

## SALHN Medical Careers - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

### Licensing and Certification:

*What are the medical board registration requirements and certification for international doctors in South Australia?*

There are three assessment pathways for international medical graduate seeking registration to practice medicine in Australia

- Competent Authority pathway
- Standard Pathway, or
- Specialist pathway

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.medicalboard.gov.au/registration/international-medical-graduates.aspx>

*Is there assistance provided for navigating these process?*

SALHN endeavours to support the international medical graduates in navigating the registration process. SALHN TMO Unit supports the applicants in gathering the required documents and applying for registration. The medical officers can reach out to the TMO Unit or Medical Education Unit for any specific support or information.

### Visa Processes:

*What is the process for obtaining a working visa to practice as a doctor in South Australia?*

SALHN will sponsor working visa to international medical graduates who have been offered a position. The process will begin after SALHN provides a written offer of employment and the international medical graduate accepts the offer. For more information on the requirements and steps involved, refer to Immigration and Citizenship: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

*Are there specific visa categories or requirements for healthcare professionals?*

The categories of visa and relevant requirements are available on the Immigration and Citizenship website : <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

### Sponsorship and Support:

*Does SALHN provide visa sponsorship or assistance for international doctors?*

SALHN provides visa sponsorship for some successful international applicants. The sponsorship may be subject to labour market testing requirements.

*What kind of support is available throughout the visa application process?*

If offered as a visa sponsored employment, SALHN supports by completing the sponsorship application for work visa. It is important to note that the successful applicants have to still complete and submit their part of application to the Immigration and Citizenship

*How long is the typical duration of a working visa for doctors, and is it renewable?*

The duration of work visa for doctors is variable and depends on the category of visa that is applicable.

*Are there pathways for permanent residency or long-term stay for medical professionals?*

There are pathways for permanent residency for medical professionals. However the eligibility to permanent residency varies depending on a number of factors. Please refer to Immigration and Citizenship for more information: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

**Family Visa Options:**

*Are there visa options for family members accompanying me?*

If working visa is sponsored, all the eligible dependent family members will be able to apply for visa and accompany the applicant.

*What support is available for the visa application process for dependents?*

For eligible dependents, the visa application will be part of the application for work visa.

**Accommodation and Lifestyle:**

*Are there specific areas recommended for international doctors to live in South Australia and near SALHN?*

Majority of SALHN employees reside within the SALHN catchment, encompassing the local government areas (LGA) of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham, and Onkaparinga. This region is home to approximately 378,000 people. For those residing in these locations, the commute to work by car typically ranges from 15 to 45 minutes.

[Realestate.com.au](https://www.realestate.com.au) and [domain.com.au](https://www.domain.com.au) are popular websites for searching and applying for rental accommodation.

For short term stays, [Airbnb.com.au](https://www.airbnb.com.au), [booking.com](https://www.booking.com) are popular websites.

*What types of housing are available, and are there resources to assist with finding suitable accommodation?*

Flinders Medical Centre (FMC) residential accommodation is located approximately 400 metres South of FMC and 500 metres West of Flinders University, on Flinders Drive, Bedford Park. Regrettably, securing access to this accommodation can prove challenging due to its limited availability.

**Relocation Assistance:**

*What relocation support is provided for international doctors joining SALHN?*

You might qualify for relocation assistance. However, eligibility for a relocation allowance is contingent upon the current approval from the SA Government. For confirmation of its applicability, please inquire directly with the SALHN TMO Unit.

**Transportation:**

*Is public transportation easily accessible, and what resources are available to help navigate the local transport system?*

Adelaide has an efficient public transport system managed by Adelaide Metro, overseen by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport. This system comprises buses, trains, and trams, catering to the diverse needs of the community.

For detailed information on schedules, live updates, service disruptions, and assistance in planning your journey, the Adelaide Metro website is an invaluable resource. Visit [Adelaide Metro](#) to access timetables, service alerts, and the "Plan Your Journey" feature to identify the most convenient routes for your commute.

Public health workers affiliated with SA Health currently enjoy the benefit of free public transport to and from the hospital. To access of this service, you need to apply for a special metroCARD through the online platform [here](#). Please note that processing the metroCARD application may take up to four weeks.

Remember to validate your special access metroCARD on each journey, similar to a standard metroCARD, and carry your valid SA Health/hospital identification card to ensure smooth access to the free public transport services.

#### Bicycle

Adelaide is a pretty flat city, but the southern suburbs can be hilly. It's a comfortable ride into Flinders Medical Centre if you live in Glenelg / Brighton and surrounding suburbs.

There are bike parking facilities in the hospitals that you can park your bicycle securely. There are also lockers and shower facilities in the change rooms to freshen up. It is advisable to purchase a "D" lock as theft is an unfortunate reality.

#### **Flinders Medical Centre (FMC)**

##### Train:

From Adelaide CBD Railway station, the Flinders train (FLNDRS) leaves every 30 minutes and ends at the Flinders Railway Station, located a 2-minute walk from the FMC Main Entrance. The journey to FMC, from Adelaide CBD, will take 25 minutes.

##### Bus:

There are multiple buses from the CBD that can be caught to or from Flinders Medical Centre, however, the most direct route options are;

- 200 – [Marion Centre Interchange to City](#) (available between 5:53am – 11:21pm)
- 719/720/720H – [Flinders University to City](#) (CBD to FMC available between 6:15 – 10:55pm)

#### **Noarlunga Hospital (NH)**

##### Train:

**To get to Noarlunga via train, you will need to catch the Seaford (SEAFRD) train which leaves the CBD every 15-30 minutes. The journey from CBD to Noarlunga Railway station will take 45 minutes. From there, it is a 12-minute walk from the railway station to the hospital.**

##### Bus:

**There are multiple buses from the CBD that can be caught to or from Noarlunga Hospital, however, the most direct route options are;**

- **721 - Noarlunga Centre Interchange to City (available between 6:22am – 11:29pm – 1 hour journey)**
- **722 - Noarlunga Centre Interchange to City (available between 6:55am – 5:58pm – 1.2 hour journey)**

### **Repat Health Precinct (RHP)**

#### **Train:**

**We do not recommend catching the train to RHP as it is not practical.**

#### **Bus:**

There are multiple buses from the CBD that can be caught to or from RHP, however, the most direct route options are;

- G21F - [Aberfoyle Hub to City](#) (bus leaves CBD every 40 minutes from 6:30am – 11:01pm, exit Stop 17 – Goodwood Road)

### **Vehicle Acquisition:**

#### *Where can international doctors purchase or hire a car in South Australia?*

Australia is vast and, for those who haven't visited, can be somewhat challenging to fully grasp. Fortunately, acquiring a second-hand car in Adelaide is easily achievable at a reasonable price. An added advantage of having a car is the flexibility it provides for exploring and sightseeing within the state or even venturing interstate during your holidays.

#### *What are the requirements for vehicle licensing for internationals in South Australia?*

If you arrive on a tourist or work visa, you are allowed to drive with a valid driver's license from your home country, including the UK, Ireland, Malaysia, and Singapore. However, if you've been granted a permanent resident visa, you are initially permitted to drive for three months, after which you must convert your driving license.

#### *Are there specific considerations or advice for parking at SALHN sites?*

##### **Flinders Medical Centre (FMC)**

You will need to [apply for a parking permit](#) if you wish to park within the hospital campus. Onsite parking for full-time Medical Practitioners is \$25.00 per fortnight and is deducted directly from payroll. Otherwise, there are other parking facilities around the hospital for you.

##### **Noarlunga Hospital (NH)**

There is complimentary car parking available near the NHS, thanks to its close proximity to a shopping centre.

However, you also have the option to [apply for a car parking permit](#) within the hospital campus, offering a more secure parking solution. For full-time Medical Practitioners, onsite parking is available at \$25.00 per fortnight, conveniently deducted directly from your payroll.

### **Cultural Integration:**

#### *Are there cultural integration programs or resources available to help international doctors acclimate to the local community?*

As of now, we are looking to enhance our cultural integration and resources. While we are actively working on these improvements, it's important to note that our workforce is already

diverse and welcoming. During your transition, our Medical Education Unit and Trainee Medical Officer Unit are available to assist you in connecting with like-minded colleagues and communities.

#### *What social or community activities are popular in the area?*

The area south of South Australia, where SALHN is located, is renowned for its vibrant social and community scene, offering a diverse range of popular activities. Residents and visitors often enjoy the picturesque beaches, taking part in water sports, indulging in the region's celebrated wineries and exploring our National Conservation Parks.

Given its reputation as the 'festival state,' South Australia hosts a multitude of cultural and music festivals, creating lively and engaging experiences. Whether exploring local markets, participating in outdoor events, or embracing the region's rich cultural offerings, there's a dynamic array of social and community activities to suit various preferences.

#### **Professional Development:**

#### *What opportunities exist for professional development and continuing education within SALHN?*

There are abundant professional development opportunities for medical practitioners within SALHN. Tailored to your needs, the experience can be specialized in a particular specialty or more comprehensive, providing exposure to diverse clinical and non-clinical environments. Our objective is to attract and retain top talent, and we firmly believe that professional development is crucial to achieving this goal.

#### *Are there mentorship programs or support networks for international medical professionals?*

Our Medical Education Unit offers substantial support to IMGs, particularly those early in the early stages of their medical careers. This support encompasses teaching, training, and mentorship. Our primary objective is to ensure the success of individuals entering the Australian healthcare system. Recognising that transitioning into this system is a significant, we are dedicated to facilitating a smooth journey.

#### **AMC Pathways**

#### **AMC Standard Pathway**

#### *What is the AMC Standard Pathway?*

The AMC Standard Pathway is a route for internationally qualified medical graduates to achieve recognition of their qualifications and skills in Australia. It involves a series of assessments designed to ensure that candidates meet the AMC's standards for medical practice.

#### *Who is eligible for the AMC Standard Pathway?*

International medical graduates who wish to practice medicine in Australia are eligible for the AMC Standard Pathway. It is essential to check the specific eligibility criteria outlined by the AMC on their official website.

#### *What are the key components of the AMC Standard Pathway?*

The AMC Standard Pathway includes the AMC Part 1 Exam (MCQ), the AMC Part 2 Exam (Clinical), and a supervised clinical practice requirement. Candidates must successfully complete each component to progress through the pathway.

Completion of the AMC Part 1 is the minimum requirement for registration and must be completed prior to investing time in job applications.

#### *How do I prepare for the AMC Part 1 Exam (MCQ)?*

Comprehensive preparation is crucial. Utilise official AMC resources, practice exams, and consider enrolling in review courses. Additionally, staying updated on Australian medical guidelines and standards is essential.

#### *What is the format of the AMC Part 2 Exam (Clinical)?*

The AMC Part 2 Exam is a clinical assessment that evaluates candidates' clinical skills and communication. It involves Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) stations and may include an Integrated Structured Clinical Examination (ISCE).

#### *How can I fulfill the supervised clinical practice requirement?*

Candidates must complete a period of supervised clinical practice in an approved clinical setting in Australia, employment, with clinical supervision, is how you achieve this requirement.

This element is to ensure that candidates are familiar with the Australian healthcare system and can demonstrate safe and competent medical practice.

#### *How long does it take to complete the AMC Standard Pathway?*

The duration varies based on individual circumstances. Factors such as preparation time, exam availability, and the completion of supervised clinical practice contribute to the overall timeline.

#### *What support does the AMC provide for candidates?*

As an employer of AMC candidates, SALHN offers a range of supports. These supports are primarily managed through the Medical Education Unit (MEU)

The AMC offers a range of resources, including study guides, sample questions, and official publications. Additionally, candidates can seek guidance from the AMC Support Team and may find mentorship helpful in navigating the pathway.

#### *How do I apply for the AMC Standard Pathway?*

Detailed information about the application process, fees, and required documentation is available on the AMC website. It is important to carefully follow the instructions provided and ensure all necessary documents are submitted.

#### *What is the English language proficiency requirement for the AMC Pathway?*

Candidates must demonstrate proficiency in English through acceptable language tests such as the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or the Occupational English Test (OET).

### **AMC Competent Authority Pathway**

#### *What is the AMC Competent Authority Pathway?*

The AMC Competent Authority Pathway is designed for medical practitioners who have obtained their primary medical qualifications from a medical school listed on the World Directory of Medical Schools and have been recognised by a competent authority in a country or jurisdiction deemed comparable to Australia.

#### *Who is eligible for the AMC Competent Authority Pathway?*

Medical practitioners who have obtained their primary medical qualifications from a competent authority-approved medical school are eligible for this pathway. It is crucial to check the specific eligibility criteria outlined by the AMC on their official website.

#### *What are the key components of the AMC Competent Authority Pathway?*

The AMC Competent Authority Pathway involves an assessment of medical qualifications, English language proficiency, and a workplace-based assessment, which is general 12 months FTE.

The pathway aims to ensure that candidates possess the necessary knowledge and skills to practice medicine in Australia.

#### *How do I submit my qualifications for assessment in the AMC Competent Authority Pathway?*

Detailed information about the submission process for qualifications assessment can be found on the AMC website. Ensure that you provide all required documentation and follow the instructions carefully.

#### *Can I work in Australia while undergoing the AMC Competent Authority Pathway?*

In some cases, candidates may be eligible for provisional registration, allowing them to work under supervision in approved healthcare settings while completing the pathway. Specific regulations and requirements apply, and details can be found on the AMC website.