



## **Medical Board of Australia (MBA) expedited Specialist International Medical Graduate (SIMG) pathway for specialist anaesthetists - Information update July**

*As at 1 July 2025, Version 1*

### **Context**

In late December 2024 the MBA announced that specialist anaesthetists from the United Kingdom and Ireland that meet relevant criteria, could apply to the [expedited specialist pathway](#) for SIMG recognition in Australia to gain specialist registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra). This is in addition to the disciplines of general practice, obstetrics and gynaecology and psychiatry specialists launched in 2024, with additional specialities to be added during 2025.

Following our initial communication in [March 2025](#) regarding the development of an expedited pathway for SIMGs, we are pleased to provide a further information update as below.

---

### **Regular meetings with Ahpra**

The college is now having regular monthly meetings with Ahpra to discuss relevant expedited pathway items. We are acutely aware of the complexities and confusion this new process has created for many heads of departments and the FANZCA community, so this regular channel is important to seek clarification and further information on a regular basis. We welcome feedback and queries to collate and test with Ahpra on operational queries and issues our members come across.

### **Application requirement**

Overseas specialists with agreed qualifications on the MBA's [expedited specialist pathway: accepted qualifications list](#) are eligible for the expedited pathway. However, Ahpra have confirmed that applicants may still choose to apply or continue their application via the [ANZCA SIMG assessment pathway](#) if they prefer. I.e. it is not mandatory to conduct the MBA process. This was raised as the college had received queries and encountered situations where this was unclear. Many applicants have stated their desire to remain on the ANZCA pathway to have the opportunity to gain fellowship (i.e. FANZCA). The expedited pathway offered by the MBA does not lead to an ANZCA fellowship in the same manner the ANZCA standard SIMG pathway and assessment process does. Therefore, ANZCA has developed a [pathway to ANZCA fellowship](#) that can be undertaken concurrently by MBA expedited specialist pathway applicants if they choose, which, if successful, will lead to specialist medical registration and ANZCA fellowship.

ANZCA has recently updated [regulation 23](#) to reflect that if applicants are deemed substantially comparable under ANZCA's regulation 23.8 and 23.9, they will no longer be required to attend a structured interview and will instead be issued with the requirements for completing the SIMG individual program after a paper review. paper review.

The estimated timeframe for an outcome is within one month of receiving a complete application.

### **Supervision resources**

The MBA has provided an updated information sheet for [supervised practice requirements](#) for expedited pathway SIMGs.

Clarification also been sought that under the expedited specialist pathway, SIMGs will be supervised by other experienced specialists in the same specialty. While there is a clinical element to the supervision, it also involves supporting the SIMGs to become orientated to the Australian health care system. The supervision framework is flexible so arrangements can be individualised and tailored to match the experience and clinical circumstances of each specialist in the pathway.

Additional MBA supervisor resources for the expedited specialist pathway are currently in development with the provision of Health Workforce Taskforce (HWT) funding and are scheduled for release on the MBA website by the end of 2025.

## Requirements for supervisors

The following MBA policy: *Supervised practice requirements for specialist registration outlines the requirements to be a supervisor for the pathway* states that supervisors must:

- have relevant experience (including their qualifications, responsibilities and relevant scope of practice)
- not be subject to supervised practice, conditions or undertakings that would affect their ability to effectively supervise.

For SIMGs who are on the expedited specialist pathway, supervisors must:

- be specialists who hold specialist registration in the same specialty field
- have practised in Australia for a minimum of 12 months full-time equivalent experience as a specialist in Australia with specialist registration, and
- show that they have the demonstrated skills and competency to supervise specialists on this pathway.

## Supervision level

MBA confirmed that they generally apply tighter supervision requirements for the initial three months, progressing to more remote levels of supervision (Indirect 2 to Remote supervision requirements) after three months if a satisfactory supervision report has been provided.

The Appendix A in [Supervised practice arrangements for specialist international medical graduates on the Expedited Specialist pathway](#) provides detailed description of the levels of supervised practice provided in the guidance.

## Reports on expedited pathway

MBA has published monthly [summary reports](#) on their website. As of 6 June, 18 applications have been submitted for anaesthesia, with two applicants granted registration.

MBA is developing an annual report covering the period from October 2024 to April 2025, which is scheduled for release in July 2025.

The college also receives monthly data reports from MBA for those applicants who have consented to provide details to the college. Currently about 70-80% (across all colleges) have consented to provide their details to the respective college.

## Cultural safety and multi-source feedback (MSF) updates

SIMGs on the expedited pathway must complete cultural safety education and MSF that meets the MBA's requirements. It must be undertaken by one of the board's approved course providers.

A copy of the policy is available here: [Medical Board of Australia - Cultural safety education requirements for specialist registration](#).

The Board-approved MSF provider for the expedited specialist pathway is Client Focused Evaluations Program (CFEP). For further information on the CFEP MSF process, and to register for a MSF assessment [contact CFEP](#).

## Useful resources

- [MBA expedited specialist pathway](#)
- [MBA FAQs for SIMGs](#)
- [Supervised practice requirements and information sheet](#)
- [ANZCA standard SIMG pathway](#)
- [Pathway to ANZCA Fellowship](#)

## Contact points

Contact [SIMGPathwaysReview@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:SIMGPathwaysReview@ahpra.gov.au) for any queries relating the MBA expedited specialist pathway.

Contact [simg@anzca.edu.au](mailto:simg@anzca.edu.au) for any queries relating to the ANZCA SIMG assessment process or [policy@anzca.edu.au](mailto:policy@anzca.edu.au) for any related policy or advocacy item.