

Pathways for SIMGs to obtain Specialist Registration in Anaesthesia in Australia

May 2026

All doctors practising medicine in Australia need to be registered with the Medical Board of Australia.

Specialist registration in Australia

Specialist registration is available to medical practitioners who:

1. have an approved qualification for specialist registration (fellowship of an Australian Medical Council accredited specialist medical college such as the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists – ANZCA); or
2. have been assessed by an AMC-accredited specialist medical college as being eligible for fellowship (fellowship is not a pre-requisite for specialist registration); or
3. are a specialist international medical graduate (SIMG) whose specialist medical qualification is on the [Expedited Specialist pathway: accepted qualifications list](#).

SIMG pathways overview

This document outlines the current pathways available for overseas-trained anaesthetists to gain specialist registration in Australia, including recent reforms aimed at addressing workforce shortages.

It also provides information on Area of Need Pathway (for SIMGs willing to work in shortage areas) and the Short-Term Training Pathway available to SIMGs in training who would like to undertake up to 24 months of specialist or advanced training in Australia.

ANZCA SIMG Pathway

Eligibility

SIMGs whose qualifications are not on the expedited list or who seek FANZCA fellowship.

Process

- AMC verification via EPIC.
- ANZCA assessment (CV, CPD, English proficiency).
- Interview and cultural safety review.
- **Clinical Practice Assessment** under supervision.
- Performance assessment and CPD completion.

Outcome

FANZCA fellowship, enabling full integration into the profession.

For more information visit the [SIMG assessment process on the ANZCA website](#).

Expedited Specialist Pathway (Medical Board of Australia)

Eligibility

SIMGs with qualifications deemed substantially equivalent to Australian standards (e.g., UK CCT + FRCA, Ireland CSCST + FCAI).

Process

- Apply directly to AHPRA for specialist registration.
- Complete **6 months supervised practice** and workplace-based assessments.
- Mandatory **Effective Management of Anaesthetic Crises (EMAC)** course.

Outcome

Specialist registration without ANZCA fellowship (FANZCA).

For more information visit the [Expedited Specialist pathway on the Medical Board of Australia website](#).

Area of Need Pathway

Purpose

For SIMGs willing to work in shortage areas.

Outcome

Limited registration with supervision; does not confer fellowship.

For more information visit the [Specialist pathway – area of need on the Medical Board of Australia website](#).

Short-Term Training Pathway

Purpose

Up to 24 months of advanced training in Australia.

Outcome

No specialist registration or fellowship.

For more information visit:

[Short-term training in a medical specialty pathway on the Medical Board of Australia website](#).

[Short-term training \(STT\) pathway on the ANZCA website](#).

Summary of key differences

Pathway	Eligibility	Supervision	Fellowship
ANZCA SIMG	All SIMGs	Extended	Yes
Expedited MBA	SIMGs qualification deemed substantially equivalent	6 months	No
Area of Need	Shortage areas	Yes	No

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For more information visit [SIMG membership on the ASA website](#)

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Information in this document is current as of May 2026