



FAQs - Changes to the Specialist Pathway

Summary

The Medical Board of Australia (the Board) is making changes to the Specialist Pathway for international medical graduates (IMGs). The changes will take effect from 1 July 2014.

These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been developed to assist applicants seeking to apply for registration via the Specialist Pathway.

Why are changes being made to the Specialist Pathway?

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme has opened up opportunities to streamline and simplify the assessment and registration of IMGs. In addition, one of the fundamental aims of the 2011/12 House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing inquiry into registration processes and support for overseas trained doctors was to reduce red tape, duplication and administrative hurdles faced by IMGs, whilst ensuring that the Australian standard continues to be rigorously applied.

These changes go a significant way towards meeting this aim.

What are the changes being made to the application process for Specialist Pathway applicants?

From 1 July 2014, IMGs will apply directly to the relevant specialist medical college for their specialist assessment (specialist recognition or area of need), rather than applying through the AMC.

Will applicants still be required to undertake primary source verification of their qualifications through the Australian Medical Council?

Yes. Applicants will still be required to apply to the AMC for primary source verification (PSV) of their qualifications. This should be done before applying to the college for assessment. For further information regarding the PSV process, please go to the [AMC website](#).

Are there changes to the college assessment process?

When a college receives an application for the Specialist Pathway they undertake a review of the application and supporting documentation and may interview the applicant. This process does not change. Refer to the relevant college website for more information on their assessment of IMGs.

What do IMGs do if they currently hold limited registration via the Specialist Pathway?

If an IMG has already been assessed by the college and has limited registration, and is completing a period of supervised practice on the Specialist Pathway, they can continue to complete their supervised practice. More information on transitional arrangements for current registrants is available on the [Board's website](#). IMGs should also note that from 1 July 2014, IMGs will communicate directly with the college, rather than receiving correspondence through the AMC. Contact the specialist college to find out more.

Are there changes to the Specialist Pathway – short term training?

No, the Specialist Pathway – short term training does not change.

Where can IMGs find further information about the Specialist Pathway?

More information is available on the [Board's website](#).