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The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of
Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

ONLINE ORIENTATION PROGRAM

MODULE 00

A Guide to Using the Online Orientation Program

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<http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/oop/privacy.shtml>

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If you require assistance with the content of this topic, or if you have suggestions for improvements to the content, please contact the author:

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Requests for assistance with technical problems, such as problems with the RANZCOG Online Orientation Program (OOP) web site, problems with downloading OOP documents, etc, should also be addressed to OOP Administration:

OOP@ranzcog.edu.au

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<http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/oop/oopfeedback.shtml>

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INTRODUCTION

This small module gives a brief description of how you may best utilise the Online Orientation Program (OOP) as part of your preparations for practice in Australia. It is important that you understand where this program fits into your preparations, what its intentions and limitations are, and how it may best fit your individual needs.

WHAT DOES THE OOP AIM TO ACHIEVE?

Currently, as an overseas trained obstetrician and gynaecologist (O&G), you may, or may not, be quite ready to practice successfully in Australia. The excellence of the medical training any given applicant may have received overseas cannot, in itself, be sufficient to guarantee fitness to practice in Australia — the applicant must also possess, and be able to demonstrate, the necessary cultural competency.

The OOP is designed to provide a foundation of non-clinical knowledge specifically related to the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology within the Australian context. In seeking to provide a foundation, it does not presume to be exhaustive in its content. You will thus utilise the OOP as one mechanism in your endeavour to acquire the necessary cultural competency that pertains to your field, at a level sufficient to enable you to practice safely and effectively in Australia.

WHERE THE OOP FITS IN

Please take particular note here: The knowledge, skills and attitudes that you require in order to practise as an O&G in Australia are set out in the [RANZCOG Curriculum](#). That document, therefore, is the logical foundation for preparation for practice. Use it, both initially and throughout your preparations, to help you decide how well you measure up to the expected standards.

In order to complement in-hospital training, the College provides educational programs (the [Flexible Learning Program](#), workshops and other resources) to assist its trainees in the acquisition of the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes. The OOP, it should be understood, stands outside the College's training program, it being specifically designed to assist overseas trained O&Gs. If, however, you have access to, say, the [Flexible Learning Program](#), you are by all means encouraged to utilise it alongside the OOP. The OOP may be seen as but one component in both your initial self-assessment and in whatever preparations are then necessary for practice.

THE NATURE OF THE OOP

The OOP is based on adult learning principles – it is thus specifically designed not to be prescriptive. It offers advice on suitable resources, but nowhere is there any suggestion that all of the listed resources must be read. The authors of the OOP have attempted to address as many as possible of the areas of concern experienced by overseas trained O&Gs who seek to practise in Australia. It is recognised, however, that overseas trained O&Gs

come from a vast range of cultural and academic backgrounds and that, in addition, they exhibit the differences in knowledge, attitudes and learning style that one would expect in any group of individuals. Thus, there is very much an expectation that you will pick and choose what you will read in each of the OOP modules, and that you will make these decisions based on your own particular needs. Your needs will be different to those of other overseas trained O&Gs — you will already know some of the things covered in the modules, but will be partly or entirely unfamiliar with others. It is therefore extremely important that you reflect honestly on how much you know and that you base your judgement in these matters on your understanding of the College's expectations, as reflected in the [RANZCOG Curriculum](#).

RESOURCES

For reasons that would appear self-evident, the resources that are recommended in the modules are, as far as possible, Australian. Note, however, that we have included links, where it was deemed necessary or desirable, to resources from elsewhere. Care has been exercised in seeing to it that such resources are of direct relevance to practice in the Australian context. Do not be surprised, therefore, if you find yourself reading, say, an American journal article, or a set of guidelines from Canada.

STUDY TECHNIQUES

Given all that has been said above, you need not, and probably should not, work through the OOP

modules sequentially. Concentrate first on those modules where you feel you have the greatest need. Within modules you may wish, again, to concentrate first on those topics where your need is greatest.

Some people prefer to work through modules in a systematic manner from beginning to end. That's fine if you like to work that way. If you prefer a more eclectic approach, that too is fine, and it has the advantage of enabling you to fit your studies to your own particular needs. So, do feel free to dip in and out of modules. If you like, acquire a basic knowledge, move on to something else for a while, then come back for more in-depth reading later on. Build up your knowledge across a number of areas simultaneously if you feel comfortable working that way.

It would probably be best to concentrate first on acquiring a broad overview, then looking into the fine details.

SHOULD I PRINT OR WORK ON-SCREEN?

After downloading and saving an OOP module, you have two options: printing the document or working on screen. The documents are designed to be user-friendly, both in print and on screen. They will, however, direct you mostly to web-based resources — you will thus, at least initially, find yourself working on screen.

By working on screen, you retain the convenience features of PDF files: bookmarks, thumbnails, a search function (an exceedingly useful feature)

and, most important of all, hyperlinks (of which, you may be assured, there will be a plethora). The Adobe Reader software is delightfully intuitive in its use - you probably won't want to read a users' guide but, if you do, then one is available (and it's a prestigiously large file): [Adobe Reader Guide](#)

You may prefer an environmentally less appealing approach: download the module, click on each of the hyperlinks, and print them. You will then have a mass of documents that you can read at your leisure without being encumbered by a computer.