

# Medical Board of Australia

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## Report on specialist medical colleges' specialist pathway data

Reporting period: 1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015



## Introduction

The specialist pathway is for international medical graduates (IMGs) who are overseas-trained specialists seeking specialist registration in Australia (specialist recognition) or who are applying for an area of need specialist level position in Australia. Information about the specialist pathway is available on the [Board's website](#).

On 1 July 2014 changes were made to the specialist pathway for IMGs. IMGs now apply directly to the relevant specialist medical college for assessment rather than through the Australian Medical Council (AMC). The AMC previously collected a range of data on specialist pathway applications. As the AMC no longer collect pathway data, colleges now report their data directly to the Medical Board of Australia (the Board).

Reporting is annual by calendar year. The first report covered the initial six month period 1 July – 1 December 2014. The second report covered 1 January – 31 December 2015. The Board is publishing the data from the first full calendar year of reporting.

All colleges report against the same metrics. The data requested for 2015 includes:

- number and type of applications received in 2015 (application for specialist recognition, area of need or combined (specialist recognition and area of need))
- applicant's (IMG) country of training (for applications received in 2015)
- number of applications received which were incomplete on first submission
- number of applications withdrawn by the applicant (IMG)
- outcome of college's interim comparability assessment (IMG found to be not comparable, partially comparable or substantially comparable)
- outcome of college's area of need assessment (IMG found to be suitable or not suitable for the area of need position)
- outcome of final assessment for specialist recognition (IMG recommended for specialist recognition or not recommended for specialist recognition)
- time to first available assessment interview (from the date a complete application is received to the date of first available interview that is offered)
- time taken by college to assess IMG's application - interim assessment and/or area of need assessment (from the date a complete application is received to the date that decision of interim assessment is made by college)
- time from interim assessment to final assessment (from the date of decision of interim assessment, to the date that decision of final assessment is made by college)
- number of fellowships awarded to IMGs
- number of appeals of college decision by IMGs.

## How to interpret the data

The specialist college data report is a report of all college 'activities' during the period and reflects point in time reporting as IMGs are unlikely to complete all the processes within one reporting period. Therefore, denominators are unable to be defined and percentages cannot be calculated. A college may have more assessment outcomes than applications received for the period.

Delays can occur during the assessment process which are outside the control of the college, for example, an IMG may choose to defer their interview.

Data has been collated and summarised in graphs and tables. Highlights from the 2015 data include:

1. IMGs have gained their specialist qualifications in a range of countries with highest numbers of applications from United Kingdom, India, South Africa, United States of America and Ireland
2. the colleges with the highest number of applications in the twelve month period were the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) (257 applications) and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) (151 applications).
3. the colleges with the lowest number of applications in the twelve month period were the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators (RACMA) (three applications) and the Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians (ACSEP) (two applications)
4. most colleges were able to offer the majority of their IMGs an interview within 3 months of receiving a complete application (note that some IMGs do not elect to have the interview on the first available date)
5. most colleges were able to complete their area of need assessments within three months
6. across all colleges, over 70% of IMGs from the UK and Ireland were assessed as 'substantially comparable'
7. across all colleges, 99% of IMGs from the UK and Ireland who were assessed as partially comparable or substantially comparable fulfilled the college requirements and were recommended for specialist recognition
8. the majority of applicants for the specialist pathway - area of need were found suitable for the position (note these data exclude applications where the IMG applied for both specialist recognition and area of need assessment)
9. the majority of IMGs were 'recommended for specialist recognition' at their final assessment (after their period of up to 12 months peer review (substantially comparable) or a up to 24 months of upskilling or other assessment/examination (partially comparable))
10. the majority of appeals relate to the interim assessment of comparability (i.e. IMG appealing assessment outcome 'not comparable' or 'partially comparable')

The Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (RACDS) did not receive any applications in the reporting period.

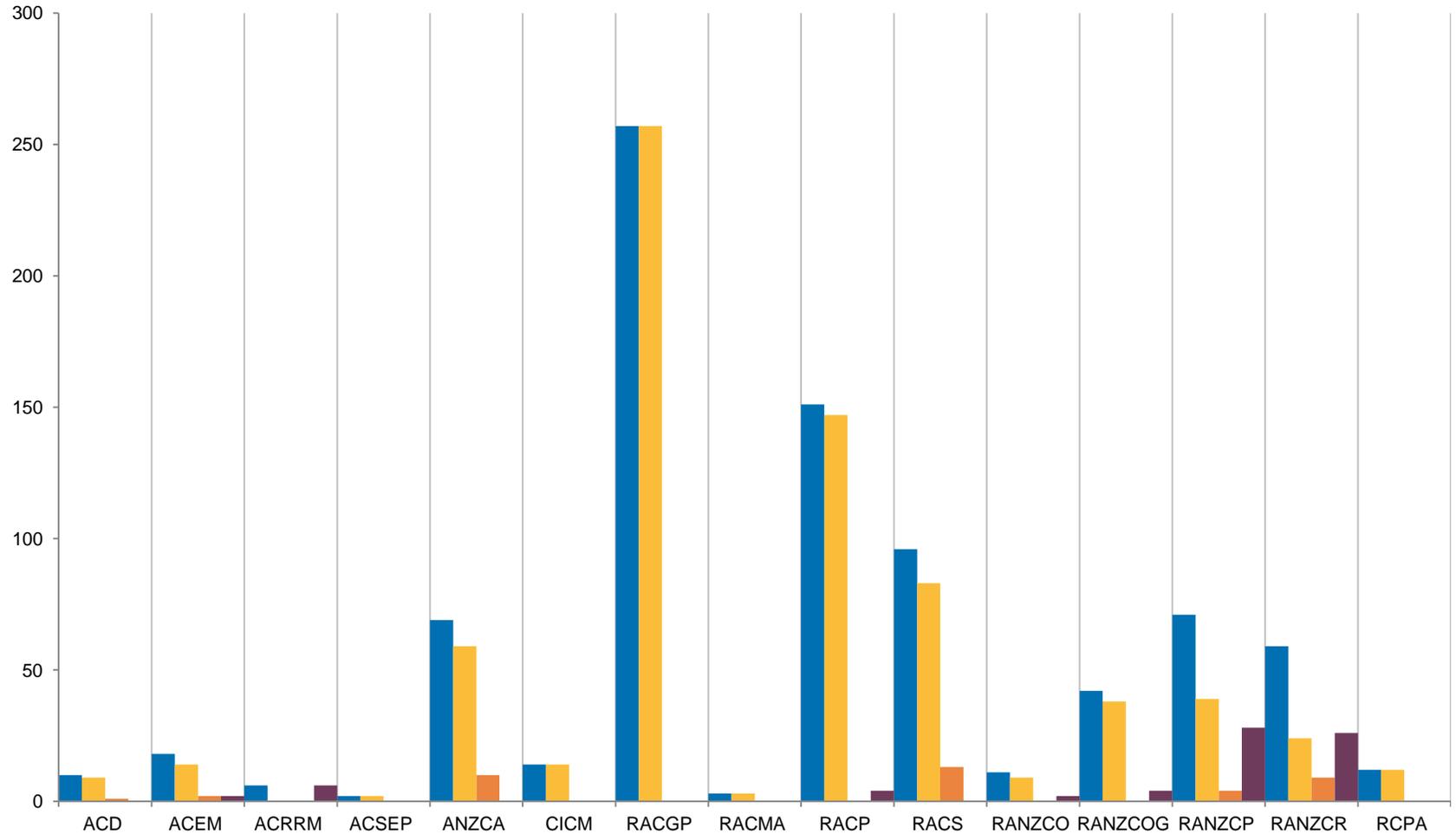
## List of college abbreviations

ACD	Australasian College of Dermatologists
ACEM	Australasian College for Emergency Medicine
ACSEP	Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians
ANZCA	Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
ACRRM	Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
CICM	College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand
RACDS	Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons
RACS	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
RACGP	The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
RACMA	The Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators
RACP	The Royal Australasian College of Physicians
RANZCP	The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
RANZCOG	The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
RANZCO	The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
RANZCR	The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists
RCPA	The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia

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## 1. Number of applications received

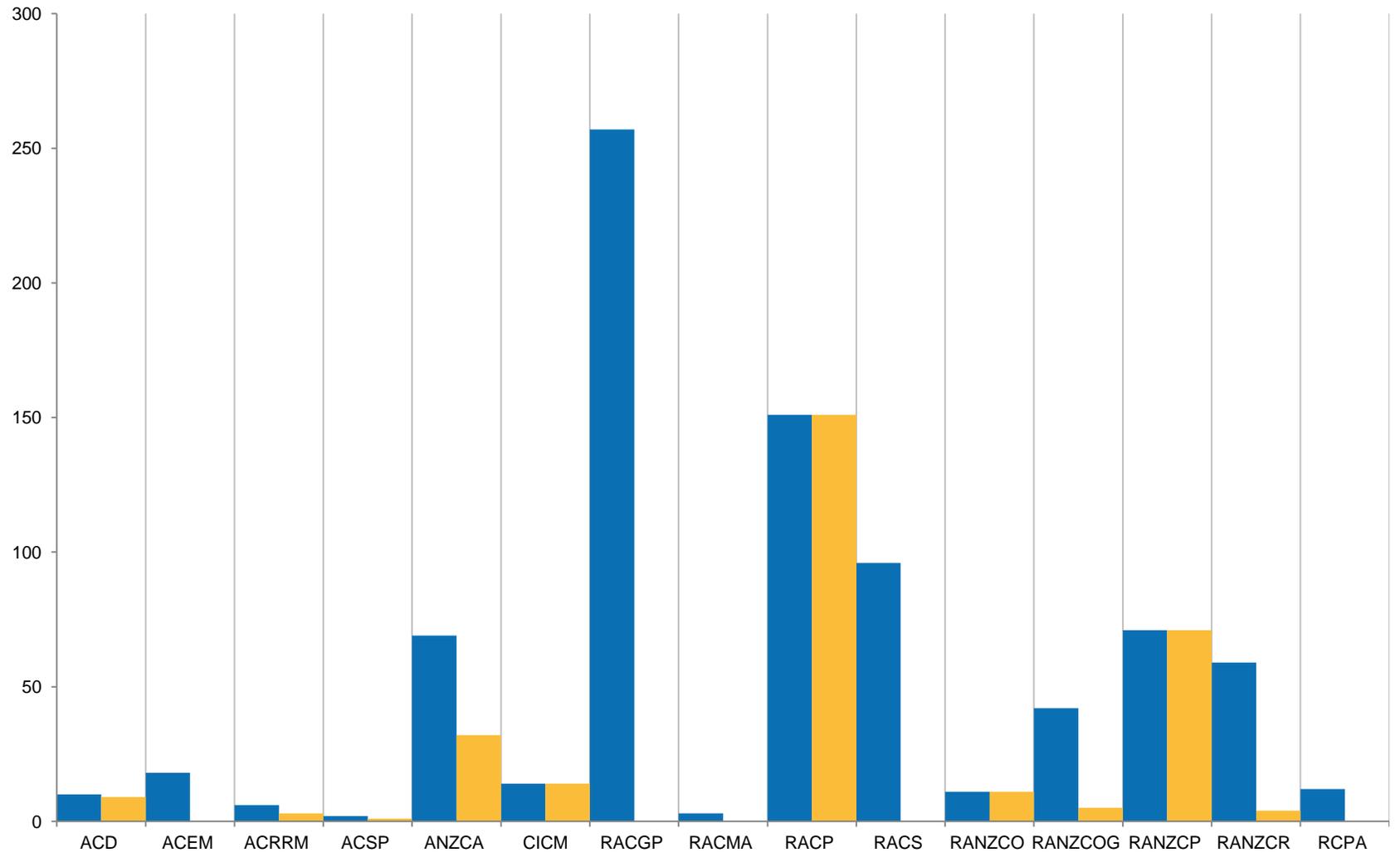


Total number of applications received	10	18	6	2	69	14	257	3	151	96	11	42	71	59	12
Application for specialist recognition	9	14	0	2	59	14	257	3	147	83	9	38	39	24	12
Application for area of need	1	2	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	4	9	0
Combined application – specialist recognition and area of need	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	4	28	26	0

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## 2. Number of applications incomplete on first submission



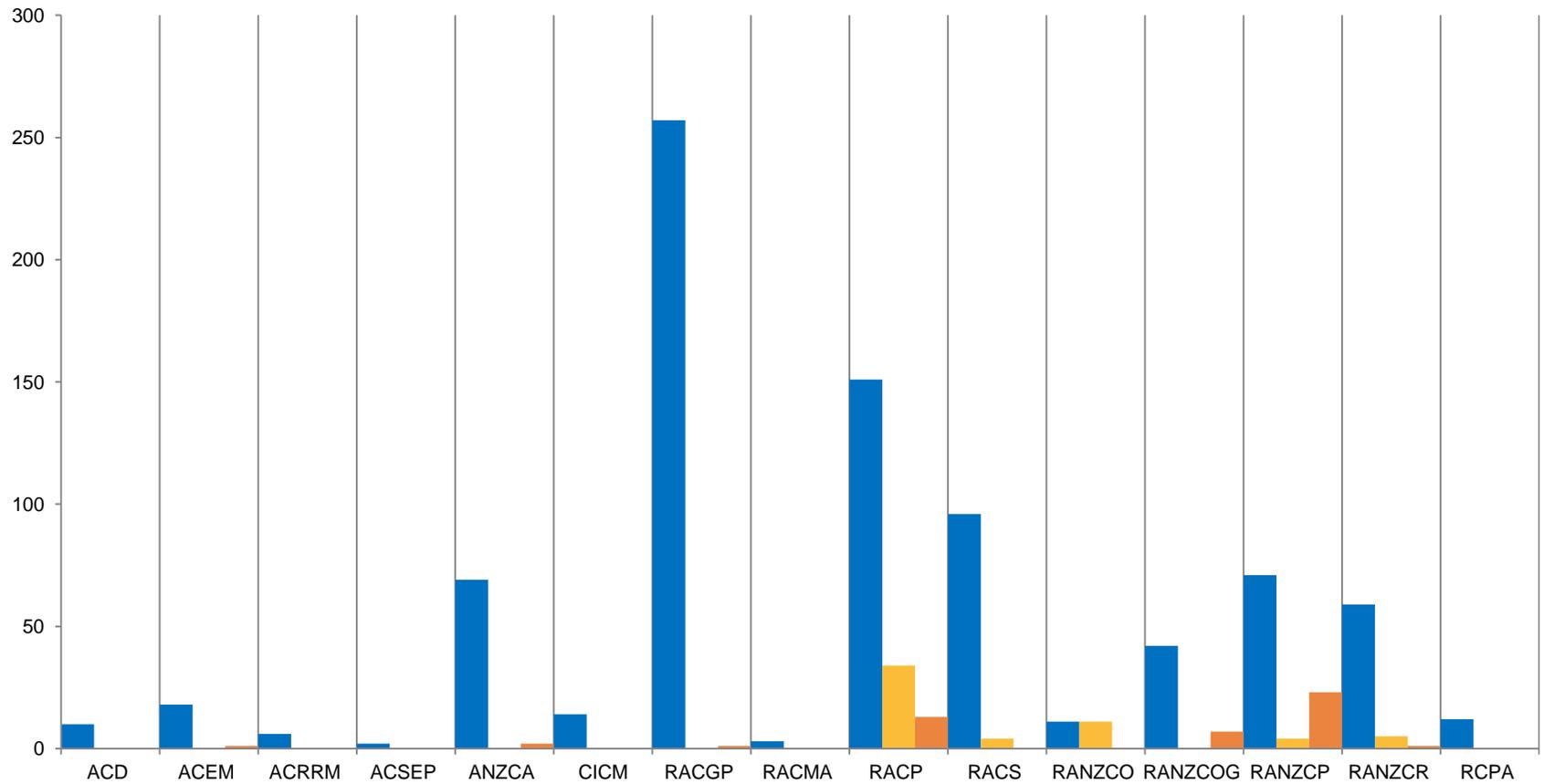
Total number of applications received	10	18	6	2	69	14	257	3	151	96	11	42	71	59	12
Incomplete on first submission	9	0	3	1	32	14		0	151		11	5	71	4	0

Note: RACGP and RACS data not collected. Some colleges require documentation from a third party for applications to be complete.

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### 3. Number of applications withdrawn by the IMG



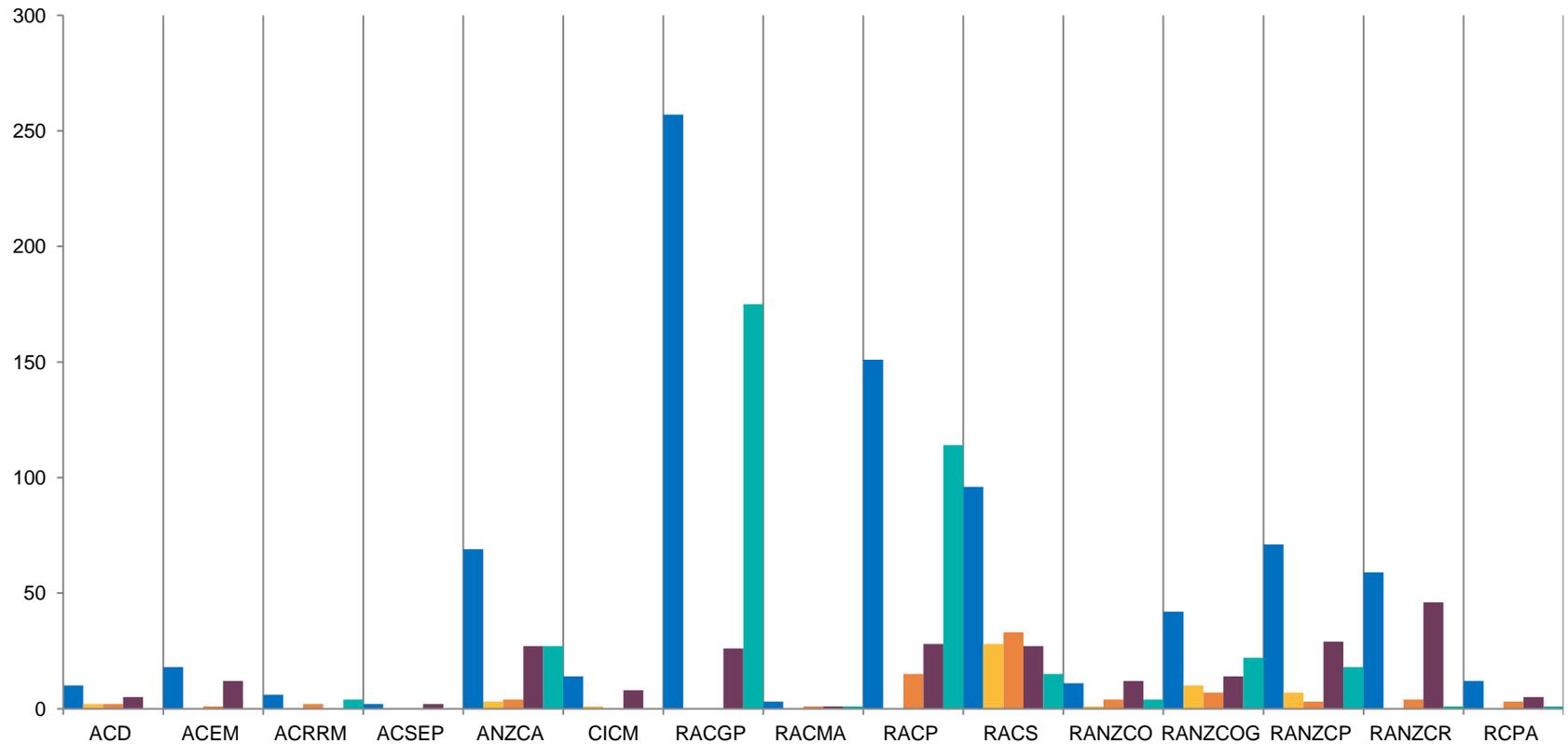
Total number of applications received	10	18	6	2	69	14	257	3	151	96	11	42	71	59	12
Number withdrawn before interim assessment	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	34	4	11	0	4	5	0
Number withdrawn between interim assessment and final assessment	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	13		0	7	23	1	0

Note: Some RACGP and RACS data not collected. Some withdrawals relate to applications received before 2015

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#### 4. Specialist recognition – outcome of interim assessment of comparability



	ACD	ACEM	ACRRM	ACSEP	ANZCA	CICM	RACGP	RACMA	RACP	RACS	RANZCO	RANZCOG	RANZCP	RANZCR	RCPA
Total number of applications received	10	18	6	2	69	14	257	3	151	96	11	42	71	59	12
Initial paper based review – not comparable	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	0		28	1	10	7	0	0
Interim assessment – not comparable	2	1	2	0	4	0	0	1	15	33	4	7	3	4	3
Interim assessment – partially comparable	5	12	0	2	27	8	26	1	28	27	12	14	29	46	5
Interim assessment – substantially comparable	0	0	4	0	27	0	175	1	114	15	4	22	18	1	1

Note: Outcomes of assessment may not total 'Total number of applications received' as some assessments were still in progress. The RACP initial paper based review is not a final decision. RANZCR do not do an initial paper based assessment.

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## 5. Specialist recognition - outcome of interim assessment by country of highest specialist qualification – all colleges

Country	Not comparable	Partially comparable	Substantially comparable
Argentina	0	2	0
Austria	0	1	0
Bangladesh	2	1	0
Belgium	1	2	1
Brazil	2	6	0
Canada	2	5	7
Czech Republic	1	0	0
Chile	1	2	0
China	4	2	3
Colombia	1	1	0
Denmark	1	1	1
Egypt	8	6	0
Fiji	0	1	0
France	0	1	2
Germany	2	2	0
India	32	47	14
Iran	4	6	5
Iraq	2	4	1
Ireland	2	6	23
Israel	0	2	0
Italy	1	0	4
Jamaica	1	1	0
Japan	0	3	0
Jordan	0	2	1

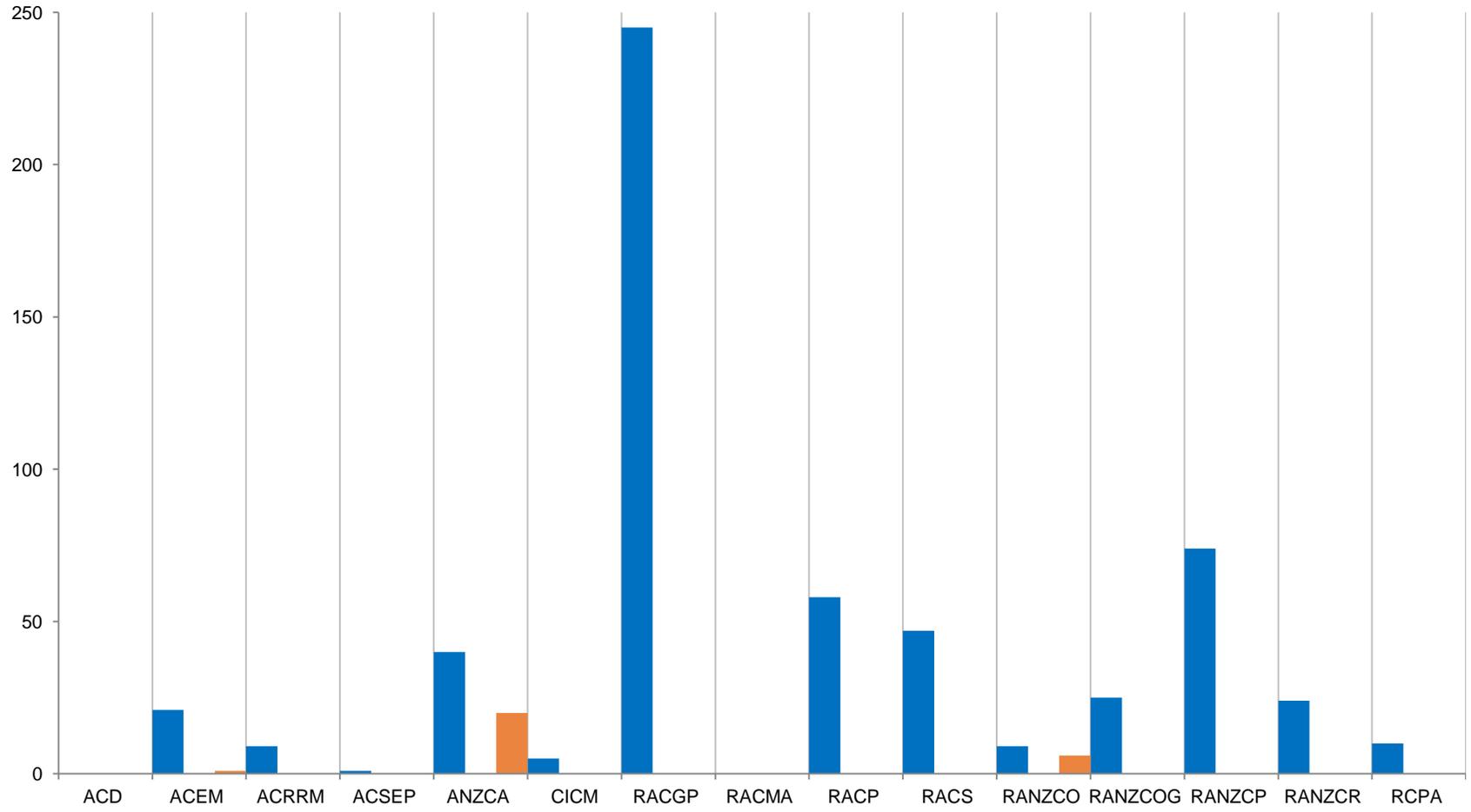
Country	Not comparable	Partially comparable	Substantially comparable
Kazakhstan	1	0	0
Malaysia	0	4	1
Mexico	0	1	0
Netherlands	0	6	2
New Zealand	0	0	4
Nigeria	0	1	0
Norway	0	1	1
Pakistan	5	7	1
Philippines	1	0	0
Poland	0	1	0
Portugal	0	0	1
Qatar	0	1	0
Romania	0	1	0
Russia	2	0	0
Saudi Arabia	0	1	0
Singapore	0	1	4
South Africa	0	18	6
South Korea	0	0	1
Spain	2	0	1
Sri Lanka	0	11	6
Sweden	1	2	0
Switzerland	0	2	2
Syria	3	3	0
Taiwan	1	0	0

Country	Not comparable	Partially comparable	Substantially comparable
Trinidad and Tobago	1	0	0
Turkey	2	1	0
UK	11	70	267
United Arab Emirates	0	1	0
USA	2	13	16
Venezuela	0	1	0
Unknown	0	5	0

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6. Specialist recognition - Outcome of final assessment for specialist recognition



Recommended for specialist	0	21	9	1	40	5	245	0	58	47	9	25	74	24	10
Recommended for specialist – limited scope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not recommended for specialist	0	1	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0

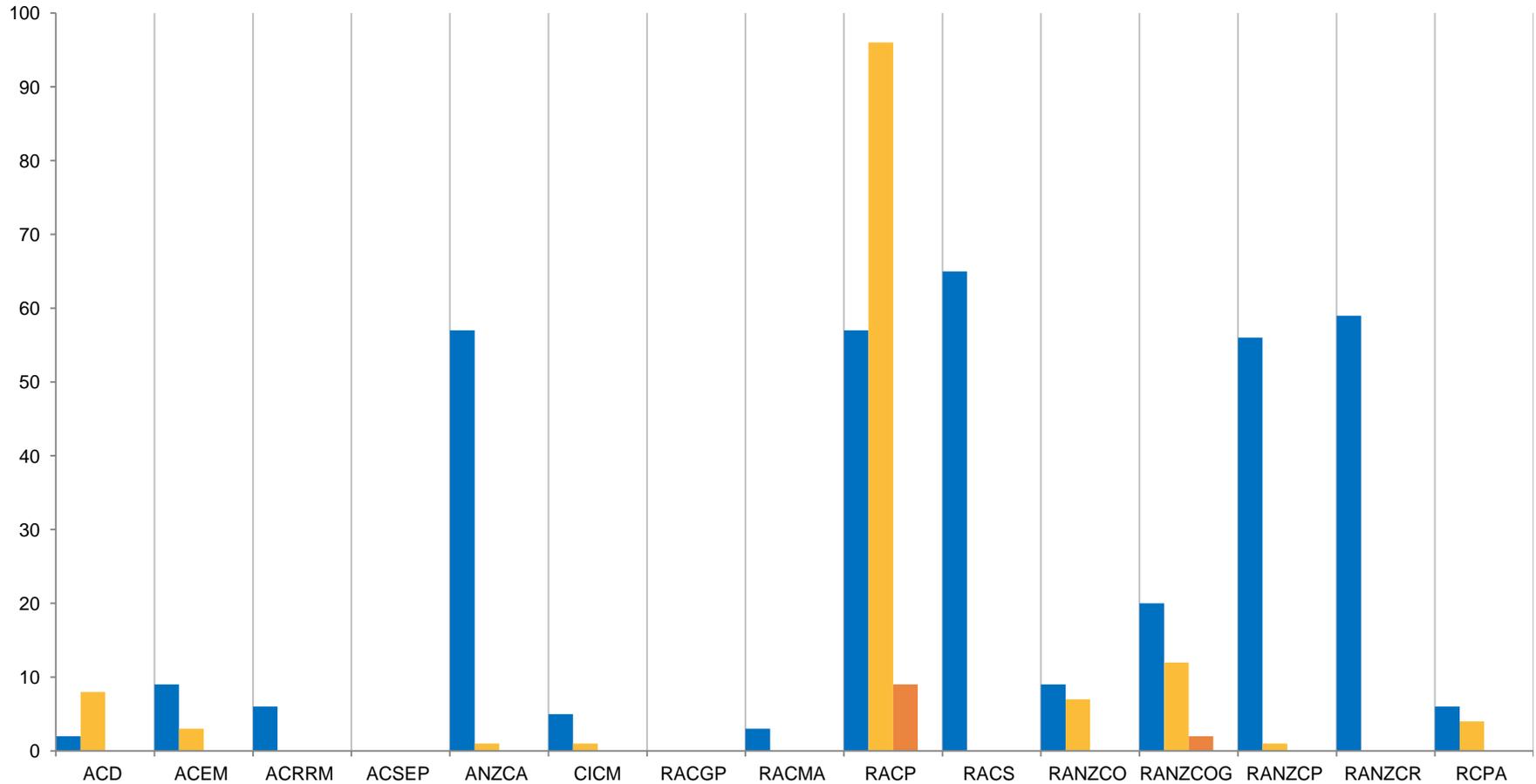
Note: ANZCA data includes a number of applicants who had exceeded the maximum timeframe.

7. Specialist recognition - outcome of final assessment by country of highest specialist qualification – all colleges

Country	Partially comparable		Substantially comparable	
	Recommended	Not recommended	Recommended	Not recommended
Austria	0	0	1	0
Belgium	1	0	0	0
Brazil	2	0	1	0
Bulgaria	1	0	0	0
Canada	5	2	0	0
Croatia	1	0	0	0
China	0	0	1	0
Denmark	1	0	0	0
Egypt	3	3	0	0
Germany	5	3	1	0
Greece	2	0	0	0
India	51	4	13	0
Iran	5	2	1	0
Iraq	1	0	0	0
Ireland	6	0	21	0
Israel	0	1	1	0
Italy	1	1	0	0
Jordan	0	0	1	0
Malaysia	5	0	0	0
Mexico	2	0	0	0
Myanmar	1	0	0	0
Netherlands	6	0	3	0

Country	Partially comparable		Substantially comparable	
	Recommended	Not recommended	Recommended	Not recommended
New Zealand	0	0	4	0
Nigeria	2	0	0	0
Norway	0	0	0	1
Pakistan	0	1	0	0
Papua New Guinea	1	0	0	0
Poland	1	0	0	0
Portugal	1	0	0	0
Romania	0	0	1	0
Russia	0	1	0	0
Singapore	1	0	1	0
South Africa	13	0	9	0
Sri Lanka	16	3	3	0
Sweden	3	1	0	0
Switzerland	2	0	1	0
Syria	2	0	0	0
Trinidad and Tobago	1	0	0	0
UK	42	2	277	0
Ukraine	0	1	0	0
USA	13	0	4	0

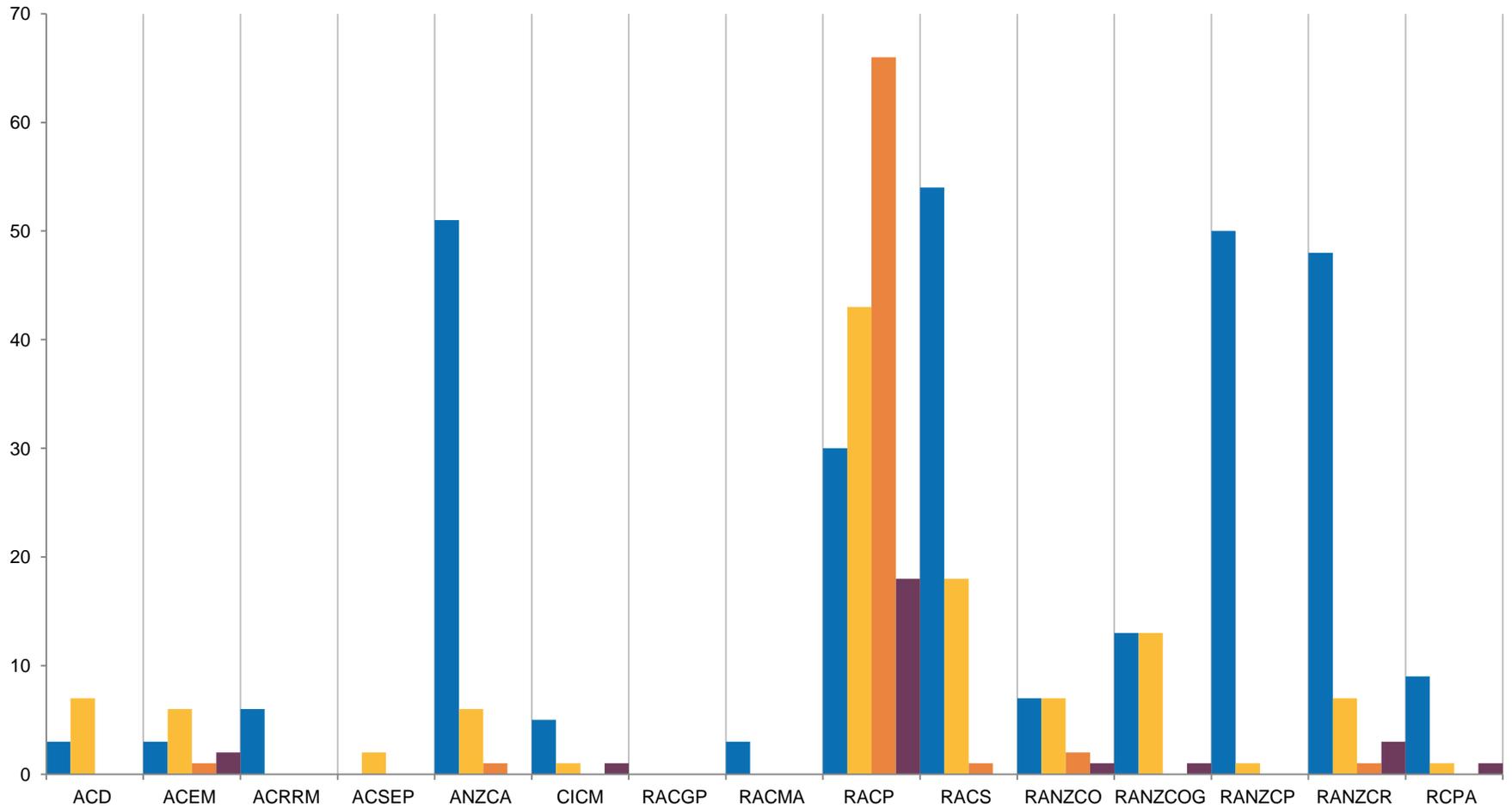
8. Specialist recognition - time to first available assessment interview



	ACD	ACEM	ACRRM	ACSEP	ANZCA	CICM	RACGP	RACMA	RACP	RACS	RANZCO	RANZCOG	RANZCP	RANZCR	RCPA
0 – 3 months	2	9	6	0	57	5		3	57	65	9	20	56	59	6
4 – 6 months	8	3	0	0	1	1		0	96	0	7	12	1	0	4
7 – 9 months	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	9	0	0	2	0	0	0
9 months +	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: RACGP do not interview to assess comparability.

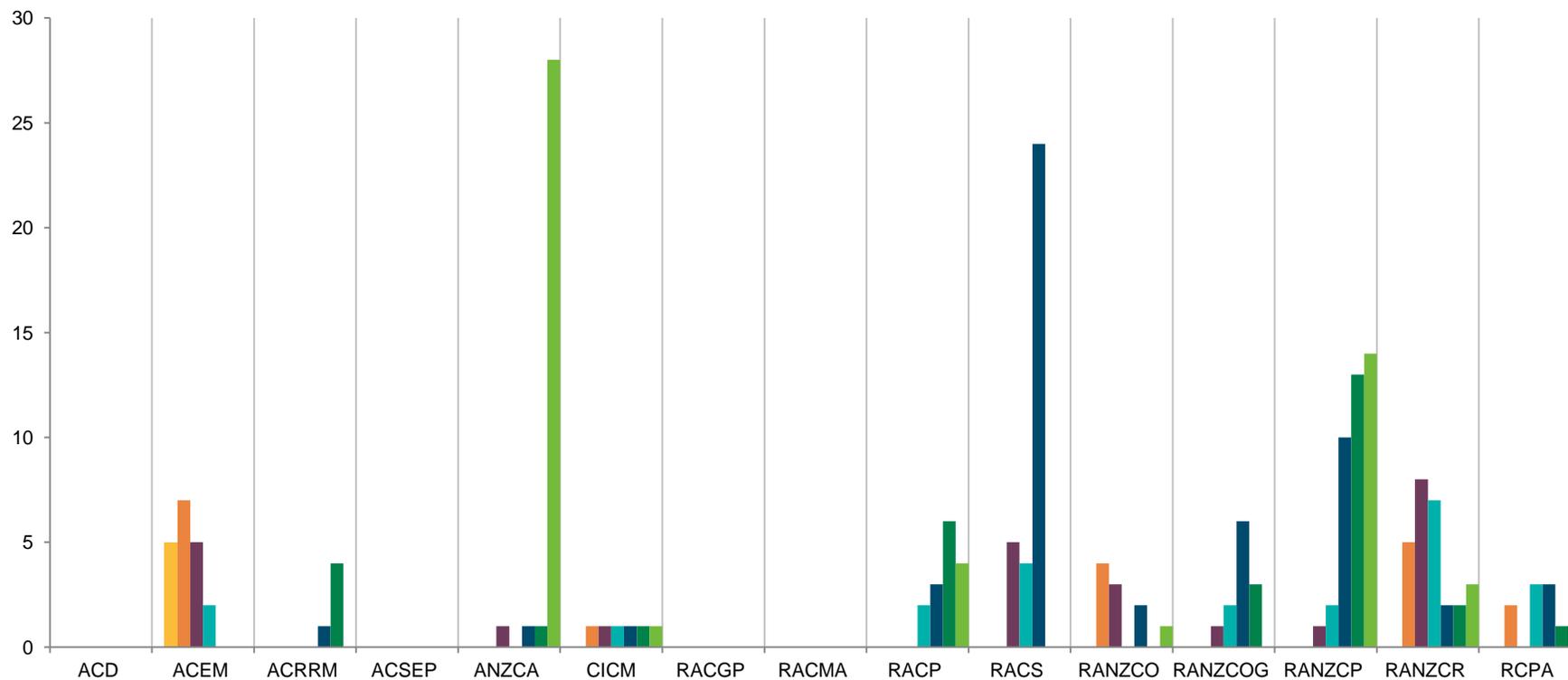
9. Specialist recognition - time for interim assessment of comparability



	ACD	ACEM	ACRRM	ACSEP	ANZCA	CICM	RACGP	RACMA	RACP	RACS	RANZCO	RANZCOG	RANZCP	RANZCR	RCPA
0 – 3 months	3	3	6	0	51	5		3	30	54	7	13	50	48	9
4 – 6 months	7	6	0	2	6	1		0	43	18	7	13	1	7	1
7 – 9 months	0	1	0	0	1	0		0	66	1	2	0	0	1	0
9 months +	0	2	0	0	0	1		0	18	0	1	1	0	3	1

Note: RACGP data not collected.

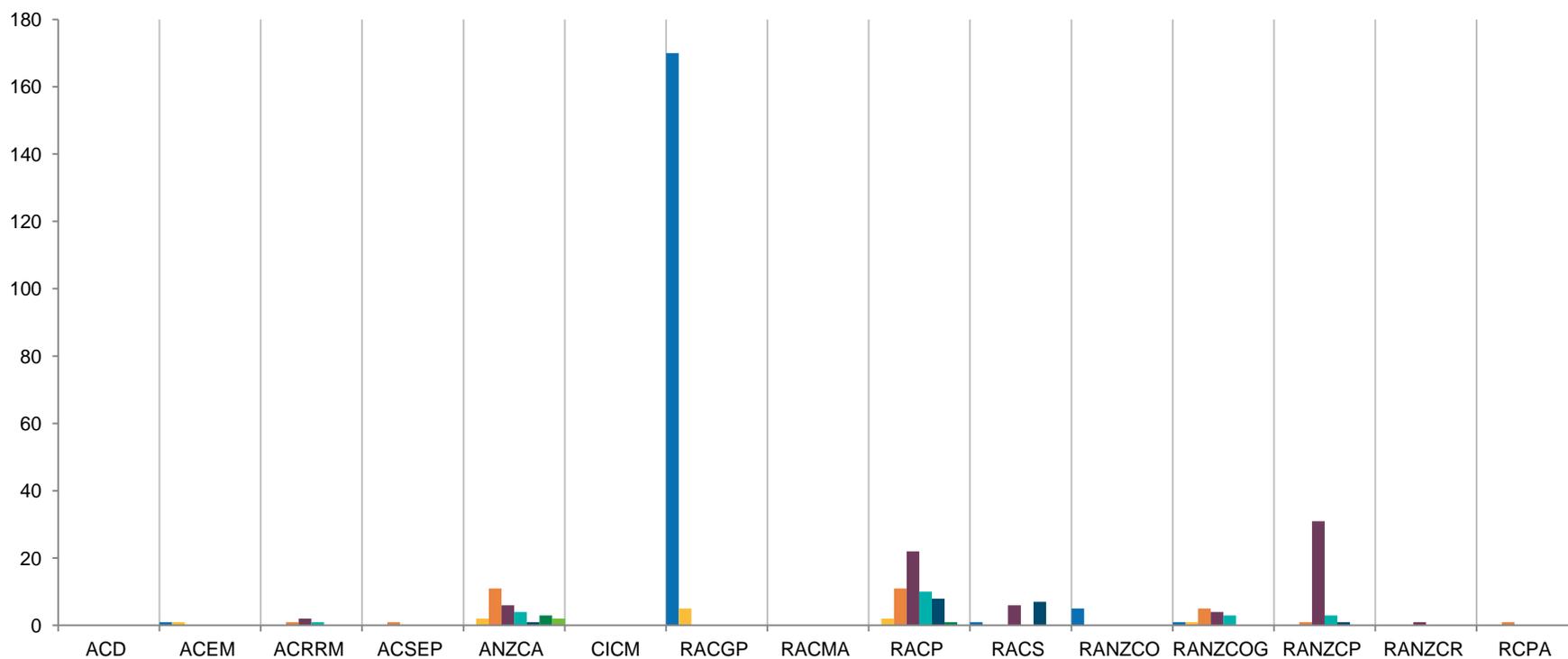
## 10. Time for final assessment – partially comparable IMGs



Time Category	ACD	ACEM	ACRRM	ACSEP	ANZCA	CICM	RACGP	RACMA	RACP	RACS	RANZCO	RANZCOG	RANZCP	RANZCR	RCPA
0 – 3 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 – 6 months	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 – 12 months	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	5	2
13 – 18 months	0	5	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	3	1	1	8	0
19 – 24 months	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	0	2	2	7	3
25 – 36 months	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	24	2	6	10	2	3
37 – 48 months	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	0	6	0	0	3	13	2	1
48+ months	0	0	0	0	28	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	14	3	0

Note: Some RACS data not collected.

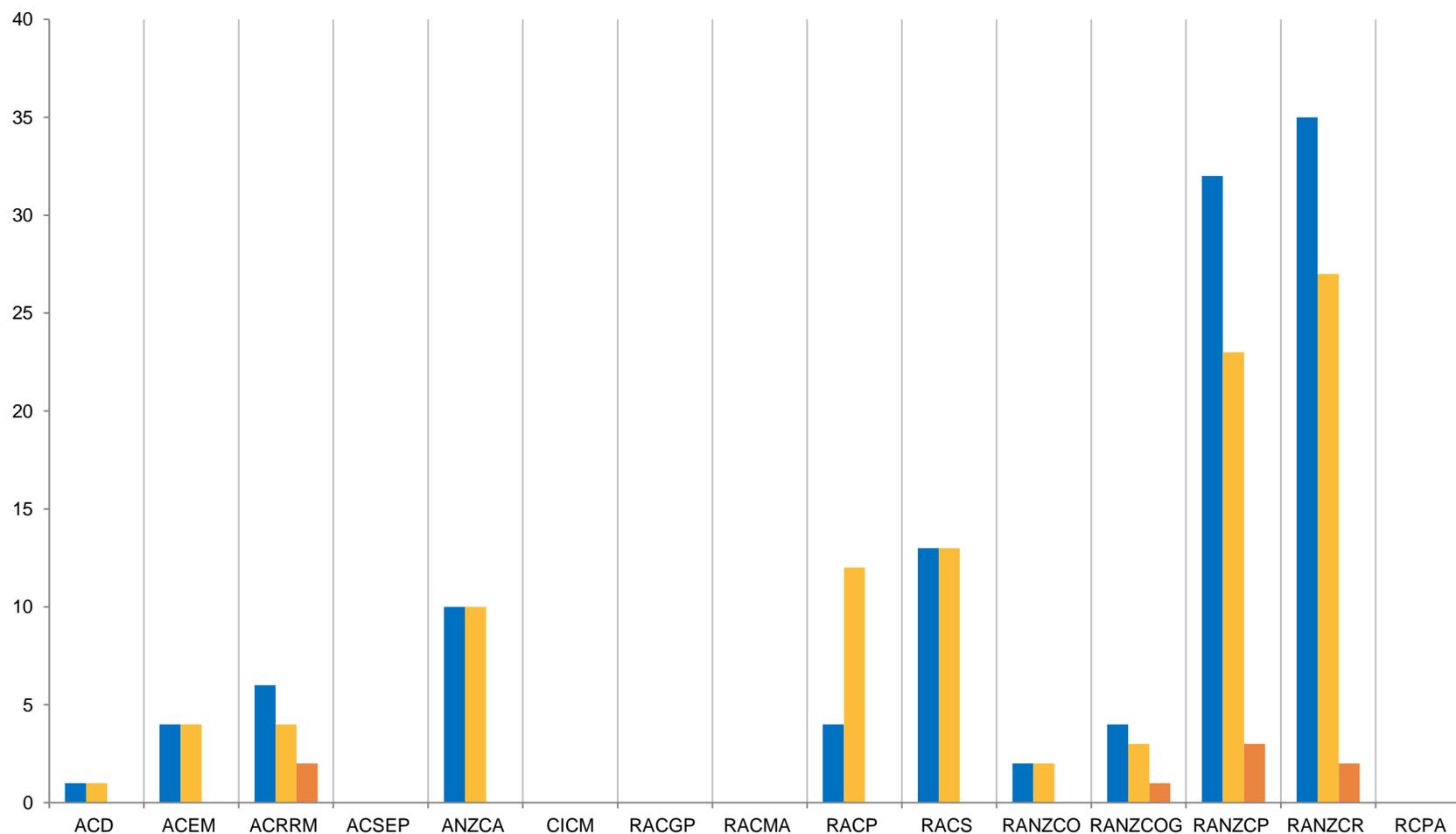
## 11. Time for final assessment – substantially comparable IMGs



Time for final assessment	ACD	ACEM	ACRRM	ACSEP	ANZCA	CICM	RACGP	RACMA	RACP	RACS	RANZCO	RANZCOG	RANZCP	RANZCR	RCPA
0 – 3 months	0	1	0	0	0	0	170	0	0	1	5	1	0	0	0
4 – 6 months	0	1	0	0	2	0	5	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
7 – 12 months	0	0	1	1	11	0	0	0	11	0	0	5	1	0	1
13 – 18 months	0	0	2	0	6	0	0	0	22	6	0	4	31	1	0
19 – 24 months	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	10	0	0	3	3	0	0
25 – 36 months	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	7	0	0	1	0	0
37 – 48 months	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
48+ months	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Some RACS data not collected.

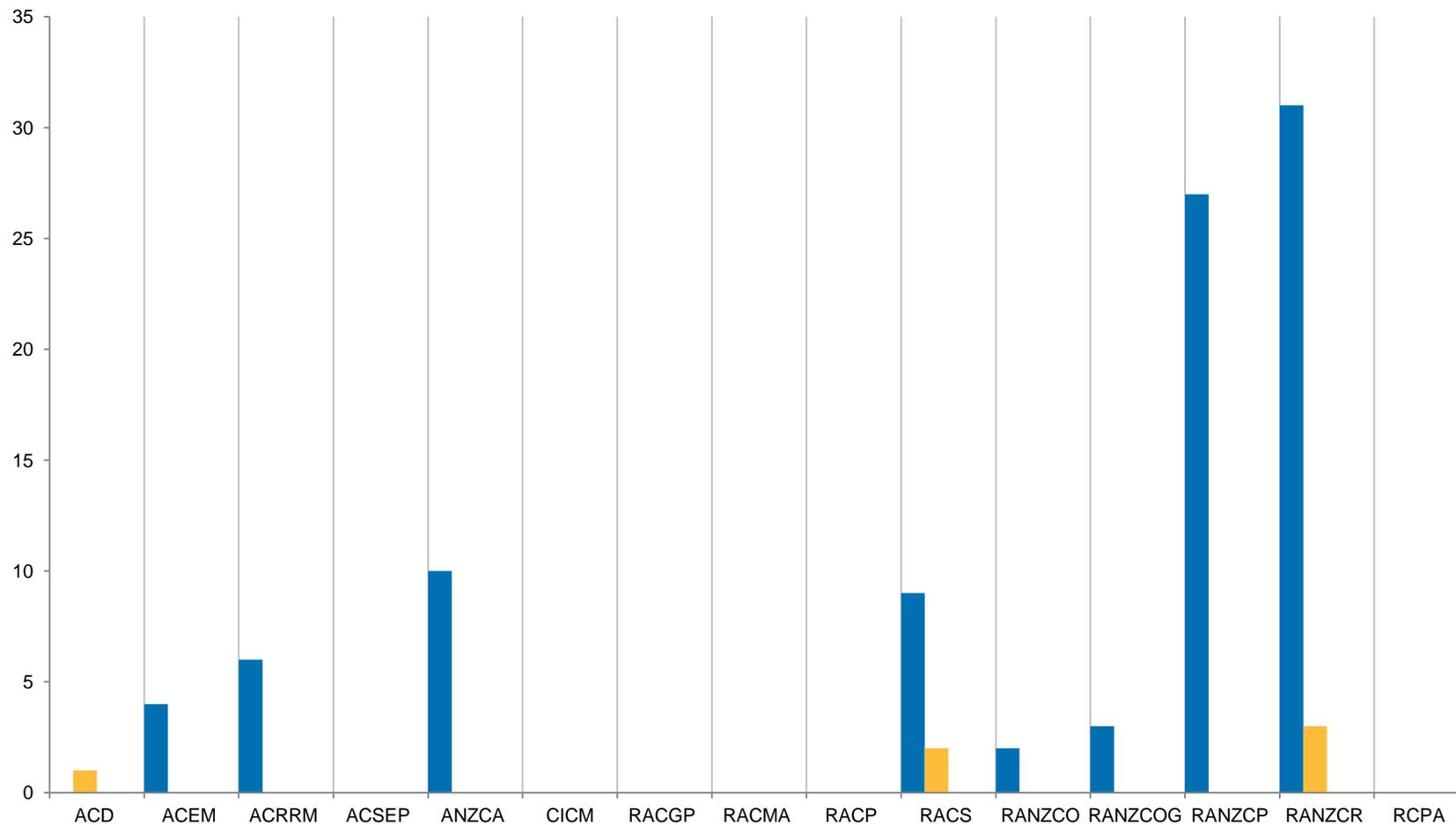
## 12. Area of need – outcome of assessment



Total number of area of need applications received	1	4	6	0	10	0	0	0	0	4	13	2	4	32	35	0
Suitable for area of need	1	4	4	0	10	0	0	0	0	12	13	2	3	23	27	0
Not suitable for area of need	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	0

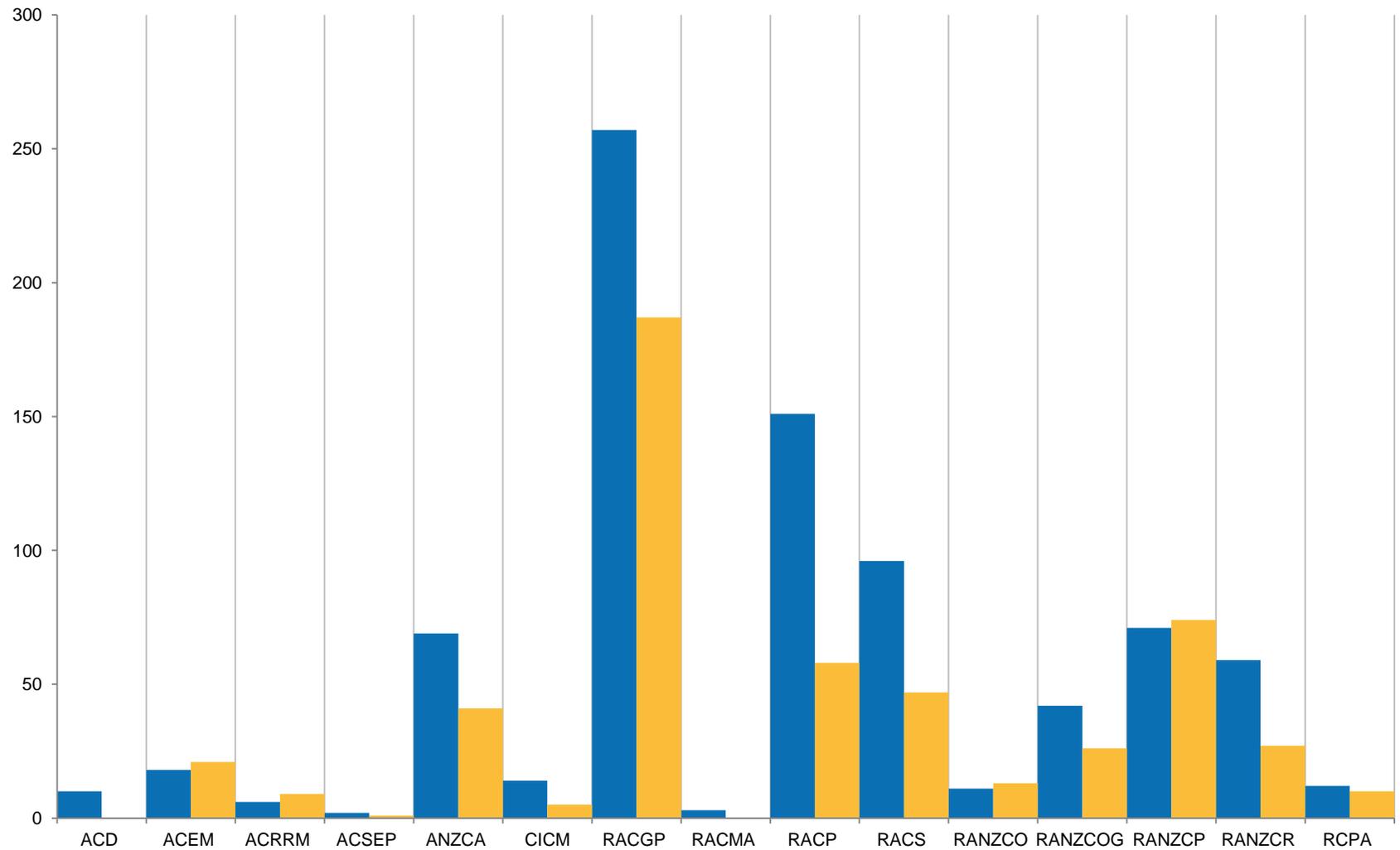
Note: Outcomes of assessment may not total 'Total number of applications received'; some assessments were still in progress and some relate to applications received before 2015

13. Time for area of need assessment



0 – 3 months	0	4	6	0	10	0	0	0	0	9	2	3	27	31	0
4 – 6 months	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0
7 – 9 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9+ months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

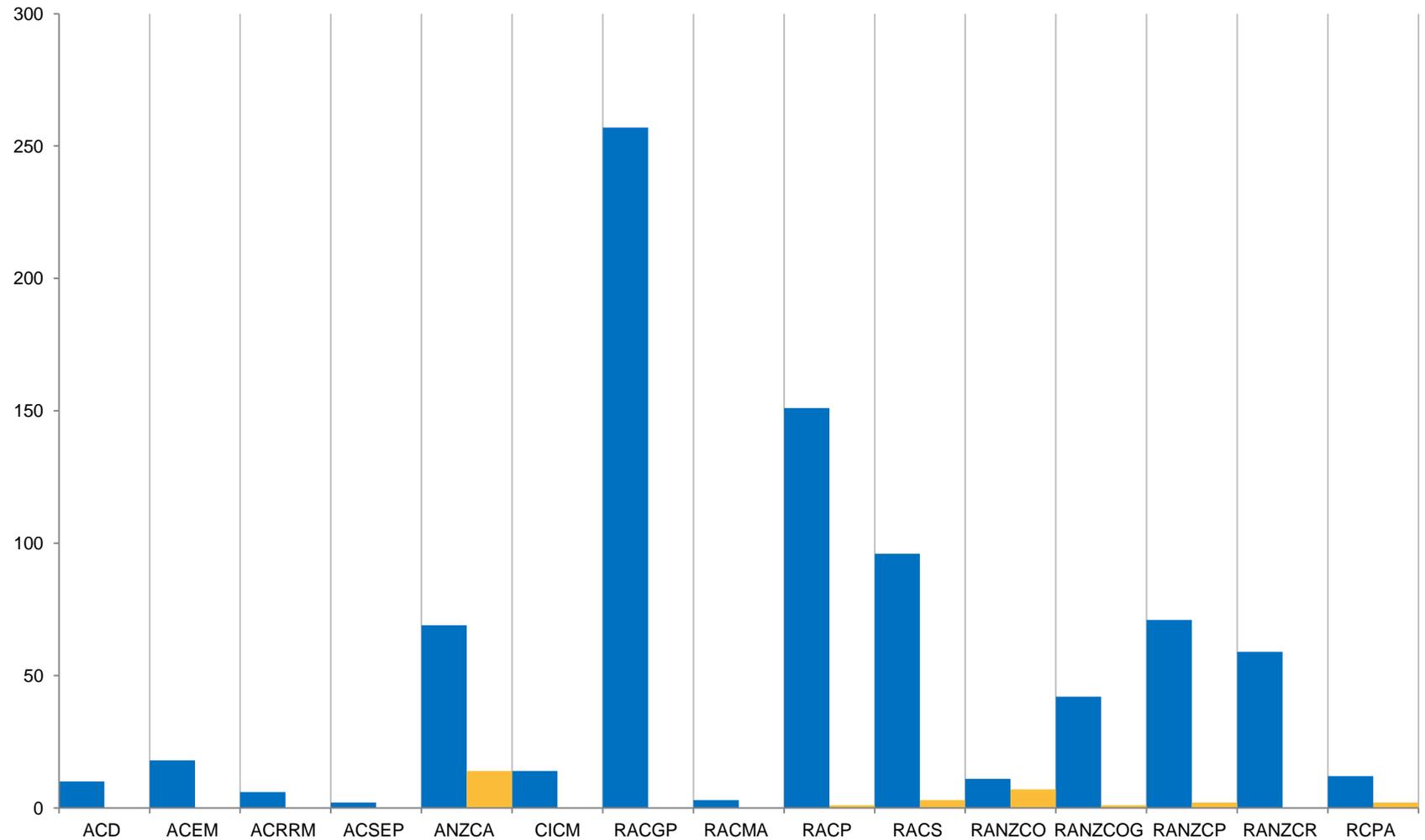
14. Number of fellowships awarded to IMGs



	ACD	ACEM	ACRRM	ACSEP	ANZCA	CICM	RACGP	RACMA	RACP	RACS	RANZCO	RANZCOG	RANZCP	RANZCR	RCPA
Total number of applications received	10	18	6	2	69	14	257	3	151	96	11	42	71	59	12
Number of fellowships awarded to IMGs	0	21	9	1	41	5	187	0	58	47	13	26	74	27	10

Note: The number of applications is provided as an indication of application volume; data includes IMGs who applied before 2015 and does not include IMGs who applied in 2015 period and are still in progress.

## 15. Number of appeals



	ACD	ACEM	ACRRM	ACSEP	ANZCA	CICM	RACGP	RACMA	RACP	RACS	RANZCO	RANZCOG	RANZCP	RANZCR	RCPA
Total number of applications received	10	18	6	2	69	14	257	3	151	96	11	42	71	59	12
Number of appeals	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	1	3	7	1	2	0	2

Note: Colleges have different appeals process and classification of 'appeals' varies. The number of applications is provided as an indication of volume, appeals may relate to IMGs who applied in 2015 or before 2015.

16. IMG's country of qualification – primary medical degree and specialist qualification – all colleges

Country	All colleges - primary	All colleges - specialist
Argentina	2	2
Austria	2	1
Bahrain	0	1
Bangladesh	9	3
Barbados	0	1
Belgium	4	3
Brazil	15	15
Bulgaria	2	0
Canada	20	11
Czech	2	1
Chile	2	2
China	9	6
Colombia	2	2
Denmark	1	3
Egypt	19	17
Fiji	0	1
France	1	1
Germany	7	7
Greece	1	0
India	185	110
Iran	12	13
Iraq	10	6
Ireland	29	28
Israel	1	1

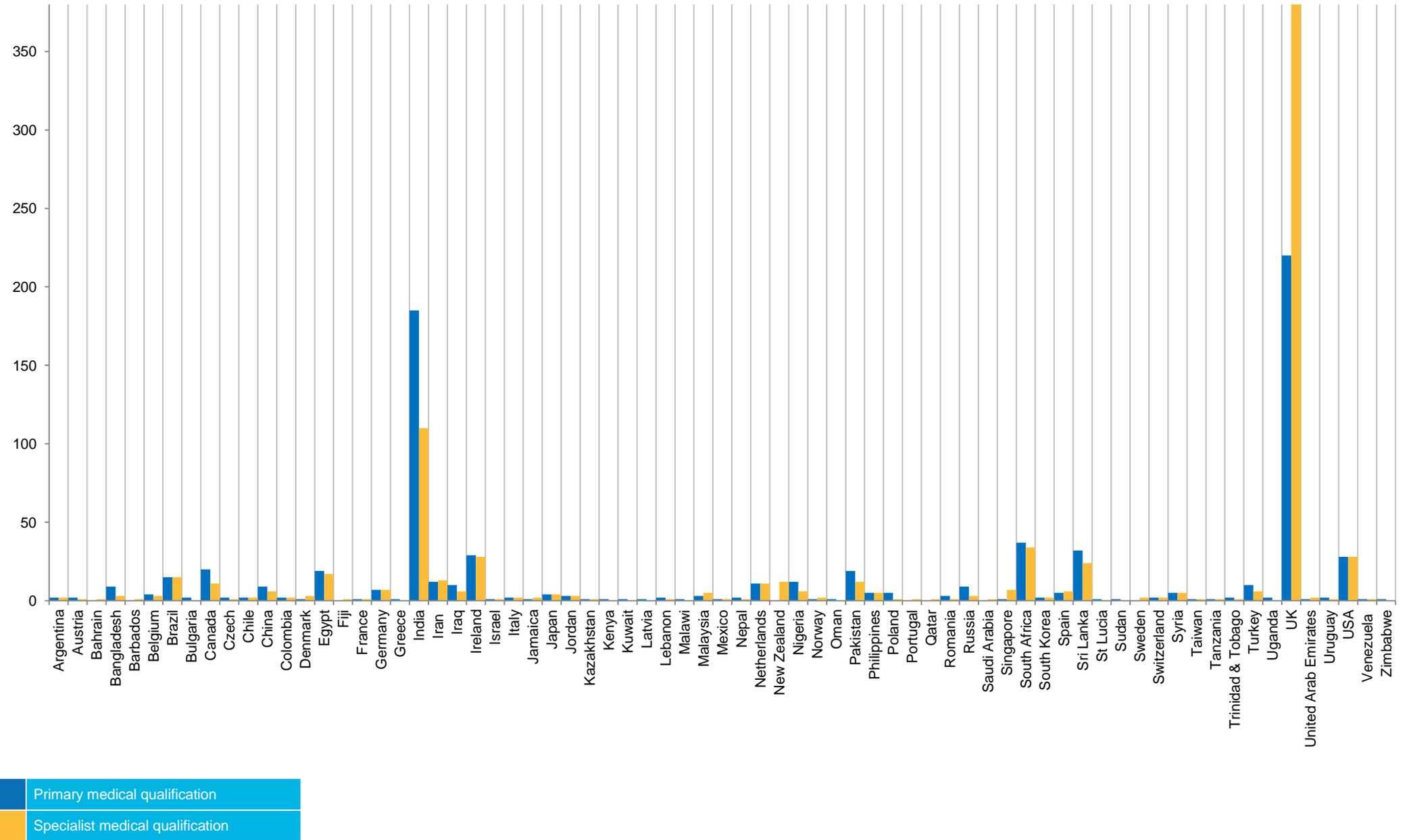
Country	All colleges - primary	All colleges - specialist
Italy	2	2
Jamaica	1	2
Japan	4	4
Jordan	3	3
Kazakhstan	1	1
Kenya	1	0
Kuwait	1	0
Latvia	1	0
Lebanon	2	1
Malawi	1	0
Malaysia	3	5
Mexico	1	1
Nepal	2	1
Netherlands	11	11
New Zealand	0	12
Nigeria	12	6
Norway	1	2
Oman	1	0
Pakistan	19	12
Philippines	5	5
Poland	5	1
Portugal	0	1
Qatar	0	1
Romania	3	1

Country	All colleges - primary	All colleges - specialist
Russia	9	3
Saudi Arabia	0	1
Singapore	1	7
South Africa	37	34
South Korea	2	2
Spain	5	6
Sri Lanka	32	24
St Lucia	1	0
Sudan	1	0
Sweden	0	2
Switzerland	2	2
Syria	5	5
Taiwan	1	1
Tanzania	1	1
Trinidad and Tobago	2	1
Turkey	10	6
Uganda	2	0
UK	220	380
United Arab Emirates	1	2
Uruguay	2	1
USA	28	28
Venezuela	1	1
Zimbabwe	1	0
Unknown	0	5

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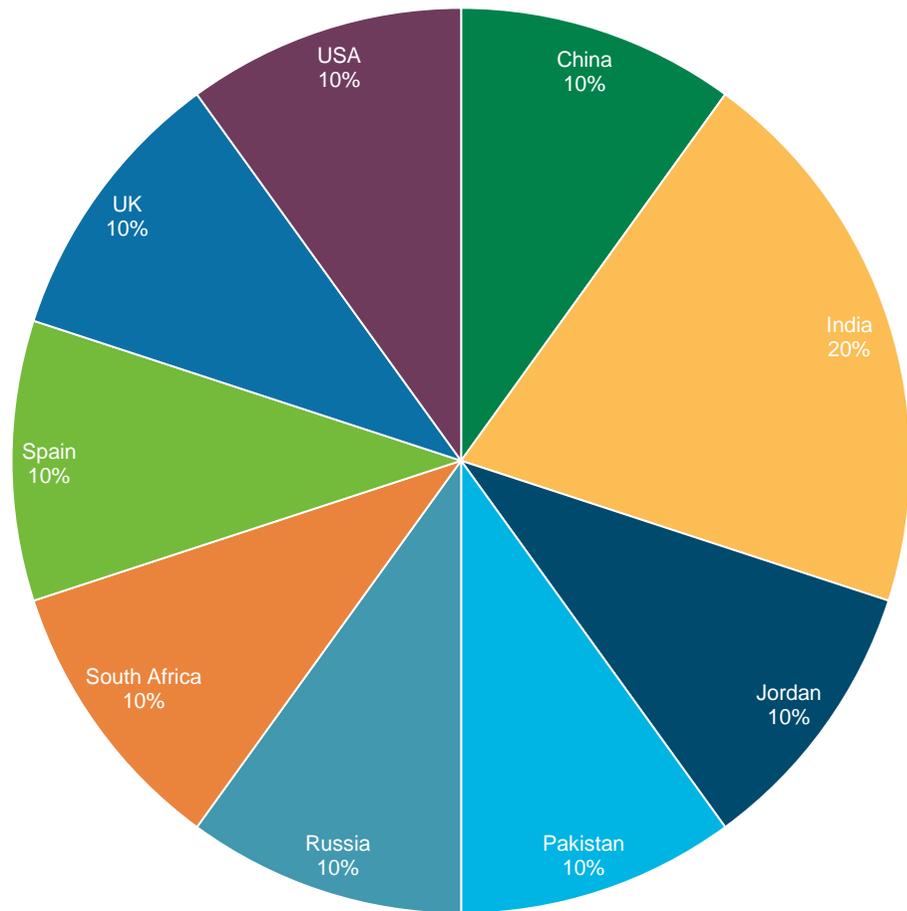
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17. IMG's country of qualification – all colleges



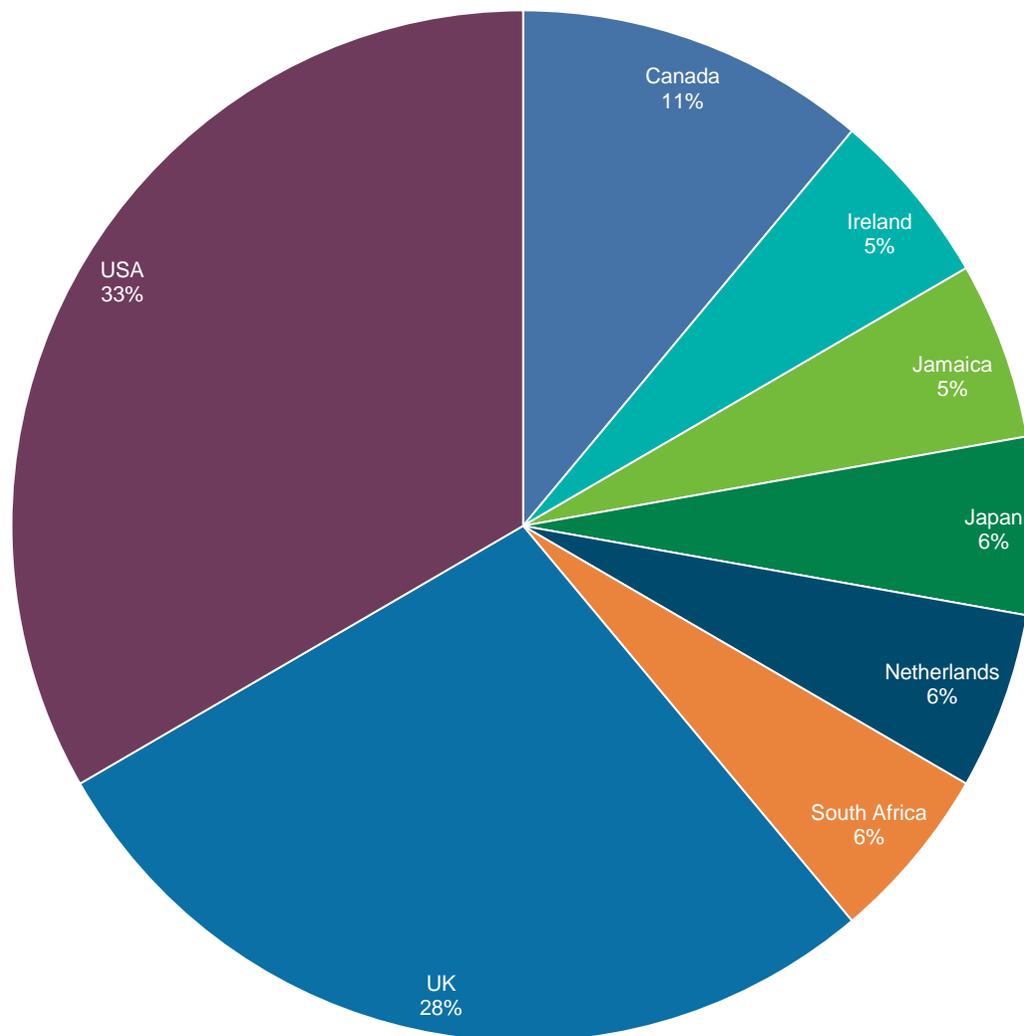
17. IMG's country of qualification – specialist qualification

Australasian College of Dermatologists



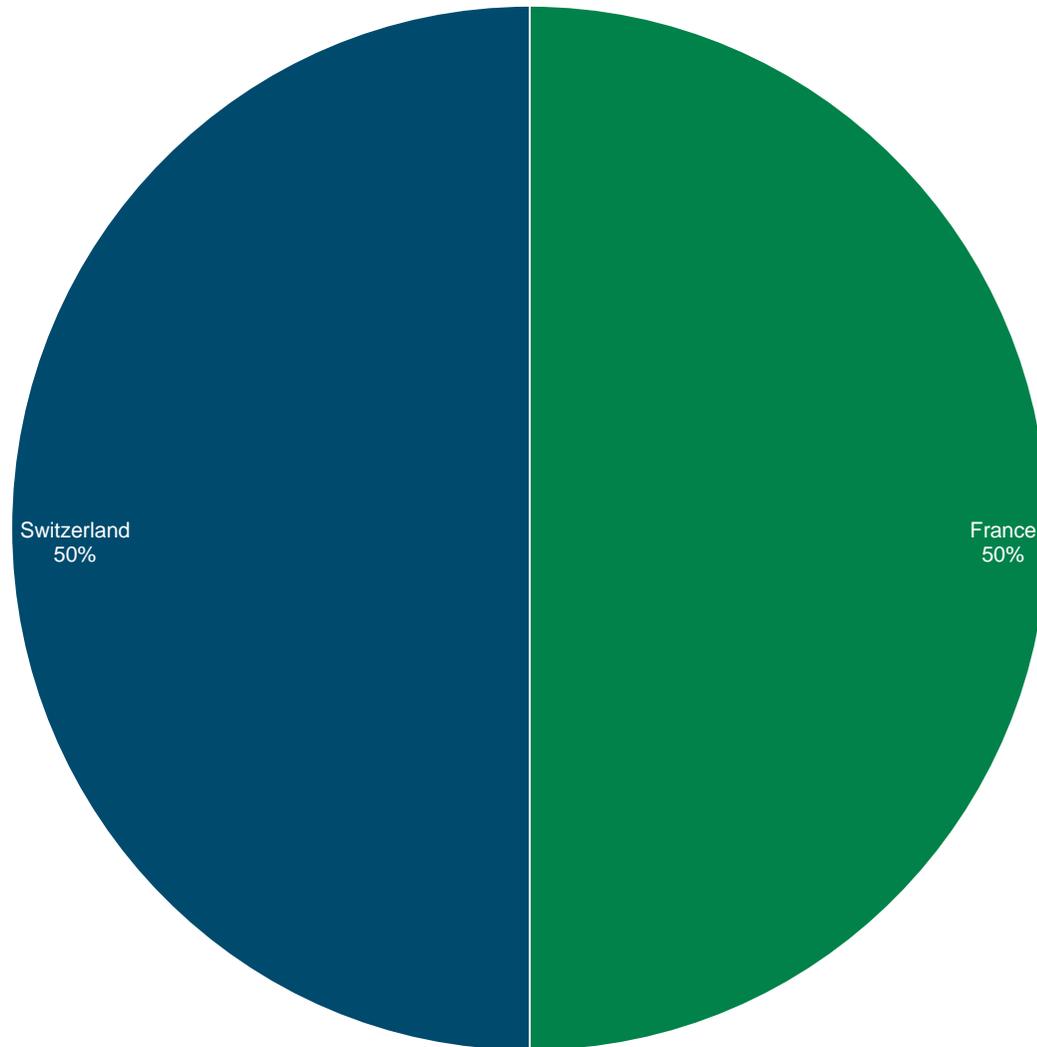
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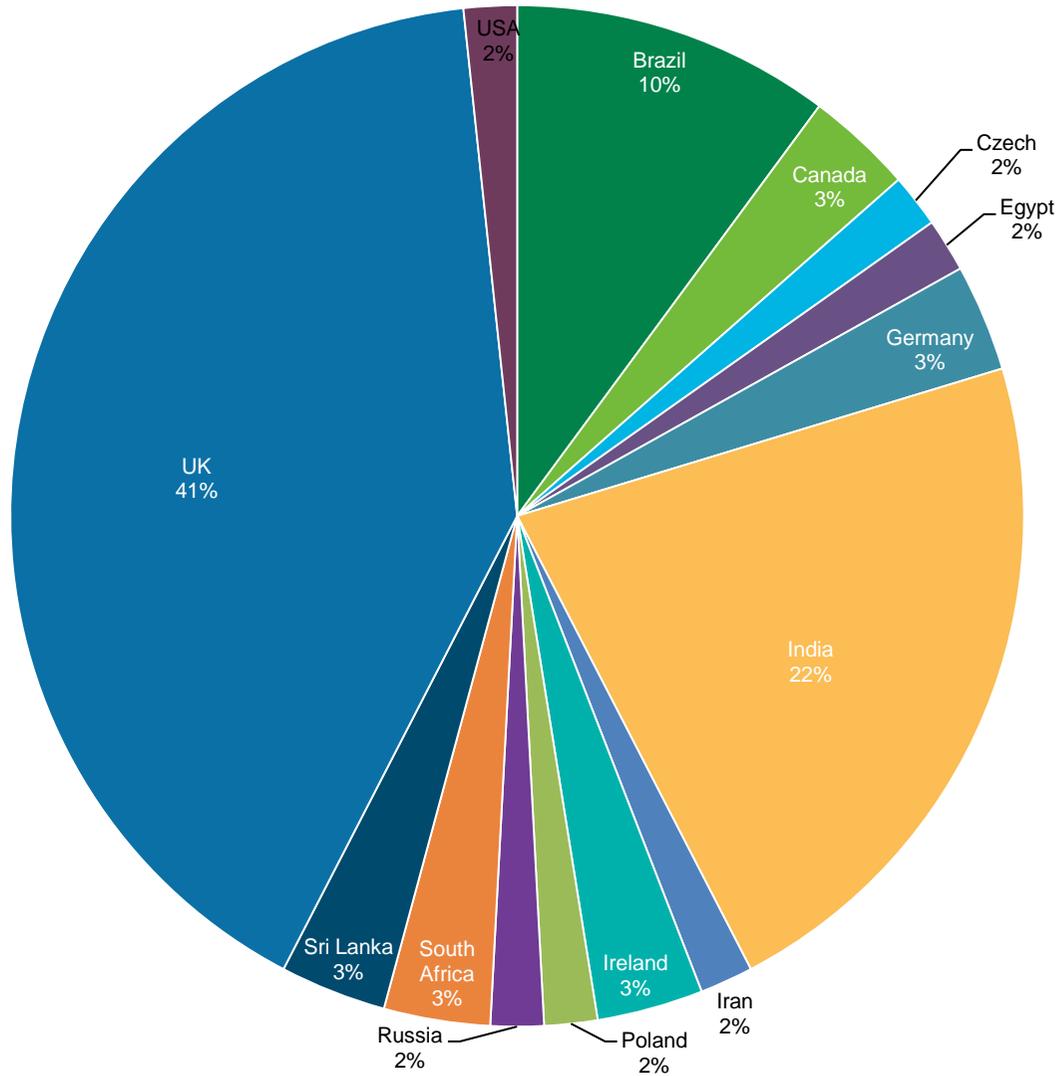
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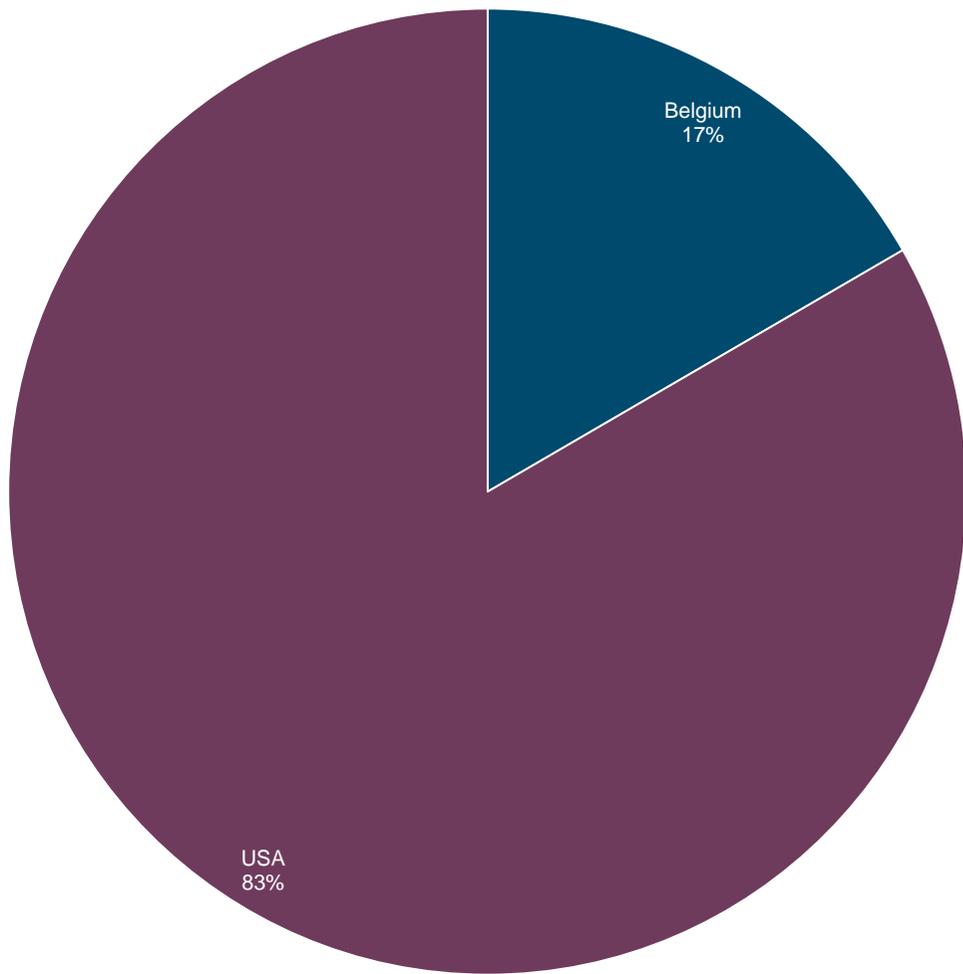
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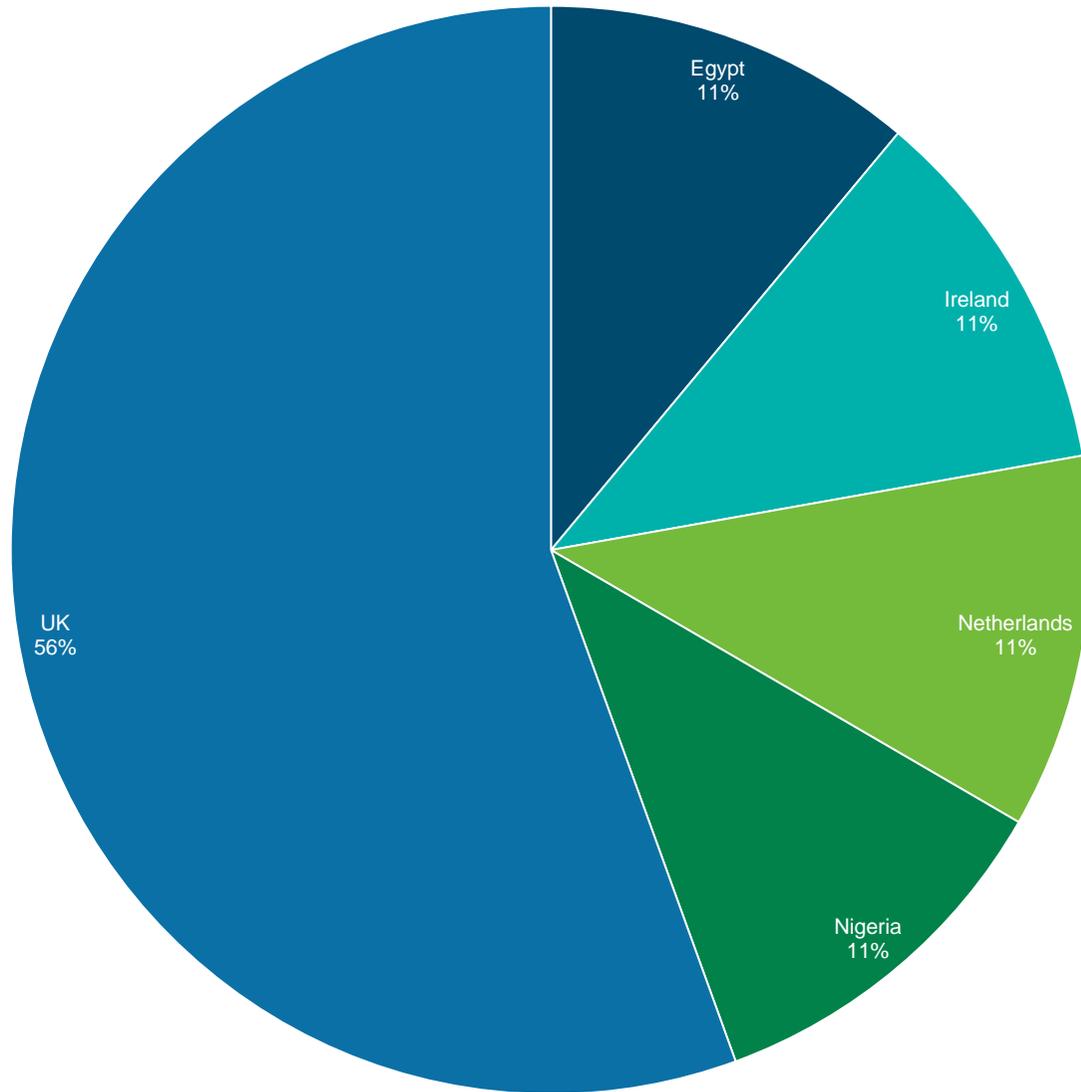
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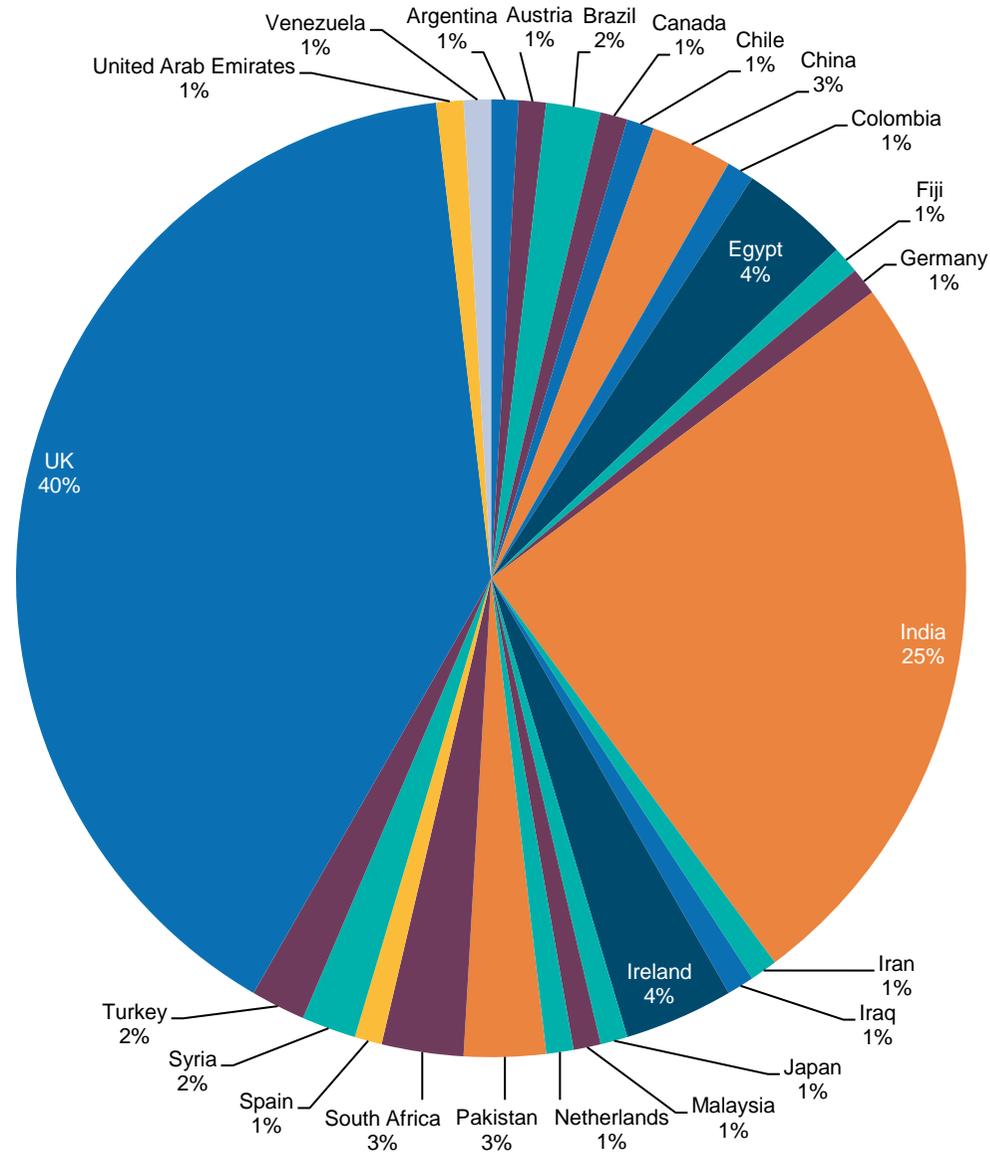
Specialist medical colleges' specialist pathway data



**Medical Board of Australia**

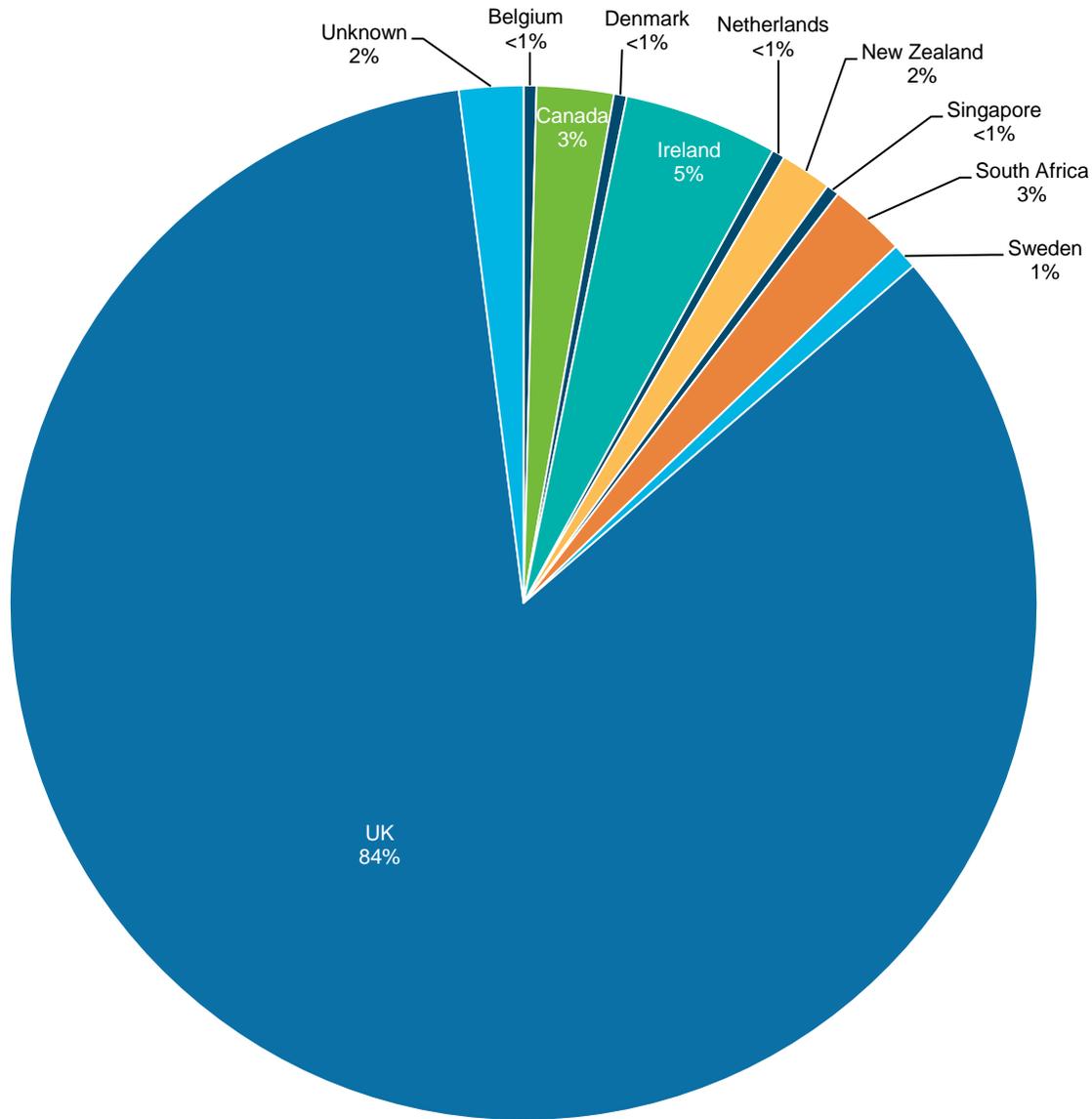
Specialist medical colleges' specialist pathway data

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons



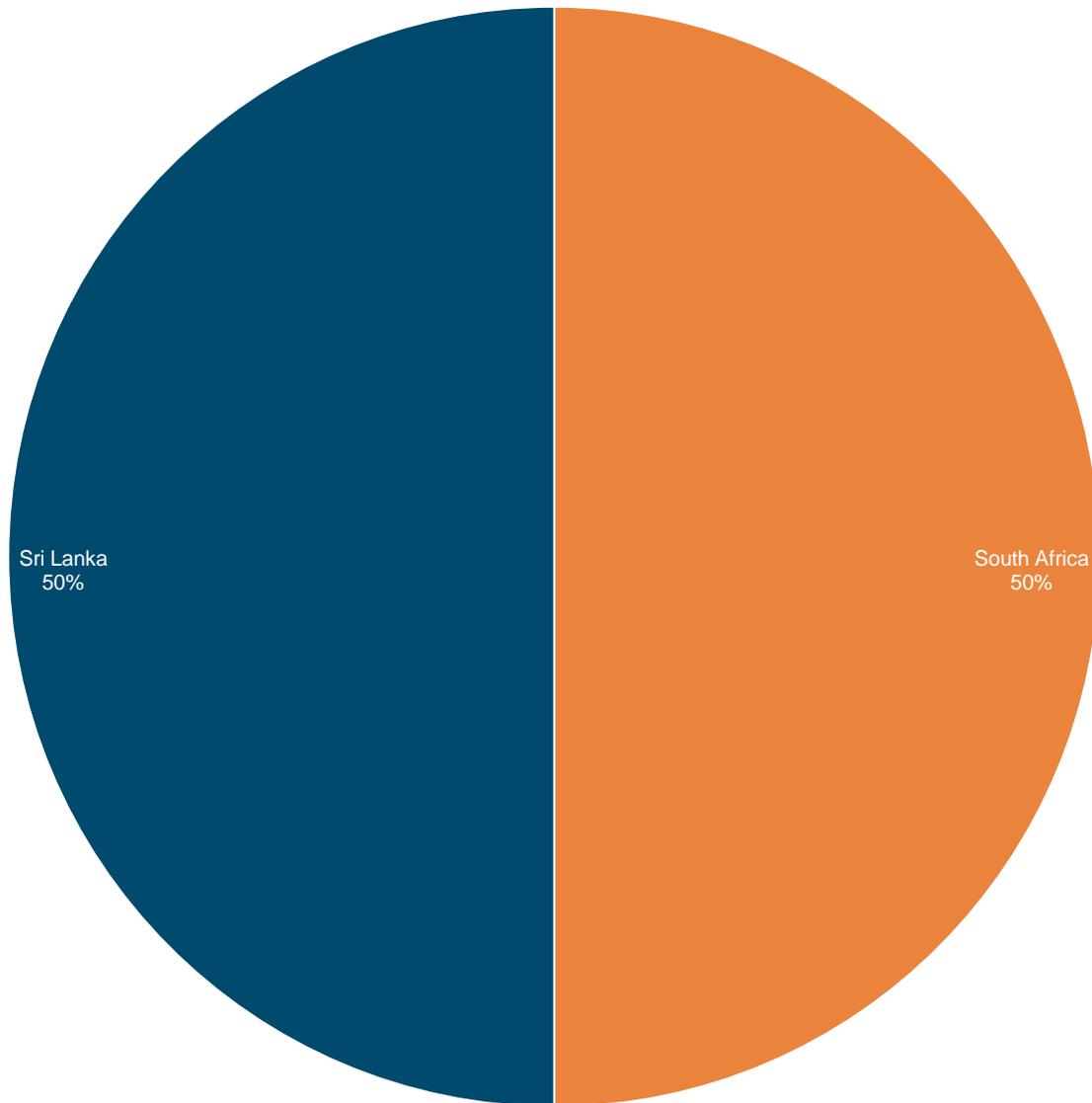
Medical Board of Australia

Specialist medical colleges' specialist pathway data



Medical Board of Australia

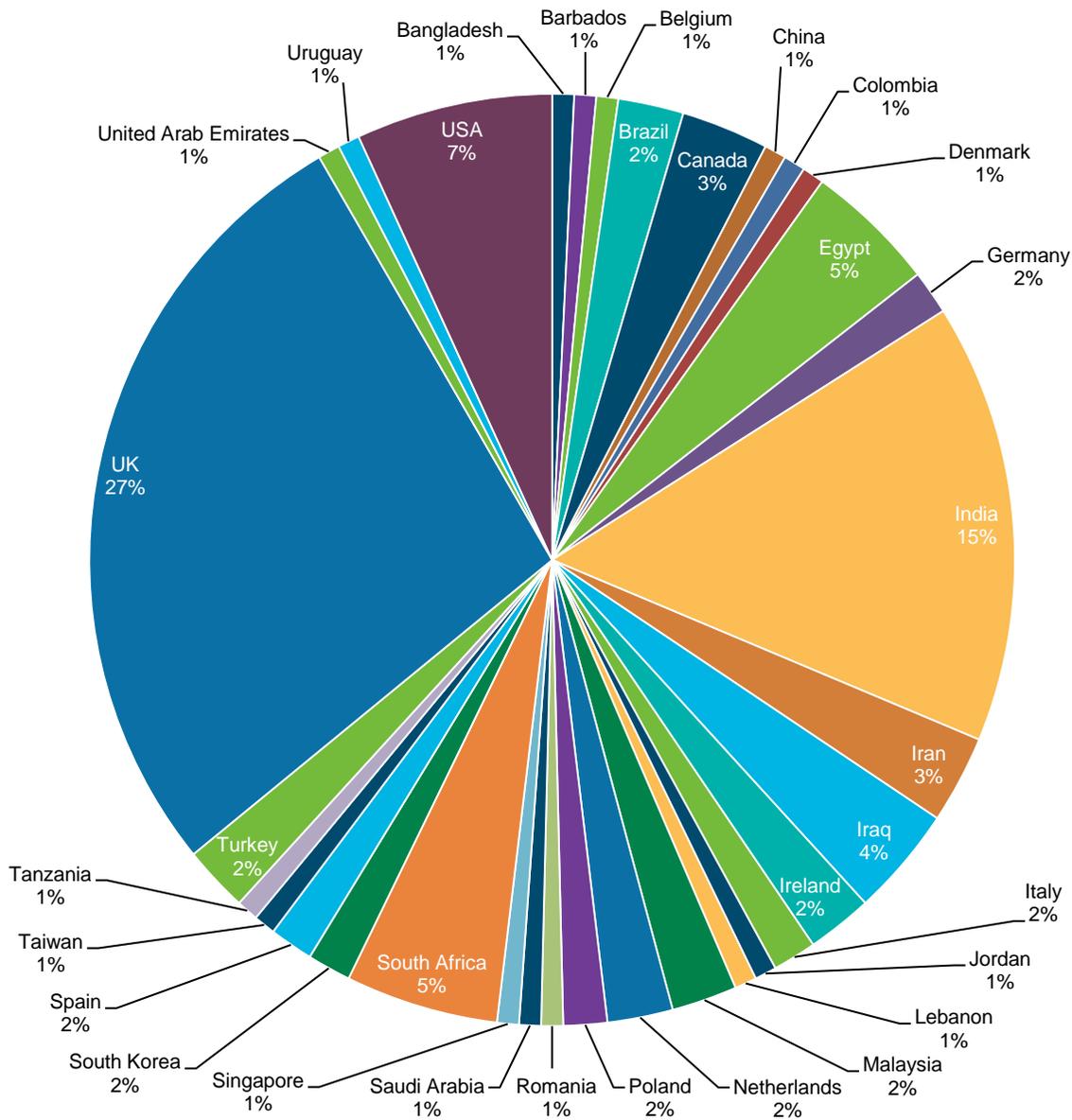
Specialist medical colleges' specialist pathway data



**Medical Board of Australia**

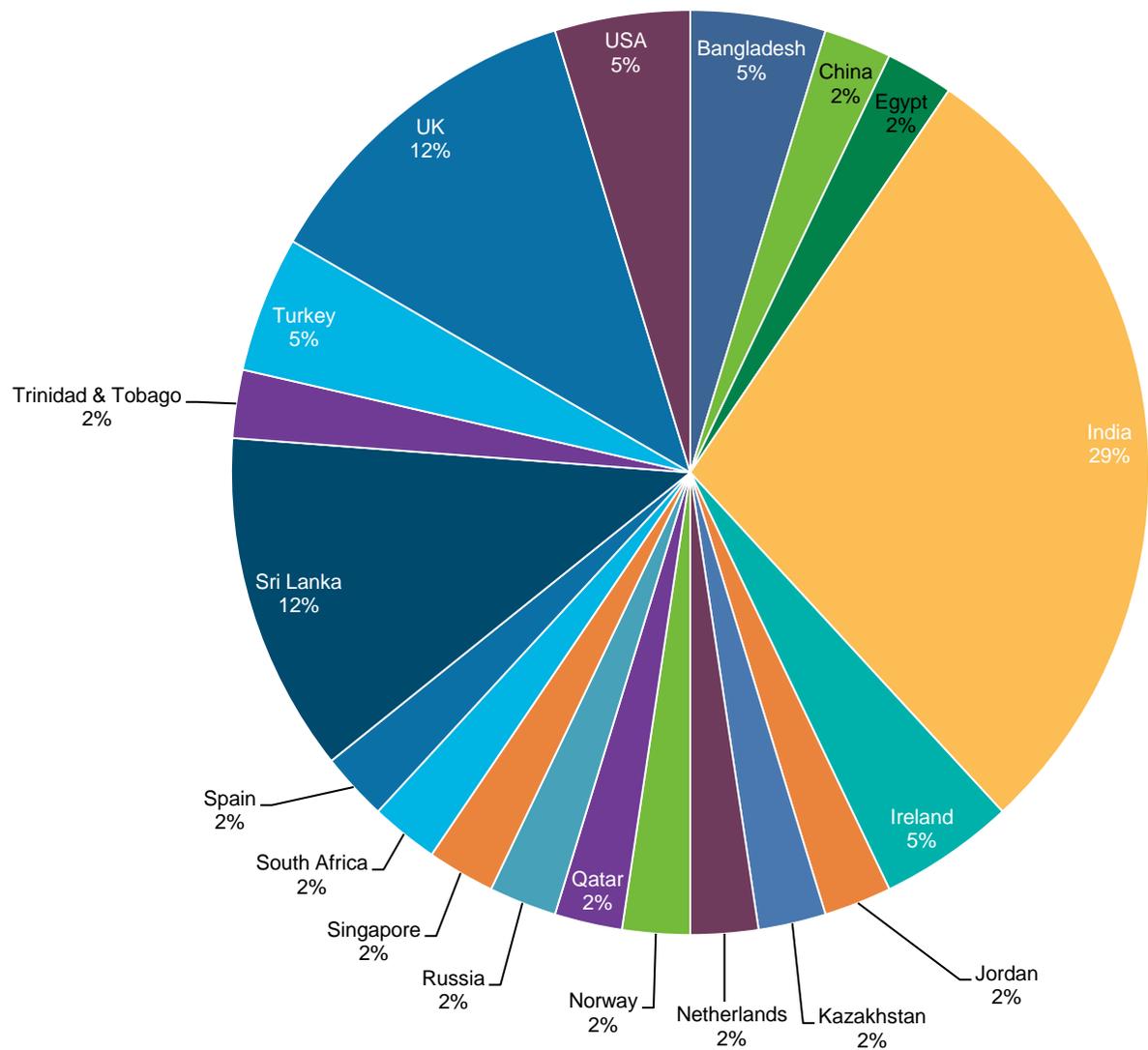
Specialist medical colleges' specialist pathway data

Royal Australasian College of Physicians



Medical Board of Australia

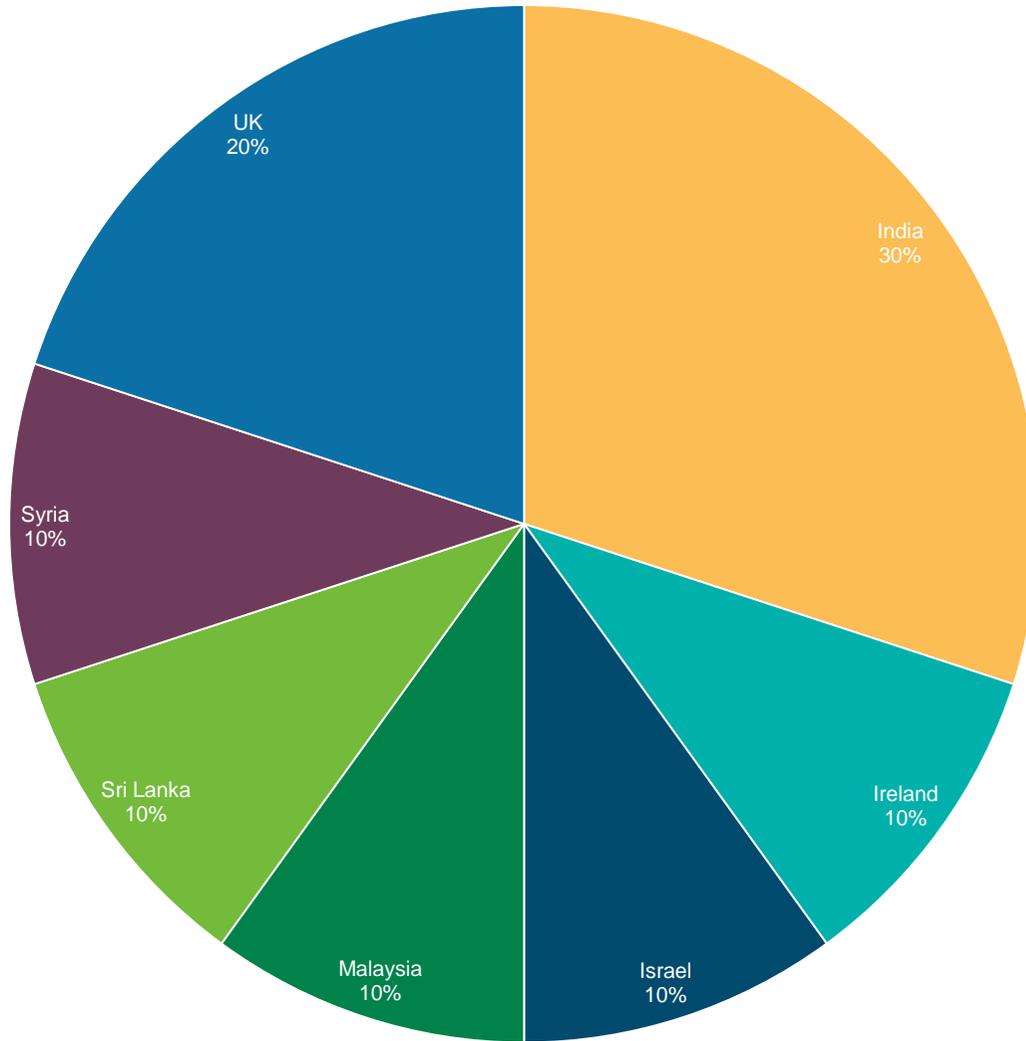
Specialist medical colleges' specialist pathway data



Medical Board of Australia

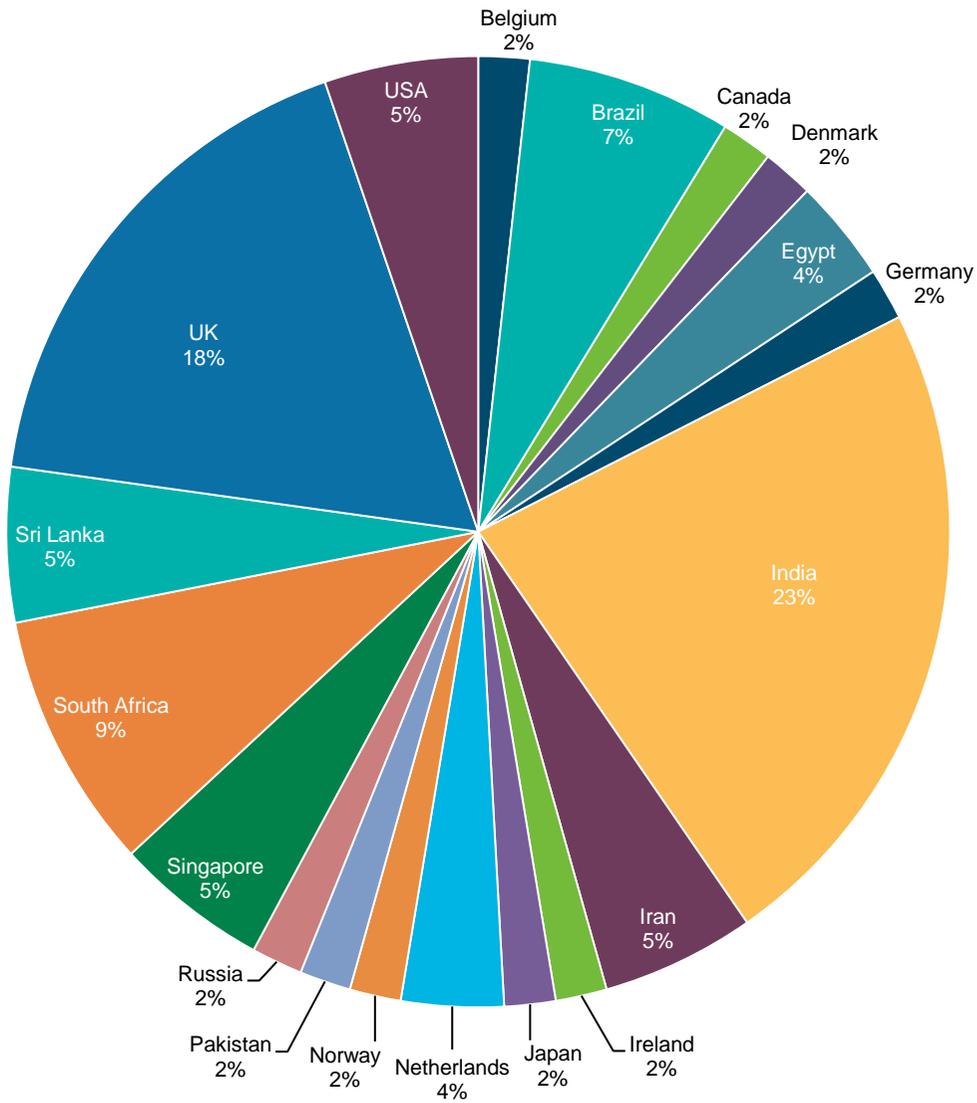
Specialist medical colleges' specialist pathway data

Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists



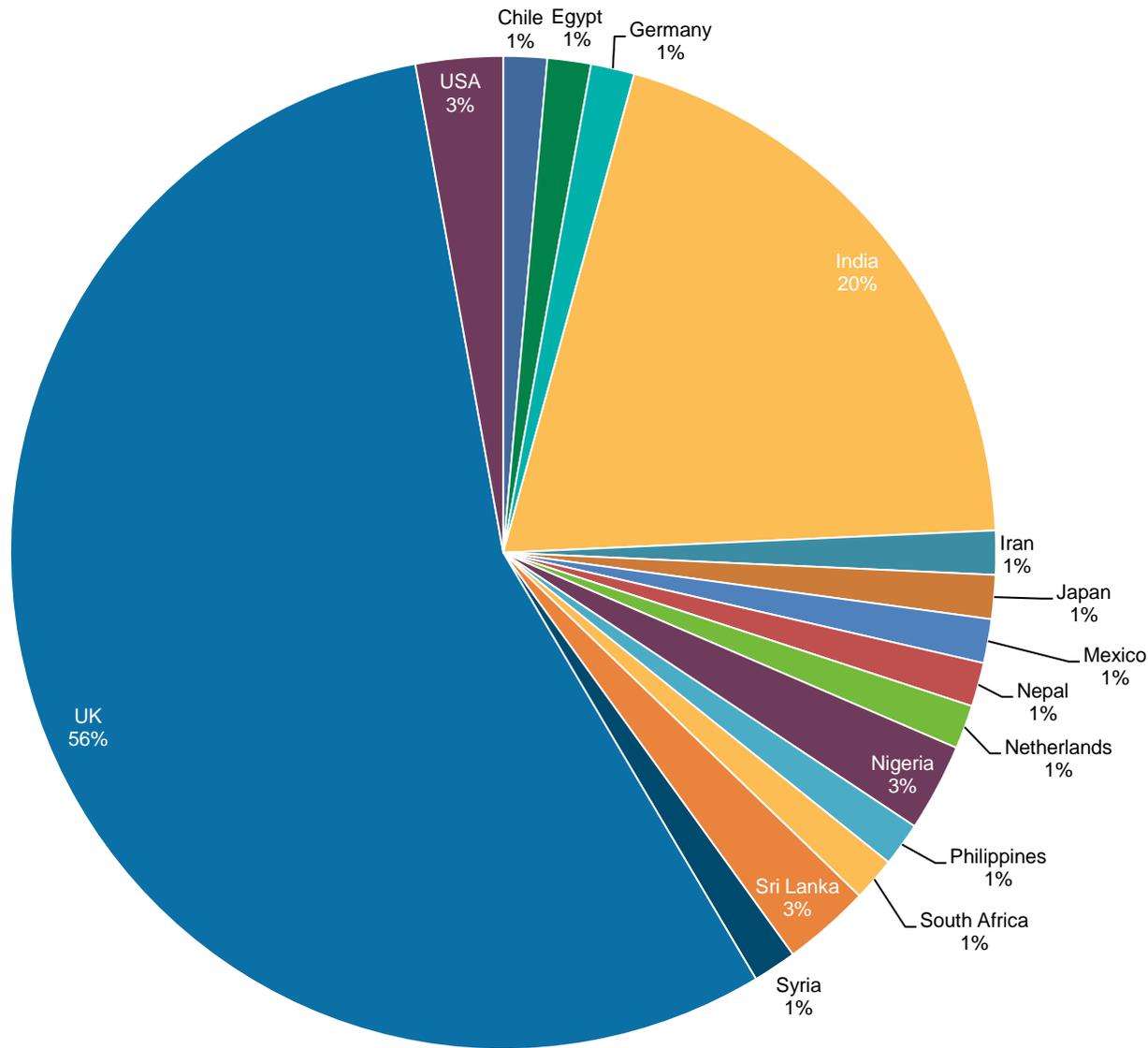
Medical Board of Australia

Specialist medical colleges' specialist pathway data



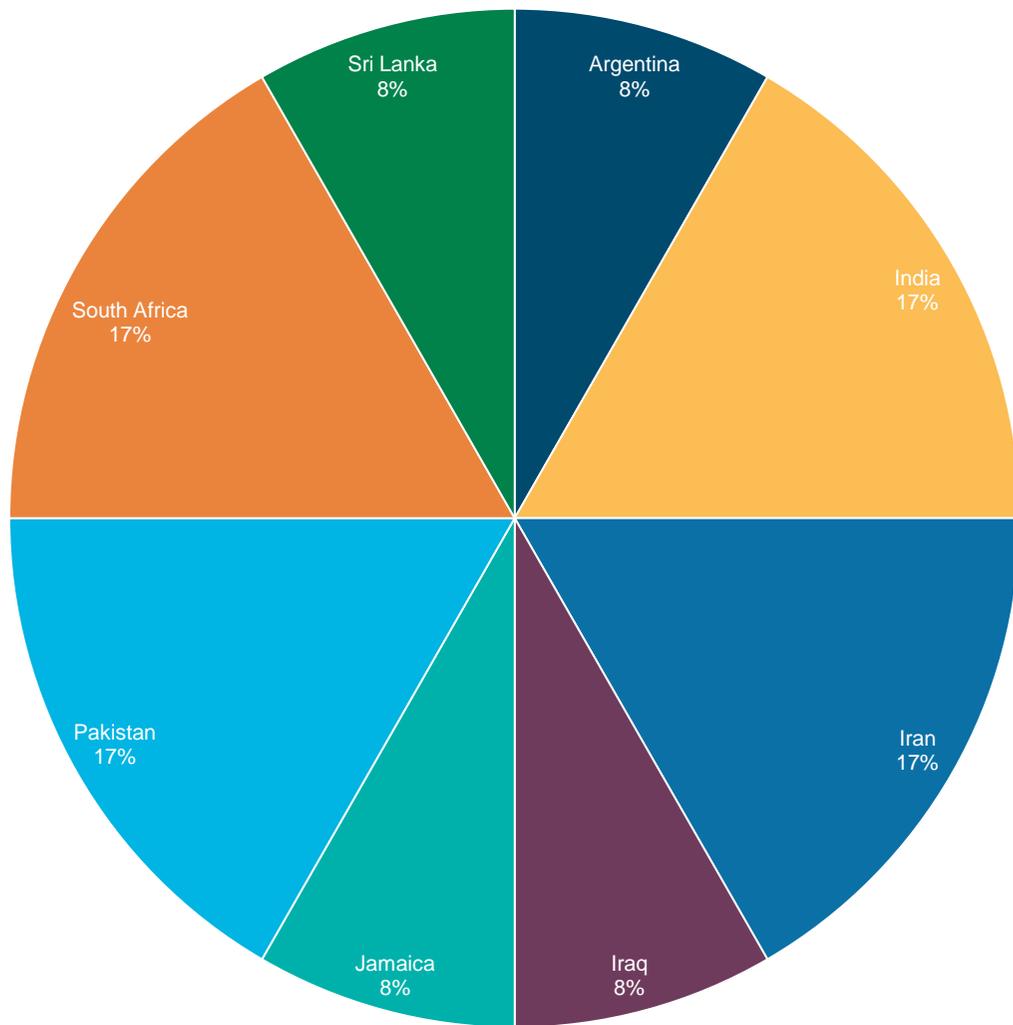
**Medical Board of Australia**

Specialist medical colleges' specialist pathway data

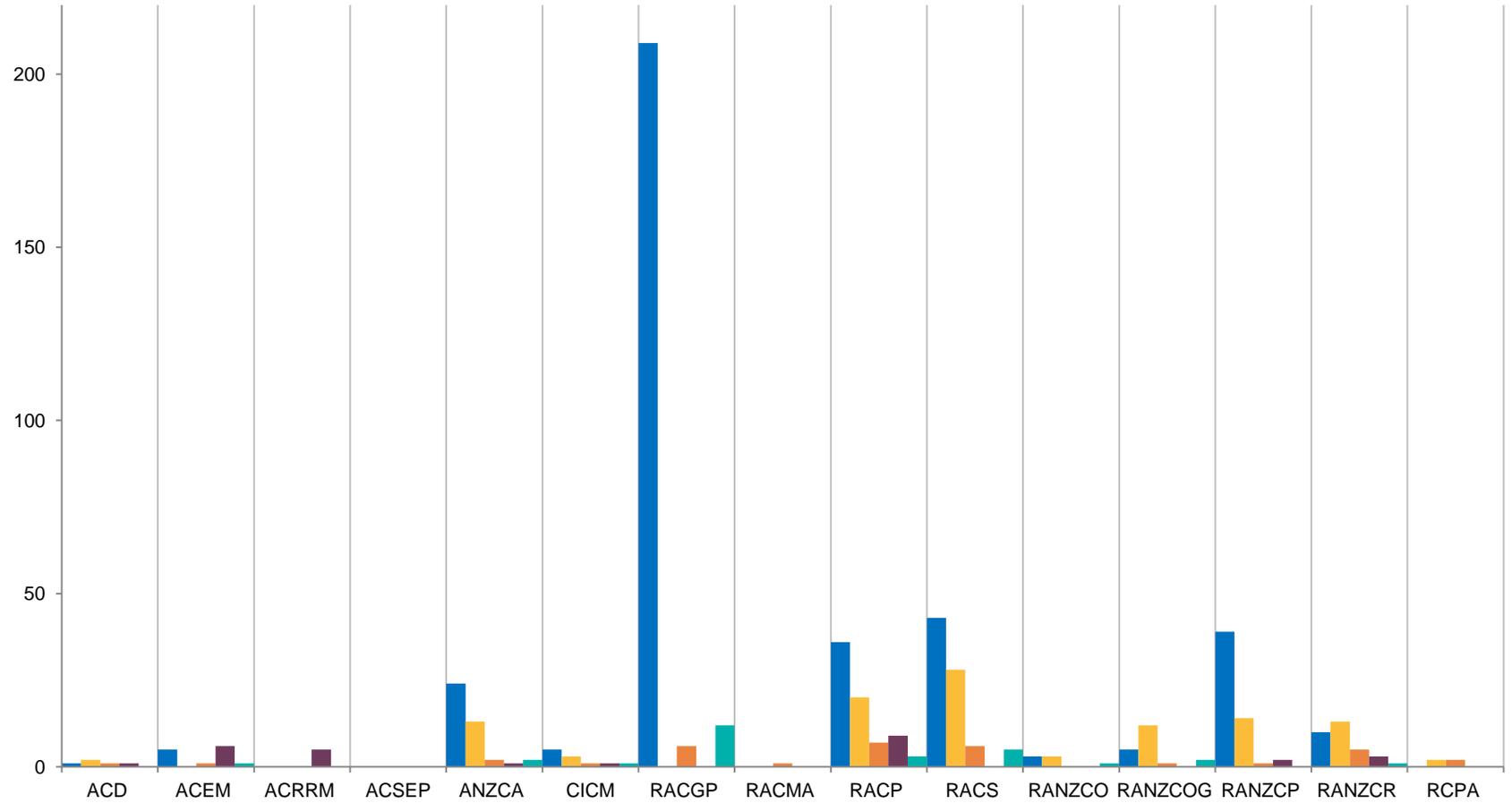


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Specialist medical colleges' specialist pathway data



18. Number of applications received – Top 5 countries



United Kingdom	1	5	0	0	24	5	209	0	36	43	3	5	39	10	0
India	2	0	0	0	13	3	0	0	20	28	3	12	14	13	2
South Africa	1	1	0	0	2	1	6	1	7	6	0	1	1	5	2
United States of America	1	6	5	0	1	1	0	0	9	0	0	0	2	3	0
Ireland	0	1	0	0	2	1	12	0	3	5	1	2	0	1	0

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