



## Vocational Training Pathway – Requirements for Fellowship Policy

- 1.1 Policy number: CO-E-004.0
- 1.2 Category: Education
- 1.3 Approval date: November 2015
- 1.4 Revision due date: November 2018
- 1.5 Unit responsible: Education Services

### 1. Policy declaration

Registrars in the Vocational Training Pathway must meet the requirements detailed in this policy to be awarded Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP).

**This policy is approved by Council and authorised by the CEO.**

### 2. Background

#### 2.1 Objective

The objective of this policy is to describe the requirements for Fellowship for Registrars in the Vocational Training Pathway.

#### 2.2 Scope

This policy applies to Registrars in the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program and the Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS).

### 3. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

- a. **Extended skills training** is a six month post undertaken for the purpose of extending the depth and breadth of the Registrar's skill base in areas relevant to primary medical care. For extended skills training full time is calculated at a minimum of 27 hours of core activities specific to the post, and part time is calculated pro-rata with a minimum of 10.5 hours of core activities specific to the post.
- b. **Full time** general practice experience is calculated at a minimum of 27 hours face to face, rostered, patient consultation time in comprehensive Australian general practice activities and undertaken over a minimum of four days per week. Work periods of less than three consecutive hours, or of less than one month in any one practice, will not be considered. Hours worked beyond this definition of full time will not be considered.
- c. **Part time** general practice experience is calculated pro-rata with a minimum of 10.5 hours face to face, rostered, patient consultation time in comprehensive Australian general practice activities and undertaken over a minimum of two days per week. Work periods of less than three consecutive hours, or of less than one month in any one practice, will not be considered.
- d. **Comprehensive Australian general practice** means:
  - i. continuity of care that is person centred, comprehensive and coordinated; focusing on the whole person, and all presenting symptoms
  - ii. health promotion and illness prevention services that are based on patient need and the best available evidence
  - iii. the diagnosis, treatment and management of the full range of undifferentiated conditions in a diverse range of individuals, families and communities not limited by practice intention or business focus
  - iv. general practice undertaken in Australia.
- e. **Registrar** means a medical practitioner who is enrolled in the Vocational Training Pathway.

## 4. Requirements for Fellowship

### 4.1 Education requirements

Registrars must complete:

- a. A minimum of three years (full time) specialist general practice vocational training and all education requirements in a Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) recognised training program, which must include:
  - i. A Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) course completed within the 12 months prior to commencing General Practice Term 1 (GPT1) that meets the requirements detailed in RACGP's *Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Advanced Life Support Courses Guidance Document*.
  - ii. A Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) course completed within the 12 months prior to applying for Fellowship that meets the requirements detailed in RACGP's *Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Advanced Life Support Courses Guidance Document*.
  - iii. Training in the early management of trauma and advanced life support (ALS) completed within the four years prior to apply for Fellowship that meets the requirements in RACGP's *Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Advanced Life Support Courses Guidance Document*.
  - iv. RACGP's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander chapter in the *Curriculum to Australian General Practice*.

Specialist general practice vocational training may be undertaken full time or part time.

### 4.2 Experience requirements

Registrars must complete:

- a. A minimum of one year of hospital rotations post Postgraduate Year 1 (PGY1) or intern year. The hospital rotations (in combination with PGY1) must:
  - i. Provide the Registrar with adequate exposure to the disciplines of medicine, surgery, emergency medicine, paediatrics, and other rotations appropriate to the discipline of general practice, sufficient to demonstrate an understanding of safe practice in these areas prior to commencing GPT1. For further information on fulfilling the required paediatric experience see RACGP's *Paediatric Term Requirements Guidance Document*.
  - ii. Include certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) that meets the requirements detailed in RACGP's *Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Advanced Life Support Courses Guidance Document*.
  - iii. Be undertaken in an accredited hospital in Australia or New Zealand.
- b. A minimum of 18 months general practice experience in an RACGP accredited general practice training posts under the guidance of a RACGP accredited supervisor.
- c. Up to a maximum of six months extended skills training approved by the vocational training provider in accordance with the *RACGP Vocational Training Standards*.
- d. Training experience that involves a diversity of patient presentations in relation to age, gender, socioeconomic status, and cultural and linguistic backgrounds.
- e. Training in at least two different general practices. In remote areas, the two practice requirement can only be modified with permission from the RACGP, and provided that diversity of experience is possible in the post.

### 4.3 Assessment requirements

Registrars must:

- a. Pass RACGP's Applied Knowledge Test (AKT), Key Feature Problems (KFP) and Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) within their period of candidature in the Australian General Practice Training program.

- b. Pass all three examination segments within a three year period from their first examination pass. All passes will expire after this timeline. A new three year period will begin from the next examination passed.

#### **4.4 Professional and ethical requirements**

The RACGP reserves the right to withhold awarding an applicant Fellowship of the RACGP, if the RACGP reasonably considers the relevant applicant:

- a. would be at risk of breaching clause 27 of RACGP's Constitution available at [www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/organisation/management/constitution/](http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/organisation/management/constitution/).
- b. is generally unsuitable to hold Fellowship of the RACGP as detailed in RACGP's *Fit and Proper Fellow Policy* available at [www.racgp.org.au/support/policies/organisational/](http://www.racgp.org.au/support/policies/organisational/).

#### **4.5 Administrative requirements**

4.5.1 Registrars must:

- a. Hold current Australian medical registration at all times while on the Vocational Training Pathway. Registrars must disclose any restrictions on their practise or changes to their medical registration to the RACGP. Failure to do this will be handled as per the *Educational Misconduct Policy* available at [www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/).
- b. Be a financial RACGP member from the time of joining the Vocational Training Pathway and throughout their candidature. This requirement applies to all Registrars from 1 January 2016.
- a. Apply for Fellowship within three years of successful completion of the three examinations in clause 4.3a, or within one year of completion of all pathway requirements, whichever is the lesser.

4.5.2 Registrars can only be enrolled in one RACGP Fellowship pathway at a time. If a Registrar seeks to participate in a different Fellowship pathway, they must resign their candidature in the Vocational Training Pathway and apply for entry into the alternative pathway of their choice.

### **5. Awarding of Fellowship of the RACGP**

The decision to award Fellowship of the RACGP is held by Council and is dependent on the recommendation of the Board of Censors.

### **6. Related policies, documents and legislation**

All policies and guidance documents related to the Vocational Training Pathway are available at [www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/).

### **7. Administrative procedures**

#### **7.1 Access to published policy**

This policy will be available via the RACGP website at [www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/).

#### **7.2 Promulgation of published policy**

Relevant staff members will be provided communications explaining the function and role of this policy.

#### **7.3 Review of this policy**

This policy will have a review cycle of three years.