



SPECIAL ISSUE: International Medical Graduates

New **nationally consistent** pathways for international medical graduates (IMGs) are being implemented across Australia from 1 July 2008.

The new eligibility requirements for IMGs mean that applicants who:

- have been awarded the Australian Medical Council (AMC) Advanced Standing Certificate are eligible to apply via the Competent Authority Pathway
- have passed the AMC Multiple Choice Questionnaire (MCQ) Exam are eligible to apply via the Standard (Non-Specialist) Pathway
- are overseas trained specialists and assessed by an Australian specialty college as "Substantially" or "Partially comparable" and are supported for a position in Queensland (including deemed specialists) are eligible to apply via the specialist pathway
- are supported by an Australian specialty college as a "specialist-in-training" are eligible to apply via the specialist pathway

Visit the AMC website www.amc.org.au for more information on the above requirements.

Specialists-in-Training

The new national guidelines define a "specialist-in-training" as:

- Being a recognised specialist or specialist-in-training in their country of training.
- Those who have passed specialist examinations and/or are no more than two years from completing specialist training in their country of training.
- Seeking to undertake training or obtain experience not available in their country of training for up to one year. In exceptional circumstances this can be extended to two years.
- Planning to return to their country of training at the end of the training period.

Visit www.amc.org.au for more information on being designated a 'genuine specialist-in-training'.

Orientation

The Medical Board of Queensland has adopted the national standard of specified topics to be covered in the orientation of IMGs to the Australian Health care setting.

The Board requires the orientation be completed within one month of commencement.

Evidence of this must be submitted together with the Registrant Assessment Report (Form 103) for their first three months of practise.

AMC Certificate Holders

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) who are awarded the AMC Certificate are eligible for General Registration and may have supervised practice conditions imposed if the Board determines that the practitioner does not have Australian intern-equivalent experience.

In Queensland this means the practitioner needs to have completed 10 weeks in each of emergency, surgery and medicine.

For more information on supervised practice conditions and waiver provisions go to <http://www.medicalboard.qld.gov.au/pdfs/amc-certificate-holders-v1.pdf>.

Certificates of Registration Status

The Board will no longer process applications for registration, which are supported by Certificates of Registration Status older than three months, but less than six months, from the date of issuance.

All applications for registration must be supported by valid Certificates of Registration Status (within 3 months from the date of issue).

Area of Need

The Certification for General Practice Positions form (104) is under review and the requirement for supporting information is being streamlined.

The revised form will be available at www.medicalboard.qld.gov.au shortly and you will be allowed a short period to transition to the new form.



Progress to General or Specialist Registration

Special Purpose Registrants approved **prior to 1 July 2008** must comply with the requirements detailed in the *Special Purpose Policy – Progress Requirements (Categories pre 1 July 2008)*.

Special Purpose Registrants approved **on or after 1 July 2008** must comply with the requirements detailed in the *Special Purpose Policy – Progress Requirements (Pathways post 1 July 2008)*.

All applicants who submitted an application prior to 1 July 2008 and approved on or after 1 July 2008 are required to submit, within the first 12 months of registration, evidence of:

- “Advanced Standing Certificate” from the AMC for Competent Authority pathway
- passing the AMC MCQ examination for Standard (Non-Specialist) pathway
- assessment by an Australian specialty college as “Substantially” or “Partially comparable” for Specialist pathway
- support by an Australian specialty college as a “specialist-in-training” for Specialist pathway

For more information on these policies go to www.medicalboard.qld.gov.au.

Form and Policy update

New forms and policies reflecting the 1 July 2008 pathway changes are available from www.medicalboard.qld.gov.au.

Please note that there will be a **one month** transition period during which the old forms will be accepted. Commencing 1 September 2008 only the new versions will be accepted.

Below is a summary of the policies and forms which have been modified or created:

Policies

New:

- *Standard (Non-Specialist) Pathway Policy*
- *Special Purpose Policy – Progress Requirements (Pathways post 1 July 2008)*

Modified:

- *Special Purpose Policy – Progress Requirements (Categories pre 1 July 2008)*

This policy was previously known as “Requirements for the progress of special purpose registrants towards eligibility for general or specialist registration”.

Forms

New:

- *Orientation Checklist (Form 107)*

The Orientation Checklist is a form to be completed by a new registrant and their approved primary supervisor after the **first month** of employment.

Modified:

- *Application for Special Purpose Registration Form (Form M1SP)*

This application form has been simplified and amended to reflect the new nationally consistent registration pathways for IMGs. Incomplete applications may be returned.

- *Special Purpose Employer Form (Form 100)*

The employer form has been re-structured and amended to include the different levels of supervision for general practice positions.

- *Supervised Practice Plan (Form 102)*

The Supervised Practice Plan has been modified to:

- mandate what must be included in an orientation for a new registrant
- indicate that the orientation is to occur within **one month** of commencement
- indicate when the approved supervisor is required to report to the Board
- state clearly it is the Board’s approved primary supervisor’s responsibility to collate information from the secondary supervisors, complete and sign the Registrant Assessment Report (Form 103) and return to the Board.

- *Registrant Assessment Report (Form 103)*

The Registrant Assessment Report has been modified to:

- reflect the requirement to report on an IMG’s performance at **3, 6 and 12 months** during their first registration period in a new position.