



Regulation 42

Assessment of short-term training applications for anaesthesia and pain medicine for international medical graduates in Australia

42. Assessment of short-term training applications for anaesthesia and pain medicine for international medical graduates in Australia

42.1. Purpose

- 42.1.1. To assist international medical graduates (IMGs) applying for limited registration and short-term training (STT) positions in anaesthesia or pain medicine in Australia.
- 42.1.2. To allow internationally qualified specialists or international specialists-in-training to undertake short-term training in Australia without the need for the Australian Medical Council (AMC) examination or a full comparability assessment.
- 42.1.3. To promote opportunities for exchange fellowships.

42.2. Background

- 42.2.1 The STT pathway does not lead to general or specialist registration or fellowship of ANZCA or FPM.
 - 42.2.1.1. An IMG who wants to practise as a medical practitioner in Australia for more than two years must meet the requirements of one of the following Medical Board of Australia (MBA) pathways:
 - 42.2.1.1.1. The competent authority pathway.
 - 42.2.1.1.2. The standard pathway.
 - 42.2.1.1.3. The specialist pathway.
 - 42.2.1.2. An IMG who wants to achieve fellowship of ANZCA or FPM must meet the requirements of the appropriate program/pathway:
 - 42.2.1.2.1. The anaesthesia training program (see regulation 37).
 - 42.2.1.2.2. The pain medicine training program (see by-law 4).
 - 42.2.1.2.3. The specialist international medical graduate (SIMG) assessment pathway (see regulation 23).
- 42.2.2 The position/program is not a formal ANZCA/FPM training position/program. The hospital, not ANZCA/FPM, is responsible for issuing a certificate of satisfactory completion.

42.3. Scope

- 42.3.1 This pathway applies to medical professionals who obtained their primary medical qualification outside Australia and who have either passed the relevant specialist examinations or are no more than two years from completing specialist training in their country of training.
- 42.3.2 Trainees who have registration in a full general scope in New Zealand do not need to apply for this pathway.
- 42.3.3 The STT pathway applies to those wishing to work in Australia in a short-term position (up to 2 years). Approval for an initial period of up to 1 calendar year may be sought. Applications for extension of support may be considered for up to a total of 2 calendar years (see [regulation 42.10](#)).

42.3.4 Approval for a position on this pathway does not influence eligibility to join the ANZCA or FPM training program or be assessed under the SIMG pathway.

42.4. Eligibility

42.4.1 Applicants for the STT pathway must have: 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) of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research, or other publications approved by the Australian Medical Council; and

42.4.1.2. Completed a period of internship or comparable, consistent with guidelines issued from time to time by the Medical Board of Australia. The internship must be at least 12 months full-time equivalent (FTE) of broadly-based clinical experience that could include surgery, general medicine and related subspecialties, emergency medicine, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatric medicine and general practice but would not normally include anaesthesia, intensive care medicine or pain medicine; and

42.4.1.3. Either passed the relevant specialist examinations or are no more than two years from completing specialist training in their country of specialist training.

42.4.2 It is the responsibility of the applicant to determine whether the MBA requires them to meet additional criteria. Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with the MBA's "Registration standard: limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice".

42.5. Application

42.5.1 Before submitting an application for STT, the employer and the applicant should familiarise themselves with the MBA "Guidelines: short-term training in a medical specialty for international medical graduates who are not qualified for general or specialist registration" and "Registration standard: limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice". To apply for the STT pathway applicants must find a position at a hospital within Australia that is willing to provide a suitable program.

42.5.2.2. Apply to the hospital and satisfy any eligibility requirements as outlined by the MBA.

42.5.2.3. Nominate a supervisor who:

42.5.2.3.1. Is a registered specialist in the same specialty as the training position.

42.5.2.3.2. Meets the MBA supervision requirements.

42.5.2.4. Send a completed MBA application form and required documentation to ANZCA/FPM.

42.5.2.5. Create an AMC profile and submit their primary and specialist medical qualifications for primary source verification via the AMC portal.

42.5.3 Applications will not be processed until all documentation has been received and the assessment fee paid. Applications for the STT pathway that remain incomplete will expire after three months from the date of receipt.

42.5.4 Those who are part of the SIMG pathway may also choose to apply for STT assessment. If an applicant has previously been assessed for the SIMG pathway, their SIMG assessment will be considered during their STT assessment. Only positions which are also suitable for their SIMG pathway will be considered for the STT assessment.

42.5.5 Trainees who do not hold general registration may apply for assessment via the STT pathway while they are undertaking their training (note [regulation 42.3.1](#)).

42.6. Assessment

42.6.1 The role of ANZCA/FPM is to complete a paper-based assessment to assess and advise the MBA of the following:

- 42.6.1.1. Whether an individual appears to be a genuine specialist-in-training or internationally-qualified specialist.
- 42.6.1.2. Whether the position is a genuine training position that is appropriate for that individual's training requirements. The individual's level of training and experience will be taken into account.
- 42.6.1.3. That there is adequate supervision and support for the individual's level of training and experience. This assessment will take into consideration the purpose and principles of supervision as set out in the MBA's guidelines for the supervision of IMGs.
- 42.6.2 This role does not involve assessing the applicant's comparability to a locally trained specialist anaesthetist or pain medicine physician.
- 42.6.3 On receipt of the completed application, it will be assessed against the criteria specified in [regulation 42.4](#). The final determination about the most suitable applicant for the position is made by the employer.
- 42.6.4 The assessment will take into consideration other relevant information, including assessments associated with the training program, and specialist international medical graduate (SIMG) and Area of Need (AoN) assessment processes.
- 42.6.5 Only applications from applicants with a suitable qualification ([noting 42.4](#)) for positions in clinical anaesthesia, pain medicine, and diving and hyperbaric medicine will be assessed.
- 42.6.6 A position will not be approved if:
 - 42.6.6.1 It does not have suitable supervision arrangements.
 - 42.6.6.1 It is less than 0.5 FTE in anaesthesia or pain medicine.

42.7. Duty to disclose all relevant information

- 42.7.1 It is the applicant's responsibility to provide the information required to support their application. They must fully and openly disclose all information that may be relevant, throughout the application process and their period of STT. Further information from the applicant, the employer and the supervisor(s) may be required. Failure to disclose relevant information may result in the application being rejected or approval for the position being withdrawn. **Outcome**
- 42.8.1. Once the assessment is complete, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), the applicant and the hospital will be notified of one of the following outcomes:
 - 42.8.1.1. 42.8.1.1. ANZCA/FPM supports the application and the outcome will be forwarded to the relevant parties.
 - 42.8.1.2. 42.8.1.2. ANZCA/FPM does not support the application and the outcome will be forwarded to the relevant parties and justification of the decision will be provided.
 - 42.8.1.3. 42.8.1.3. Further information is required before a final decision can be made.

42.9. Communication with ANZCA/FPM

- 42.9.1. Applicants must notify ANZCA/FPM of any change in circumstances that may have an impact on their application, final assessment decision or training program. This includes (but is not limited to) notification of changes to the arrangements for the position, the supervisor, the sites where they are employed, the start and finish dates of the position, and registration status (whether voluntary or imposed).
- 42.9.2. A change in circumstances may require the applicant to submit a new application with the accompanying assessment fee.

42.10. Validity of assessment and extensions

- 42.10.1. The assessment outcome applies to the program and duration described in the application. Any alterations must be prospectively reviewed and supported by ANZCA/FPM.

- 42.10.2. The initial support for an STT will be for a maximum of 12 calendar months from the date of commencement in the position.
- 42.10.3. If the applicant requires an extension beyond the period initially supported, they must submit an application, which will be considered only if ANZCA/FPM have received satisfactory assessment reports (see regulation 42.10.4.3), and the position has not changed. ANZCA/FPM will support an extension in an STT position for a maximum of 2 calendar years from the date of commencement in the position.
- 42.10.4. If the position has changed a new application must be submitted. An extension of support may be considered in the following circumstances:
- 42.10.1.1. 42.10.4.1. The applicant requires support for a period greater than that initially approved.
- 42.10.1.2. 42.10.4.2. AHPRA has specifically requested that the applicant seek an extension of support from ANZCA/FPM.
- 42.10.1.3. 42.10.4.3. The applicant has provided copies of the MBA "work performance reports" to ANZCA/FPM.
- 42.10.5. Applications for extension of support must be submitted prior to expiration of the approved period.

42.11. Fees

- 42.11.1. Fees are approved by Council each year. Fee schedules are published on our website.

42.12. Reconsideration, review and appeal

- 42.12.1. Applicants may request reconsideration and subsequent review of decisions. Such decisions may be formally appealed in accordance with ANZCA's Reconsideration, Review and Appeals Processes (see regulations 30 and 31).

42.13. Definitions, interpretations and non-binding decisions

- 42.13.1. Any decision, approval, consent or the exercise of any discretion by ANZCA and/or the FPM or other committee or authority under regulation 42 will be considered on a case-by-case basis, having regard to the particular circumstances of each case.
- 42.13.2. Notwithstanding regulation 42, ANZCA Council/FPM Board may exercise or dispense other decisions after consideration of relevant circumstances.
- 42.13.3. Any such decision, approval, consent or exercise of discretion will not be binding on any other or future decisions, nor set any precedent for other or future decisions regarding regulation 42.
- 42.13.4. In these regulations:
- "Constitution" means the Constitution of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists as amended from time to time.
 - "Regulations" means any regulation made in accordance with article 7.3.
 - "Council" means the ANZCA Council.
 - "Specialist International Medical Graduate" and "SIMG" mean anaesthesia or pain medicine specialists who gained their specialist qualification outside of Australia or New Zealand.
 - Headings and use of bold do not affect the interpretation.
 - Unless otherwise specified, or the contrary intention appears in these regulations:
 - o Where a word or phrase is defined in the Constitution the word or phrase has the same meaning throughout these regulations.
 - o The singular includes the plural and vice versa.
 - o A person includes an individual, a body corporate, a partnership, a firm, unincorporated association or institution and a government body.