Nuclear Medicine Physicians – Practise in Australia

Able Medico · Information for overseas-trained nuclear medicine physicians · November 2026

Overview

Nuclear medicine physicians are assessed by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP). In Australia, nuclear medicine training is a joint program of the RACP and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR), and dual-qualified radiologist and nuclear medicine specialists are highly valued.

Since the RACP introduced its Accelerated Specialist Pathway, specialists from the UK, Ireland, Hong Kong and India (and Sri Lanka for adult medicine) can be assessed on paper, with no interview, and complete about 6 to 12 months' peer review.

Nuclear medicine in Australia

Nuclear medicine physicians use radiopharmaceuticals to diagnose and treat disease. They report PET, SPECT and other scans, and deliver targeted radionuclide therapies, particularly in cancer care.

What Australian nuclear medicine physicians do

- Report PET/CT, SPECT and general nuclear medicine studies
- Diagnose cardiac, bone, oncological, thyroid and infection conditions
- Deliver radionuclide therapies, such as for thyroid disease and prostate cancer
- Work in multidisciplinary cancer teams
- Supervise radiation safety in nuclear medicine departments

Where they work

Public hospital nuclear medicine departments, private imaging groups and cancer centres. The RACP usually requires the first 12 months in, or contracted to, a public hospital.

Your pathways

There are three routes for nuclear medicine physicians. Our Due Diligence report tells you which fits your training and experience.

Pathway	Who it is for	Possible outcomes	What follows	Leads to
RACP Accelerated Specialist Pathway	Specialists with a UK CCT/CCST, Irish CSCST, Hong Kong FHKAM plus FHKCP, Indian MD plus DM, or Sri Lankan MD plus PGIM board certification	Comparability decided on paper, usually about 6 weeks after a complete application	Peer review: about 6 months (UK, Ireland) or about 12 months (Hong Kong, India, Sri Lanka)	Specialist registration and FRACP
RACP Standard Specialist Assessment	All other overseas-trained specialists with at least 3 years' specialist training	Substantially / partially / not comparable, after a video interview	Substantially comparable: 6 to 12 months FTE peer review. Partially comparable: up to 24 months FTE supervised practice, usually 6 to 12 months' top-up training at an accredited site, then peer review	Specialist registration and FRACP

Pathway	Who it is for	Possible outcomes	What follows	Leads to
Area of Need	Specialists selected by an employer for a position the state or territory has declared an Area of Need	RACP supports the appointment only with suitable supervision and a substantially comparable outcome	Practise in that position under supervision	Registration tied to that position, while you complete specialist recognition

Points to know

- The RACP pathways have no written or clinical exams. Requirements are supervised practice, workplace-based assessment, online courses and CPD.
- You complete the RACP orientation course within 3 months and the cultural safety course within 6 months of starting.
- Your position must be at least 0.5 FTE and approved by the RACP before you start.
- A comparability decision is valid for 2 years, during which you need to secure a position and begin your requirements.
- Not comparable applicants may reapply after 2 years with further training or consultant experience.

Medical licencing process

1. **Due Diligence.** Our opinion on which RACP pathway applies to you, your most likely outcome, and your registration and visa options.
2. **Primary source verification.** Verify your medical and specialist qualifications through the Australian Medical Council.
3. **RACP assessment.** Accelerated: a paper assessment, usually about 6 weeks. Standard: a one-hour video interview, with a decision on average within 6 months of a complete application.
4. **Find your position.** We introduce you to employers. The RACP must approve your position and peer review or supervision arrangements before you start.
5. **Ahpra registration.** Limited (or provisional) registration while you complete supervised practice.
6. **Visa.** Skills in Demand visa (subclass 482) or a permanent residence visa.
7. **Medicare.** Provider number and section 19AB exemption for your location.
8. **Commence practice.** Peer review or top-up training, the RACP orientation and cultural safety courses, and CPD.
9. **Fellowship and specialist registration.** Once your requirements are signed off, apply for FRACP and full specialist registration.

Workforce, demand and remuneration

Workforce. The Medical Board of Australia reported 214 registered nuclear medicine physicians at the end of 2023.

Demand. Nuclear medicine is not on the acute-shortage list, so where you can bill Medicare depends on District of Workforce Shortage (DWS) status for the location. We check this for every position we propose.

Remuneration. Earnings depend on public or private practice, location and your supervision level before specialist registration. We discuss remuneration for specific opportunities with you directly.

How Able Medico helps

Medical licencing and migration is our forte. We tell you which RACP pathway suits you, prepare your application and interview, secure an approved position, and manage Ahpra, visa and Medicare steps. Through our employer contacts we can introduce you to public hospitals and private imaging groups.

Next steps

- **Start with Due Diligence:** ablemedico.com.au/able-medico-for-doctors
- **Contact us:** ablemedico.com.au/contact-us

Sources

- Accelerated Specialist Pathway — RACP
- Standard Specialist Assessment Pathway — RACP
- Specialist pathway – specialist recognition — Medical Board of Australia
- Section 19AB – access to Medicare provider numbers for overseas trained doctors — Department of Health