



Certification Services Department
Alternate Pathways to Certification in Diagnostic Radiology and Subspecialty
Certification for International Medical Graduates Policy

Policy:

Physicians who have taken their radiology residency training outside the United States or Canada are considered international medical graduates (IMGs). If they have completed a clinical year and have been fully trained and qualified to practice independent diagnostic radiology in their country of diagnostic radiology training, they are eligible to pursue certification by the American Board of Radiology (ABR) through either of two pathways: the Standard Pathway or the Alternate Pathway.

Procedure:

STANDARD PATHWAYS

Standard Pathway to Diagnostic Radiology Certification

Successful completion of ACGME-accredited training (or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada equivalent) in diagnostic radiology, followed by a letter of attestation of the candidate's readiness from the training program director, is the standard by which candidates gain entry to the ABR examination process. ACGME-accredited training in a diagnostic radiology residency may or may not include a fellowship (either ACGME- accredited or non-accredited).

Standard Pathway to Subspecialty ("Certificate of Added Qualification, or CAQ ") Certification

ABR diagnostic radiology training, followed by successful completion of an ACGME- accredited fellowship program in the subspecialty, a letter of attestation from the training program director, and a year of clinical practice in all subspecialties except nuclear radiology, is the standard by which candidates gain entry to the subspecialty examination process.

Note: A year of training in an ACGME-accredited fellowship program that is completed before diagnostic radiology training is not recognized by the ABR as satisfying this requirement for entry into the subspecialty certifying exam via the standard pathway. For nuclear radiology, however, a fellowship taken before diagnostic radiology training does satisfy this requirement.

ALTERNATE PATHWAYS

The Alternate pathway is available at institutions with an ACGME-accredited residency training program and requires the sponsorship of the department chair of the institution in which the IMG is a faculty member or fellow. The department chair establishes a prospective four-year plan with the individual, attests to the plan in writing to the ABR, and monitors and reports to the ABR on a yearly basis the

individual IMG's progress on the path to certification. The required admission process to the alternate pathway to ABR certification is (1) documentation of training and certification obtained internationally, as described on the ABR website at <https://www.theabr.org/diagnostic-radiology/initial-certification/alternate-pathways/international-medical-graduates/international-medical-graduates-fees>; **and** (2) submission of the completed and signed form, "[Sponsoring Department Agreement: IMG Alternate Pathway for Diagnostic Radiology Certification](#)." An application fee is required.

The ABR retains the right and responsibility to exercise Board discretion concerning the request of any individual to enter the examination process.

Alternate Pathway to Diagnostic Radiology Certification

The IMG must serve four continuous years as a full-time member of the department in any combination of the following categories: resident, ACGME-accredited fellowship, non-accredited fellowship, or faculty.

Eligibility Requirements for certification parallel those in effect for traditional U.S. residents seeking certification. This includes:

- ✓ For candidates with completed applications containing all requisite documents which are accepted on or after July 1, 2012, the four-year experience must include four months (i.e. sixteen 40-hour weeks) of clinical nuclear medicine training.
 - One week increments of training at 40 hours a week is the minimum acceptable training increment permitted
 - All nuclear medicine training must be clinical training; research is not applicable
 - Training at an affiliated institution is acceptable
 - Nuclear Medicine/PET studies interpreted or reviewed as a part of clinical assignments or multidisciplinary conferences in other than dedicated nuclear medicine rotations during a fellowship do not satisfy this requirement.
- ✓ In order to comply with the sections of the NRC regulations and RRC guidelines related to I-131 therapy with unsealed sources, candidates must participate with a preceptor in three therapies in each of two NRC categories for I-131 therapy--3 low dose (< 33 mCi) and 3 high dose (> 33 mCi).

Alternate Pathway to Subspecialty Certification (formerly "Certificate of Added Qualifications, of CAQ") in neuroradiology, nuclear radiology, pediatric radiology, and vascular and interventional radiology for international medical graduates

Alternate Pathway to Subspecialty ("CAQ ") Certification

ABR diagnostic radiology certification, followed by a two-year faculty appointment with full-time clinical responsibility in the subspecialty area, at a single institution with an ACGME-accredited fellowship training program in the area of subspecialty certification desired provides for entry to the ABR subspecialty certification examination. If the clinical responsibility is less than full time, the years to certification may, at the ABR's discretion, be modified accordingly.

Note: U.S. graduates with ABR diagnostic radiology certification are also eligible for the alternate pathway to subspecialty certification.

Please note: This policy is subject to amendment from time to time. Candidates and diplomates are advised to check the ABR website periodically for the most current version.