



## Policy on registration within the General scope of practice

### Policy Statement

The Medical Council of New Zealand has set requirements for doctors to meet before they may be registered within the General scope of practice.

Council considers that a period of supervised practice within the Provisional General scope of practice is required before doctors may obtain registration in the General scope of practice. This period, during which the doctor must meet certain practice requirements, is necessary to assure Council that the doctor has the competence and capacity to practise safely in a form of independent, unsupervised registration.

To be eligible for registration in the General scope of practice, the doctor must therefore hold registration in the Provisional General scope and satisfy the Council's additional requirements for registration in the General scope of practice.

The Council has provided a range of options (in the form of different prescribed qualifications) for a doctor to obtain registration in the Provisional General scope of practice. These 'pathways' reflect the different combinations of qualifications, training and experience that doctors obtain internationally.

However, while each option enables registration in the Provisional General scope of practice, it is important that at the point at which the doctors become eligible for registration in the General scope of practice, all doctors are of equal level of competence and fitness to practise. As a result, and with that goal in mind, the prescribed qualifications for a doctor to obtain registration in the General scope of practice will differ between these 'pathways'

This policy should be read in conjunction with Council's [Policy on registration in New Zealand](#).

### Requirements

To qualify for registration within the General scope of practice, an applicant doctor must satisfy one of the following:

### Pathway 1:

**Applicants who hold a primary medical qualification from a New Zealand or Australian medical school accredited by the Medical Council of New Zealand.**

- Have successfully completed a PGY1 year in Australia and hold general registration in Australia.

Or

- Hold Provisional General registration in New Zealand;

**And**

- Complete the following requirements:
  - Satisfactory completion of four accredited clinical attachments.
  - Substantive<sup>1</sup> attainment of the learning outcomes outlined in the New Zealand Curriculum Framework for Prevocational Medical Training (prior learning may be taken into account).
  - Completion of a minimum of 10 weeks' full-time equivalent in each clinical attachment. Full time is equivalent to a minimum of 40 hours per week.
  - Advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) certification at the standard of New Zealand Resuscitation Council CORE Advanced level less than 12 months old.
  - A recommendation for registration in the general scope of practice by a Council-approved advisory panel.

**Pathway 2: Applicants who have obtained a pass in the New Zealand Clinical Registration Examination (NZREX Clinical).**

- Hold Provisional General registration in New Zealand;

**And either:**

- If the applicant obtained Provisional General registration after 30 November 2014 and, at the time of application for General registration, is practising in an approved primary care setting:
  - Completed at least one year working within the Provisional General scope, satisfying the following:
    - practised in a primary care setting approved by the Council and under the supervision of a medical practitioner approved by the Council; and
    - received satisfactory reports for the nine months worked immediately prior to applying for registration within the general scope; and
    - been certified in advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) as required by the Council's policy; and
  - Been recommended for registration within the General scope by his or her supervisor;

**Or**

- In any other case, complete the following requirements:
  - The satisfactory completion of four accredited clinical attachments.
  - The substantive<sup>1</sup> attainment of the learning outcomes outlined in the New Zealand Curriculum Framework for Prevocational Medical Training (prior learning may be taken into account).
  - Completion of a minimum of 10 weeks' full-time equivalent in each clinical attachment. Full time is equivalent to a minimum of 40 hours per week.

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<sup>1</sup> Each intern is expected to make progress in attaining the learning outcomes in the NZCF. To be considered sufficient, interns should record the attainment of at least 75% (279) of the learning outcomes by the end of PGY1.

- Advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) certification at the standard of New Zealand Resuscitation Council CORE Advanced level less than 12 months old.
- A recommendation for registration in the general scope of practice by a Council-approved advisory panel.

**Pathway 3: Applicants who hold a primary medical degree from a university medical school accredited by a competent authority and have one year of general medical experience under the jurisdiction of the competent authority.**

- Hold Provisional General registration in New Zealand;

**And**

- Complete the following requirements:
  - six months working in a New Zealand hospital, general practice, educational institution or other organisation approved by the Council under supervision of a registered doctor approved by the Council; and
  - receive two consecutive satisfactory supervision reports for the six months of medical practice completed immediately prior to applying for registration within the General scope. Registration within a provisional scope will remain if the doctor received any poor supervision reports until the doctor has received two consecutive satisfactory reports; and
  - been recommended for registration within the General scope by the approved supervisor.

**Pathway 4: Applicants who hold a primary medical degree from a university medical school accepted by Council and have met Council requirements for registration and practice in a Council-approved comparable health system.**

- Hold Provisional General registration in New Zealand;

**And**

- Complete the following requirements:
  - one year working within the Provisional General scope in a New Zealand hospital, general practice, educational institution or other organisation approved by the Council, in a position for which the doctor has appropriate experience and under the supervision of a doctor approved by Council; and
  - receive satisfactory supervision reports for the nine months worked immediately prior to applying for registration within the General scope; and
  - been recommended for registration in the General scope by the approved supervisor.

**Pathway 5: Applicants who hold registration granted based on an Australian Medical Council (AMC) MCQ examination pass, AMC Clinical examination pass or successful completion of a formal AMC-approved workplace based assessment, and satisfactory completion of 12 months of supervised practice in Australia, culminating in achievement of full general registration in Australia.**

- Hold Provisional General registration in New Zealand;

**And**

- Complete the following requirements:
    - one year of satisfactory supervised practice working within the provisional general scope in a New Zealand hospital, general practice, educational institution or other organisation approved by the Council, in an approved position under supervision approved by the Council; and
    - achieve advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) certification less than 12 months old at the level of New Zealand Resuscitation Council
      - CORE Advanced for doctors working in hospital-based practice; or
      - CORE Immediate for doctors working in general practice or non-clinical based practice.
    - been recommended for registration in the General scope by the approved supervisor who has been the applicant's supervisor for at least 3 months immediately prior to the application.
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**Notes:**

**Imposition of conditions on the General scope**

Council may propose to put conditions on a doctor's general scope of practice if this is considered necessary in the interests of public health and safety. Doctors granted General registration on the comparable health system pathway are likely to have conditions imposed on their practice limiting them to the area of medicine for which they were assessed when they first applied for registration. They may also be approved to practise in hospital-based practice, in addition to the area of medicine for which they were initially approved. (Please refer to the *Policy on changing the scope of practice for doctors registered within a provisional general scope to registration within the general scope of practice without limitations* for more information about how conditions apply to comparable health system registrants.)

**Recertification requirements**

Once registered to practise within the General scope of practice the doctor is no longer required to work under supervision, but instead must meet ongoing recertification programme requirements set by Council. Full details of these requirements are available on the Council's website, or from the Council office.

**Progression from PGY2 to PGY3**

Council has also specified the requirements to be met by graduates of New Zealand or Australian medical schools, and of NZREX Clinical graduates (ie, those doctors who were granted General scope registration on the New Zealand / Australian graduate pathway, and the Examinations pathway) in order for them to complete their prevocational training programme and to progress from PG2 to PGY3. Doctors on these two pathways to registration are initially granted registration in the General scope, but with an endorsement on their scope of practice prescribing that they meet certain Council-imposed requirements before they will be considered to have completed their prevocational training. It is only then that they may proceed to their PGY3 year, and have the endorsement removed from their General scope. The details of these requirements are outlined in Council's *Policy on prevocational medical training*.

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Related policies • *Policy on registration in New Zealand*

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- *Policy on changing the scope of practice for doctors registered within a provisional general scope to registration within the general scope of practice without limitations*
  - *Policy on prevocational medical training*
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- Appendix 1 - Approved Australasian university primary medical degrees.  
 Appendix 2 - Primary medical degrees issued by university medical schools accredited by competent authorities.  
 Appendix 3 - Health systems recognised by Council as comparable to New Zealand

Version	Date	Details
1.0	May 2004	Approved by Council
1.1	July 2011	Updated following implementation of 2010 Gazette notice
1.2	October 2011	Updated following approval by Council of changes to the CHS pathway
1.3	September 2013	Further updated following approval by Council of changes to the CHS pathway
1.4	August 2014	Updated to reflect implementation of the approved NZ prevocational training programme in November 2014
1.5	November 2016	Updated by Registrar following prevocational training changes
1.6	September 2018	Updated by Registrar to include the Australian general registrant pathway (Pathway 5) which was approved by Council in October 2016
	<b>September 2022</b>	Scheduled for review

<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>New Zealand and Australian university medical degrees</b>
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<b>Institution</b>	<b>Qualification</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Medical schools accredited in New Zealand</b>			
University of Auckland	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Auckland	
University of Otago	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Otago	
<b>Medical schools accredited in Australia</b>			
Bond University	Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery  Doctor of Medicine	MB BS Bond  MD Bond	The combined Bachelor of Medical Studies (BMedSt) and Doctor of Medicine programme have replaced the MBBS programme which ceased in December 2017. All students selected for entry into the Medical Program will have to complete both the BMedSt and MD to be eligible for registration as a medical practitioner in any state or territory in Australia or New Zealand.
Curtin University	Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Curtin	New programme: October 2016
Deakin University	Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Deakin	
Flinders University	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery  Doctor of Medicine	BM BS Flinders  MD Flinders	BMBS programme has ceased and final degrees expected to be conferred in Dec 2017. MD programme commenced in 2013
Griffith University	Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery  Doctor of Medicine	MB BS Griffith  MD Griffith	The MD programme has replaced the MBBS programme, which ceased in December 2016.
James Cook University	Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS James Cook	
Macquarie University	Doctor of Medicine	MD Macquarie	
Monash University, Malaysia	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Monash Malaysia	This is an offshore campus of Monash University Australia. The course has received accreditation from the Australian Medical Council (AMC). This means that its graduates will be recognised to practise in Australia without having to take an additional examination.
Monash University, Victoria	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery  Doctor of Medicine	MB BS Monash  MD Monash	MD programme introduced 2017
The Australian National University	Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS ANU  MChD ANU	ANU Medical School MB BS four-year programme MChD four-year programme

	Medicinae ac Chirurgiae Doctoranda (implemented 2014)		The Doctor of Medicine and Surgery programme will replace the MB BS programme once current cohort has completed programme. MB BS programme accreditation expires December 2018
The University of Adelaide	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Adelaide	
The University of Melbourne	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Melbourne	The MBBS was replaced by the MD programme in 2011 with the final MBBS degrees conferred in 2011.
	Doctor of Medicine	MD Melbourne	
The University of Newcastle and University of New England (joint programme)	Bachelor of Medicine	B Med Newcastle + New England	
	Doctor of Medicine	MD Newcastle + New England	
The University of New South Wales	Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS New South Wales	The MBBS programme ceased in 2014 and was replaced by the BMed/MD programme with first graduates being awarded the degree in 2013 and all new graduates enrolled in the MD programme from 2014. The Bachelor of Medical Studies (BMed) degree is an integrated program and that these qualifications are not awarded separately. The 3-year MD programme is a graduate entry alternative for student who enter via the BMedSci (Hons) and then receive an MD.
	Bachelor of Medical Studies and Doctor of Medicine	BMedMD New South Wales	
	Doctor of Medicine	MD New South Wales	
University of Notre Dame Australia	Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery	MBBS Notre Dame	MD introduced from 2017
	Doctor of Medicine	MD Notre Dame	
The University of Queensland	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Queensland	The Doctor of Medicine (MD) program replaced the MBBS degree in 2015.
	Doctor of Medicine	MD Queensland	
The University of Sydney	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Sydney	The Doctor of Medicine (MD) program replaced the MBBS degree in 2007.
	Doctor of Medicine	MD Sydney	
The University of Western Australia	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Western Australia	The Doctor of Medicine (MD) program replaced the MBBS programme in 2014.
	Doctor of Medicine	MD Western Australia	
University of Tasmania	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Tasmania	
Western Sydney University	Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Western Sydney	MD programme to be implemented 2019
	Doctor of Medicine	MD Sydney	

University of Wollongong	Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery Doctor of Medicine	MB BS Wollongong MD Wollongong	MD programme introduced from January 2017
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<b>Appendix 2</b>	<b>Primary medical degrees conferred by university medical schools accredited by competent authorities</b>
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<b>Competent Authority – General Medical Council</b>			
<b>Institution</b>	<b>Qualification</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Cardiff University	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BCh Cardiff	
The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS ICL	Imperial College London was a self-governing college of University of London until July 2007 when it became formally independent of the University of London. The Charing Cross and Westminster Medical Schools became part of the <a href="#">Imperial College London Faculty of Medicine</a> in August 1997.
Keele University	Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Keele	
Lancaster University	Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Lan	
King's College London	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Lond KC	Self-governing college of University of London. The <a href="#">United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St. Thomas's</a> merged with King's College in 1998 to form Guy's, King's and St. Thomas's School of Medicine, which was later renamed <a href="#">King's College London GKT School of Medicine</a> .
St George's Hospital Medical School	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS SGUL	Self-governing college of University of London
St George's Hospital Medical School (Cyprus)	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS SGUL Cyprus	Graduate entry medical programme delivered in Cyprus by the University of Nicosia Medical School. This programme commenced in 2011.
Queen Mary University of London	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Lond QMUL	Self-governing college of University of London – joint programme run by Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry
Queen Mary University of London (Malta)	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Lond QMUL (Malta)	Self-governing college of University of London – joint programme run by the Barts and the London School of Medicine in Malta

The Queen's University of Belfast	Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery, and Bachelor of Obstetrics	MB BCh BAO Belf	
University College London	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Lond UCL	Self-governing college of University of London.
University of Birmingham	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Birm	
University of Bristol	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Brist	
University of Cambridge	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BChir Camb	
Norwich Medical School, University of East Anglia	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS East Anglia	
Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry	Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery	BM BS Ply Pen	Medical programme commenced 2013 after the founding universities of Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth, formed separate medical schools: Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry and the University of Exeter Medical School.
University of Exeter Medical School	Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery	BM BS Exet	Medical programme commenced 2013 after the founding universities of Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth, formed separate medical schools: Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry and the University of Exeter Medical School.
University of Leeds	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Leeds	
University of Leicester	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Leic	Prior to December 2010, University of Leicester issued a joint degree with the University of Warwick
University of Liverpool	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Lpool	
University of London	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Lond	
University of Manchester	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Manc	
University of Newcastle	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Ncle	
University of Nottingham	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	BM BS Nottm	
University of Oxford	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	BM BCh Oxf	
University of Sheffield	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Sheff	
University of Southampton	Bachelor of Medicine	BM Soton	

University of Wales	Bachelor in Medicine and Bachelor in Surgery	MB BCh Wales	No longer operational, last degrees conferred May 2014.
University of Aberdeen	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Aberd	
University of Dundee	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Dund	
University of Edinburgh	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Edin	
University of Glasgow	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Glasg	
University of Warwick	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	MB ChB Warwick	Prior to December 2010, University of Warwick issued a joint degree with the University of Leicester
Universities of Brighton and Sussex	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	BM BS Bri + Suss	
Universities of Exeter and Plymouth	Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery	BM BS Exet + Plym	In 2013 the founding universities of Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth, formed separate medical schools: Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry and the University of Exeter Medical School.
Universities of Hull and York	Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery	MB BS Hull + York	
Swansea University	Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery	MB BCh Swan	

<b>Competent authority – Medical Council of Ireland</b>		<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Notes</b>
University of Dublin, Trinity College	Bachelor in Medicine and Bachelor in Surgery	MB BCh BAO Dubl	
National University of Ireland Galway	Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery and Bachelor in the Art of Obstetrics	MB BCh BAO NUI Gal	Constituent University of the National University of Ireland
University of College Cork	Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery and Bachelor in the Art of Obstetrics	MB BCh BAO NUI UCC	Constituent University of the National University of Ireland
University College Dublin	Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery and Bachelor in the Art of Obstetrics	MB BCh BAO NUI UCD	Constituent University of the National University of Ireland
University of Limerick	Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery	BM BS LIM	Graduate only programme. Commenced 2007.

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland <sup>2</sup>	Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery and Bachelor in the Art of Obstetrics	MB BCh BAO NUI RCSI	Recognised college of the National University of Ireland
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Medical University Bahrain	Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery and Bachelor in the Art of Obstetrics	MB BCh BAO NUI RCSI Bahrain	RCSI offshore campus and therefore recognised college of the National University of Ireland
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dubai	Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery and Bachelor in the Art of Obstetrics	MB BCh BAO NUI RCSI Dubai	RCSI offshore campus and therefore recognised college of the National University of Ireland
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Penang Medical College	Bachelor in Medicine, Bachelor in Surgery and Bachelor in the Art of Obstetrics	MB BCh BAO NUI RCSI Penang	RCSI offshore campus and therefore recognised college of the National University of Ireland

<b>Appendix 3</b>	<b>Health systems recognised by Council as comparable to New Zealand</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia</li> <li>• Austria</li> <li>• Belgium</li> <li>• Canada</li> <li>• Czech Republic</li> <li>• Denmark</li> <li>• Finland</li> <li>• France</li> <li>• Germany</li> <li>• Greece</li> <li>• Iceland</li> <li>• Israel</li> <li>• Italy</li> <li>• Norway</li> <li>• Portugal</li> <li>• Republic of Ireland</li> <li>• Singapore</li> <li>• Spain</li> <li>• Sweden</li> <li>• Switzerland</li> <li>• The Netherlands</li> <li>• United Kingdom</li> <li>• United States of America</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and the National University of Ireland (NUI) concluded an agreement in 1977 whereby the Medical School is a recognised college of the NUI and its students graduate from the National University of Ireland as well as from the Royal College of Physicians Ireland (RCPI) and the RCSI.