

SPECIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATE (SIMG) POLICY

Purpose

To define the formal processes, evaluation criteria, and governance framework applied by the New Zealand College of Sexual and Reproductive Health (NZCSRH)—acting as the designated Vocational Educational Advisory Body (VEAB)—when reviewing and assessing Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) seeking vocational registration in the scope of Family Planning and Reproductive Health with the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ).

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) holding international postgraduate qualifications in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) who apply to MCNZ for registration within a provisional vocational scope of practice;
- The NZCSRH Educational Advisory Committee (EAC) acting as the VEAB evaluation panel; and
- The NZSRHECT Board and administrative staff.

Definitions

Specialist International Medical Graduate (SIMG): A medical practitioner who has completed specialist medical training and obtained postgraduate qualifications outside New Zealand.

Vocational Educational Advisory Body (VEAB): The recognized professional medical body (NZCSRH, administered by NZSRHECT) that provides expert assessment and advice to MCNZ regarding an SIMG's comparability to a New Zealand-trained specialist.

VOC3 Application: The formal MCNZ application form (*Application for Registration within a Provisional Vocational Scope of Practice*) submitted by an SIMG.

Comparability: An evaluation of whether an SIMG's combined qualifications, training, assessment, and post-qualification experience are "equivalent to" or "as satisfactory as" those of a New Zealand Fellowship graduate.



Detail

Benchmark Qualifications and Statutory Criteria

1. MCNZ Postgraduate Qualification Prerequisite

Under MCNZ regulations, an SIMG must hold a recognized international postgraduate qualification in the requested vocational scope to be eligible for vocational assessment.

2. Benchmark Comparable Qualifications

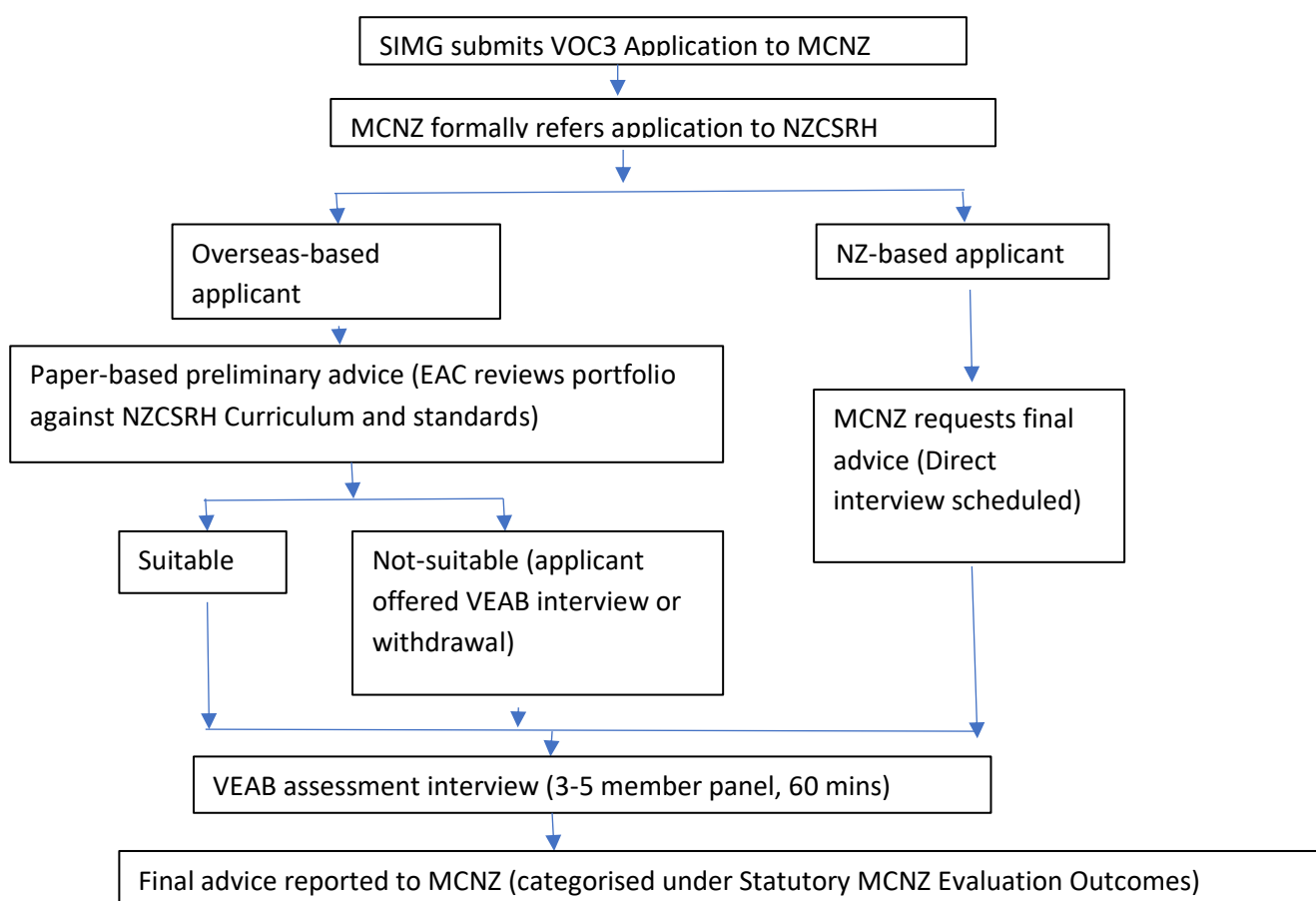
To be assessed as comparable to the NZCSRH Fellowship Training Programme, the SIMG's formal training must be derived from a curriculum and training structure evaluated as substantially similar in scope, volume, and clinical depth. Currently, the qualifications evaluated as comparable benchmark qualifications are:

- **Membership or Fellowship of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (MFSRH or FFSRH)** of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (UK); and/or
- **Certificate of Completion of Training in Community Sexual and Reproductive Health (CCT-CSRH)** (UK).

Applicants holding other international specialist qualifications will be evaluated individually against the NZCSRH Curriculum; however, substantial training gaps may require completion of standard Fellowship requirements.

Assessment Process and Workflow

MCNZ receives the VOC3 application and formally requests advisory evaluation from NZCSRH.



Step 1: Preliminary Advice (Overseas-Based Applicants)

1. MCNZ forwards the VOC3 application portfolio to the EAC Chair for preliminary desktop evaluation.
2. The EAC evaluates the applicant's qualifications, training curriculum, in-training assessments, logbooks, examinations, recent continuous practice, and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) against the *NZCSRH Fellowship Training Curriculum* and *Skills and Knowledge Guide*.
3. The EAC aims to complete the evaluation and return advice to the MCNZ within 6 weeks of receiving the complete application.
4. **Preliminary Outcomes:**
 - **Suitable:** The EAC advises MCNZ that the applicant is suitable for provisional vocational registration, subject to final interview or specific NZ adaptation requirements upon arrival.
 - **Not Suitable:** If the portfolio demonstrates substantial deficits, the EAC advises MCNZ accordingly. MCNZ provides the applicant the choice to attend a formal VEAB interview or withdraw the application.
 - **Further Information Required:** The EAC requests additional clarification or documentation prior to issuing preliminary advice.

Step 2: Final Advice and VEAB Interview

For NZ-based applicants, or overseas applicants proceeding following preliminary review, MCNZ requests final advice through a formal VEAB interview.

- **Format:** Conducted via secure video conference (maximum 60 minutes duration).
- **Panel Composition:** Comprises a minimum of two (2) Fellows, plus at least one other member from the EAC.
- **Information Provision:** The candidate is provided with panel membership details and the structured scope of the interview at least **14 calendar days** prior.
- **Scope:** The interview evaluates clinical competence, procedural volume, recent practice currency, professional standards, and understanding of the New Zealand healthcare and legislative framework.

MCNZ Evaluation Outcomes and Recommendations

In its final advice report to MCNZ, the EAC must categorize its findings under one of the following official statutory determinations:

Statutory Category	Definition	Recommendation to MCNZ
1. Equivalent to	Training, qualifications, and experience are substantially identical to the NZ CSRH Fellowship standard.	Recommended for provisional vocational registration with a short period of supervised practice (e.g., 6–12 months) and standard NZ orientation.
2. As Satisfactory As	Training structure differs, but the overall package of post-qualification experience, CPD, and practice achieves the same clinical competence standard.	Recommended for provisional vocational registration subject to defined supervised practice (e.g., 12–24 months), specific workplace assessments (DOPS/mini-CEX), and targeted learning modules.



Statutory Category	Definition	Recommendation to MCNZ
3. Neither Equivalent To nor As Satisfactory As	Substantial deficits identified in training duration, curriculum breadth, or procedural competence that cannot be remediated via supervised practice.	Not recommended for vocational registration. The applicant must apply for and complete the full or accredited partial NZCSRH Fellowship Training Programme.
4. Unable to Make Recommendation	Information provided is insufficient to form an evaluation.	Specific evidence or documentation required is formally logged and requested via MCNZ.

Standard New Zealand Adaptation Requirements

Recognising the unique legislative and cultural environment in Aotearoa New Zealand, almost all recommended SIMG pathways will include mandatory completion of:

- NZ SRH Legislative Framework:** Orientation and demonstrated understanding of New Zealand health law (including the *Contraception, Sterilisation, and Abortion Act 1977*, informed consent, and youth Gillick competence);
- Cultural Safety & Te Tiriti o Waitangi:** Completion of approved cultural safety and Te Tiriti o Waitangi training modules; and
- Supervised Practice & Peer Assessments:** A designated period of supervised clinical practice with structured supervisor reporting and peer review assessments (DOPS/mini-CEX).

Governance, Fees, and Disputes

- Application Checklist:** To ensure operational readiness, SIMG applicants must complete the *NZCSRH SIMG Assessment Evidence Checklist and Application Form* (Appendix A).
- Alignment with RPL:** Portfolio verification and evidence standards mirror the evaluation rigor of the *NZCSRH Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy*.
- Complaints and Disputes:**
 - Procedural/College Disputes:** Any complaint or dispute regarding the conduct of the VEAB interview or EAC assessment process is managed under the **NZCSRH Complaints Policy**.
 - Registration Appeals:** MCNZ is the statutory decision-maker. Appeals against final registration decisions, conditions, or declines must be lodged directly with the **Medical Council of New Zealand** in accordance with MCNZ appeal procedures.

Policy Owner	NZCSRH Educational Advisory Committee
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