

ONZ membership for SIMG ophthalmologists arriving in New Zealand

Approved by Board of Directors 9th September 2026

Free Membership for Specialist International Medical Graduates During the Provisional Vocational Registration Period. Effective from 1st October 2026.

To support Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) as they transition into ophthalmic practice in New Zealand, we are now offering complimentary membership for the duration of their provisional registration period.

This initiative is designed to help newly arrived ophthalmologists and their families establish themselves in a new country by providing early access to professional networks, collegial support, educational resources, and the wider ophthalmic community. Free membership fosters a sense of connection and belonging, helping SIMGs navigate both their professional integration and personal settlement in New Zealand.

By welcoming SIMGs into the ophthalmology community from the outset, we can support their successful transition into practice while strengthening engagement, retention, and professional development within the sector.

How to Apply

Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) who are in a period of provisional vocational registration in New Zealand may apply for complimentary membership by:

1. Completing the membership application form on ONZ Website, or contact admin@ophthalmologynz.co.nz.
2. Providing evidence of provisional vocational registration with the Medical Council of New Zealand.
3. Providing confirmation of their appointment to an ophthalmology position in New Zealand (if applicable).
4. Submitting the required documentation to the ONZ membership team.

The complimentary membership is for SIMG members who currently hold provisional vocational registration in New Zealand. Free membership will remain valid until vocational registration is obtained or for maximum of twelve (12) months.

Upon obtaining vocational registration, members will be invited to transition to the appropriate membership category.

Benefits of Joining as a Specialist International Medical Graduate (SIMG) Member

Free membership during the provisional registration period can provide valuable professional and personal support while settling into practice and life in New Zealand.

Professional Benefits

- **Access to the ophthalmic community** and a network of colleagues across New Zealand.
- **Mentoring and peer support** from experienced ophthalmologists familiar with the New Zealand healthcare system.
- **Professional guidance** on clinical practice, registration requirements, and career development.
- **Educational resources** including webinars, clinical updates, guidelines, and training opportunities.
- **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** opportunities to support ongoing learning.
- **Access to conferences, workshops, and meetings**, often at member rates.

Career Development

- Opportunities to build professional networks and establish local connections.
- Information about employment opportunities and career pathways in New Zealand ophthalmology.
- Exposure to leadership, research, and quality improvement initiatives within the profession.

Personal and Settlement Support

- A welcoming professional community to help reduce the challenges of relocating to a new country.
- Connections with colleagues who have experienced a similar transition.
- Informal support for doctors and their families as they settle into New Zealand life and culture.