



Medical Board of Australia

REGISTRATION STANDARD: LIMITED REGISTRATION FOR POSTGRADUATE TRAINING OR SUPERVISED PRACTICE

1 July 2016

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Summary

This registration standard sets out the Medical Board of Australia's (the Board) requirements for an application for, and renewal of, limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice.

Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to individuals who apply for:

- limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice, or
- renewal of limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice.

Individuals who are qualified for general registration and/or specialist registration are not eligible for limited registration.

What must I do?

When you apply for registration

To meet this registration standard, you must:

1. meet the requirements in the Board's approved registration standards for:
 - a. English language skills
 - b. recency of practice
 - c. professional indemnity insurance, and
 - d. continuing professional development
2. comply with the Board's proof of identity policy as published on either the Board or the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) websites
3. provide evidence of having been awarded a primary degree in medicine and surgery, after completing an approved course of study at a medical school listed in the current International Medical Education Directory (IMED) (online only) of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER), or other publications approved by the Australian Medical Council (AMC)

and/or Board. An approved course of study means that you must be able to demonstrate that you have completed a medical curriculum of at least four academic years (full-time equivalent), leading to an entitlement to registration in the country issuing the degree to practise clinical medicine

4. provide evidence that you have applied for, or have the results of, primary source verification of medical qualifications from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) International Credentials Service (EICS)
5. provide evidence of successful completion of a medical internship or comparable. The Board may issue guidance on what defines a comparable medical internship (there is one exemption to this requirement – see section on exemptions)
6. provide a curriculum vitae that meets the standard format that has been approved by the Board
7. provide details of past registration history:
 - a. You are also required to arrange for the Board to receive certificates of good standing/registration status (or equivalent type of certificate) from each registration authority that you have been registered with in the previous 10 years. The certificates should be supplied, where possible, directly to the Board from the relevant registration authority
8. satisfactorily complete a criminal history check in accordance with guidance issued from time to time by the Board or AHPRA
9. provide the following information from your proposed employer:
 - a. written confirmation of offer of employment
 - b. employer contact details
 - c. position description including key selection criteria addressing clinical responsibilities and qualifications and experience required to meet the requirements of the position
 - d. name, qualifications and contact details of the proposed principal supervisor and any co-supervisors

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- e. a supervision plan, prepared in accordance with the Board's guidelines for supervision of international medical graduates. The supervision plan includes details about the supervisor/s and will describe how supervision will be provided to ensure safe practice. It will also include written confirmation from the proposed principal supervisor that they agree to provide supervision and to comply with supervision obligations as required by the Board
 - f. details of the training that will meet the supervised practice or postgraduate training requirements of the applicant. This should include the purpose, anticipated duration, location, content and structure of training and the anticipated date of any examinations or assessments. The Board may issue guidance on training plans, and
 - g. a plan for continuing professional development activities in accordance with the Board's registration standard for continuing professional development
10. provide evidence that confirms you meet the eligibility criteria for one of the following pathways to registration:
- a. standard pathway
 - b. specialist pathway – specialist recognition (comparability assessment), or
 - c. short-term training in a medical specialty for international medical graduates who are not qualified for general or specialist registration (short-term training in a medical specialty pathway)
11. if applicable, provide the results of a pre-employment structured clinical interview (PESCI) with a provider approved by the Board that confirms that you are suitable for the specific position. The Board will decide on a case-by-case basis whether a PESCI is necessary and this will depend on the nature of the position and the level of risk inherent to the position.

All documents submitted to support an application for limited registration must comply with the requirements

for certifying and translating documents as published on either the Board or AHPRA websites.

If you have previously been, or are currently registered in a health profession in Australia under the National Scheme and have therefore provided information to a Board previously, some of the documentation requirements in this standard may be waived.

How to demonstrate eligibility for one of the pathways to registration

Standard pathway

To be eligible for the **standard pathway**, you must provide evidence of successful completion of the AMC Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) MCQ Examination.

Specialist pathway – specialist recognition (comparability assessment)

To be eligible for the **specialist pathway – specialist recognition (comparability assessment)**, you must provide evidence from the relevant specialist medical college that has been accredited by the AMC that your specialist qualifications have been assessed as either:

- a. substantially comparable, or
- b. partially comparable.

Short-term training in a medical specialty pathway for international medical graduates who are not qualified for general or specialist registration

To be eligible for **short-term training in a medical specialty pathway**:

1. **specialists-in-training** must provide a statement from the overseas specialist college or body awarding the specialist qualification with whom you are a trainee in the country of training:
 - a. confirming your trainee status with the college/body
 - b. outlining the content, structure and length of the training program
 - c. confirming that you are not likely to be more than two years from completing your specialist training

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- d. confirming that you have passed a basic specialist examination or satisfactorily completed substantial training (generally three or more years, i.e. PGY 5), and
- e. identifying the objectives of the training to be undertaken in Australia.

There is an exemption to some of these requirements for applicants who are trainees of an AMC-accredited specialist medical college and have general scope registration with the Medical Council of New Zealand. See the section on exemptions.

2. **internationally qualified specialists** must provide a statement from the overseas specialist college or body awarding the specialist qualification that confirms your specialist qualification in the country of training
3. you must confirm in writing that at this time you have no intention of making further applications for registration at the end of the specified training period (usually up to 24 months)
4. you must provide evidence from the relevant specialist medical college that has been accredited by the AMC that:
 - a. you appear to be a genuine specialist-in-training or internationally qualified specialist, on the basis of a paper-based assessment of documents
 - b. the position that you have applied for is a genuine training position that is appropriate for your training requirements, taking into consideration your reported level of training and experience, and
 - c. there is adequate supervision and support for your level of training and experience.

During the registration period

You are required to comply with a range of requirements while you have limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice. These include:

1. compliance with the supervision plan approved by the Board

2. meeting the requirements in the training plan approved by the Board
3. compliance with the Board's registration standard for continuing professional development
4. ensuring that your supervisor/s provide regular reports to the Board regarding your work performance as described in the Board's guidelines for supervision of international medical graduates
5. performing satisfactorily in the position for which you were registered to practise
6. restricting your practice to the Board approved position/s, and
7. working towards meeting the requirements for general or specialist registration if you intend to apply for more than three renewals of registration.

If you do not maintain your employment in the Board approved position for which limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice was granted, you are unable to comply with the requirements on your practice and therefore cannot practise medicine until registration is granted for a new position.

When you apply for renewal

When you apply to renew your limited registration, you must:

1. complete a renewal of registration application that includes the annual renewal statement in accordance with the provisions in the National Law, section 109
2. demonstrate compliance with any conditions or undertakings imposed on your registration or requirements on your registration set by the Board
3. submit work performance reports in accordance with the Board's guidelines for supervision of international medical graduates
4. demonstrate that you have performed satisfactorily in the preceding registration period. This is usually demonstrated through the submission of work performance reports. The Board may also require you to complete an examination and/or assessment to demonstrate satisfactory performance, and

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5. provide evidence that you are satisfactorily progressing towards meeting the requirements for general or specialist registration. You are exempt from this requirement if you will not apply for more than three renewals of registration.

Refusal to renew limited registration

The Board may refuse to renew your registration if:

1. you are no longer in the position for which registration was granted by the Board
2. you do not comply with the Board approved supervised practice plan and the Board's requirements for supervision
3. you do not comply with the Board's registration standard for continuing professional development and any training plan approved by the Board, or
4. significant or multiple deficiencies are identified in your practice, by the Board.

Period of limited registration

Up to 12 months of registration can be granted by the Board. The National Law states that limited registration may not be renewed more than three times. After three renewals of limited registration a medical practitioner who wishes to continue to practise will have to make a new application for registration.

What happens if I don't meet this standard?

The National Law establishes possible consequences if you don't meet this standard, including that:

- the Board can impose a condition or conditions on your registration or can refuse your application for registration or renewal of registration, if you do not meet a requirement in an approved registration standard for the profession (sections 82, 83 and 112 of the National Law), and

- registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings against health practitioners as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice or conduct for the health profession (section 41 of the National Law).

If a practitioner with limited registration breaches any of the requirements of this registration standard or any of the Board's registration standards, codes or guidelines, the Board may take action in respect of health, performance or conduct under Part 8 of the National Law or an authority in a co-regulatory jurisdiction may take disciplinary action under their relevant legislation.

Applications for a change in circumstances

If you hold limited registration and you want to apply for another type of limited registration, you must make a new application.

If you hold limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice and you want to change your position (such as changing location, adding work sites, changing your scope of practice (including moving to a role with increased clinical responsibilities e.g. PGY3 to registrar level), applying for a new position with a new employer, etc) within the same type of registration (i.e. limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice), you must apply for approval of a change in circumstances.

Applications for a change in circumstances must be made on an approved form and you will be charged a fee. You must provide:

1. the following information from the proposed employer:
 - a. written confirmation of offer of employment
 - b. employer contact details
 - c. new or revised position description including key selection criteria addressing clinical responsibilities and qualifications and experience required to meet the requirements of the position/s

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- d. name, qualifications and contact details of the proposed principal supervisor and any co-supervisors
 - e. new or revised supervision plan, prepared in accordance with the Board's guidelines for supervision of international medical graduates. The supervision plan includes:
 - i. details about the principal supervisor and any co-supervisors
 - ii. a description of how supervision will be provided to ensure safe practice, and
 - iii. written confirmation from the proposed principal supervisor that they agree to provide supervision and comply with supervision obligations as required by the Board
 - f. details of the training that will meet the supervised practice or postgraduate training requirements of the applicant. This should include the purpose, anticipated duration, location, content and structure of training and the anticipated date of any examinations or assessments. The Board may issue guidance on training plans
 - g. details of a professional development plan in accordance with the Board's registration standard for continuing professional development
2. a work report from your previous supervisor
 3. for trainees undertaking short-term training in a medical specialty, a letter from the relevant AMC-accredited specialist medical college confirming support for your change in circumstances and providing an assessment of your suitability for the training position based on the proposed changes.
 4. A change in circumstances also includes a proposal to extend training beyond the specified period of training that you had confirmed with the Board at your initial application for registration. For example, you will need a letter from the AMC-accredited specialist medical college if you are undertaking short-term training in a medical specialty and you initially indicated that your duration of short-term

training was 18 months but you now wish to extend that beyond 18 months.

5. for medical practitioners in the specialist pathway – specialist recognition, the Board may require evidence from the relevant AMC-accredited specialist medical college confirming support for your change in circumstances and providing advice on whether any change to your position or training plan is appropriate. The Board will decide on a case-by-case basis whether evidence from the college is required
6. if applicable, satisfactory results of a PESCI with a provider approved by the Board that confirms that you are suitable for the specific position. The Board will decide on a case-by-case basis whether a PESCI is necessary and this will depend on the nature of the position and the level of risk inherent to the position.

Are there exemptions to this standard?

There are exemptions to parts of this standard. There are no exemptions to the entire standard.

Medical internship or comparable

The Board may grant limited registration to an international medical graduate who has not previously completed a medical internship or comparable. The Board will only grant you limited registration so that you can complete an internship in an accredited internship position in Australia. For the Board to consider your application, you must also provide:

1. written confirmation from your proposed employer:
 - a. of an offer of employment in an accredited intern position
 - b. that they are aware you have never completed a medical internship or comparable
 - c. that they will provide you with the appropriate support and supervision to ensure safe practice if you are granted registration
2. the employer contact details.

The Board will confirm that the position has been accredited as an intern position.

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Short-term training in a medical specialty pathway – international medical graduates who are specialists-in-training in New Zealand

If you are a specialist-in-training and you are more than two years away from completing specialist training in your country, you may be exempt from the eligibility criteria for this pathway, if you:

1. are not qualified for general registration in Australia, and
2. hold registration in a general scope with the Medical Council of New Zealand, and
3. are an accredited trainee with an AMC-accredited specialist medical college in New Zealand.

You are required to provide a letter from the relevant AMC-accredited specialist medical college confirming your accredited trainee status and providing an assessment of your suitability for the training position in accordance with the Board's guidelines on this pathway.

More information

Limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice may be granted to enable you to undertake a period of postgraduate training or supervised practice, or to undertake assessment or sit an examination approved by the Board. This type of registration would suit medical practitioners working towards qualifying for general or specialist registration or medical practitioners undertaking short-term specialist training in a medical specialty.

The Board establishes requirements under this standard to ensure safe and competent practice for the period of limited registration. The Board will record the requirements that apply to a medical practitioner granted limited registration on the Register of Medical Practitioners pursuant to section 225(p) of the National Law.

The AHPRA website (www.ahpra.gov.au) includes more detailed information about the requirements for:

- providing proof of identity
- certifying documents, and

- what to include in a curriculum vitae.

Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 27 August 2015.

Registration standards are developed under section 38 of the National Law and are subject to wide-ranging consultation.

Definitions

Limited registration is a type of registration available to individuals who do not qualify for general or specialist registration. Each type of limited registration has a specific purpose which is defined in Part 7, Division 4 of the National Law. The four types of limited registration are:

- limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice
- limited registration for area of need
- limited registration for teaching or research, and
- limited registration in public interest.

See the registration standard relevant to the type of limited registration for an explanation of each.

National Law means the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory.

National Scheme means the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Pathways to registration means the national process to assess the qualifications, training and experience of international medical graduates who are applying for registration. The assessment pathways that are relevant to this standard are the standard pathway, the specialist pathway – specialist recognition (comparability assessment) and the short-term training in a medical specialty pathway.

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Supervision plan means a plan that sets out the arrangements or proposed arrangements for supervision of the practice of the applicant for registration or registered medical practitioner.

Training plan means a plan that sets out the purpose, anticipated duration, location, content and structure of training and the anticipated date of any examinations or assessments. The Board may issue guidance on training plans.

Review

This registration standard will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every five years.

Last reviewed: 1 July 2016

This standard replaces the previous registration standard dated 1 July 2010.