

## FAQs for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) regarding the Short-Term Training in a Medical Speciality (STT) Pathway

Can't see your question listed here or not sure which pathway is right for you?

For further information on:

- STT pathway, see [Australia | Short-term specialist training \(STT Pathway\)](#) or email [IMG@racp.edu.au](mailto:IMG@racp.edu.au).
- Overseas Trained physicians (OTP) specialist assessment pathway, [Australia | Specialist assessment](#) or email [OTP@racp.edu.au](mailto:OTP@racp.edu.au).

**Q:** How many IMGs on the STT pathway are allowed to work at a hospital/site?

**A:** The maximum number of IMGs permitted at each site varies based on the capacity to provide genuine training in that specialty. Where relevant, the College may use the maximum number of [Advanced Trainees that a site is accredited for](#) as a guide for the maximum number of IMGs allowed (in addition to Advanced Trainees). Training sites are encouraged to contact [IMG@racp.edu.au](mailto:IMG@racp.edu.au) **before** recruiting new IMGs if they are unsure about the maximum number they are approved for.

**Q:** I want to stay in Australia for more than 24 months (maximum time allowed on the STT pathway). What are my options?

**A:** Please refer to [Medical Board of Australia - International medical graduates \(IMGs\)](#) for information about alternative pathways to registration. If you have a comparable overseas specialist qualification, you may be eligible to apply for the overseas trained physicians (OTP) specialist assessment pathway through the RACP.

**Q:** Do I need to finish my training on the STT pathway before I can apply for the specialist assessment pathway?

**A:** No. You can apply for specialist assessment while you are working under the STT pathway. If you are interested in staying in Australia long-term and have a comparable overseas specialist qualification, we recommend that you apply for specialist assessment as soon as possible because the application process can take up to six months.

**Q:** Does working on the STT pathway or working under general registration with AHPRA count towards my specialist assessment?

**A:** No. Training or work completed on the STT pathway or under general registration with AHPRA is not considered towards your eligibility or your comparability for specialist assessment. Training on the STT pathway is unaccredited training and cannot be completed at the level of an Australian-trained physician or paediatrician to be considered towards consultant experience.

**Q:** Can work on the STT pathway reduce some of my specialist assessment requirements?

**A:** No. Working in Australia under the STT pathway does not count towards your specialist assessment requirements for top up training or peer review.

**Q:** I've changed my mind and want to apply for specialist assessment rather than the STT pathway. Can I be refunded the *Short-Term Specialist Training Application fee*?

**A:** No. As stated on the [RACP website](#), all fees for administration of the STT pathway are non-refundable.

**Q:** Is it possible to change my application from the STT pathway to the specialist assessment pathway, or complete both pathways simultaneously?

**A:** No. The STT pathway and specialist assessment pathway are two different and separate pathways. The STT pathway is intended for IMGs who wish to upskill in Australia for a maximum period of 24 months. The specialist assessment pathway is intended for overseas trained physicians (OTPs) who wish to obtain specialist recognition and practice in Australia long-term.

**Q:** Why is a Diploma in Child Health (DCH) from India acceptable for the STT pathway but not the specialist assessment pathway?

**A:** MGs who hold a DCH from India only completed two years of training, whereas trainees in Australia complete six years of specialist training in paediatrics. IMGs who have only completed a DCH have not obtained the same breadth and depth of training compared with the requirements stipulated in the RACP Advanced Training Curricula. The DCH is accepted for the STT pathway because this pathway is designed for IMGs who wish to upskill in Australia for no more than 24 months. For IMGs who trained in India and are interested in specialist assessment to stay in Australia long-term, the RACP recognises a Doctor of Medicine (MD), a Diplomate of National Board (DNB) or a Doctorate of Medicine (DM) from India as acceptable specialist qualifications for specialist assessment.

**Q:** I have an MRCP/MRCPCH or a FRCP/FRCPCH from the UK. Is that an acceptable specialist qualification?

**A:** No. The MRCP/MRCPCH and the FRCP/FRCPCH are not considered specialist qualifications for either the STT pathway or for the specialist assessment pathway. IMGs from the UK must hold a recognised specialist qualification: either a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) or Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR).

**Q:** Can I request an extension to stay on the STT pathway for more than 24 months?

**A:** No (except in genuine extenuating circumstances). Therefore, please ensure you are aware of [alternative pathways to registration](#) and allow sufficient time to apply if you wish to stay in Australia longer than 24 months.

**Q:** I want to move to Australia as soon as possible. Should I apply for the STT pathway first and then apply for specialist assessment later?

**A:** No. The STT pathway was designed to allow IMGs to upskill in Australia — not as an expedited entry into Australia. All IMGs on the STT pathway are required to sign a Statement of Intention that they intend to return to their home country/country of training and leave Australia after no more than 24 months. If you are eligible for specialist assessment and wish to stay in Australia long-term, please submit your specialist assessment application as soon as possible and do not apply for the STT pathway first.

**Q:** Should I apply for the STT pathway to get some Australian exposure before I apply for specialist assessment?

**A:** No. There is no benefit to your specialist assessment application if you work on the STT pathway or under general registration with AHPRA. The OTP Committee assesses overseas training and consultant experience. Training on the STT pathway is unaccredited training and is not completed at the level of an Australian-trained physician or paediatrician to be considered towards consultant experience. We encourage IMGs who are eligible for specialist assessment and wish to stay in Australia long-term to submit a specialist assessment application as soon as possible and do not apply for the STT pathway first.

**Q:** Can I access the RACP MyCPD program while on the STT pathway?

**A:** Yes (for an annual fee). Please see [The RACP CPD Home](#) for information about non-member access to MyCPD, which will allow you to meet your regulatory CPD requirement.

**Q:** Does the RACP fund STT pathway positions?

**A:** No. The RACP does not provide funding for STT pathway positions. Please discuss any remuneration package with your Australian employer or research if your overseas government/training institution provides any funding for training.

**Q:** Do I need to complete an English language exam for the STT pathway?

**A:** The RACP does not look after English requirements for STT applications; this is checked by AHPRA. You can find further information on AHPRA's website at [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - English language skills \(ahpra.gov.au\)](http://www.ahpra.gov.au). Please contact AHPRA directly if you have any questions regarding the English requirements.