



# AMA

**Comparison of Training Conditions &  
Vocational Training Costs in  
Australian Specialist Medical Training Programs**

Workplace Policy Department  
Australian Medical Association  
PO Box 6090  
KINGSTON ACT 2604  
Ph: (02) 6270 5400  
Fax:(02) 6270 5499  
Email: [workplace@ama.com.au](mailto:workplace@ama.com.au)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
The Australasian College of Dermatologists	4
The Australasian College of Emergency Medicine	6
The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists	8
General Practice Training	10
The Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine	13
The Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators	15
The Royal Australasian College of Physicians	17
The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons	20
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists	22
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	24
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists	27
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists	30
The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia	32
Comparative Summary of Training Conditions	34

# *Comparison of Specialist Medical Colleges*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The following comparison of some of the training requirements, conditions and costs has been prepared by the Workplace Policy Department of the Australian Medical Association to assist doctors choosing their vocational pathway in making their decision. The information included has been gathered from public sources such as websites, annual reports and college newsletters. Each college then had the opportunity to amend and expand on the information that had been gathered on them.

The information refers to training programs in 2004, but still offer doctors the opportunity to compare the basic training structures in place in each college. Costs are have been updated in 2005.

Each college and training program is described individually over approximately 2 pages. At the end of the document is a table comparing, in a very brief format, all the colleges on one page.

The AMA does not endorse one program over any others, nor offers any commentary on the content of training programs. The colleges are listed here in alphabetical order. For any inquiries regarding individual training programs please contact the college offering the course involved. Contact details are provided for each college.

For further information regarding this publication please contact:

Workplace Policy Department  
Australian Medical Association  
PO Box 6090  
Kingston, ACT 2604

Phone: (02) 6270 5400

Email: [workplace@ama.com.au](mailto:workplace@ama.com.au)

## *The Australasian College of Dermatologists*

### **Contact details**

The College is based in Sydney.

Address:

PO Box 2065

Boronia Park NSW 2111

Phone: (02) 9879 6177

Fax: (02) 9816 1174

Email: [admin@dermcoll.asn.au](mailto:admin@dermcoll.asn.au)

Website: [www.dermcoll.asn.au](http://www.dermcoll.asn.au)

### **Introduction**

The following is an excerpt from the College's Training handbook.

The Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) is a fellowship of dermatologists trained to the highest professional standards whose objective is to serve the community by providing high quality dermatological care. The College is committed to the following strategic objectives:

- To provide and maintain dermatological education at all levels.
- To define and maintain the highest standards of ethical practice.
- To promote better public awareness about the skin and its care and the prevention of skin disease.
- To provide the best standards of professional service to all members of the community.
- To support and promote dermatological research.
- To undertake its objectives competently, efficiently and responsively.

Approximately 300 Fellows of the College work in private practice throughout Australia with a considerable number also attending clinics at the major teaching hospitals in the capital cities, where the bulk of dermatology training is carried out. A small number of Fellows have full time appointments in major hospitals and institutions. Within the College there are a number of specialised groups whose members have received extra training in their particular sub-specialty.

Fellows of the College practise in all states and territories of Australia and Regional Faculties are established in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Each State elects representatives to the College Council that meets three times a year. Council consists of State Councillors and the Executive.

The overall objective of the training program of the Australasian College of Dermatologists is:

To produce dermatologists who are safe, skilled and competent in the diagnosis and management of all aspects of diseases of the skin and its appendages, and able to respond to the changing health needs of the Australian community.

The College is the only organisation accredited to train and assess dermatologists in Australia. Entry to the ACD training program is only open to registered medical practitioners who have resident status in Australia. Qualified medical practitioners who have undertaken specialist dermatology training in other countries and who wish to become recognised dermatologists in Australia should contact the Australian Medical Council.

## **Governance Structure of the College & Trainee Representation**

The college is governed by a Council of 18 members made up of State councillors and the executive. Representatives of the Trainee Representatives Groups sit on Council and Board of Censors (updated December 2005).

## **Training**

To achieve the Fellowship of the college, a trainee must successfully complete the college training program. The length of full time training is five years. This consists of:

- 2 years basic training;
- 2 years advanced training; and
- 1 year as a senior trainee.

## **Rotations**

The College requires trainees to undertake different rotations as part of the training program. The State Faculties of the College are responsible for the rotation system, and there are national guidelines in place governing this system.

The college does not require trainees to undertake any rural rotations as part of its training program.

## **Recognition of Prior Learning**

The college does not recognise any prior learning.

## **Flexibility in Training**

Part time training is available at a minimum commitment of 50%. It is not available in the first year of training, and only available for a maximum of two years. The college permits interrupted training, but it is considered on a case-by-case basis. Shared training is permitted.

## **Assessment**

Part 1: clinical science and clinical pharmacology exams must be passed before entering into advanced training.

Final fellowship exam.

## **Costs**

Application Fee for each State	\$ 275.00 (inc GST)
This fee is non-refundable	
Annual Trainee Levy	\$1,155.00 (inc GST)
Clinical Sciences Examination and Clinical Pharmacology Examination	\$1,785.00 (GST free)
Pharmacology Examination	\$1,470.00 (GST free)
Fellowship Examination	\$2,625.00 (GST free)

## *The Australasian College for - Emergency Medicine*

### **Contact details**

The College is based in Melbourne.

Address:

34 Jeffcott Street

West Melbourne VIC 3003

Phone: (03) 9320 0444

Fax: (03) 9320 0400

Email: [admin@acem.org.au](mailto:admin@acem.org.au)

Website: [www.acem.org.au](http://www.acem.org.au)

### **Introduction**

The following is an excerpt from the college website and the training handbook.

The ACEM is an incorporated educational institution whose prime objective is the training and examination of specialist emergency physicians for Australia and New Zealand.

ACEM has a vital interest in the quality of emergency medical care provided to the community and therefore has a wide range of subsidiary objectives relating to emergency department accreditation, policies and standards for the emergency medical system, teaching and research, publication, and those aspects of the medico political framework that have a direct impact on health outcomes for emergency patients.

The study of emergency medicine is a discipline that covers virtually all facets of medicine, in contrast to most other specialties, which are considerably circumscribed. The variety of clinical material presenting to the emergency department demands the attention of a medical practitioner with both breadth and depth of experience and knowledge, ensuring a detailed understanding of the patient's requirements.

In 1991, the International Federation for Emergency Medicine defined emergency medicine in the following way –

*Emergency medicine is a field of practice based on the knowledge and skills required for the prevention, diagnosis and management of acute and urgent aspects of illness and injury affecting patients of all age groups with a full spectrum of episodic undifferentiated physical and behavioural disorders; it further encompasses an understanding of the development of prehospital and in-hospital emergency medical system and the skills necessary for this development.*

Medical graduates wishing to undertake training and examinations in emergency medicine must register with the College. Regional Censors and Directors of Emergency Medicine Training, appointed by the College, will be able to provide further information about the curriculum and examinations. However, approval of training is granted only by the Board of Censors. Consideration for approval of training requires the submission of the appropriate documentation.

## **Governance Structure of the College & Trainee Representation**

The College of governed by the Council of Fellows. Trainees are represented on the Council as well as on the Trainee Selection Committee, and on the Board of Censors through a Fellow representative who is advised by the trainee bodies in each regions through the Trainee Advisory Board.

## **Training**

Emergency Medicine Training takes seven years on a full time basis. This is comprised of two years basic training; one year provisional training, and four years advanced training. The first two years of basic training may include PGY 1&2.

## **Rotations**

Trainees are required to include experience in other disciplines as part of their advanced training for a minimum of 18 months. Rural rotations are not required, but are encouraged. The College does not provide assistance to trainees with their rotations.

## **Recognition of Prior Learning**

In addition to the first two years of basic training including PGY1 & 2 a further to this up to six months of provisional training may be recognised on the basis of prior learning. Prior learning is recognised where appropriate in relation to Basic training and up to six months of non Emergency Department provisional training. A pass may be granted in certain subjects of the primary examination where the subject has been completed in the primary examination of another college as detailed in the Training & Examination Handbook.

## **Flexibility in Training**

Part time training is available at a minimum of 50% commitment. Interrupted training is permitted.

## **Assessment**

Exams are structured into a preliminary examination and a final examination. As part of the Fellowship requirements trainees also need to present or publish a paper.

## **Costs**

Initial Registration fee (inc annual registration fee for calendar year of registration only)	\$ 668.00
Annual Registration fee	\$ 625.00
Primary Examination	Base Fee \$1,000.00 plus \$100.00 per subject (i.e. all four subjects \$1,400.00)
Final Examination	\$1,750.00
Fellowship Application fee	\$1,125.00

# *The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists*

## **Contact details**

The College head office is in Melbourne.

Address:

ANZCA House  
630 St Kilda Road  
Melbourne Vic 3004

Phone: (03) 9510 6299

Fax: (03) 9510 6786

Email: [ceoanzca@anzca.edu.au](mailto:ceoanzca@anzca.edu.au)

Website: [www.anzca.edu.au](http://www.anzca.edu.au)

## **Introduction**

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists' function is to cultivate and maintain the highest principles and standards in the training, practice and ethics of anaesthesia, intensive care, pain medicine and related sciences. The College is directly responsible for the assessment and qualifications of anaesthetists and the standards of anaesthesia practice in Australia and New Zealand. In addition, the College has had a significant role in the advancement of anaesthesia in South East Asia and Pacific Island countries.

The College has approximately 3700 Fellows worldwide. The proportion of women in anaesthesia is increasing, with almost equal numbers of trainees. There are approximately 750 trainees in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, and the College has some 140 hospitals accredited for training throughout these countries.

## **Governance Structure of the College & Trainee Representation**

The College is governed by an elected Council. There is a Trainee Committee composed of elected representatives from each State/Territory/Country. The Chair of this Committee sits on the Education and Training Committee. Regional representatives are members of the Regional Committee.

## **Training**

Training is a five year program on a full time basis. It is structured into a two year basic training and a three year advanced training program following completion of PGY1 and PGY2.

## **Rotations**

The training program is modular, and occurs in accredited hospitals grouped as training rotations. Each rotation must provide the opportunity for a rural/remote rotation, as well as a full range of sub-specialty training. Hospital appointments are made by the relevant hospital/health service.

## **Recognition of Prior Learning**

The College may recognise some prior learning, subject to appropriate documentation.

## **Flexibility in Training**

Part time training is available at a minimum of 50% commitment. Interrupted training is permitted, with some continuous training conditions.

## **Assessment**

The College assessment processes include regular In-Training Assessment, completion of the Early Management of Severe Trauma (EMST) or Effective Management of Anaesthetic Crises (EMAC)

course, completion of a Formal Project, and satisfactory completion of the Primary (basic sciences) and Final Examinations.

**Costs**

Once Only Registration Fee	\$1,170.00
Annual Training Fee	\$1,145.00
Examination Fee Part 1	\$2,300.00
Examination Fee Part 2	\$2,300.00

## ***General Practice /Rural Medicine Training***

Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) is conducted throughout Australia through 22 regionally based training providers by General Practice Education and Training (GPET). However The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners still awards the Fellowship to that College, and conducts the examination for that program. The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine awards its Fellowship for AGPT registrars who do additional work to meet its curriculum requirements while engaged in AGPT. The Fellowship awarded by the ACCRM is currently not recognised by the Australian Medical Council. Registrars can integrate the RACGP's Graduate Diploma of Rural General Practice into their training.

GPET is responsible for provision and management of the actual training program at a national level.

### **Contact details**

The RACGP is based in Melbourne.

GPET is based in Canberra.

ACCRM is based in Brisbane.

Address:  
RACGP College House  
1 Palmerston Crescent  
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Address:  
Level 3 Perpetual Building  
10 Rudd Street  
Canberra City ACT 2601

Address:  
Level 4  
410 Queen Street  
Brisbane City QLD 4000

Phone: (03) 8699 0414  
Fax: (03) 8699 0400

Phone: (02) 6263 6777  
Fax: (02) 6263 6788

Phone: (07) 3105 8200  
Fax: (07) 3105 8299

Email: [racgp@racgp.org.au](mailto:racgp@racgp.org.au)  
Website: [www.racgp.org.au](http://www.racgp.org.au)

Email: [gp@gp.com.au](mailto:gp@gp.com.au)  
Website: [www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au)

Email: [acrrm@acrrm.org.au](mailto:acrrm@acrrm.org.au)  
Website: [www.acrrm.org.au](http://www.acrrm.org.au)

### **Introduction**

The following is an excerpt from the RACGP website.

#### **Definition of General Practice in Australia**

General practice is part of the Australian health care system and operates predominantly through private medical practices, which provide universal unreferral access to whole person medical care for individuals, families and communities. General practice care means comprehensive, coordinated and continuing medical care drawing on biomedical, psychological, social and environmental understandings of health.

#### **Definition of a General Practitioner in Australia**

A general practitioner is a registered medical practitioner who is qualified and competent for general practice in Australia. A general practitioner:

- Has the skills and experience to provide whole person, comprehensive, coordinated and continuing medical care; and
- Maintains professional competence for general practice.

#### **Definition of rural medicine (the following is an excerpt from the ACCRM website)**

Rural and Remote Medicine is the body of scientific knowledge underpinning clinical practice and medical service delivery in the rural and remote context. Its aim is to achieve the best possible outcomes in health care.

Cross-disciplinary investigation is implicit to the practice of Rural and Remote Medicine. It presumes an interdependent model of medical service that combines high level competency in primary, secondary and sometimes even tertiary medical care and forms a distinct scope and method of practice. The skill set of Rural and Remote Medicine includes competencies required in general

practice in their entirety, therefore ensuring portability and flexibility of medical training and qualifications from rural to urban geographic contexts.

The rural medical practitioner is defined by proficiency in the unique skill set of the discipline. They provide a whole-of-patient, focussed, continuing care that is responsive to the community's needs and circumstances. Rural doctors provide this wide range of services with limited and/or remote access to specialist or allied services and resources. As such, their personal aptitude is often characterised by independence, self-reliance and multi-skilling as well as strong leadership and teambuilding qualities. In certain settings, practitioners must be acutely aware of, and responsive to, the particular community needs, socio-cultural contexts and distinct patterns of mortality and morbidity that typify rural and remote Australia.

The provision of high quality medical care to patients and their families that is delivered (as far as possible) within their local community is a paramount consideration.

### **Governance Structure of GPET & Trainee Representation**

General Practice Education and Training is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Health Minister. There is registrar representation on the Board through the General Practice Registrars Association appointee. Registrars also participate on a number of GPET's program related committees. GPET funds Registrar Liaison Officers in each of its Regional Training Providers who are also members of the Council of the General Practice Registrars Association. Some Regional Training Providers also have registrar representation at the local governance level.

### **Training**

The training program takes 3 years full time. A four year program is available for those wishing to obtain an advanced rural post graduate award (FACRRM or Grad Dip Rural). A Registrar in AGPT must complete three years of work-based training with a regional training provider before becoming eligible for the FRACGP examinations. A fourth year needs to be completed for those interested in rural general practice as indicated above.

To achieve full registration as a general practitioner, the registrar must successfully complete the training aspect of the program and the Fellowship exam. They are then eligible for the conferment of fellowship and vocational registration.

### **Rotations**

GP trainees are required to complete one year training in a hospital, which may be reduced through accepted prior learning. Rotations are coordinated by the regional training providers. There are mandatory hospital rotations, such as paediatrics and registrars are required to have clinical exposure in a range of areas that will prepare them for training in general practice/rural medicine. The regional training provider assists the registrar to plan and manage their hospital experience.

There are defined sequential terms in general practice, which build skills and knowledge within a supervised practice-based learning experience. These include defined educational inputs against a curriculum guided by the registrar's learning plan which is developed with the assistance of the RTP Medical Educator.

There are two training pathways in AGPT, general, and rural. Registrars are offered places on one or the other depending on their performance in the selection process and their preferences. General Pathway registrars are usually based in metropolitan or regional areas and are required to spend six months training in a RRMA 3-7 location and another six months working in an outer metropolitan area of workforce need. Rural Pathway registrars must do all their general practice terms (two years) in RRMA 4-7 locations, which include smaller towns and practices in rural or remote locations.

### **Recognition of Prior Learning**

In order to facilitate efficiency and access to flexible and self-direction in relation to learning choices and time spent in training, registrars may apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Previous

experience in accredited hospital posts or other posts that may be recognized as relevant prior learning for general practice.

All prior learning that meets the RACGP's or Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine's (ACRRM's) guidelines may be considered for recognition of prior learning. Assessment of RPL is undertaken by the respective Colleges (RACGP and ACRRM).

As defined by the RACGP, currently the maximum RPL credit available towards AGPT is up to 12 months hospital experience and up to 3 months general practice experience. As advised by ACCRM, there are a range of criteria with numerical weightings to assess RPL that can be used for credit towards attainment of their Fellowship. As colleges change their criteria for RPL from time to time, up to date information should be obtained from the respective College Applications for RPL must comply with the requirements of the Colleges. In general such documentation will typically include evidence of the relevance of prior learning-to-learning objectives, attainment of the learning objectives, adequate participation in educational activities, and participation in formative assessment. (Consult the relevant college information for further detail.)

RPL may be used for shortening the length of time in training or recognizing content of prior learning so that registrar can use the full time they have available in AGPT to develop skills in other areas. The capacity for a registrar to shorten their training time is determined by the College Censor.

### **Flexibility in Training**

Part time training available-minimum of 3 sessions per week dependent on approval of regional training providers. Depending on circumstances interruption to training is permitted for up to two years. Special skills terms are available to registrars with particular clinical interests and also for those interested in academic general practice. Opportunities to learn and work in a range of environments are also available, for example, Aboriginal health.

### **Assessment**

Registrars are involved in assessment during training which is managed by their RTP. There is one final written and one final clinical examination.

### **Costs**

Costs for GP training are met by the government in exchange for a service obligation required of registrars' who meet these by working in areas of workforce need, both rural and metropolitan as defined in the guidelines of AGPT. Funding is provided to the RTP to meet the educational and support costs of registrars according to local determined priorities and approaches. Registrars earn a salary through the training practice using the Registrars Minimum Terms and Conditions as a starting point for negotiations on remuneration.

Registrars must be current financial Associates of the College before enrolling in the College Examination, during the College Examination, and for the award of Fellowship process.

College Examination	\$2,900.00
Non-refundable fee (withdrawal or deferral of exam)	\$ 600.00
Non-refundable fee (withdrawal or deferral of exam < 30 days prior)	\$1,200.00
Examination Appeals	\$ 300.00
Resitting Exam	\$2,500.00
College full membership for Registrars (Annual fee)	\$ 950.00
College Associate membership fee (Annual fee)	\$ 253.00

## *The Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine*

### **Contact details**

The Joint Faculty is a Faculty of both the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

Address:

630 St Kilda Road  
Melbourne Vic 3004

Phone: (03) 9530 2861

Fax: (03) 9530 2862

Email: [jficm@anzca.edu.au](mailto:jficm@anzca.edu.au)

Website: [www.jficm.anzca.edu.au/index.htm](http://www.jficm.anzca.edu.au/index.htm)

### **Introduction**

The following is an excerpt from the website.

In November 2001, the Councils of Royal Australian College of Physicians (RACP) and Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) agreed to form the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine, responsible for all intensive care training and certification in Australia and New Zealand. In February 2002, the Foundation Fellowship was established, comprising 420 Fellows.

Medical Practitioners completing the Joint Faculty's six year program of training and examinations, are awarded Fellowship of the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine, Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists and Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FJFICM).

### **Governance Structure of the College & Trainee Representation**

The Joint Faculty is governed by a Board and a number of Sub-Committees. It also reports to the Councils of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists and Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

There is no trainee representation on the Board, however there is a Trainee Committee with representatives on each of the Regional or National Committees, and on the Education Committee. The Faculty is currently discussing trainee representation on the Board.

### **Training**

The total training time on a full time basis is six years. The training is structured into two parts, basic training (three years) and advanced training (three years) during each of which an exam has to be passed.

### **Rotations**

Rotations are not part of the formalised Faculty program, however flexibility exists to move between hospitals and regions and most trainees move at least within their region and often interstate to gain a wide range of experience. Guidance is provided by the Supervisor of Training in relation to selection of positions however there is sufficient flexibility for the trainee to control each year of their training.

Training in rural areas is encouraged however there is no mandatory requirement for a rural rotation. Basic training requirements have been broadened to facilitate rural posts and hospitals are encouraged to form them.

### **Recognition of Prior Learning**

The Faculty has a formalised arrangement for recognition of training undertaken with ANZCA, RACP, ACEM and RACS. Up to three years of basic training may be retrospectively accredited, depending upon individual application.

### **Flexibility in Training**

Several pathways exist for trainees to undertake dual certification concurrently with anaesthesia, physician, emergency medicine or surgical training. Most trainees complete a proportion of their primary specialty before commencing intensive care training, whereupon up to three years of basic training may be retrospectively approved.

Part-time training is allowed with a minimum of 20% commitment, and if completed in a full-time equivalent timeframe.

Interrupted training is allowed.

### **Assessment**

Part I – either ANZCA basic sciences, RACP written and clinical, ACEM or RACS primary examinations or an equivalent primary examination;

Part II – after completion of part I and 36 months approved training, 12 months of which must be in Intensive Care. This consists of a written exam and a two day clinical exam comprising viva, osce and clinical examinations.

### **Costs**

Annual Associate Membership Fee:	\$ 253.00
College Exam Fee:	\$2,900.00

## *The Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators*

### **Contact details**

The College is based in Melbourne.

Address:

35 Drummond Street  
Carlton VIC 3053

Phone: (03) 9663 5347

Fax: (03) 9663 4117

Email: [info@racma.edu.au](mailto:info@racma.edu.au)

Website: [www.racma.edu.au](http://www.racma.edu.au)

### **Introduction**

The following is an excerpt from the college website.

The Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators was founded with the aim of promoting and advancing the study of health services management by medical practitioners.

The Articles of Association were adopted on 21 March 1967. The Founding Convocation and inauguration of the (then) Australian College of Medical Administrators was held at The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Melbourne on 29 and 30 May 1968. There were 279 founding Fellows.

The College was recognised by the National Specialist Qualification Advisory Committee in 1980 as the appropriate examining body for the new specialty of medical administration. Hence, the Fellowship is a nationally recognised specialist qualification.

Profound changes in health services management have occurred since that time, but the need for competent, well trained health sector managers has not diminished.

The increasing complexity of health systems and institutions necessitates specialised management for the co-ordination of the services of highly trained personnel. In addition, costly technology must be used in the most effective and efficient way, and the quality of health services must be continually improved.

By combining the training skills derived from the discipline of medicine with the knowledge and techniques of management, medical practitioners are uniquely qualified to ensure that the highest standards of medical care are maintained. Therefore, an education programme has been developed to enable Candidates to become effective members of the health care team with an insight into the needs and aspirations of both the consumers of medical care and its providers.

### **Governance Structure of the College & Trainee Representation**

The College is governed by a Council, which meets at least seven times a year. There is now trainee representation on the Council, and on state/territory and New Zealand Branch Committees.

## **Training**

In order to attain a College Fellowship, Candidates must complete the following requirements:

- Have a minimum of three years approved administrative experience.
- Have approved clinical experience of at least 3 years. This may include the internship.
- An approved Masters Degree.
- Completion of a satisfactory case study, of a length of 3,500 words and a 30 minute presentation of the case study.

The College requires 3 years approved administrative clinical experience, as well as 3 years clinical experience. A Masters Degree, usually a length of 2 years must also be completed. These requirements can be completed concurrently in some cases. A full time program would take at least 6 years if the Masters is completed during the years of clinical and administrative experience.

## **Rotations**

No rotations are required, only the above experience requirements have to be met.

## **Recognition of Prior Learning**

The college may recognize some prior learning (e.g. Masters, a component of administrative experience).

## **Flexibility in Training**

Trainees have to complete their training within certain time limits. The case study should be completed prior to sitting the oral exam. The experience may be gained on a part time basis, resulting in a full time equivalent period of experience.

## **Assessment**

Prior to sitting the Fellowship examination candidates are required to attend a four-day pre-examination workshop. Candidates are required to cover their own costs for accommodation and travel.

Candidates are required to complete a case study and an oral examination.

New Candidates are required to attend a two-day induction workshop.

The costs below do not include the cost of the Masters degree which will depend on the degree chosen.

## **Costs**

Initial Application Fee	\$ 330.00
Annual Training Fee	\$ 380.00
Case Study Fee	\$ 412.50
Oral Examination Fee	\$ 412.50
Two Day Induction Workshop	\$ 412.50
Four Day Pre-examination Workshop	\$2,475.00

Fees paid by Candidates during their period of Candidacy are cumulative. Following satisfactory completion of Fellowship requirements each Candidate is required to pay the balance of fees to a ceiling of \$2,000.00.

## *The Royal Australasian College of Physicians*

### **Contact details**

The College is based in Sydney.

Address:

145 Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9256 5444

Fax: (02) 9252 3310

Email: [racp@racp.edu.au](mailto:racp@racp.edu.au)

Website: [www.racp.edu.au](http://www.racp.edu.au)

### **Introduction**

The following is an excerpt from the college website.

The RACP is responsible for the education, training and continuing professional development of consultant physicians and paediatricians in 25 specialty areas, and consultants and specialists in public health, rehabilitation and occupational medicine. In recent years we have also provided training in palliative and addiction medicine for doctors from a variety of backgrounds and now commencing training in Sexual Health Medicine.

We are a diverse group of over 9,000 specialised doctors and trainees, working across Australia and New Zealand. We believe that by upholding high professional standards, promoting research, and developing health and social policy in partnership with consumers we contribute significantly to the health care and health outcomes of our even more diverse population.

### **Governance Structure of the College & Trainee Representation**

The College is governed by a 16 member Council. The main decisions are made through Committees and Boards. As well as a number of specialty faculties and chapters, the College has two main divisions:

- Adult Medicine Division
- Paediatrics & Child Health Division

There is trainee representation on Council and the majority of Boards and Committees of the College.

### **Training**

Training is of a minimum length of 6 years full time. It is divided into 3 years basic and 3 years advanced training.

### **Rotations**

Basic Trainees in Paediatrics may undertake all their training in one hospital if it is a Level 3 (University) Teaching Hospital. Basic Trainees in Adult Medicine are required to undertake a 3 month rotation outside of a Level 3 Teaching Hospital. Advanced trainees may be required to undertake hospital rotations as part of their training program, depending upon the requirements of the Specialist Advisory Committee under which they are training.

A rural location is the preferred location for Basic Trainees in Adult Medicine. Advanced Trainees training under the Specialist Advisory Committee in General Paediatrics are required to undertake 6 months in rural / regional location.

## Recognition of Prior Learning

Prior learning for prospective trainees is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

## Flexibility in Training

Standard leave is available, as well as extra leave for purposes such as maternity leave (interrupted training for up to 2 years). Training may be undertaken full time or part time, or via a combination of both. Part time training must be at least 20% commitment, and basic training must be completed within 7 years.

Job sharing is acceptable.

## Assessment

Written Examination: Two Papers multiple choice (A type questions) of total 5 hours.

Clinical Examination: In two examination cycles in one day a candidate must conduct 2 long and 4 short cases.

## Costs

### *Basic Training*

Annual registration fee \$ 262 (paid for years two and three of basic training).

Continuation of registration fee \$ 100 (which is paid after the completion of basic training until the FRACP examination is passed (this fee may not be required for all trainees). Interruption Fee \$100.

### *Advanced Training*

Annual Advanced Training fee \$1,169, paid for each of the three or, in the case of joint training program, four years of training. Annual fee for Advanced Trainees in full-time research \$799.

Fee for conditional approval of Advanced Training (Examination year) \$584, (balance of annual Advanced Training fee to be paid on success in Examination)

### *Written examination*

The written examination costs \$1,198 and is held once per year. Successful completion of this examination is required before proceeding to the clinical examination. There is an administration fee for late submission of an application of \$324.

### *Clinical Examination*

The clinical examination costs \$2,593 and is held once per year. Candidates are required to successfully complete the Clinical Examination within a period of 59 months (five years) of passing the Written Examination. Candidates who do not pass the Clinical Examination within this period must again undertake and pass the Written Examination.

### *Advanced Training*

Annual Fee	\$1,169.00
Annual Fee for trainees in fulltime research	\$ 779.00
Fee for conditional approval(examination year)	\$ 584.00
Retrospective Accreditation	\$1,169.00
Fee for post FRACP training	\$ 345.00
Continuation Fee	\$ 128.00

**Fees for Training of Overseas-trained Physicians or Pediatricians**

Initial assessment	\$1,119.00
Peer review: 12 months	\$1,774.00
Additional periods per quarter	\$ 444.00
Written examination	\$1,347.00
Clinical examination	\$2,593.00
Practice audit/visit	\$1,830.00

**Article 37, By Law 24**

Application for Fellowship and Diploma Fee	\$ 798.00
--	-----------

**Occupational Trainee Visa/Postgraduate Training Approval**

Fee	\$ 90.00
GST	\$ 9.00
Processing Fee (paid by hospital making application)	\$ 99.00

**Refunds**

- i. Withdrawal of application for examination - see By Law 6.
- ii. A handling fee of 25% will be deducted from the total paid, for all refunds.
- iii. Refunds will be processed, not held by the College against future applications or fees.

**Administration Fees**

- i. Administration Fees will be charged for applications submitted after the closing date. The closing date and the administration fee for late submission will be printed on the form, where applicable.
- ii. Administration Fees will be charged for applicants presenting for the Written Examination or Clinical Examination who have not been previously registered with the College, unless special circumstances apply as outlined in the Council policy on Registration for Basic Training (1997)

All applicants are to be informed of the above

All training and assessment fees are currently exempt from the Australian Goods and Services Tax (GST) other than the fee for occupational trainee visa applications, which is subject to GST.

## *The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons*

### **Contact details**

The College is based in Melbourne.

Address:

College of Surgeon's Gardens  
Spring Street  
Melbourne Vic 3000

Phone: (03) 9249 1200

Fax: (03) 9249 1219

Email: [college.sec@surgeons.org](mailto:college.sec@surgeons.org)

Website: [www.surgeons.org](http://www.surgeons.org)

### **Introduction**

The following is an excerpt from the college website.

#### **KEY DIRECTION STATEMENT**

As a fellowship based organisation, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons strives to ensure the highest standard of safe and comprehensive surgical care to the community through excellence in surgical education, training, professional development and support.

#### **VALUES**

- Service and Professionalism
- Integrity
- Respect and Compassion
- Commitment and Diligence
- Collaboration and Teamwork

#### **OVERVIEW**

The RACS is an internationally recognised organisation for 5400 surgeons who are based mainly in Australia and New Zealand.

Approximately 90 per cent of all surgeons practising in Australia and New Zealand are Fellows of the RACS (FRACS). These surgeons were trained by the RACS in nine surgical specialties through its Basic Surgical Training and Specialist Surgical Training and Assessment programmes.

The College is also responsible for maintaining surgical standards in Australia and New Zealand through its Division of Fellowship and Standards,

#### **Governance Structure of the College & Trainee Representation**

Formed in 1927, the RACS is a non-Government organisation run by a Council made up of elected members from throughout Australia and New Zealand who work in an honorary capacity. There are also co-opted members to represent surgical specialties.

The College is governed by Council and a number of committees. RACS has recently formed the RACS Trainee Association (RACSSTA).

#### **Training**

Training length varies depending on the speciality area chosen. It is generally based on a minimum period of 2 years basic training. This can take up to 4 years basic training. The length of advanced training depends on the speciality area:

- General Surgery: 4 yrs full time
- Cardiothoracic Surgery: 2 yrs full time in Gen Surg. then 4 yrs full time
- Neurosurgery: 5 yrs full time

- Orthopaedic Surgery: 4 yrs full time
- Otolaryngology: 4 yrs full time
- Paediatric Surgery: 3 yrs full time in Gen Surg, then 3 yrs in Paediatric Surgery
- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery: 1 yr full time in Gen Surg, then 4 yrs full time in Plastic
- Urological Surgery: 4 yrs full time
- Vascular Surgery: 2 yrs full time in Gen Surg, then 3 yrs in Vascular Surgery

### Rotations

Most trainees must complete different rotations during their training, including rotations in rural locations. The exception is a number of speciality areas such as neurosurgery and cardiothoracic surgery where no rural posts exist. The college assist with the rotation system.

### Recognition of Prior Learning

The College did not provide information on the recognition of prior learning.

### Flexibility in Training

Part time training is possible at a minimum commitment of 50%. One year of full time training must be completed in both basic and advanced training.

### Assessment

Trainees must pass a basic sciences exam before entering advanced training. To complete advanced training trainees must pass Part II exam.

### Costs

#### **Part I: Basic Surgical Training (BST):**

BST Registration fee	\$1,320.00
Annual BST fee	\$2,260.00

#### *Courses:*

CcriSP	\$1,640.00
EMST	\$1,640.00
BSS	\$1,640.00

Website fee	\$1,960.00
-------------	------------

#### *Exams:*

MCQ	\$3,750.00
Clinical	\$1,405.00

TST fee	\$ 515.00
---------	-----------

Basic Surgical Training may extend up to four years. The Annual Training Fee is applicable to each year of training.

#### **Part II Advanced Surgical Training (AST):**

Annual AST fee	\$3,200.00
----------------	------------

#### *Exams:*

AST Exam fee	\$4,975.00
Orthopaedic Exam fee	\$ 255.00

#### **Fellows:**

Entrance fee	\$5,550.00
Annual Subscriptions	\$1,800.00

## *The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists*

### **Contact details**

The College is based in Sydney.

Address:

94-84 Chalmers Street  
Surrey Hills NSW 2010

Phone: (02) 9690 1001

Fax: (02) 9690 1321

Email: [ranzco@ranzco.edu](mailto:ranzco@ranzco.edu)

Website: [www.ranzco.edu](http://www.ranzco.edu)

### **Introduction**

The following is an excerpt from the college website.

The College's mission is the improvement of the already high standard of eye care in Australia and New Zealand. In pursuit of this mission, the College provides a variety of services centered on our core roles as a higher educational institution and learned society.

As a higher educational institution, the College:

- Trains future Australian and New Zealand specialists via our postgraduate vocational training program
- Assists specialists in to maintain their skills and knowledge through a comprehensive continuing medical education program, including the annual Scientific Congress, available to all ophthalmologists
- Designs and delivers education and training to other eye care professionals including GPs and optometrists to improve their capacity to meet eye care needs.

As a learned society, the College:

- Promotes the science and practice of ophthalmology and the vision sciences through a range of scientific, clinical and professional services. These include support for research, dissemination of research results including publication of the College's learned journal *Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology* and the development of clinical guidelines and policy statements
- Provides information and library services to keep members and other interested parties informed of developments affecting eye care as well as College activities. These services include the College library, website, magazine and newsletter
- Provides external relations and government policy services covering relationships between the College and other stakeholders, as well as provision of policy advice to governments on health policy and eye care issues.

The College also provides community services intended to improve eye care within Australia and New Zealand, as well as services delivered on behalf of Government. This include provision of information to the community on practical measures to improve the quality of eye care, as well as advice on current eye care issues, such as the dangers posed to sight by commonly used products including equipment and toys. The College participates in programs intended to improve eye care within groups with particular problems such as our indigenous peoples and those living in rural and regional areas. The College provides advice to government agencies on the qualifications and experience of overseas-trained specialists wishing to practise in Australia or New Zealand.

Collectively, the College's various services cover the total spectrum of eye care delivery from the promotion of scientific research through the training of specialists to life long support for service delivery. By combining support for eye care delivery with services targeting community education and the policy and institutional framework within which eye care takes place, the College aims to fulfil its mission of the improvement of eye care in Australia and New Zealand.

### **Governance Structure of the College & Trainee Representation**

The College is governed by a board of directors, advised by a representative council. Younger fellows are represented but trainees are not. Advanced trainees are nominated to participate in meetings of College Council, regional Qualification and Education committee (QEC) meetings, and federal QEC meetings. Advanced trainees and younger Fellows participated in the development of curriculum standards. Younger fellows are represented on College Council.

### **Training**

The College runs a five year full time training program. The program is divided into 2 years basic and 2 years advanced training, as well as 1 year preparation for practice.

### **Rotations**

The college requires trainees to undertake rotations in different hospitals during their training program. The College accredits training posts within training networks against College standards. The network determines the rotational pattern for each trainee, and manages any terms and conditions associated with practical arrangements. Nor rural rotation is required. The college does not assist trainees in organising their rotations. The College has accredited rural posts in networks in South Australia, NSW, Queensland, Victoria and NZ. Practical arrangements are supported as above for hospital rotations.

### **Recognition of Prior Learning**

The college does recognise prior learning. An appointee to a first year accredited training post may apply for exemption from examinations in any of optics, physiology or anatomy if the applicant passed the subject in the (former) Part I exam within the preceding five years.

### **Flexibility in Training**

Part time and interrupted training are approved on a case by case basis.

### **Assessment**

Basic sciences and basic ophthalmic competencies and knowledge are tested in the first two years. Written papers and clinical exams in clinical ophthalmology and pathology take place during the fourth year.

### **Costs**

Annual Training Fee	\$2,500.00
Annual Membership Fee for Trainees	\$ 182.00
Behaviour assessment and registration for matching	\$ 950.00
Matching only registration fee	\$ 250.00
<b>Examinations</b>	
Ophthalmic Basic Sciences (7 in all)	\$ 250.00 per exam Total \$1,750.00
Ophthalmic Basic Sciences (Anatomy)	\$ 950.00
Ophthalmic Basic Competencies and Knowledge	\$ 950.00
Advanced Clinical Examination	\$1,850.00
Advanced Pathology Examination	\$ 700.00

## *The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists*

### **Contact details**

The College is based in Melbourne.

Address:

254-260 Albert Street  
East Melbourne Vic 3002

Phone: (03) 9417 1699

Fax: (03) 9419 0672

Email: [ranzcog@ranzcog.edu.au](mailto:ranzcog@ranzcog.edu.au)

Website: [www.ranzcog.edu.au](http://www.ranzcog.edu.au)

### **Introduction**

The following is an excerpt from the college website.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) is dedicated to maintaining the highest possible standards in obstetrics and gynaecology in Australia and New Zealand.

The primary role of the RANZCOG is to train and accredit doctors throughout Australia and New Zealand in the specialities of obstetrics and gynaecology so that they are capable - professionally and psychologically - of providing the highest quality health care for women.

The RANZCOG offers postgraduate training to any medical graduate who has undertaken a further two years of general hospital training.

Membership/Fellowship training involves six years of postgraduate hospital-based training and assessment.

Subspecialty certification in one of the five subspecialty areas offered requires a further three years training.

Diploma training is a six-month program for general practitioners (GPs) wishing to gain additional experience and knowledge in the areas of obstetrics and basic gynaecology.

Overseas Trained Doctors who have been granted partial recognition of their Obstetrics and Gynaecology qualifications and experience may have to complete two years of post-Membership training as an OTS Trainee.

### **Governance Structure of the College & Trainee Representation**

The College is governed by a 24-member Council, who are Fellows of the College and represent all states and regions in Australia and New Zealand. The RANZCOG Trainees' Subcommittee is the official forum for trainees and gives them a formal active voice in decision-making. This Subcommittee is an official College body and comprises a trainee representative from each Australian state and also from New Zealand, as well as one representative each for Subspecialty, Diploma and overseas trainees. The Chair of the Trainees' Subcommittee is a member of the College Examination Committee and the Training and Accreditation Committee, and has full voting rights on those committees. He/she also attends all Council meetings as an observer. Trainee representatives are also involved in all College Working Groups.

## Training

To achieve a College Fellowship a 6 year training program (on a full time basis) needs to be completed. This program is divided into a for year general O&G program (Integrated Training Program [ITP]), as well as a two year program in which trainees can pursue any particular areas of interest, which may include a subspecialty or a research year.

## Rotations

The four years of the Integrated Training Program (ITP) are based on a rotation system. The College training program comprises a number of ITPs, which are consortiums of accredited hospitals. Each ITP has a home or base hospital, in which the trainee will spend their first year, and usually their second year. After that, they do six-month rotations in outer metropolitan and rural hospitals within their ITP. It is a College regulation that all trainees must do at least 6 months in a rural rotation and all rotations cannot be less than 6 months.

## Recognition of Prior Learning

Some elective or ITP training may be recognised, but must be approved by the college.

## Flexibility in Training

For FRANZCOG training: Part-time available at minimum 50% commitment. 1<sup>st</sup> year must be full-time. Interrupted training allowed for up to two years without loss of credit. Trainees have a maximum of 11 years in which to complete their training.

## Assessment

Written Examination: may be attempted in Year 3 of training. Two components: one three-hour multiple-choice paper (120 items) and one three-hour short answer question paper (12 questions). Structured Oral Examination: eight stations (20 minutes each); may be attempted in the second half of Year 4 of training, with a period of at least six months between passing the Written and first attempting the Oral examination.

## Costs

Some of these figures are from 2003. An update has not yet been provided from the College.

### Training

Annual Training Fee (old curriculum)	\$ 800.00
Annual Training fee (new curriculum)	\$1,030.00
Annual Subscription for Members in training	\$ 390.00

### Tuition

Basic Surgical Skills Course	\$ 535.00
Distance Education Program Assessments	\$ 300.00 per unit
In-Hospital Clinical Assessments Modules	\$ 260.00 per assessment

### Examinations

Written Examination (Membership)	\$ 700.00
Oral Examination (Membership)	\$1,300.00
Written Examination (Subspecialty)	\$ 900.00
Oral Examination (Subspecialty)	\$2,200.00
Overseas Trained Specialist Initial Assessment Fee	\$1,475.00
Overseas Trained Specialist Interview Fee	\$2,900.00
Overseas Trained Sub specialist Assessment Fee	\$2,000.00
“Area of Need” Practitioner Assessment Fee	\$5,720.00
Occupational Training Visa Letter of Support Fee	\$ 535.00

Certification

Membership Certification Fee

\$ 480.00

Fellowship Elevation Fee

\$ 480.00

Subspecialty Certification Fee

\$ 480.00

Other Fees

Appeals (Trainee)

\$ 500.00 + GST

Appeals (Member)

\$ 700.00 + GST

Appeals (Fellow)

\$2,500.00 + GST

Appeals (Non-Member)

\$5,000.00 + GST

## *The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists*

### **Contact details**

The College is based in Melbourne.

Address:  
309 La Trobe Street  
Melbourne Vic 3000

Phone: (03) 9640 0646  
Toll Free: 1800 337 448 (Australia only)  
Fax: (03) 9642 5652

Email: [ranzcp@ranzcp.org](mailto:ranzcp@ranzcp.org)

Website: [www.ranzcp.org](http://www.ranzcp.org)

### **Introduction**

The following is an excerpt from the college website.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) is the principal organisation representing the medical specialty of psychiatry in Australasia and New Zealand and has responsibility for training, examining and awarding the qualification of Fellowship of the College to medical practitioners.

There are currently 2600 Fellows of the College who account for approximately 85 per cent of all practicing psychiatrists in Australia and over 50 per cent of psychiatrists in New Zealand.

The vision of the College is:

“A fellowship of psychiatrists working with and for the general community to achieve the best attainable quality of psychiatric care and mental health.”

Through its various structures, the College:

- Conducts a training and examination process for qualification as a consultant psychiatrist.
- Administers maintenance of professional standards program (MOPS) for practicing professionals.
- Holds an annual scientific congress and various sectional conferences throughout the year.
- Supports continuing medical education activities at a regional level.
- Publishes a range of journals, statements and other policy documents.
- Liaises with government, allied professionals and community groups in the interests of psychiatrists, patients and the general community.

### **Governance Structure of the College & Trainee Representation**

The college is governed by the General Council, and only Fellows can approve changes to policy, or initiate policy. Trainees are represented on many of the College Committees and Boards. They do not have voting rights. Trainees are represented on the College Committee for Training, Committee for Examinations and Fellowship Board.

## Training

Training takes a total of five years full time. It is divided into 3 years basic training and 2 years advanced training.

## Rotations

Trainees are required to undertake hospital rotations in:

- 2 six month rotations in adult psychiatry, of which six months must be in acute adult psychiatry;
- 1 six month rotation in child and adolescent psychiatry; and
- 1 six month rotation in consultation-liaison psychiatry.

The College accredits hospitals, which requires the hospitals to comply with the College's Training and Assessment Regulations. This requires the hospitals to organise each trainee's rotation.

A minimum of 15 days is required to be spent in a rural location as part of the training program. The College's Training and Assessment Regulations requires trainees to undertake "significant experience in rural mental health service delivery."

## Recognition of Prior Learning

Up to one years of training may be exempted if trainees meet certain conditions; this is determined retrospectively.

## Flexibility in Training

The College allows training on a part time basis with a minimum of 50% commitment. Part time training is also available at a commitment level of 60, 70, 75, 80, and 90% commitment. Interrupted training is permitted.

## Assessment

The written examination can be sat no sooner than the second years of training, and generally is sat in the third year of training.

The clinical examination can be sat after the second year of accredited training.

## Costs

Initial Registration Fee	\$ 200.00
Basic & Advanced Training	
Annual Fee - Full time	\$ 725.00
Annual Fee - part time (=0.5 FTE over a training year)	\$ 550.00
Retrospective Accreditation	\$ 300.00
<i>Dual Fellowship Training Program</i>	
One-off Registration Fee	\$ 500.00
<i>Late Administration Fee</i>	
Late Training Form Admin Fee	\$ 165.00
<i>Overseas Trainees</i>	
Occupational trainee Visa (442)(Employer only)	\$ 240.00 (inc GST)

*Examination Fees*

Written	\$1,300.00
Clinical	\$2,000.00
Cases (per Case history)	\$ 95.00
Service fee for withdrawals from Examinations (Written or Clinicals)	Refer schedule

*Exemption Fees (costs inc GST)*

Advanced Standing and AMC Applications (Permanent/Temporary Residents)	\$2,500.00
Advanced Standing – Paediatricians	\$1,000.00
Exemption from Advanced Training	\$ 500.00
Review of Exemption Status	\$1,225.00
Area of Need Statements for Medical Boards (of which \$1440 payable to College on application)	\$1,585.00
Extension of Area of Need Statement for Medical Boards	\$ 500.00
Specialist Recognition Advisory Committees – Australia	\$1,000.00
Specialist Recognition Advisory Committees – NZ (Branch Office)	
Cost of Service NZ	

*Appeals*

Stage One-review	NIL
State Two-reconsideration	NIL
State Three-formal appeal (refunded if successful)	\$3,000.00

## *The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists*

### **Contact details**

The College is based in Sydney.

Address:

Level 9

51 Druitt Street

Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9268 9777

Fax: (02) 9268 9799

Email: [ranzcr@ranzcr.edu.au](mailto:ranzcr@ranzcr.edu.au)

Website: [www.ranzcr.edu.au](http://www.ranzcr.edu.au)

### **Introduction**

The following is an excerpt from the college website.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists is the professional body of the medical specialists who practice Radiology and Radiation Oncology.

Radiology is the field of medicine that deals with the scanning of radiographic images of the body using medical imaging techniques, advanced computers and complex equipment that allows doctors to see inside a patient's body. Some forms of imaging include MRI, nuclear medicine, ultrasound and computed tomography.

Radiation Oncology is the field of medicine which involves the care of patients with cancer, and the use of radiation treatment, often in combination with surgery and/or chemotherapy.

The RANZCR was accredited by the Australian Medical Council in 2002. The accreditation standards relate to the process of specialist education and training. The guidelines set out the educational processes, institutional processes, training settings and resources that the AMC regards as requirements for successful specialist medical education and training and professional development programs.

### **Governance Structure of the College & Trainee Representation**

The College is governed by a Council. Trainees have input through the Junior Forum. There are trainee/recent Fellow representatives on the College Council, the Faculty Board and the Education Boards of Radiology and Radiation Oncology, and the research committee of the Faculty. Junior Forum representatives are also involved in the current Curriculum Development Project. Positions are by nomination (and election where necessary). Trainees are actively involved in the educational development activities of the College.

### **Training**

The full time training program takes 5 years, and training is based to a two part exam that has to be passed.

### **Rotations**

In some jurisdictions, training is undertaken within a 'network' which may involve rotations to a number of different sites. Details of such rotations should be confirmed with the employer when seeking a training position. The College accredits training networks which provide a comprehensive training program. The College is not involved in their operation in respect of the movement of trainees through the network.

There are no rural requirements.

### **Recognition of Prior Learning**

Prior learning is considered on a case by case basis and are reviewed with explicit reference to the extent of cross-over with the training program being entered.

### **Flexibility in Training**

Part-time training is allowed on the basis of a minimum 50% commitment. Interrupted training is possible.

### **Assessment**

Radiology

Part 1: Anatomy & Applied Imaging Technology

Part 2: Radiology and Pathology (written and vivas)

Radiation Oncology

Part 1: Anatomy, Clinical Radiobiology, Radiotherapeutic Physics

Part 2: Radiation Oncology and Pathology (written and vivas)

### **Costs**

Annual registration fees	\$ 764.50 (incl GST)
Application Fee	\$1,430.00 (incl GST)
Primary examinations	\$1,200.00
Final examination	\$1,700.00
Costs of re-sitting exams	\$ 350.00 - \$1,700.00
Depends upon which component/s candidates need to re-sit	

## *The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia*

### **Contact details**

The College is based in Sydney.

Address:

Durham Hall  
207 Albion Street  
Surry Hills NSW 2010

Phone: (02) 8356 5858

Fax: (02) 8356 5828

Email: [boc@rcpa.edu.au](mailto:boc@rcpa.edu.au)

Website: [www.rcpa.edu.au](http://www.rcpa.edu.au)

### **Introduction**

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia is Australasia's leading medical diagnostic organisation and promotes the science and practice of Pathology. Pathology is the medical specialty concerned with the study of the nature and causes of diseases. As a consequence it touches every facet of medicine. In fact it has been said that 'Medicine IS Pathology'.

The College's primary focus is educational. It is involved in the examination and certification of pathologists, as well as their ongoing professional development. It also provides professional leadership, including setting professional practice standards, and is heavily involved in government relations and negotiations, concerned with maintaining the role of pathology in clinical practice.

### **Governance Structure of the College & Trainee Representation**

The College is governed by a Council. A Trainees' Committee is in place, with representatives from each state and New Zealand. The representatives are nominated, and elected where necessary, by Trainees at the local level. The Committee is responsible to the Council and may provide reports and recommendations to the Board of Censors, Board of Education and Executive Committee. Trainees have also been involved in the curriculum working groups, developing a comprehensive curriculum for implementation in 2006, and the College aims to include Trainees on other working groups which have a bearing on training.

### **Training**

The College oversees training in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia by accrediting laboratories for pathology training, approving supervised training undertaken in an accredited laboratory and conducting examinations leading to certification as a qualified pathologist and Fellow of the College (FRCPA).

The College accepts applications from registered medical practitioners with a minimum of one year's post graduate experience, who wish to become a specialist pathologist. Applicants must be employed in an accredited laboratory before seeking registration with the College. The College plays no part in placing applicants in employment.

Pathology training takes a minimum of five full time years. Training can be undertaken in:

- General Pathology
- Anatomical Pathology (including Histopathology, Cytopathology and Forensic Pathology)
- Chemical Pathology

- Genetics
- Haematology
- Immunology
- Microbiology (including Virology).

The College also offers joint training programs with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in Chemical Pathology/Endocrinology, Haematology, Immunology and Microbiology/Infectious Diseases. These programs allow a shorter pathway to dual fellowships.

### Rotations

Trainees must spend one of their 5 years of training in a different organisation or discipline. The aim of this is to provide the Trainee with experience of different styles of practice and systems of laboratory management. Assistance given for rotations varies depending on the state and discipline, but the College has been working towards setting up formal rotation schemes.

There are no requirements for rotations to rural locations.

### Recognition of Prior Learning

The College recognises prior learning if it is relevant to the discipline of pathology. For example one year of physician training can be retrospectively recognised. A period of relevant doctoral research may also be retrospectively accredited.

Trainees may apply for retrospective accreditation at the time of initial registration. Comprehensive supporting documentation is required.

### Flexibility in Training

Part time training is allowed at a minimum of 20 hours per week. There are no limitations on interrupted training. However the Part 2 examination must be passed within 5 years of passing the Part 1 exam, otherwise the Part 1 has to be taken again.

### Assessment

Training is not specifically structured as basic and advanced training, but the following exams apply:

Pathological Sciences	Must be taken before the Part II exam
Part 1	The barrier exam, may be taken from the 3 <sup>rd</sup> year of training
Part 2	The exit exam, taken in the 5 <sup>th</sup> or final year of training.

### Costs

Initial registration	\$ 110.00
Fellowship	\$ 275.00
Annual Training Fee	\$ 544.50 (GST inc)
General Pathology	\$3,000.00
Pathological Sciences	\$ 440.00
Part I examination	\$1,500.00
Part II examination	\$1,500.00

Viva examinations at Part I and Part II are held in Sydney. Re-sitting of the Part II exam is permitted at the original cost and again is held in Sydney.

*Comparative Summary of Training Conditions*

College	Trainee Representation on governing Council	Length of Training Full time in years	Is part time training available?	Is training interruption available?	Does the college formally recognise any prior learning?	Does the college require rotations?	Does the college require a rural rotation?	Does the college assist with rural posting?	Min. annual cost of training + exam costs
<b>ACD</b>	Yes	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	N/a	\$1,155 pa \$5,880
<b>ACEM</b>	Separate body	7	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	N/a	\$625pa \$3,150
<b>ANZCA</b>	Separate body	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	\$1,145pa \$4,600
<b>GP Training</b>	Yes	3-4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	In some cases	No annual fees \$3,153
<b>JFICM</b>	No	6	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	N/a	\$350pa \$1,900
<b>RACMA</b>	Yes	6	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	N/a	\$380pa \$3,300
<b>RACP</b>	Yes	6	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	In some cases	No	Basic - \$262 Adv - \$1,196 \$3,791
<b>RACS</b>	Yes in 2006	6-8	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes, where applicable	Yes	\$6,880 courses \$10,645 (Basic & Adv) Basic - \$2,260 Adv - \$3,200
<b>RANZCO</b>	No	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	N/a	\$2,682pa \$6,200
<b>RANZCOG</b>	Yes	6	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,030pa \$2,000
<b>RANZCP</b>	Separate body	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	\$725pa \$3,300
<b>RANZCR</b>	Yes	5	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	N/a	\$764.50pa \$2,900
<b>RCPA</b>	Separate body	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	N/a	\$544.50pa \$6,440