



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

*Excellence in Women's Health*

# FRANZCOG Training – General information for Prospective Trainees

Information on the FRANZCOG Training Program and National Selection

**Report Title:** FRANZCOG Training – General Information for prospective Trainees

**Prepared by:** Fran Watson  
Senior Coordinator, Training and Education  
RANZCOG  
College House, Albert Street, East Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3002  
Email: fmwatson@ranzcof.edu.au

**Report Status:** 8 September 2016

**Report version:** 3.1

#### **Copyright**

© RANZCOG 2016

This work is subject to copyright under the laws of Australia and, through international treaties, other countries . Apart from any use as permitted by law, no part may be copied, adapted, reproduced or stored in a retrieval system or made available to the public by any means or process without written permission from The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG). Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer, RANZCOG, 254-260 Albert Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002, Australia.

#### **Disclaimer**

This publication may be of assistance to you but the RANZCOG and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

# Table of Contents

---

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>FRANZCOG (Specialist) Training Program</b>	<b>1</b>
Core Training Program	1
Advanced Training Program	1
Subspecialty Training	2
<b>National Trainee Selection Process</b>	<b>3</b>
Eligibility Requirements	3
Selection Criteria	4
Application process (including selection interviews)	4
<b>Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>International Medical Graduates (IMGs) intending to train in Australia</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Training sites and the RANZCOG Training Curriculum</b>	<b>5</b>
RANZCOG-accredited hospitals for specialist training	5
Further information about the training program	5
<b>Non-accredited Registrar Training</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Enquiries</b>	<b>6</b>



# FRANZCOG (Specialist) Training Program

---

The FRANZCOG training program is the only means through which a medical practitioner in Australia or New Zealand can become a specialist obstetrician / gynaecologist.

The training program comprises the Core Training Program (4 years or 184 weeks) and the Advanced Training Program (a further 2 years or 92 weeks), which culminates in Fellowship of the College (FRANZCOG). Trainees cannot progress to Advanced Training until they have satisfactorily completed all Core Training requirements.

## Core Training Program

Core Training consists of defined clinical and educational experience gained while working in teaching hospitals. The program includes:

- Rotation through a number of different hospitals, with at least 46 weeks (12 months) spent in a tertiary hospital and 23 weeks (6 months) in a rural hospital.
- Logged clinical work in obstetrics and gynaecology, which results in attaining the prescribed competency level required for certain procedures.
- Satisfactory completion of 4 years of training as determined by online Three-monthly Formative Appraisals and Six-monthly Summative Assessments completed by a Training Supervisor. (This requirement applies also to Advanced Training.)
- First year of training must be full-time, but fractional training (i.e. between 0.5 and 1.0 Full-time Equivalent) is possible in other years, subject to College and hospital approval. (Fractional training also available in Advanced Training.)
- Experience in gynaecological oncology sufficient to gain a working knowledge of the anatomy of the pelvic side wall.
- Utilising the resources of the CLIMATE eLearning Program.
- In-Hospital Clinical Assessment (IHCA) modules.
- FRANZCOG Written Examination (maximum 3 attempts).
- FRANZCOG Oral (SOE) Examination (maximum 3 attempts).
- Assessment of Procedural and Surgical Skills (APSS) Core and Advanced training.
- Satisfactory completion of a research project (end of Year 5).

## Advanced Training Program

The Advanced Program follows the Core Program. It comprises the final two years (92 weeks) of the FRANZCOG Training Program. Advanced Training can be tailored to meet the needs and interests of the individual trainee. The training may comprise:

- Further training in operative obstetrics and/or gynaecology.
- Training in provincial/rural posts.
- Developing research expertise.
- Developing expertise in areas of special interest.

- Commencement of Subspecialty training. (Subspecialty programs are of 3 years' duration and both years of Advanced Training years can be spent in the one Subspecialty.)

Advanced trainees will also be required to complete relevant Advanced Training Modules (ATMs) e.g. Sexual and Reproductive Health, Pelvic Floor Disorders, Hysteroscopic and Laparoscopic Surgery.

## Subspecialty Training

Subspecialty Training is offered in the following areas:

- Gynaecological Oncology.
- Obstetrical & Gynaecological Ultrasound.
- Maternal-Fetal Medicine.
- Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility.
- Urogynaecology.

# National Trainee Selection Process

---

## Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to apply for the College's six-year specialist training program leading to Fellowship of the RANZCOG (known as the FRANZCOG Training Program), applicants must satisfy all of the following College regulations in order to be eligible:

- B1.1.1 To apply for the FRANZCOG Training Program in Australia or New Zealand, medical practitioners must possess an approved Australian or New Zealand primary medical degree, or (for applicants in Australia) have successfully completed the requirements necessary to obtain the Australian Medical Council (AMC) certificate, or (for applicants in New Zealand) be a graduate in Medicine and Surgery of a Medical School recognised by the New Zealand Medical Council.
- B1.1.2 Medical Registration and Visa Requirements
  - B1.1.2.1 To apply for the FRANZCOG Training Program in Australia and New Zealand applicants must have citizenship or have been granted permanent residency status in the country of application at the time of application to the College, or provide satisfactory evidence that the applicant will have all necessary approvals to undertake training in Australia by the date of commencement of training.
  - B1.1.2.2 To apply for the FRANZCOG Training Program in Australia, medical practitioners must possess general registration with the Medical Board of Australia under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme and must also meet any residency or visa requirements enabling employment at any hospital within the jurisdiction(s) for which they are applying.
  - B1.1.2.3 To apply for the FRANZCOG Training Program in New Zealand, medical practitioners must have general medical registration with the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ).
  - B1.1.2.4 Documentary evidence of all requirements (general medical registration in Australia or New Zealand/AMC certification/permanent residency/visa requirements, as applicable) must be available to be provided if requested no later than the closing date for applications. If such evidence is requested and not able to be provided by this deadline, the application will not be considered.
- a. Applicants accepted to the FRANZCOG Training Program cannot commence training unless they have completed PGY2 (i.e. Postgraduate Year) or above, and have obtained an accredited training position and prospective approval to undertake training in that position. However, candidates can apply if they are still in that second postgraduate year – on the understanding that they must have completed that year by the time they commence training, if their application is successful.
- Prospective trainees cannot enter the training program until they have obtained an accredited training post at a teaching hospital accredited by the College for the Core Training component of the FRANZCOG Training Program (i.e. the first four years of training). The College's role is to assess each candidate's suitability for the training program, but the actual training positions are offered by the hospitals.

## Selection Criteria

For full details of the College's selection criteria refer to our website

<http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/how-do-i-apply68/selection-process.html>

Note that from 2016 onwards applicants cannot apply for the RANZCOG Training Program more than three times. This cap *will not* be retrospectively applied. 2016 will mark the 'first' application by candidates.

## Application process (including selection interviews)

Prospective trainees should check the RANZCOG website for full details on the application process and the timeline, including the deadline for applications.

Executive Officers at the RANZCOG Regional Offices in the relevant Australian states and in New Zealand can also be contacted for information on the application process. The College's selection process in Australia is a national one (including the ranking of applicants), but interviews are held in each state/region. An identical national selection process operates in New Zealand.

NOTE: Prospective trainees should understand that while they are applying for training positions in hospitals accredited as training sites by the College, the RANZCOG is not the employing authority. The College offers places in the training program, but actual employment is subject to the approval of the relevant hospital/health jurisdiction.

Following successful interview and acceptance of a training position, the College enables the trainee to access the online prospective approval of training form which has to be completed in order to register for training. The College's Finance Department will invoice the trainee for the annual training fees. Prospective trainees are not officially registered until the prospective approval form has been approved and the required fees paid.

For full details of the College's application and selection process (including the opening and closing dates for applications), refer to the Prospective Trainees section of the RANZCOG website

<http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/how-do-i-apply68/application-process.html>

## Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

---

Appropriate candidates may be eligible to receive credit for some of their previous training.

However, RPL can only be applied for **after** entry to the training program, not before. All applications for RPL are considered by the RANZCOG's RPL Assessment Subcommittee and must be supported by extensive documentation. For full details of the College's RPL policy, please refer to the website <http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/how-do-i-apply68/recognition-of-prior-learning-rpl.html>

# International Medical Graduates (IMGs) intending to train in Australia

---

For details about obtaining registration as an overseas graduate and meeting AMC requirements, please contact the Australian Medical Council directly via phone on +61 2 6270 9777 or the website at <http://www.amc.org.au>

**Important note:** The AMC has a number of possible competency assessment pathways for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) depending on their previous training and experience. This can range from being required to sit the AMC's Written and Oral Examinations to being exempted from the examinations but required to undertake a period of supervised training in an appropriate hospital, usually as a Senior Medical Officer (SRMO) or a non-accredited registrar. This assessment is the responsibility of the AMC, **not** the College.

For more information on this, please refer to the AMC website: [www.amc.org.au](http://www.amc.org.au) IMGs are advised that if they are required to sit the AMC's Written and Oral Examinations they must be prepared for a considerable delay between the time they sit the Written Examination and the time they sit the Oral Examination. This is due to the large number of candidates waiting to sit the examinations. The College has no control over this situation.

## Training sites and the RANZCOG Training Curriculum

---

### RANZCOG-accredited hospitals for specialist training

For a complete list of the public hospitals in Australia and New Zealand accredited by the College for Core Training in obstetrics and gynaecology, please refer to the *Training Program Handbook for Trainees Commencing After 1 December 2013* at <http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/specialist-itp-training-handbook-and-curriculum.html>

### Further information about the training program

Full details of the specialist training program and the Curriculum are available on our website at <http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/specialist-itp-training-handbook-and-curriculum.html>

# Non-accredited Registrar Training

---

Prospective trainees who are not eligible for the specialist training program but still want to undertake registrar training in Australia could consider working as a non-accredited registrar in a metropolitan or suburban hospital. However, this training is not part of RANZCOG training and is organised entirely by the employing hospital. Although O&G specialists who are Fellows of the College may be involved in supervising non-accredited registrars, this supervision does not involve any formal assessment by the College. Nor can non-accredited training be claimed later as credit for RANZCOG training under the College's Recognition of Prior Learning policy.

However, a number of IMGs who have worked in Australia as non-accredited registrars have later gone on to successfully apply for the College's six-year specialist program, so it can be seen as offering good preparation for people considering entry to the training program. But prospective trainees must understand that working as a non-accredited registrar does **not** guarantee selection into the RANZCOG training program.

For information about appropriate registration and visa requirements when working as a non-accredited registrar, IMGs should contact the Medical Board in the state or region where they wish to work.

## Enquiries

---

### Contact details for prospective trainees intending to apply for the training program

General enquiries about all aspects of the application process.

Ms Fran Watson

Senior Coordinator, RANZCOG Trainee Selection

email [fwatson@ranzcog.edu.au](mailto:fwatson@ranzcog.edu.au)

tel +61 3 9412 2948

### Regional offices

#### NSW & ACT

Ms Lee Dawson, Executive Officer

email [admin@ranzcog.nsw.edu.au](mailto:admin@ranzcog.nsw.edu.au)

tel +61 2 9436 1688

#### QLD

Ms Lee-Anne Harris, Executive Officer

email [ranzcogqld@ranzcog.edu.au](mailto:ranzcogqld@ranzcog.edu.au)

tel +61 7 3252 3073

#### Victoria & Tasmania

Mr Mathew Davies, Executive Officer

email [mdavies@ranzcog.edu.au](mailto:mdavies@ranzcog.edu.au)

tel +61 3 9412 2998

#### Western Australia

Ms Janet Davidson, Executive Officer

email [ranzcogwa@westnet.com.au](mailto:ranzcogwa@westnet.com.au)

tel +61 8 9322 1051

#### South Australia & Northern Territory

Mr Tania Back, Executive Officer

email [tback@ranzcog.edu.au](mailto:tback@ranzcog.edu.au)

tel +61 8 8267 4377

#### New Zealand

Ms Jane Cumming, Executive Officer

email [jcumming@ranzcog.org.nz](mailto:jcumming@ranzcog.org.nz)

tel +64 4 472 4608

RANZCOG website - [www.ranzcog.edu.au](http://www.ranzcog.edu.au)

[WWW.RANZCOG.EDU.AU](http://WWW.RANZCOG.EDU.AU)

© RANZCOG 2016

