

WHAT ARE THE EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL STUDENTS GRADUATING FROM AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL SCHOOLS?

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Summary of Objectives

This study assesses the employment outcomes of international students who have qualified to practise medicine in Australia - the "missing link" in Australian health workforce research, but an increasingly important dimension in a context where an estimated 70% of new graduates remain to practise in Australia each year. Based on analysis of a secondary longitudinal database for use by multiple researchers established in 2008 by the Medical Deans of Australia (the MSOD), the researchers will define:

- The proportion and characteristics of international medical students who translate to temporary resident employer-nominated status on graduation;
- The location of the internships (postgraduate year 1 – PGY1) that they secure;
- Their level of retention in the Australian medical workforce, including variations by state/ territory;
- Their demographic and career attributes in the first 3 years, compared to the total population of Australian medical graduates;
- Their subsequent access to specialist training places;
- Their early career and migration trajectories; and
- How their defined outcomes relate to factors measured by the MSOD at the point of exit from medical school (eg demographic variables).

Analysis of the MSOD database will be complemented by examination of other relevant secondary databases in the public domain (most notably Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations international student enrolment data 2002-2009) and an estimated 120 interviews with current (80) final year and recently completed international medical students who have remained in Australia (currently completing PGY 1 or PGY 2). This qualitative research will focus on international students currently or recently enrolled at the Universities of Melbourne and Queensland, respectively the first and third locations of choice for international medical students at this time.