



RANZCOG POLICY ON RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

PREAMBLE

RANZCOG regulation 10.3.1 stipulates that all training in the six-year specialist training program (i.e. the four-year Integrated Training Program and the two-year Elective Program) must be prospectively approved by the College.

However, there is provision for appropriate applicants to obtain recognition for significant training (as defined in this policy document) which predates the commencement of prospectively approved RANZCOG training. Such recognition may count towards partial fulfillment of the training and assessment requirements for the MRANZCOG/FRANZCOG qualification.

This Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policy applies only to the categories of applicants listed below.

1. ELIGIBILITY

1.1 Applicants for RPL must meet the standard eligibility criteria for entry to the RANZCOG specialist training program and must also have successfully applied for entry to said program. The standard entry requirements are as follows:

- candidates must possess a primary medical degree approved in Australia or New Zealand, or have successfully completed the requirements necessary to obtain the Australian Medical Council (AMC) certificate;
- candidates must have either Australian/New Zealand citizenship or permanent resident status in Australia, and possess medical registration in the relevant state;
- candidates in New Zealand must have full medical registration with the New Zealand Medical Council and also have permanent residency;
- documentary evidence of medical registration in Australia or New Zealand/AMC certification/permanent residency (as applicable) must be provided no later than the closing date for applications in the relevant state/region;
- candidates must have obtained an accredited hospital position in the training program;
- candidates must have completed PGY2 or above, unless exceptional circumstances apply.

1.2 Applications for RPL must be made to the College at the time the applicant has obtained an accredited first-year training post in the program.

[NOTE: For trainees who entered the program prior to the introduction of this RPL policy, a 12-month period will apply from the date the policy was approved by RANZCOG Council during which they may also lodge an RPL application. (This 12-month period expires on 30 November 2008.) But after that time all applications must be lodged when an accredited first-year post has been obtained.]

1.3 Categories of training/previous experience which predate the commencement of approved RANZCOG training and which may be recognised towards MRANZCOG/FranZCOG training are as follows:

1.3.1 Completion of at least one (1) year of supervised and formally assessed training in a structured O&G specialist training program offered by a recognized specialist medical college or similar body which is based on a detailed curriculum and involves competitive entry. Non-accredited hospital training which has taken place outside a training program and recognized institution as defined in this item 1.3.1 will not be considered.

This period of formal training should have commenced not more than five (5) years prior to the date of application and must include the following:

- regular satisfactory summative assessments of performance and progress conducted by a specialist supervisor in the relevant training program;
- logged clinical/surgical experience in O&G signed off by supervisors/consultants in the relevant training program.

1.3.2 Successful completion of the DRANZCOG Advanced training program not more than five (5) years prior to the date of application.

1.3.3 Completion of one (1) or more years of supervised and formally assessed training in a structured training program in a relevant specialty. The program must have included competitive entry, a detailed curriculum, regular summative assessments and logged clinical experience. In addition, the training must have commenced not more than five (5) years prior to the date of application.

1.3.4 Assessment by the RANZCOG Overseas Trained Specialist/Area of Need Assessment Committee as being not partially or substantially comparable to an Australian trained specialist. Overseas Trained Specialists in this category are required to obtain the Australian Medical Council (AMC) Examination and then apply to enter the RANZCOG specialist training program at Year 1.

Candidates in this group must still pass the AMC Examination and obtain entry to the RANZCOG training program as per Items 1.1 and 1.2 above.

*NOTE: An equivalent pathway for New Zealand Overseas Trained Specialists is not available at this time because the current assessment process for this group differs substantially from the Australian process.

1.4 For all the above category of applicants a period of between one and four (1 – 4) years may be approved where appropriate.

2. APPLICATION & APPROVAL PROCESS

- 2.1 All RPL applications will be assessed by the College's RPL Assessment Subcommittee, which comprises members of both the College Training Accreditation Committee and the Education & Assessment Committee, and also a trainee representative. This Subcommittee is under the auspices of the RANZCOG College Training Accreditation Committee and reports via that body to the RANZCOG Council.
- 2.2 Applications for RPL should be made in writing to the Chair of the College's RPL Assessment Subcommittee and must be supported by all the documentation listed below:
- detailed curriculum vitae;
 - certified copy of primary medical degree and other relevant certificates/diplomas;
 - complete copies of any logbooks relating to previous O&G clinical/surgical training;
 - copies of all summative assessments conducted as part of previous O&G training;
 - copy of completed research project in O&G or a related discipline (where applicable);
 - evidence of successful completion of written and/or oral examinations in O&G (where applicable);
 - a statement or certificate attesting to satisfactory performance in the relevant training program from the appropriate college or certifying body;

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide all the above documentation. No assistance will be provided by the College to obtain missing documentation.

- 2.3 An application fee is payable at the time of application. This fee is equivalent to the standard RANZCOG annual training fee applicable at the time of application. If the applicant is required to re-apply for RPL because required documentation was not provided in support of the original application, then the above fee must be paid again.
- 2.4 Once the RPL application has been approved and the applicant has been advised of the year level at which they will commence RANZCOG training, it is the applicant's responsibility to apply for prospective approval for each year of the program. The applicant will remain subject to all RANZCOG regulations and assessment requirements relating to the year of training at which they commenced the program and all subsequent years until Fellowship has been obtained.

3. APPEALS

- 3.1 An applicant may appeal that decision under the terms of the College's established appeals process. The document detailing this appeals process can be accessed via the College website: www.ranzcog.edu.au/about/pdfs/appealsprocedures.pdf