

Fact sheet

1 July 2016

Updated: 6 June 2024

Information on how international medical graduates can demonstrate satisfactory progress towards attaining general or specialist registration

1. Summary

This information has been developed to assist international medical graduates (IMGs) granted limited registration to demonstrate to the Medical Board of Australia (the Board) that they are making satisfactory progress towards attaining the qualifications for general or specialist registration.

Four years to attain general or specialist registration

The Board expects practitioners granted limited registration to achieve key milestones towards attaining general or specialist registration within four years of being granted initial registration.

2. Background

Limited registration is granted to IMGs who are not qualified for general or specialist registration. The Board's registration standards for the four types of limited registration define the requirements for limited registration. The requirements include that:

- IMGs are in a registration pathway, and
- IMGs demonstrate satisfactory progress towards meeting the requirements for general or specialist registration at each renewal of registration. IMGs are exempt from this requirement if they will not apply for more than three renewals of registration.

IMGs seeking to practise in Australia long term or permanently must be in a pathway leading to general or specialist registration. The registration pathways leading to general or specialist registration are:

- Competent Authority pathway
- Standard pathway (AMC certificate)
- Specialist pathway (specialist recognition).

More information about the [registration pathways](#) is available on the Board's website

3. Key milestones to be achieved

The standard pathway and specialist pathway include key milestones that must be achieved to attain general or specialist registration. The Board has developed a table for each pathway setting out the key milestones to assist IMGs in planning their progress towards attaining general or specialist registration. At each renewal of limited registration, the Board will require IMGs to provide evidence of satisfactory progress towards achieving the key milestones.

Some milestones are not sequential. For example, IMGs in the standard pathway (AMC Certificate) may pass the AMC clinical exam before, during or after completing the required period of supervised practice. IMGs in the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' Practice Experience Pathway (PEP¹) or Fellowship Support Program (FSP) cannot enrol to sit Fellowship exams until they have met the RACGP's eligibility criteria to enrol in Fellowship examinations which includes satisfactorily completing their PEP or FSP Program Agreement.

The key milestones for each registration pathway are available at attachment A.

4. What is satisfactory progress?

Satisfactory progress is the achievement of a key milestone in the pathway to general or specialist registration.

Passing a necessary exam (AMC, specialist college) demonstrates progression.

A **failed exam** does not demonstrate progression. However, it signals to the Board that the practitioner is working actively towards attaining general or specialist registration.

Enrolling in an exam and withdrawing from it does not demonstrate progression.

Enrolment in an exam is NOT progress.
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5. Failure to progress to general or specialist registration within four years of initial registration

Under section 72 of the National Law², limited registration may not be renewed more than three times (total of four years of registration). IMGs who wish to practise in Australia beyond four years are expected to attain the qualifications for general or specialist registration within four years of limited registration.

If an IMG has exhausted the number of renewals permitted under the National Law and they have not been granted general or specialist registration, they can make a new application for limited registration. New applications for limited registration will be subject to the Board's registration standards in place at the time.

¹ The PEP for non-specialists is closed to new applicants. IMGs remaining in the PEP non-specialist stream are those confirmed as eligible to sit the RACGP Fellowship exams.

² Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory

Attachment A

Key milestones

Standard pathway – AMC Clinical Examination		
Milestone 1 (at new application of registration)	Milestone 2	Milestone 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A supervised practice plan. • A training plan or professional development plan that will support the applicant to achieve the key milestones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant and the proposed principal supervisor will develop a training plan or professional development plan that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of the applicant’s learning needs for safe practice ▪ Identification of activities that will prepare the applicant to sit and pass the AMC clinical exam ▪ Confirmation of the support that the supervisor and employer will provide to assist the applicant to prepare for the AMC clinical exam. <p>The training plan or professional development plan should be reviewed and updated by the applicant and the principal supervisor as required to meet the learning needs of the applicant.</p>	<p>Evidence of being awarded the AMC Certificate.</p>	<p>Evidence of satisfactory completion of 47 weeks (FTE) of supervise practice in Australia as defined in the Board’s registration standard ‘<i>Granting general registration to medical practitioners who hold an Australian Medical Council Certificate</i>’.</p>
<p>The order of milestones 2 and 3 are interchangeable. They are not sequential.</p>		
<p>If the applicant has not applied for general registration, at each renewal of their limited registration, the applicant will be asked to provide the following evidence of their progress against the milestones:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A satisfactory work performance report for the previous registration period – WRIG-30 2. A statement of progress against the training plan or professional development plan (whichever applies) 3. An updated training plan or professional development plan developed by the Board approved principal supervisor and the applicant for the next period of registration (if granted). The plan should address how barriers to achieving milestones will be overcome, how areas for improvement will be addressed (including areas failed in any AMC exam attempts) e.g. what learning and preparation will the applicant complete and what support will be provided by the supervisor and employer to help the applicant achieve the milestones 4. Any other information requested by the Board or Ahpra. 		

Standard pathway – AMC workplace-based assessment (WBA)

Milestone 1 (at new application of registration)	Milestone 2	Milestone 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A supervised practice plan. • Evidence of acceptance in an AMC accredited WBA program. 	Evidence of being awarded the AMC Certificate.	Evidence of satisfactory completion of 47 weeks (FTE) of supervised practice in Australia as defined in the Board’s registration standard ‘ <i>Granting general registration to medical practitioners who hold an Australian Medical Council Certificate</i> ’.
The order of milestones 2 and 3 are interchangeable. They are not sequential.		
<p>If the applicant has not applied for general registration, at each renewal of their limited registration, the applicant will be asked to provide the following evidence of their progress against the milestones:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A satisfactory work performance report for the previous registration period – WRIG-30 2. A statement of progress against the training plan or professional development plan (whichever applies) 3. An updated training plan or professional development plan developed by the Board approved principal supervisor and the applicant for the next period of registration (if granted). The plan should address how barriers to achieving milestones will be overcome, how areas for improvement will be addressed e.g. what learning and preparation will the applicant complete and what support will be provided by the supervisor and employer to help the applicant achieve the milestones 4. Any other information requested by the Board or Ahpra. 		

RACGP – PEP* or FSP for non-specialists in the standard pathway (Eligibility for the PEP* or FSP program includes the requirement that applicants hold current medical registration)

Milestone 1 (at new application of registration)	Milestone 2	Milestone 3	Milestone 4	Milestone 5	Final Milestone - can apply for specialist registration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A supervised practice plan. Evidence of passing the AMC MCQ Examination. Evidence of acceptance in the PEP or FSP (if previously registered). 	Evidence of satisfactory completion of the PEP or FSP Program Agreement.	Evidence of passing the Fellowship Applied Knowledge Test (AKT).	Evidence of passing Key Feature Problem Exam (KFP).	Evidence of passing Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) or the Remote Clinical Exam (RCE) or the Clinical Competency Exam (CCE). *In 2020, the RACGP replaced the OSCE with the RCE, which was replaced by the CCE in 2021.	Evidence of eligibility for Fellowship of the RACGP OR Evidence of Fellowship of the RACGP.
<p>Milestone 2 must be met before proceeding to Milestone 3.</p> <p>Applicants must pass the Fellowship AKT and KFP before sitting the clinical examination.</p>					

If the applicant has not applied for general or specialist registration, at each renewal of their limited registration, the applicant will be asked to provide the following evidence of their progress against the milestones:

1. A satisfactory work performance report for the previous registration period – WRIG-30
2. If not previously provided, a PEP* or FSP Program Agreement. This is only required once
3. Evidence from the RACGP that you are progressing in the FSP i.e. you are completing activities as per your program agreement
4. If the applicant has successfully completed the PEP* or FSP Program Agreement, results of Fellowship exam attempts
5. Any other information requested by the Board or Ahpra.

NOTE: Applicants in PEP* or FSP cannot enrol to sit the Fellowship exams until they have satisfactorily completed the requirements of the PEP or FSP agreement, the college’s experience requirements and receive confirmation from the RACGP that they are eligible to sit the Fellowship exams. The RACGP gives PEP or FSP participants up to three years to pass exams for Fellowship from the candidates’ first enrolment in an exam. More detailed information is available on the [RACGP website](#).

* The PEP for non-specialists is closed to new applicants. Any IMGs remaining in the PEP are those confirmed as eligible to sit fellowship exams.

RACGP – PEP specialist pathway – substantially comparable applicants

Milestone 1 (at new application of registration)

Milestone 2

Final Milestone - can apply for specialist registration

- A supervised practice plan.
- Evidence of being assessed by RACGP as substantially comparable (Report 1 or Combined report).

- Evidence of satisfactory completion of PEP agreement, **AND**
- Evidence of satisfactory completion of requirements defined in Report 1 or Combined report.

- Evidence of eligibility for Fellowship of the college **OR**
- Report 2 (confirming completion of college requirements and recommendation for specialist registration). **OR**
- Evidence of being awarded Fellowship of the college.

If the applicant has not applied for specialist registration, at each renewal of their limited registration, the applicant will be asked to provide the following evidence of their progress against the milestones:

1. A satisfactory work performance report for the previous registration period WRIG-30
2. If not previously provided, a PEP agreement outlining the requirements to be completed. This is only required once
3. Evidence from the RACGP that you are progressing in the PEP i.e. you are completing activities as per your program agreement
4. Any other information requested by the Board or Ahpra.

RACGP – PEP specialist pathway – partially comparable applicants

Milestone 1 (at new application of registration)	Milestone 2	Milestone 3	Milestone 4	Milestone 5	Final Milestone – can apply for specialist registration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A supervised practice plan. • Evidence of being assessed by RACGP as partially comparable (Report 1 or Combined report). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of satisfactory completion of PEP Agreement. 	Evidence of passing the Fellowship Applied Knowledge Test (AKT).	Evidence of passing Key Features Problems Exam (KFP).	Evidence of passing Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) or the Remote Clinical Exam (RCE) or the Clinical Competency Exam (CCE). *In 2020, the RACGP replaced the OSCE with the RCE. The RCE will be replaced by the CCE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of eligibility for Fellowship of the college OR Report 2 (confirming completion of college requirements and recommendation for specialist registration) OR • Evidence of being awarded Fellowship of the college.
<p>Milestone 2 must be met before proceeding to Milestone 3.</p> <p>Applicants must pass the Fellowship AKT and KFP before sitting the clinical examination.</p>					
<p>If the applicant has not applied for specialist registration, at each renewal of their limited registration, the applicant will be asked to provide the following evidence of their progress against the milestones:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A satisfactory work performance report for the previous registration period WRIG-30 2. If not previously provided, a PEP Program Agreement outlining requirements to be completed. This is only required once 3. Evidence from the RACGP that you are progressing in the PEP, i.e. you are completing activities as per your program agreement 4. If the applicant has successfully completed the PEP Program Agreement and any other requirements in Report 1 or Combined report, results of Fellowship exam attempts 5. Any other information requested by the Board or Ahpra. <p>NOTE: Applicants in the PEP Specialist stream who have been assessed as partially comparable cannot enrol to sit Fellowship exams until they have satisfactorily completed the requirements of the PEP Agreement, the college's experience requirements and receive confirmation from the RACGP that they are eligible to sit the Fellowship exams. The RACGP gives PEP participants up to three years to pass exams for Fellowship from the candidates' first enrolment in an exam. More detailed information is available on the RACGP website.</p>					

Specialist pathway – specialist recognition		
Milestone 1 (at new application of registration)	Milestone 2	Final Milestone - can apply for specialist registration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A supervised practice plan. • Evidence of being assessed by college as substantially comparable or partially comparable (Report 1 or Combined report). 	<p>Evidence of satisfactory completion of college requirements as defined in Report 1 or Combined report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of eligibility for Fellowship of the college OR • Report 2 (confirming completion of college requirements and recommendation for specialist registration) OR • Evidence of being awarded Fellowship of the college.
<p>If the applicant has not applied for specialist registration, at each renewal of their limited registration, the applicant will be asked to provide the following evidence of their progress against the milestones:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A satisfactory work performance report for the previous registration period – WRIG-30 2. A statement of progress against the training plan or professional development plan (whichever applies) 3. For partially comparable IMGs, results of Fellowship exam attempts 4. Any other information requested by Ahpra. 		