



Information on Assessment as an Overseas Trained Subspecialist in Australia and New Zealand

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

College House
254-260 Albert Street
East Melbourne Victoria 3002
Australia

Telephone: +61 3 9417 1699
Facsimile: +61 3 9419 0672
E-mail: ranzcog@ranzcog.edu.au
Website <http://www.ranzcog.edu.au>

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RANZCOG Staff Contacts

**All Subspecialty inquiries
(including Overseas Trained
Subspecialist enquiries)**

Lyn Johnson
Subspecialties & CPD Services Manager
tel: +61 3 9412 2944
fax: +61 3 9419 7817
ljohnson@ranzcog.edu.au

**General Overseas Trained
Specialist enquiries within
Australia**

Sonya Andrews
Overseas-trained doctors Coordinator
tel: +61 3 9412 2937
fax: +61 3 9419 7817
sandrew@ranzcog.edu.au

**General OTS enquiries within
New Zealand**

Kate Bell
New Zealand Regional Committee
tel: +64 4 915 1901
fax: +64 4 915 1902
kate.bell@ranzcog.org.nz

**Membership & Fellowship
enquiries, including
Registration/Training
documentation/ Elevation**

Maggie van Tonder
Training Services Administrative Officer
tel: +61 3 9412 2936
fax: +61 3 9419 7817
mvantonder@ranzcog.edu.au

All examination enquiries

Bronwyn Robinson
Assessment Coordinator
tel: +61 3 9412 2979
fax: +61 3 9412 2953
brobinson@ranzcog.edu.au

Introduction

Background Information on the RANZCOG

The Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists was formally established in 1978. The prefix 'Royal' was acquired in 1980 when it became the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RACOG). The new College replaced the former Australian Regional Council, which had been governed by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) in the United Kingdom. In 1983, the RACOG moved to its current headquarters at 254-260 Albert Street, East Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

In October 1998, the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists amalgamated with the Royal New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to form the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG).

VISION

The RANZCOG will pursue excellence in the delivery of health care of women throughout their lives.

MISSION

- The College will achieve its Vision by innovative training, accreditation and continuing education programs, supported by active assessment of the effectiveness of those programs.
- The College will actively support and communicate with Fellows, Members and trainees to ensure that they are capable – physically, psychologically and professionally – of providing the highest standards of care.
- The College will support research into women's health and will act as an advocate for women's health care by forging productive relationships with individuals, the community, and local and international professional organisations.

Please note that all the information in this booklet is subject to change.

SECTION 1

Assessment of Overseas Trained Subspecialists (OTSS)

Step 1 Eligibility

Applicants must

- hold, or be assessed as being eligible to hold, the Fellowship of the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FRANZCOG), and
- hold a recognised subspecialist qualification from a recognised College or national certifying body

What you must do if you are NOT YET a Fellow of the RANZCOG

Applicants who do not hold the FRANZCOG but hold postgraduate qualifications in obstetrics and gynaecology from a country other than Australia must apply for assessment of eligibility for the FRANZCOG via the Australian Medical Council. This must be in accordance with the RANZCOG Regulations for the Assessment of Overseas Trained Specialists in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Contact details for the AMC:	
Australian Medical Council	Ph 02 6270 9777
PO Box 4810	Fax 02 6270 9799
Kingston ACT 2604	amc@amc.org.au
AUSTRALIA	www.amc.org.au

Applicants from New Zealand should note that currently the assessment of OTS in New Zealand differs substantially from the assessment of OTS in Australia.

In New Zealand, the College acts as advisor to the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) which has the power to overrule that advice.

Applicants must consult the MCNZ for registration categories but currently assessment is necessary only if they are going to take up residency and ultimately apply for Probationary Registration.

Contact details for the MCNZ:	
Medical Council of New Zealand	Ph +64-4-384 7635
P O Box 11 649	Fax +64-4-385 8902
Wellington	Free phone 0800 286 801
NEW ZEALAND	firstenquiry@mcnz.org.nz
	www.mcnz.org.nz

Doctors working under Temporary Registration (maximum two years) will be supervised by a single member of RANZCOG without prior interview by the New Zealand Regional Office of RANZCOG.

The College is working with all parties concerned to bring the two processes into alignment.

The requirements for assessment in Australia and New Zealand are attached.

Step 2 Application and Supporting Documentation

All applications **must** include the following:

- A covering letter addressed to the chair of the relevant subspecialty committee
- A detailed curriculum vitae, including a list of research publications
- Certified copies of all qualifications
- A copy of the official syllabus/curriculum for the candidate's subspecialist training program, including a list of the specific assessment requirements
- Logbook records which clearly indicate all surgical experience, including whether the candidate was the primary operator or the assistant and whether the procedure was major or minor
- A diary or typical weekly timetable for EACH of the candidate's years of training indicating details of procedural work, where performed, who with etc.
- Written statements from the heads of the units where the candidate has worked (or other appropriate supervisor) describing what he/she actually did and giving an assessment of competence
- A copy of the official position description for the candidate's current post, indicating specific responsibilities and duties, and also the number and type of cases dealt with by the unit. (If a position description position is not available, a detailed written statement will suffice.)
- Printed copy of the accreditation criteria for the unit(s) where the candidate has trained / worked.

Applications, addressed to the Chairman of the appropriate subspecialty committee, should be sent to College House in Melbourne. [See Section 3 for a list of current chairs]

Step 3 The Initial Assessment

The application will initially be assessed by the specialist representative from the relevant subspecialty committee in consultation with the chairman of that committee

Step 4 Outcome of the Initial Assessment

There are two possible outcomes of the initial assessment:

1. The applicant is at or near the standard of an Australian trained subspecialist and will be advised to apply for further detailed assessment by interview
2. The applicant is not near the standard of an Australian trained subspecialist and will be advised to apply for full training in the required subspecialty. (An applicant receiving this advice may still apply for interview to further state their case and to receive additional advice).

Applicants assessed as 'eligible for interview' will be invited to attend an interview, either at College House in Melbourne or at some other appropriate venue specified by the College. A fee is charged to applicants attending an interview and must be paid before the interview date. The fee is subject to change, so please contact the College for details of current fees.

Step 5 The Interview

The applicant will be interviewed by at least two people, one of whom should be a specialist and the other a member of the relevant subspecialty.

The date and time for the interview will be arranged between the applicant and the Chair of the interview panel. All necessary information is circulated to the interview panel prior to the interview. Applicants do not need to bring any additional documentation to the interview.

The interview panel will clarify the following:

- the duration, content and assessment process of postgraduate subspecialty training/experience
- research experience and papers produced
- professional experience as a subspecialist.

The applicant will also have an opportunity to ask questions about the interview and assessment process.

Step 6 Result of the Interview

Three recommendations may be made following the interview:

1. The applicant's training and experience is "substantially comparable" to that of a subspecialist of RANZCOG. He/she will be required to complete all components of the relevant subspecialty examinations. The relevant subspecialty committee may, however, recommend that the applicant is sufficiently eminent to be required to complete only the oral examination. The examination must be completed within the approved timeframe.

The recommendation for exemption on the grounds of eminence shall be based on the applicant

- i. having been a certified subspecialist for a minimum of 7 years;
 - ii. having been appointed to a senior position in Australia or New Zealand;
 - iii. and the relevant subspecialty committee agreeing that the candidate has achieved international standing based on a record of academic and/or clinical work relevant to the subspecialty.
2. The applicant's training and experience is "partially comparable" to that of a subspecialist of RANZCOG. The applicant is required to complete further prescribed training or assessment prior to being eligible to sit the appropriate examination.
3. The applicant's training and experience is "neither partially nor substantially comparable" to that of a subspecialist of RANZCOG and the applicant will be required to pursue a full training program in the desired subspecialty.

SECTION 2

Examination Guidelines for Overseas Trained Subspecialists

Overseas-trained Subspecialists who are required to complete the relevant subspecialty examination must pass all examinations within the next four available examinations. He or she must complete the examination process within five years of approval of the initial assessment of overseas qualifications. If an examination is not offered in every year of the five-year period, that period will be extended appropriately.

IMPORTANT

The College has no control over:

- **medical registration**
- **hospital appointments**
- **immigration matters**

Applicants are advised to contact the relevant medical board, hospital or the Department of Immigration and Citizenship for further information.

RANZCOG assessment does not guarantee employment in Australia.

SECTION 3

Subspecialty Committee Chairmen

Gynaecological Oncology

Dr Deborah Neesham (Melbourne)

Obstetrical and Gynaecological Ultrasound

Dr Fergus Scott (Sydney)

Maternal Fetal Medicine

Professor Jonathan Morris (Sydney)

Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

Dr Mark Bowman (Sydney)

Urogynaecology

Associate Professor Gilbert Burton (Sydney)

SECTION 4

College Appeals Procedures

IMPORTANT

Overseas Trained Specialists who have been assessed in New Zealand by the MCNZ and the New Zealand Regional Committee of RANZCOG should appeal to the MCNZ. [MCNZ contact details can be found in Section 1 of this booklet.]

OTSS applicants are advised that they may appeal decisions relating to their assessment. The RANZCOG Appeals procedures can be found in the RANZCOG Training Handbook on the College website www.ranzcog.edu.au.

Please note that these procedures are subject to change.