

Becoming registered as a psychiatrist in Aotearoa New Zealand

How do I obtain vocational (specialist) registration to practice as a psychiatrist?

There are a few different organisations involved when applying for vocational registration with international qualifications. In Aotearoa New Zealand, the process of specialist registration in New Zealand is regulated by Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa, the [Medical Council of New Zealand \(MCNZ\)](#). You may initiate this process without a job offer as a psychiatrist.

As part of the process of vocational registration, the MCNZ seeks advice from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP)'s Vocational Educational & Advisory Body (VEAB) regarding your training and specialist experience. This involves a paper-based assessment of your CV (with supportive enclosures) and/or an interview with the VEAB panel. Based on this assessment an applicant may be considered to:

1. have equivalent training and experience to those trained in NZ, or
2. be advised on any additional work training or supervised work experience that needs to be undertaken within a determined timeframe, or
3. be considered not equivalent to a locally trained psychiatrist.

Provisional vocational registration is usually granted for a period of 12 months in addition to any requirements identified as part of the assessment.

The RANZCP doesn't recommend any particular assessment pathway to registration for overseas-trained psychiatrists. It is up to the applicant to decide which assessment pathway best suits their needs based on the eligibility criteria. The MCNZ offers a [self-assessment tool](#) to direct you to the relevant guidelines. Further details on registration pathways can be found on the [International Specialists](#) and [Vocational Registration in Aotearoa New Zealand](#) pages of the RANZCP website as well as the [Registration Pathways](#) page of the MCNZ website.

How do I become an Affiliate member of the College?

Once you have gained provisional vocational or vocational registration with the MCNZ, you are eligible to [apply to become an Affiliate member of the RANZCP](#).

Affiliate members can work in Aotearoa New Zealand, supervise trainees in psychiatry and participate in the RANZCP's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme. Affiliate members can also benefit from participation in College Committees, Faculties, Sections, Networks and Special Interest groups, and receive discounted rates to RANZCP conferences as well as access to RANZCP journals. Further benefits are outlined on the [RANZCP website](#).

How do I become a Fellow of the RANZCP?

Fellowship of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (FRANZCP) is not a requirement for specialist registration. However, if you wish to become a Fellow of the RANZCP after

gaining provisional vocational or vocational registration in psychiatry with the MCNZ, you may be eligible to apply for a specialist assessment by the RANZCP and enrol in the College's [Specialist Pathway](#).

Please note the assessment process for entry to the RANZCP Fellowship pathways, described below, is independent of the assessment for vocational registration in NZ.

To be eligible to apply for [specialist assessment](#) at the RANZCP you must:

- hold the highest psychiatry qualification obtainable as a specialist clinical psychiatrist in their country of qualification
- have gained that qualification through an appropriately supervised specialist training program in Psychiatry which:
 - was at least three (3) years in duration
 - included at least 12 months general adult training, of which six (6) months was in acute in-patient setting.
- have attained registration as a specialist psychiatrist in that country
- have a job offer as a psychiatrist or be currently employed in Aotearoa New Zealand

International specialist psychiatrists may gain FRANZCP via the [Substantial Comparability Pathway](#) or the [Partial Comparability Pathway](#). Comparability is based on a broad range of factors, and it is not possible to predict a likely assessment outcome. However, additional requirements apply to qualify for the substantial comparability pathway or partial comparability.

To be considered for substantial comparability, you must:

- hold current medical registration in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand or be registered at the time of starting the placement
- provide confirmation of employment as a **consultant/specialist** psychiatrist within Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand for the required placement period, plus a position description
- be employed for at least 0.6 FTE in a suitable position and work at least 0.3 FTE in a clinical role
- have a statement of employer support for the full placement period and for all required WBAs, including support for external assessor access to relevant clinical files
- have nominated a supervisor who holds current accreditation as a RANZCP Substantial Comparability Supervisor
- have sufficient comparability status time to complete the placement requirements (for existing SIMG candidates)
- have completed a 3-month job orientation period prior to starting the placement (for new applicants).

To be considered for partial comparability you must:

- provide confirmation of employment as a psychiatrist within Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand for the required placement period, plus a position description
- hold current medical registration in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand or be registered at the time of starting the placement
- be employed for at least 0.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) in a suitable, **registrar-level**, position
- have a statement of employer support for the full placement period and for all required Fellowship Program workplace-based assessments

- have nominated a supervisor who holds current accreditation as a RANZCP Supervisor at the time of starting the placement.
- Forms and documents

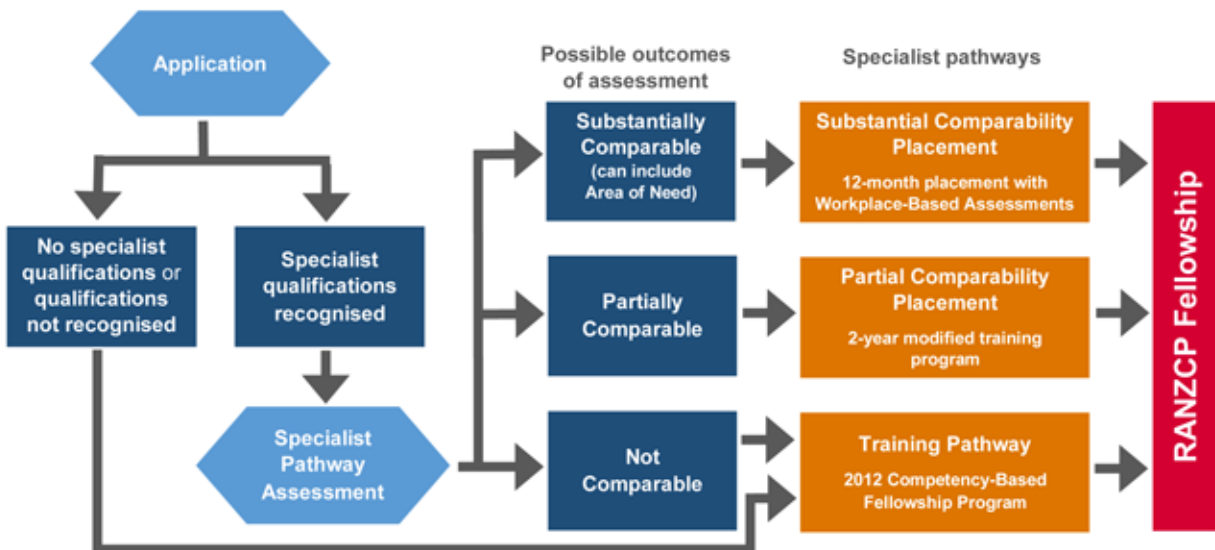
Please note that the MRCPsych qualification (without a CCT/CCST) from the United Kingdom is not recognised as the highest specialist qualification for RANZCP specialist assessment. Applicants with an MRCPsych only will need to complete the RANZCP’s [Fellowship Training Programme](#) to become a fellow of the RANZCP. An MRCPsych with CESR will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Please also note that the RANZCP assessment pathways are not designed for locum work as continuous employment is requirement to complete the workplace-based assessments.

Depending on the outcome of your application, you may be asked to complete [Substantial Comparability Placements](#) or [Partial Comparability Placements](#) to proceed on your pathway to FRANZCP.

- [Substantial comparability placement](#), which involves:
 - supervised work placement for 12 months full-time equivalent (FTE)
 - satisfactory completion of regular [Workplace-Based Assessments, supervisor reports and 360 degree feedback](#) during the placement period
- [Partial comparability placement](#), which involves:
 - two years of workplace-based assessments and supervision as advanced psychiatry trainee.
 - passing a clinical assessment, the [Critical Essay Question \(CEQ\)](#) exam and the [Modified Essay Question \(MEQ\)](#) exam
 - addressing any gaps identified in training and experience as compared with current RANZCP training standards by completing training to address those gaps.

The diagram below outlines the key steps for obtaining Fellowship of the RANZCP.



How do I find a job as a specialist psychiatrist in New Zealand?

In Aotearoa New Zealand, jobs in the public sector are advertised on the [Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora](#) careers website, and the [Kiwi Health Jobs](#) website is the job board for all health roles. The RANZCP does not assist applicants with seeking employment, nor does it recruit doctors for Psychiatry positions, however, it does advertise some vacant Psychiatry positions on the College website via the RANZCP's [Psychiatry Jobs Hub](#). Various recruitment agencies can also help international applicants find temporary, permanent, locum jobs in Psychiatry in New Zealand.

How do I obtain a visa to live in Aotearoa New Zealand?

The RANZCP is not in a position to provide advice regarding visas for immigration to New Zealand. For information regarding visas for living and working in Aotearoa New Zealand, please refer to the [Immigration New Zealand](#) website.

Any other questions?

The MCNZ offers a number of useful [resources](#) to help you get settled in Aotearoa New Zealand and navigate our healthcare system. For further queries relating to the RANZCP, please contact Tu Te Akaaka Roa, the Aotearoa New Zealand National Office of the RANZCP at nzoffice@ranzcp.org.