

Information

International Medical Graduates awarded the degree of Doctor of Osteopathy from the United States of America

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Introduction

The degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine/Osteopathy (DO USA) is a medical qualification that is recognised for the purposes of medical registration by many international registration authorities.

The Medical Board of Australia has agreed to accept the DO USA as a primary medical qualification for the purposes of medical registration provided that the DO USA was awarded by a medical school which has been accredited by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) of the American Osteopathic Association, which is recognised by the USA Department of Education as the only accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools in the USA, and listed in the International Medical Education Directory (IMED) (online version only) of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research.

These international medical graduates may seek to apply for registration with both the Medical Board of Australia and the Osteopathy Board of Australia.

Use of the title “medical practitioner” in Australia

Medical practitioners who have been awarded the degree of DO USA and who are registered by the Medical Board of Australia may use the protected title of “medical practitioner”. There are penalties under the National Law if individuals use “protected titles” when they do not hold the type of registration that is associated with the protected title. For more information about the specific requirements for medical registration please visit www.medicalboard.gov.au

Use of the title “osteopath” in Australia

Medical practitioners who have been awarded the degree of DO USA and who are registered by the Medical Board of Australia may not use the protected title of “osteopath” or use any title (for example, “osteopathic physician”) unless they are registered by the Osteopathy Board of Australia and meet that Board’s registration standards.

To be eligible for general registration as an osteopath, a person who has undertaken their training overseas must be deemed to be qualified under section 53 of the Health Practitioner Regulation Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), either by holding a qualification which the Osteopathy Board considers as substantially equivalent, or completing an examination or other assessment required by the Osteopathy Board.

Those holding a qualification in osteopathy obtained outside Australia and New Zealand will be required to pass assessments and examinations before making an application for general registration to the Osteopathy Board. Any assessment is conducted by the Australian and New Zealand Osteopathic Council (ANZOC) on an individual basis. Further information is available from ANZOC at www.anzoc.org.au

For more information on the Osteopathy Board’s requirements for registration as an osteopath visit www.osteopathyboard.gov.au however any questions about the initial step of the assessment of qualifications of those awarded the degree of DO USA, and the ANZOC examinations, should be directed to ANZOC.