This guide is intended to be used in conjunction with **Link 19a Policy: Maintenance of Exemption Status Section 5. Break in Exemption Status**. The Link 19a policy can be found on the College website at: [http://www.ranzcp.org/Pre-Fellowship/2003-Fellowship-Program/Links-and-Forms.aspx](http://www.ranzcp.org/Pre-Fellowship/2003-Fellowship-Program/Links-and-Forms.aspx).

A Specialist International Medical Graduate (SIMG) who is a candidate on the Specialist Pathway (Exemptions or Substantial Comparability Pathways) who due to exceptional circumstances intends to interrupt their progression to Fellowship at any stage, must do so formally. Exceptional circumstances include for example a serious medical condition; need to care for a family member, pregnancy/parental leave, a full-time post-graduate course, and a period of work or study overseas.

**Process to follow**

It is the candidate’s responsibility to apply for a Break in Exemption Status to the Committee for Specialist International Medical Graduate Education (CSIMGE) in a timely manner as follows:

- Complete and submit the "Break in Exemption Status Notification" Form to CSIMGE at least one (1) month in advance of intended date of commencement
- Specify the start and end dates of the intended Break; *a maximum of twelve (12) months* in break(s) throughout the entire candidacy is allowed
- Provide a clear explanation of the reasons for the Break in the comments area of the form and if need be in an accompanying letter
- Attach supporting documentation as proof of specific circumstances, for example medical certificates, acceptance to courses or other employment
- Ensure the candidate’s supervising Fellow has signed the application for a Break.

The application will be reviewed and the decision determined by the CSIMGE at its next scheduled (monthly) meeting. The CSIMGE meeting dates and relevant closing dates for applications are located at: [http://www.ranzcp.org/Pre-Fellowship/Overseas-specialists/Forms-Documents-page.aspx](http://www.ranzcp.org/Pre-Fellowship/Overseas-specialists/Forms-Documents-page.aspx).

Failure to ensure correct completion of the form and the submission of all relevant documentation will cause delays in the CSIMGE approval process.

**Candidates should also note:**

The CSIMGE may request further evidence or explanation to support the break including, but not limited to: medical certificates, information from employers and pay slips.

In the case of a *Break in excess of twelve (12) months*, the candidate will generally be required to re-apply for the Specialist Pathway when ready to resume. The RANZCP is unable to predict the likely outcome of the re-application; such breaks may have implications for the SIMG retaining currency of progress in the training and assessment process.

*Current Exemption Status* is one of the eligibility requirements to sit the RANZCP MOCI or MOSCE examinations (please refer to Link 49a **Exemption Clinical Examination Eligibility**). Therefore, whilst on a designated Break in Exemption Status, candidates will not be able to apply for any RANZCP examinations/ assessments or complete any training requirements.

Candidates are advised to be mindful in making their decision for a Break in Exemption Status of the registration requirements of Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) for a SIMG’s employment and progression to Fellowship.