



International Medical Graduate Observership Program – Peel Health Campus

What is the Observership Program?

The International Medical Graduate (IMG) Observership Program is part of a broader WA Health initiative, the IMG Pathway to Registration Project, which aims to support eligible IMGs through a pathway to registration for clinical practice. The Observership Program offers IMGs an opportunity to spend time in a Western Australian hospital to help them understand how the Australian health system works. As part of this initiative, observership placements are being offered at Peel Health Campus.

Who is the Observership Program for?

The Observership Program is only for IMGs who are not currently employed as medical practitioners in the WA healthcare system and have not worked elsewhere in Australia as a medical practitioner.

To be eligible for the Program IMGs must:

- Have never been registered with the Medical Board of Australia (MBA)
- be currently living in WA and have proof of permanent residency or Australian Citizenship
- hold primary qualifications recognised by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) and the World Directory of Medical Schools
- have passed the Australian Medical Council Computer Adaptive Test multiple-choice question examination
- have met the Medical Board of Australia standard for English language skills for registered medical practitioners.

How long does an Observership Program run for?

An Observership Program typically runs over 6 weeks, depending on the individual's skills and experience. Observers are generally on a 40-hour a week placement arranged through the medical workforce department and rotated through General Medicine, Emergency Department and General Surgery. Observerships are unremunerated placements.

What does an IMG Observer do?

IMG Observers will have no independent direct patient contact and will always be in the company of, and directly supervised by, an accredited clinician. An Observer:

- **will** have placements in General Medicine, and depending on the hospital site, also in the Emergency Department and in General Surgery to gain a breadth of experience of the Australian healthcare system
- **will** always be directly supervised if patient contact is involved
- **will** observe patient interviews, examinations, and procedures
- **may** participate in patient interviews under the direct supervision of an assigned supervisor
- **will** observe the use of paper or electronic medical information systems, patient health records, laboratory, diagnostic and other clinical reports under direct medical supervision
- **may** participate in organising investigations, liaising with specialty teams, documentation (counter signed) and discharge paperwork (counter signed) under the direct supervision of an assigned supervisor depending on hospital site
- **will not** undertake physical examinations or any procedures (minor or major) of patients
- **will not** be directly involved in patient treatment and care
- **will not** give medical advice, prescribe medication
- **will** participate in weekly education activities including clinical tutorials, ward rounds and clinic visits.

What happens after the Observership Program ends?

Observership Programs are intended to provide IMGs with an opportunity to observe and understand the health care system. Such programs may assist with enhancing the candidate's credentials for future job applications. WA Health has a number of resources and programs aimed at supporting IMGs (<https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Careers/International-applicants/International-medical-graduates>).

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Does the Observership Program guarantee future employment at the hospital?

Completion of the Observership Program does not guarantee a job at the hospital. However, it enables the development of a good understanding of the hospital and healthcare system and may assist with enhancing competitiveness for future job opportunities.

Does the Observership Program lead to registration with the Medical Board of Australia (MBA)?

The observership program does not lead to registration with the MBA. IMGs on the standard pathway who have passed the AMC CAT MCQ examination and have secured an employment offer can apply for limited registration.

Further information on eligibility for registration with the MBA and the various pathways towards registration can be found on the Ahpra [website](#).

Does the Observership Program lead to acceptance into the Workplace Based Assessment Program?

Peel Health Campus is in the process of seeking accreditation from the AMC to provide Workplace Based Assessment (WBA) programs for IMGs on the standard pathway to registration. However, acceptance into the observership program **does not** guarantee automatic acceptance into the WBA program. Selection into the WBA programs is separate to the application for the observership program. Further information about the WBA programs in WA hospitals can be obtained [here](#).

Which other hospitals in WA offer observership and/or WBA programs?

Observership placement opportunities in other WA hospitals may be obtained by contacting the medical administration/medical workforce department of the respective hospital.

The [AMC Website](#) provides a comprehensive list of WBA Providers and locations.

The eligibility requirements for each WBA program in WA are different and depend on AMC accreditation requirements, supervision capabilities and other relevant workforce priorities. Additional information about the WBA programs in WA including eligibility and selection processes are available through the respective hospital/health services' websites and/or through their listed contacts.

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For more information on WA Department of Health WBA Programs

- [WBA Programs at WA Health](#)
- Office of the Chief Medical Officer – E: medicalrecruitment@health.wa.gov.au

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