



FRANZCOG Training Program- Academic Stream

Background

In 2010 the RANZCOG Board and Council took the decision to undertake a review of the FRANZCOG Training Program in order to ensure that it continued, as best as possible, to meet the needs of the communities for which it trains specialists in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology.

Following extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders, both internal and external, the Working Party convened to undertake this review presented a series of recommendations to the RANZCOG Board and Council in July 2011 and July 2012 regarding proposed revisions to the FRANZCOG Training Program applicable to trainees commencing training from 1 December 2013.

One component of the considerations during the review of the training program was a desire to provide greater recognition of and support for a career pathway for trainees wishing to pursue a career in academic O&G. This led ultimately to the development of the 'Academic Stream' of the FRANZCOG Training Program.

In considering the most realistic and effective strategy to promote academic training, a number of models, including the integrated academic training pathway developed by the RCOG www.rcog.org.uk/our-profession/academic-og, were considered, and a blended approach building on existing components of the training program while also providing a simple yet realistic mechanism for those trainees wishing to become clinician scientists and future academic leaders resulted.

The requirements of the Academic Stream of the FRANZCOG Training Program are contained in College Regulation B1.17. This document seeks to provide clarification of the operation of some aspects of the Academic Stream and should be read in conjunction with the regulations; however, to the extent that any inconsistencies arise, the regulations shall prevail.

Approval of Entry into the Academic Stream

Trainees who are accepted onto the FRANZCOG Training Program for commencement from 1 December 2013 are able to apply at any time from acceptance to be recognised as undertaking the FRANZCOG Academic Stream. Applications for such recognition shall be directed to the relevant Regional Training Accreditation Committee (TAC) for approval with consideration for the details of the PhD, including relevance to the discipline of women's health, and in accordance with the requirements of the relevant RANZCOG regulations.

Supervision and Oversight of Trainees on Research Leave

Regional Training Accreditation Committees play an important role in the oversight of College FRANZCOG trainees and, as such, the College is keen to ensure that those undertaking Research Leave are adequately supported during this time. While some trainees may undertake a PhD in another State/Region from the location in which they were accepted onto the College training

program, it is generally expected that the TAC relevant to the ITP in which they trained immediately prior to commencing their Research Leave, in the case of those who take Research Leave part way through Core Training, or the ITP to which they were allocated, in the case of trainees who take Research Leave prior to undertaking any component of Core Training, will continue to have oversight of the trainee during their period of Research Leave. It is this TAC to which all relevant registration, training and assessment forms and documents shall be submitted for review/approval during the period of Research Leave.

In accordance with relevant regulations and pursuant to this policy, FRANZCOG trainees undertaking approved Research Leave are required to register each year **and** provide written confirmation from the university of continuing enrolment and confirmation from their research supervisor of satisfactory progress of their PhD. Such documentation shall be reviewed by the Regional Training Accreditation Committee identified above and, in the event of any uncertainty as to the approval of continuation of Research Leave shall be referred to the Chair of the College Training Accreditation Committee.

The College generally expects that, at the conclusion of their Research Leave, a trainee will return to the ITP to which they were first allocated, in the case of those who take Research Leave prior to undertaking any component of Core Training, or to the ITP in which they trained immediately prior to commencing their Research Leave, in the case of those who take Research Leave part way through Core Training. Any requests to change ITP as a result of undertaking a PhD in a different State/Region must be made in accordance with RANZCOG regulations as in place at the time and enrolment at a university outside of that ITP will not ordinarily in and of itself constitute grounds for approval of any requested transfer.

Trainees may, in accordance with relevant College regulations, undertake some clinical training for the purposes of FRANZCOG training requirements while undertaking the PhD prospectively approved for the purposes of the FRANZCOG Academic Stream. In such instances, the Regional Training Accreditation Committee identified above shall continue to oversee the trainee's progress and assessment of training, including consideration of prospective approval of training, including ongoing Research Leave.

Recognition of Prior Research

Trainees who are accepted onto the FRANZCOG Training Program for commencement from 1 December 2013 are able to apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) of a PhD completed at an Australian or New Zealand University or another University listed in the THES Top 400 and may receive credit for up to one (1) year of Advanced Training. Such applications for RPL must be made in accordance with the requirements of the College's policy on Recognition of Prior Learning and as specified herein. Applications will only be considered where the PhD was completed not more than three (3) years prior to the date of commencement on the FRANZCOG Training Program.

Applications for RPL must be accompanied by notarised evidence of the completion and/or award of the degree and shall be referred to the RPL Subcommittee for approval with consideration of the details of the PhD, including relevance to the discipline of women's health.

Withdrawal from / Failure to Complete Research Degree

Pursuant to the relevant College Regulations, should a trainee withdraw from or fail to complete the Research Degree for which Research Leave from the training program has been granted, the time spent on approved Research Leave will not count towards total time in training. The Research Assessment subcommittee will determine the need for any further research-based requirement(s) to be completed by the trainee as part of the requirements of their training, mindful of the requirements of the mandatory trainee Research Project and the nature of research activities undertaken by the trainee whilst on approved Research Leave.

Approved by:	RANZCOG Board
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