

OTS

OVERSEAS TRAINED SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT

Quick Guide to the OTS Assessment Process - 2008

What is OTS assessment?

The assessment process enables Overseas Trained Specialists (OTS) to have their qualifications assessed for recognition leading to possible registration. Fellowship of The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) may be awarded by the College following recognition.



The Royal Australian and
New Zealand College of
Obstetricians and
Gynaecologists

Step 1. Application to the Australian Medical Council

OTS applicants who do not hold the AMC Certificate OR a primary medical degree from an Australian university and who want their specialist qualifications assessed must first apply to the Australian Medical Council (AMC) (<http://www.amc.org.au>)

Step 2. Initial Assessment by RANZCOG

The AMC will forward suitable applications to RANZCOG.

The RANZCOG OTS Assessment Committee is responsible for the initial assessments. The Committee comprises Fellows of RANZCOG, the Committee Chair, Dr Diane Mohen, and community representatives.

After the applicant has forwarded the AMC Form SC and the initial assessment fee to RANZCOG, a member of the OTS Assessment Committee will determine whether the applicant is eligible to attend an interview. **The 2008 Initial Assessment Fee is \$1870 and the Interview Fee is \$3745.50 (both including GST).**

Step 3. Outcome of Initial Assessment

On initial assessment, it may be decided that the applicant is not eligible to attend an interview because they are not considered substantially or partially comparable to an Australian-trained specialist. In this case, they will need to consider the option of obtaining the AMC certificate and then applying for entry to the RANZCOG Integrated Training Program (ITP) at Year 1.

Alternatively, applicants may be invited to attend an interview at College House in Melbourne. The 2008 interview schedule is below:

- January 30
- March 5
- May 14
- July 16
- September 3
- November 19

Step 4. The Interview

The interview will involve a detailed discussion which requires the applicant to outline their training and experience in obstetrics and gynaecology. They will also be asked to respond to two detailed standardised clinical scenarios involving procedural skills, medico-legal issues, cultural awareness and interpersonal skills.

Step 5. Result of the Interview

There are 3 possible outcomes of the interview:

- Substantially comparable to the standard of an Australian-trained specialist (application accepted).
- Partially comparable to an Australian-trained specialist (further training & assessment required)
- Not substantially or partially comparable to an Australian-trained specialist (application rejected)



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Step 5. Result of the Interview continued

The AMC is informed of the above assessment decisions and will then formally notify the applicant.

OTS applicants assessed as not substantially or partially comparable to an Australian-trained specialist will need to consider the option of obtaining the AMC certificate and then applying to enter the RANZCOG Integrated Training Program at Year 1.

OTS applicants assessed as partially comparable will be invited to complete the OTS requirements for recognition (and ultimately Fellowship):

- A minimum period of 12 months of prospectively approved, supervised training (including assessment of competency in specified surgical procedures)
- In-hospital Clinical Assessments (X 3)
- RANZCOG Written Examination (maximum 4 attempts)
- RANZCOG Oral Examination (maximum 4 attempts)

OTS applicants may appeal decisions relating to their assessment.

Step 6. Fellowship

If the applicant is assessed as substantially comparable to an Australian-trained specialist, they will be invited to apply for Fellowship, subject to the usual terms and conditions outlined in the College regulations. Fees will apply.

Access to Medicare Benefits

OTSs applying for Fellowship are advised that, under the terms of the Commonwealth Health Insurance Act, practitioners who did not obtain their medical degree in Australia may be restricted in their ability to access Medicare benefits even after obtaining Fellowship. For further information regarding access to Medicare Benefits, refer to the Australian Government Medicare Australia website- <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au>.

OTS Assessment in New Zealand

The OTS assessment process in New Zealand is different from that in Australia. For further details on the NZ assessment process contact the RANZCOG Executive Officer in NZ, Mr Steve Williams, at s.williams@ranzco.org.nz

Final Points to Consider

- The OTS assessment process unavoidably involves a good deal of paper work - applicants need to allow plenty of time.
- Regulations relating to the OTS process are in Section 18 of the 2007 Training Service Handbook on the RANZCOG website: <http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/publications/pdfs/education/Training-Handbook.pdf>
- Overseas Subspecialists wishing to be assessed as an OTS must first undergo the process described above (starting at Step 1).
- RANZCOG assessment does not guarantee employment in Australia.



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