

FAQs – Eligibility and applications for provisional registration via the Competent Authority Pathway

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These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been developed to assist international medical graduates (IMGs) seeking to apply for assessment and registration via the Competent Authority Pathway. They are also aimed at assisting potential employers seeking to employ IMGs via this pathway.

Who is eligible to apply for provisional registration via the Competent Authority Pathway?

International medical graduates (IMGs) who hold a primary medical degree from a medical school listed in the [International Medical Education Directory \(IMED\) of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research \(FAIMER\)](#) and who have completed training or assessment with a Medical Board of Australia (the Board) approved competent authority (see Table 1), may apply to the Board for provisional registration via the competent authority pathway.

If an IMG is not eligible for provisional registration via the competent authority pathway, they can refer to the [Board's website](#) for further information regarding other registration pathways and types of registration.

Table 1

Category	Requirements for eligibility for the Competent Authority Pathway
Category A	UNITED KINGDOM General Medical Council (GMC)
	Successful completion of the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) test since 1975, AND : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • successful completion of the Foundation Year 1, or • 12 months supervised training (internship equivalent) in the United Kingdom, or • if the 12 months supervised training (internship equivalent) is completed in another Board approved competent authority country, approved by that competent authority.
Category B	UNITED KINGDOM General Medical Council (GMC)
	Graduate of a medical course conducted by a medical school in the United Kingdom accredited by the General Medical Council, AND: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • successful completion of the Foundation Year 1, or • 12 months supervised training (internship equivalent) in the United Kingdom, or • if the 12 months supervised training (internship equivalent) is completed in another Board approved competent authority country, approved by that competent authority.
Category C	CANADA Medical Council of Canada
	Successful completion of the licentiate examinations of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC) since 1992

Category D	UNITED STATES Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates
	Successful completion of the United States Medical Licensing Examination Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3 since 1992 AND Successful completion of a minimum of two years of graduate medical education within a residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education OR Successful completion of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) licensing examinations Part I, II and III before 1992 AND Successful completion of a minimum of two years of graduate medical education within a residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education
Category E	NEW ZEALAND Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ)
	Successful completion of the New Zealand Registration Examination AND Successful completion of the required rotating internship (four runs accredited by the MCNZ).
Category F	IRELAND Medical Council of Ireland
	Graduate of a Medical School in Ireland accredited by the Medical Council of Ireland AND Successful completion of an internship in Ireland (certificate of experience) or another Board approved Competent Authority country.

If an IMG has determined that they meet the eligibility requirements for provisional registration via the Competent Authority Pathway, what do they do next?

All IMGs are required to apply to the [Australian Medical Council \(AMC\)](#) for primary source verification (PSV) of their qualifications.

From 1 October 2015, the AMC will verify qualifications through the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials (EPIC), or for applications submitted before 30 September 2015, through ECFMG International Credentials Services (EICS).

IMGs applying via the Competent Authority Pathway are required to have lodged an application for PSV with the AMC prior to submitting an application for provisional registration with the Board.

Further information about PSV is available at the [AMC website](#).

Do IMGs need to have an offer of employment, prior to applying to the Medical Board of Australia for provisional registration?

Yes. All IMGs applying for provisional registration must have an offer of employment prior to applying to the Medical Board of Australia (the Board).

In addition, satisfactory results of a pre-employment structured clinical interview (PESCI) are required for any general practice position. If required, a PESCI can be undertaken prior to applying for provisional registration. More information about the PESCI is accessible at <http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration/International-Medical-Graduates/pesci.aspx>.

If you have any further questions about the PESCI process, IMGs should contact the state/territory AHPRA office in which they intend practising on Ph: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) or Ph: +61 3 8708 9001 (from outside Australia) or forward an enquiry via AHPRA's [web enquiry form](#).

A [flowchart](#) outlining the application process for the competent authority pathway is available.

Are there any other requirements to be met, prior to IMGs applying for provisional registration?

Yes. The Medical Board of Australia (the Board) has a number of mandatory registration standards that all applicants are required to meet. IMGs should review the [standards](#) prior to applying for registration with the Board.

What happens once an application for provisional registration is lodged?

Upon receipt of an application, the Board/AHPRA will:

- undertake an assessment to confirm eligibility via the competent authority pathway
- assess the application against all relevant registration standards
- determine whether all documentary requirements have been met
- determine suitability for the proposed position based on training and experience, the proposed position description and supervised practice plan.

How long will it take to process the application?

If the application is deemed complete – i.e. AHPRA has received all the information it requires to complete an assessment under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) – the processing time is generally 4 – 6 weeks. Further information relating to the registration process and processing times is available on the [AHPRA website](#).

It should be noted, however, that complex applications, including those from overseas and those requiring consideration by a Registration Committee or State Board, may take longer to process.

When will registration be issued and when can the IMG commence in the proposed position? How will AHPRA notify IMGs of the outcome of their application?

AHPRA will be in contact throughout the assessment process, either via email or letter, and will keep the IMG informed of the progress of their application. An IMG will be able to commence in their proposed position once they have received confirmation that their registration has been granted and once their name appears on the [Register of Practitioners](#).

Applications from overseas applicants will have been assessed only on receipt of the relevant evidence of identity, and an otherwise complete application (all supporting documentation provided and declarations made). Following assessment, the applicant will be advised if they are eligible for registration.

Those eligible applicants who only provided the minimum identity requirements will only be granted registration upon personal presentation at an AHPRA office with the required evidence of identification. Further information is available on the [AHPRA website](#).

What do IMGs need to do to meet the requirements for general registration?

Once provisional registration is granted, IMGs will be required to successfully complete a period of 12 months of supervised practice (minimum of 47 weeks full time service) in order to be eligible to apply for general registration.

The purpose of supervised practice is to ensure that IMGs:

- are oriented to the Australian health care system
- are safe to practise, and
- meet the Medical Board of Australia's (the Board) standard for general registration.

All IMGs are required to submit a completed orientation report and work performance report after the initial three month period of employment in the approved position, and/or at any other intervals as determined by the Board.

Once the 12 month supervised practice period has been completed, registrants must provide written confirmation from term supervisors that they have satisfactorily completed the 12 month period (FTE) of supervised practice. This may be in the form of term reports or other specific reporting forms developed or approved by the Board and a letter of recommendation for general registration from the Director of Training, Director of Medical Services or other person authorised to sign off on the satisfactory completion of supervised practice.

Upon receipt of your application, the Board will then assess whether the IMG has met the standard expected for general registration.

If the requirements for general registration have not been met when provisional registration is due to be renewed, can the IMG renew their current registration?

Yes. The National Law allows for provisional registration to be renewed twice. However, this is subject to the applicant meeting all requirements for renewal of registration.

Are IMGs eligible to apply for limited registration under the National Law, if they qualify for provisional/general registration, via the Competent Authority Pathway?

No. IMGs who qualify for provisional/general registration, via the Competent Authority Pathway, are not eligible to apply for limited registration under the National Law. They must apply for provisional registration.

Can an IMG apply for assessment by a specialist medical college, if they qualify for provisional/general registration via the Competent Authority Pathway?

Yes. However, IMGs who qualify for provisional/general registration, via the Competent Authority Pathway, are not eligible to apply for limited registration under the National Law.

If the IMG applies for the Specialist pathway – specialist recognition and is assessed as substantially comparable or partially comparable and is required by the college to complete a period of oversight or supervised practice, the IMG must apply for provisional registration in order to complete the requirements.

Where can IMGs find further information about the Competent Authority Pathway and the application forms?

Additional information, including application forms, is available on the [Medical Board of Australia's website](#).