

POLICY

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Division:	Education Training & Administration	Ref. No.	ETA_IMG_011
Department:	IMG Assessments		
Title:	IMGS Assessed with a Defined Scope of Practice		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to define the assessment of International Medical Graduates (IMGs) in Australia who have been trained in and practice within a defined scope of practice.

2. KEYWORDS

International Medical Graduate, Scope of Practice, Assessment, Fellowship

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1 Comparable Training Programs

The College trains surgeons in the following surgical specialties:

- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- General Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery
- Paediatric Surgery
- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
- Urology
- Vascular Surgery

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) who have completed a specialist training program comparable in scope to the training programs of the College are assessed for Fellowship in accordance with the Specialist Assessment of IMGs in Australia policy.

3.2 Other Surgical Training Programs

While surgical training takes place in Australia within nine defined specialties, surgical education providers outside Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) may conduct training in programs that traverse ANZ defined boundaries, or in subspecialties of ANZ defined specialties. Examples of such programs are Burns Surgery, which includes elements of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and General Surgery, or Trauma, which is a subspecialty of both Orthopaedic Surgery and General Surgery.

An IMG graduating from such a program is also assessed in accordance with the Specialist Assessment of IMGs in Australia policy but may be assessed as not comparable to an ANZ trained surgeon in the full scope of one of the nine surgical specialties. However, due to a sustained record of excellence as a specialist surgeon in an area of practice that is deemed beneficial to the Australian health consumer, they may be recognised as being comparable to an ANZ trained surgeon within a defined scope of practice. While not immediately eligible for Fellowship of the College, an IMG will be classified as an IMG with a Defined Scope of Practice.

3.3 Eligibility for Classification as an IMG with a Defined Scope of Practice

3.3.1. IMGs cannot apply to the College, via the Australian Medical Council, specifically for assessment for Fellowship with a defined scope of practice.

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3.3.2. To be eligible for a pathway to Fellowship as an IMG with a Defined Scope of Practice the Clinical Director, IMG Assessments or the Board Representative must identify the defined scope during the document assessment of the IMG's application.

3.3.3. The Clinical Director, IMG Assessments and/or the Board Representative must be satisfied that there is a public good derived from the defined scope of practice and that the IMG has:

- Practiced as a consultant exclusively, and recently, for a minimum of 5 years since completion of specialist surgical training in a defined scope of practice; and
- Completed a specialist training program which is comparable to the modules of a College training program specific to the defined scope of practice that includes comparable competencies, skills and attributes; and
- Successfully completed an exit examination for the training program that is comparable to the College Fellowship Examination (but for the defined scope of practice): and/or the depth and scope of surgical practice in the defined scope of practice is of a sufficiently high standard as to waive the need to sit an exit examination.

3.3.4. Where, in the opinion of the Clinical Director, IMG Assessment, the defined scope of practice may be relevant to more than one of the nine specialties the application may be referred to other specialty boards for assessment.

3.4 IMG Assessment Panel Composition and Recommendation

3.4.1. Where an IMG is identified for consideration for a pathway to Fellowship with a defined scope of practice the Interview Panel, constituted in accordance with the IMG Assessment Interview Panels Terms of Reference, must include at least one Fellow selected by the relevant Board who is practicing within the identified defined scope of practice.

3.4.2. The IMG Assessment Panel may, after interview, recommend that the IMG is substantially comparable within a defined scope of practice. This does not preclude the IMG as being assessed as partially or substantially comparable in the broad scope of practice of the specialty.

3.4.3. An IMG cannot be assessed as partially comparable within a defined scope of practice.

3.4.4. Where the Clinical Director, IMG Assessments and/or the Board Representative have not identified a defined scope during the document assessment but it is evident at interview that this may be an option, the Assessment Panel can recommend that the application is reassessed but cannot make a defined scope pathway to Fellowship recommendation. Any subsequent assessment will not incur a fee payable by the IMG.

3.5 Confirmation of Assessment

Where an IMG is assessed as substantially comparable within a defined scope of practice they will be required to:

- Undertake a designated prospective oversight period within the defined scope of practice of 24 months; and
- Successfully complete any additional skills courses and activities nominated by the Assessment Panel; and
- Comply with MOPS program requirements during the period of clinical assessment

3.6 Fellowship of the College

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An IMG with a Defined Scope of Practice will, after confirmation of assessment (see 3.5), be eligible for Fellowship by Assessment as defined in the Admission to Fellowship policy.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Specialist Assessment of International Medical Graduates in Australia Policy

Admission to Fellowship Policy

IMG Assessment Interview Panels Terms of Reference

Approver CEO
Authoriser Council