

Division:	Education and Training Administration	Ref. No.	ETA-IMG-003
Department:	International Medical Graduates		
Title:	Short Term Training in a Medical Specialty Pathway		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Applications for short term training in a medical specialty pathway in Australia allow International Medical Graduates (IMGs) to undertake a short term training position/program with the objective of improving their professional skills and experience not available in their country of training.

Within the surgical specialty an IMG is approved to undertake a short term training position/program which enables them to develop surgical skills and experience through a work based surgical program provided by the hospital. Hospitals offering such positions must provide IMGs with an appropriate scope of work, adequate clinical and academic supervision and a designated supervisor. If granted by the Medical Board of Australia, the short term training position/program will be valid for a short period normally up to one year but in exceptional circumstances may be extended to three years (e.g. exchange fellowships).

The issuing of a certificate of satisfactory completion of the position/program is the responsibility of the hospital, not the responsibility of the College, as the position/program is not a formal College training position/program.

For information relating to these positions, candidates are advised to contact the large teaching hospitals in Australia. The hospital (usually the Head of the relevant department) can provide details on vacancies and other formalities.

For further information relating to short term training in a medical specialty pathway in Australia, candidates are advised to contact the Medical Board of Australia.

Short -term training positions/programs do not lead to Fellowship of the College.

2. KEYWORDS

Short term training, positions, programs, , specialist-in-training, International medical graduates (IMGs)

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Assessment Process

- 3.1.1. To be eligible to apply for a short term training in a medical specialty pathway an IMG must find a position within Australia that is willing to provide a suitable training position/program. The IMG must apply to the hospital, and satisfy, any eligibility requirements as outlined by the Medical Board of Australia.
- 3.1.2. At the request of the nominating employer/sponsor and/or institution, the College will undertake an assessment of the proposed program and the IMG's suitability in order to determine whether it supports the specified training position and program as suitable for the applicant (IMG).
- 3.1.3. Submission for approval of the short term training position/program by the College must include a:
 - a. Position description and details of the training position/program as per the College's prescribed form which is available via the College's website

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- b. An assessment application form AAMC-30 from the Medical Board of Australia with the required documents including:
 - Curriculum vitae of the applicant
 - Training program
 - Statement of the IMG's intention to return to country of training on completion of the training position/program
 - Position description for the proposed training position
 - Two written references on letterhead within the last two years
 - Certified copies of undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in English
 - Details on how supervision will be provided and the names and contact details of proposed supervisor/s

3.2. Assessment Standards

- 3.2.1. The assessment of the proposed training position/program focuses on determining the following:
 - a. That the position to be occupied by the IMG is part of a genuine supervised workplace training position/program.
 - b. That the program is closely related to the IMG's current occupation and has the potential to enhance their skills level.
 - c. That the hospital has appropriate infrastructure and specialty services to support the program.
 - d. That the proposed program is supported by the Director of Medical Services and the designated supervisor.
 - e. That the program is not an accredited College surgical training position
- 3.2.2. It is essential that the employer/sponsor and/or institution has assessed and verified that the applicant:
 - a. Is an overseas-trained specialist or is an overseas specialist-in-training, having either passed the relevant specialist examinations or is no more than two years from completing specialist training in their country of training;
 - b. Will be undertaking this position/program (which may include such opportunities as exchange fellowships) for the purpose of specific training or up-skilling in their specialty or obtaining experience in their specialty not available in their country of training;
 - c. Has the stated intention of returning to their country of training at the end of the short term program, which shall not be for a period of longer than two years.

3.3. Assessment Recommendation

- 3.3.1. On completion of the assessment the College will recommend one of the following:
 - a. The work based training position/program is appropriate to provide the IMG with the relevant education, training and clinical experience to enhance their surgical skills and experience, and the IMG is suitable for the proposed training position/program.

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- b. The training position/program is not appropriate to provide the IMG with the relevant education, training and clinical experience to enhance their surgical skills and experience and/or the IMG is not suitable for the proposed training position/program.

3.4. Notification and Feedback

- 3.4.1. Notification of the College determination after assessment will be sent to the Medical Board of Australia including justification of the decision when not supporting the suitability of the training position/program.

3.5. Validity of Assessment and Extensions

- 3.5.1. The determination is valid for undertaking the program within the scope and for the duration of the application considered.
- 3.5.2. Individual extensions may be considered on request from the sponsoring hospital and the IMG and will be subject to review of satisfactory assessment reports.

3.6. Fees

- 3.6.1. An Assessment Fee must be paid prior to the commencement of the assessment of an application.
- 3.6.2. Fees are approved by Council in October each year and published on the College website.

3.7. Appeal

Decision relating to endorsement of short term training positions in Australia may be reviewed or appealed in accordance with the College Appeals Mechanism.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Checklist for short term training in a medical specialty pathway positions in Australia
RACS application for short term training in a medical specialty pathway positions in Australia

Approver: Education Board
Authoriser: Council

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