It is the responsibility of the applicant to arrange their entry and payment for sitting the Aptitude Test and any additional preparation if required directly with the WCF and an approved College.

Assessment Route

- B.11 All other accepted applicants (including those who are eligible, but who do not wish to pursue the direct route), will be required to have an assessment of their qualification and training achieved outside of GB, carried out by the Council. An assessment fee will be payable to the FRC for applicants undertaking this route (See: 'Fees').
- B.12 The assessment, which is paper-based, will be completed by the Council to assess the content and scope of the qualification, together with the professional experience of the applicant, against the requirements of the Apprenticeship in Farriery and the End Point Assessment (EPA)/DipWCF.
- B.13 Applicants must therefore specify how much time they have spent in training to achieve their qualifications and provide details of:
- The course content (syllabus) - (for the correct year / date of completion);
 - The name and address of the examining body

- Any Colleges, Institutions or employed training attended (e.g. an apprenticeship)
- Post-qualification professional experience

B.14 The FRC may have prior knowledge of the qualification under consideration, but if not it will contact the relevant authorities for further details. A letter of support and clarification from the relevant competent authority or Government contact point submitted with the application may therefore speed up the application process.

B.15 The purpose of this assessment will be to identify if there are any substantial differences between the applicants level of knowledge, skills and experience, and the Council's requirements for registration in Part 1 of the Register, i.e. the Apprenticeship in Farriery and EPA / DipWCF.

B.16 The assessment will involve consideration of:

Knowledge	Skills	Behaviours
Health and Safety	Health and Safety	Professionalism
Breed Identification	Working Environment	Self-development
Control of Equines	Farriery Equipment	Adaptability
Anatomy, Physiology and Equine Biomechanics	Communication skills	Adherence to legal and ethical frameworks
Produce a thorough Foot Care Plan	Prepare equine Foot Care Plan	
Understanding of diagnosis methods	Forging and Fabrication	
Evaluation of own abilities	Practical skills including assessing, trimming and making and fitting shoes	
Lameness evaluation	Business and IT skills	

B.17 Applicants may be asked to attend the FRC offices for an interview if their application requires clarification.

B.18 If after the assessment, the FRC decide that the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, skills and experience the applicant will be invited to register immediately upon completion of a Registration Form. If there are substantial differences applicants will be required to compensate for any differences by completing an 'Aptitude Test' (See paragraph: B.10).

B.19 Where the FRC considers there is a substantive difference that can only be made up by undertaking significant period of training lasting 3 years or more the application will be rejected. This is because the extent of the differences would indicate the practices followed by the applicant are not the same as those practised by the profession in GB.

B.20 Any additional training required by the applicant within GB above the maximum 4 weeks permitted for the Aptitude Test preparation in a college, must be completed as an Approved Apprentice, affiliated to a college, employed by an ATF and following an approved course of training.

Stage 4 – Registration

B.21 Applicants will be invited to register in the Register of Farriers once they have either passed the 'Aptitude Test' or been deemed as competent for registration following the assessment process. Accepted applicants will be sent an introductory letter and a copy of the 'Farrier and Apprentice Code of Professional Conduct', a Registration Card and Vehicle Window Sticker for that year will be issued as soon as possible. Applicants may also be invited to attend the Council offices for a briefing on relevant legislative issues.

B.22 Applicants may not engage in any farriery within GB until they have been notified in writing that their name has been added to the Register of Farriers. Admission to the Register of Farriers entitles the holder to legally practice farriery within GB, it is not an alternative to securing a visa or meeting UK Immigration Regulations. (See <https://www.gov.uk/apply-to-come-to-the-uk> for more information on applying for a visa).

Procedure C: Professional Experience

For applicants not eligible to apply under Procedures A or B.

- C.1 Applicants who are not eligible to apply for registration under Procedures A or B may be able to register by successfully completing the Apprenticeship in Farriery and the EPA / DipWCF.
- C.2 Dependant on the professional experience of the applicant, a college may be able to offer some Accreditation for Prior Learning (APL) against achievement of the Apprenticeship in Farriery and the EPA/DipWCF undertaken within GB. APL may be in the form of exemption from specific or partial Apprenticeship units and/or by the offer of a reduced completion timeframe.
- C.3 The Apprenticeship in Farriery is completed as an Enrolled Apprentice, including periods of block release college training, on the job training with an Approved Training Farrier (ATF), completion of an End Point Assessment (EPA) and award of the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (DipWCF) Qualification. The following links may be helpful:
- **Apprenticeship in Farriery Standard -**
<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/farrier/>
 - **End Point Assessment (EPA) -**
https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/media/3269/st0172_farrier_l3_ap_for_publication_03072019.pdf
 - **Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (DipWCF) -**
<https://www.wcf.org.uk/dipwcf>
- C.4 Applicants should contact the admissions teams at an approved college for further details on the college application processes, the full Apprenticeship entry requirements, timeframes for enrolment and the associated costs to enrol on the Apprenticeship in Farriery.

Other Organisations involved in Farriery within GB

- **The Worshipful Company of Farriers (WCF)** – www.wcf.org.uk
- **The British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association (BFBA)** - www.forgeandfarrier.co.uk/bfba/index.htm
- **Herefordshire, Ludlow and North Shropshire College**
School of Farriery
Centre for Rural Crafts
Holme Lacy Campus
Holme Lacy
Hereford
HR2 6LL

Tel: 01432 870316
www.hlcollege.ac.uk
- **Myerscough College**
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- **Warwickshire College Group**
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