



Policy on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Preamble

RANZCOG regulations stipulate that all training in the FRANZCOG specialist training program (i.e. Core and Advanced training) 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 fulfilment of the training and assessment requirements for the 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 have met the standard eligibility criteria for entry to the RANZCOG specialist training program and must have successfully applied for entry to said program.
- 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 and before the applicant has commenced training. Applications will not be accepted after the applicant's training commencement date.
- 1.3 Categories of training/previous experience which predate the commencement of approved RANZCOG training and which may be recognised towards FRANZCOG training are as follows:
 - 1.3.1 Completion of at least one (1) year of supervised and formally assessed specialist training in a structured O&G training program offered by a recognised 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 recognised institution as defined in this item will not be considered.

This period of formal training must have commenced not more than five (5) years prior to the date of application.
 - 1.3.2 Completion of one (1) or more years of supervised and formally assessed training in a structured training program in a relevant O & G training program specialty that leads to the awarding of a formal recognised specialist qualification. 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.
 - 1.3.3 Specialist training programs can differ in their structure and content. When assessing training undertaken in another training program, it cannot be assumed a completed year in a particular training program will be deemed to be equivalent to a completed year in the FRANZCOG training program.



- 1.3.4 Assessment by the RANZCOG Specialist International Medical Graduate/Area of Need Assessment Committee as being not partially or substantially comparable to an Australian trained specialist.

Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) in this category are required to obtain the Australian Medical Council (AMC) certificate and then apply to enter the RANZCOG specialist training program at Year 1.

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

The provisions of item 1.3.1 above also apply to the candidates in this category.

- 1.4 The period of formal training must 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 O & G training program;
- logged clinical/surgical experience in O&G signed off by supervisors/consultants in the relevant training program.

Any approved periods of time that have been taken for parental leave whilst in a formal O & G training program will be excluded from the five (5) year timeline period prior to the date of application.

- 1.5 For all the above categories of applicants a period of up to four (4) years may be approved where appropriate.

2. Application & approval process

- 2.1 All RPL applications will be assessed by the College's RPL Working Group, which comprises members of both the RANZCOG Training Accreditation Committee, the Education Strategy Committee, and a trainee representative. This subcommittee is under the auspices of the Education Strategy Committee and reports via that body to the RANZCOG Board.

- 2.2 Applications for RPL must be made in writing to the Chair of the College's RPL Working Group and must be supported by all the documentation listed below:

- complete copies of any logbooks relating to previous O&G clinical/surgical training;
Logbooks will require:
 - Number of each procedure
 - Certification of logbook validity by supervisor or other relevant authority.
- copies of all summative assessments and competencies (with dates) conducted as part of previous O&G training;
- copy of any completed research project in O&G or a related discipline (where applicable), publications and/or posters
- 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;
- evidence of any teaching delivered.



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. If RPL is granted to an applicant an additional fee will be charged so that the combined cost of the application will be 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 an administrative fee will apply.
- 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 remaining 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. Reconsideration/Review/Appeals

- 3.1 As with all College decisions, RPL applicants have the right to seek reconsideration, review and/or appeal of a decision pursuant to the *Exceptional Circumstances, Special Consideration & Reconsideration Policy* and the *RANZCOG Appeals Procedures* as applicable. These processes are handled confidentially and are conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness. Additionally, they serve to provide a mechanism by which any individual who is dissatisfied with a College decision can seek redress without fear of reprisal. These policies may be accessed via the College website at [https://www.ranzcog.edu.au/about/Policies-Procedures/Appeals-Procedures?ext=.](https://www.ranzcog.edu.au/about/Policies-Procedures/Appeals-Procedures?ext=)

