



SIMG ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING COMPARABILITY

1. INTRODUCTION

These Guidelines have been developed by the SIMG Assessment Committee to guide ACEM Assessment Panels in determining the level of comparability of an SIMG applicant to that of an Australasian-trained specialist in emergency medicine. Guidelines specific to determining the requirements defined by the college which SIMGs must complete to become eligible for specialist recognition are also available (Document No: SIMG511).

All processes conducted in the assessment of SIMGs at ACEM are in compliance with the provisions of the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) Standards: specialist medical college assessment of specialist international medical graduates (January 2021).

2. COMPARABILITY TO AN AUSTRALASIAN-TRAINED SPECIALIST IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

The assessment of comparability of the individual SIMG's qualifications, training and experience (QTE), is more than an assessment of the equivalence of a SIMG's training program against the FACEM Training Program. The below indicators of SIMGs' QTE may help to inform a decision of comparability.

2.1 Substantially Comparable

2.1.1. Applicants who have completed known or comparable training programs

- Applicants from the United Kingdom (CCT, CESR, FRCM), the United States of America (ABEM Certified) or Canada (RSPSC certified) and who have completed recognised specialist Emergency Medicine (EM) training in that country, that meets the requirements of the Regulation C1.2.7, and
- Applicants with EM training from another country/program that appears comparable/equivalent, or slightly less than comparable (based on information provided in application and structured interview), with significant postgraduate experience and continuing professional development (CPD) reflecting overall comparability, may be eligible for assessment as Substantially Comparable if they meet the following requirements:
 - Currency of practice
 - Post specialist training experience in consultant level roles
 - CPD compliance
 - Comparable training and/or experience in:
 - paediatrics
 - critical care
 - research

Note: Applicants who completed the FRCM training program prior to August 2021 are deemed to have completed training or assessment in research that is equivalent to the FACEM Research Requirement.

2.1.2. Applicants who have completed unfamiliar or other training programs

- Applicants with EM training from a country/program other than those described in 2.1.1 may be eligible for assessment as Substantially Comparable if they meet the following requirements:

- They are assessed at interview to be 'at a newly elected FACEM level' across most domains contained within the ACEM Curriculum Framework
- The Interview Panel identifies no significant gaps in clinical practice such that the applicant may be expected to function at least at the level of a newly elected FACEM upon completion of the designated period of supervised practice, and
- They meet all requirements listed in 2.1.1.

Note: If an SIMG requires more than 12 FTE months supervised practice to demonstrate the required standard, the SIMG cannot be assessed as substantially comparable (Reg C1.5.2.2).

2.2 Partially Comparable

Applicants who are not eligible to be assessed as substantially comparable may be assessed as partially comparable in the following circumstances, and will have the opportunity to address any identified shortfall during a period of supervised practice.

Applicants may be assessed as partially comparable in the following circumstances:

2.2.1. Training and Experience

- Applicants have completed EM training and experience but may be missing several key QTE components such as paediatrics, critical care, ambulatory care, research etc
- OR
- Applicants have completed EM training and experience that approaches comparability and which encompassed a program of assessment that tested knowledge and skills, but may not have included FACEM-comparable training components such as supervision, assessments or formal examination(s).

2.2.2. Structured Interview

- Applicants are assessed at interview to be at least partially comparable to a newly elected FACEM across the majority of domains contained within the *ACEM Curriculum Framework*
- The Interview Panel identifies deficiencies in the applicant's knowledge and skills, but only such that the applicant may be expected to function at least at the level of a newly elected FACEM upon completion of the designated period of supervised practice and the associated requirements.
- Applicants assessed as needing to complete the research requirement of the FACEM Training Program are assessed as 'partially comparable'

Note: To be considered Partially Comparable, an SIMG must satisfy that they will be able to reach the standard of a newly elected FACEM, within a maximum period of 24 months supervised practice including completing any further training with associated assessments(s) (Reg C1.6.2)

2.3 Not Comparable

Applicants who are not eligible to be assessed as substantially comparable or partially comparable.

2.3.1. Training and Experience:

- The applicant's EM training and experience is missing one or more key components

2.3.2. Structured Interview:

- The applicant is assessed at interview to be not comparable to a newly elected FACEM across multiple domains contained within the *ACEM Curriculum Framework*
- The Interview Panel identifies deficiencies in the applicant's knowledge and skills such that more than 24 FTE months of training/upskilling with associated assessments would be required in order to reach the level expected of a newly elected FACEM.

3. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- ACEM Regulation C - Assessment of Specialist International Medical Graduates
- SIMG 507, SIMG 508 – Policies for SIMG Assessment Australia/New Zealand
- SIMG 511 – Guidelines for Determining the Duration of Oversight or Training
- *ACEM Curriculum Framework*

4. DOCUMENT REVIEW

Timeframe for review: every two (2) years, or earlier if required.

4.1 Responsibilities

Document authorisation: Council of Education
Document implementation: Executive Director, Education / General Manager, Education Assessment
Document maintenance: SIMG Manager, SIMG Standards Lead

4.2 Revision History

Version	Date of Version	Pages revised / Brief Explanation of Revision
v1	Jul-2016	Approved by Council of Education
v2	Feb-2022	Implementation of the MBA Standards