



# Qualifications in Paediatrics vs License to Practice

I like tiny humans

## Introduction

One must understand that there is a difference between getting a license to practice and work in an overseas country in Paediatrics versus getting into a training programme that culminates in a formal recognition that you can work as a consultant in the overseas country and your home country. Your existing qualification may or may not be recognized for licensing in the country you intend to practice and might mean that you must give entry-level exams to practice. There are different kinds of non-training jobs in Paediatrics where obtaining a license can be done by giving entry-level exams (PLAB in the UK, AMC in Australia and HAAD license in UAE). They will allow you to get Paediatric overseas experience but might not culminate in a recognized postgraduate qualification at the end of the job. You might be able to give the local exams in these posts.

For practicing as a consultant in any country overseas in Paediatrics you must complete training in a training job based on a framework of competencies over a said period.

In some countries demonstrating that your existing qualifications and experience might be considered as commensurate with and recognized for the purposes of practice in that overseas country. There might be alternative pathways for recognition of your experience. If you don't have that experience, you might not be able to get a license to practice in that country but at a different level and or in a supervised role. This experience gained and the degree would still be of value in your home country based on your individual circumstances.

Almost all licenses to practice Paediatrics overseas qualifications are obtained by completing a Paediatric residency in a supervised training programme over a period varying from 3-7 years and culminating in a recognition of specialist experience by the country's regulatory authority. This allows you to work as a consultant in that country. There is a difference between passing exams like the MRCPCH (UK) or FRACP (Australia) which are qualifications and completing training to obtain a license to practice. It is important that you understand this very carefully. There is a difference between working in a job and getting experience (traditionally called non-training jobs) versus entering a recognized training programme and working towards a certificate of completion of training.

We will elaborate more on this during the course.