

FRANZCOG Research Training Requirement Policy

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to outline the research requirements for the FRANZCOG training program.

Trainees commencing after December 1st, 2017 or other trainees who have chosen to opt into the “Research Points System”

Trainees who have commenced training after December 1st, 2017 or current trainees who have chosen to opt in are required to complete the three 3 points of research activity by the end of 52 weeks of FTE of time in Advanced training to meet the research requirement.

Research Study Points

Trainees must complete a minimum of 3 points of research activity by the end of 52 weeks FTE Advanced Time in Training (ATIT) to meet the research requirements of the FRANZCOG training program.

Research Study Activity Points:

- Attendance at the RANZCOG Research Toolkit or an approved equivalent research skills workshop or course. **(1 POINT)** *note only one workshop point can be accrued towards the 3-point research study requirement*
- First author poster presentation of an acceptable study design*, during training, accepted at a RANZCOG Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) or Regional Scientific Meeting (RSM) or National/International Medical Conference. **(2 POINTS)**
- First author oral presentation of an acceptable study design*, during training or within 2 years prior to commencing training, accepted by a RANZCOG ASM or RSM or National/International Medical Conference. **(2 POINTS)**
- First author publication of an acceptable study design* accepted by a medical journal indexed on Medline, PubMed or Index Medicus. To qualify in this section, the research must NOT be published exclusively in any of the following journal sections (or equivalent thereof): correspondence, discussion papers, editorials, or letters to the editor. **(3 POINTS)**
- Enrolment in a PhD program in any discipline, provided candidature has been confirmed following submission and assessment of a significant piece of written work and oral presentation. **(3 POINTS)**

Recognition of Prior Learning

- A PhD conferred in any discipline **(3 POINTS)**

- Master's by research conferred in any discipline provided it is associated with an approved first author publication in an Index Medicus, Medline or PubMed journal or an approved oral presentation within 2 years prior to commencing FRANZCOG training. **(3 POINTS)**
- First author publication of an acceptable study design* accepted by a medical journal indexed on Medline, PubMed or Index Medicus, within 2 years prior to commencing in the FRANZCOG training Program. **(3 POINTS)**

Study Design* – Eligibility Criteria

Prospective Research Study:

1. Laboratory research
2. Randomised control trial
3. Population survey
4. Other prospective research with:
 - a) A stated research hypothesis
 - b) Research Ethics Committee constituted approval

Retrospective Research Study:

1. A Retrospective research study drawn from a hospital or clinic database will be accepted if it meets the following 3 criteria.
 - a. Research Ethics Committee approval
 - b. A stated research hypothesis
 - c. A statement as to how the research had potential implications for clinical practice outside of the current research setting
2. A Retrospective Case-Control or Cohort Study

Review:

1. Cochrane Review - first author publication in Cochrane Library with Cochrane number.
2. Systematic Review - first author publication which meets PRISMA guidelines published in a medical journal indexed in Medline, PubMed or Index Medicus and must have a PROSPERO number.

Ineligible Study Designs:

The following do not meet the requirements of the research study and will not be accepted:

1. Case reports or case studies/series
2. Study protocols
3. Book chapters
4. Narrative literature review
5. Clinical audit (that does not meet one of the categories of an acceptable study design)

Trainees commencing prior to December 1st, 2017 Research Requirements.

Trainees who commenced training prior to December 1st, 2017 who have not opted to complete the study points-based Research model are required to undertake a research study. Trainees undertaking the research study must get prospective approval obtained from the Research Assessment Subcommittee (RAS) by the end of 92 weeks FTE in Basic training and aim to present the results of the study by the end of year 1 in Advanced training.

For trainees who have commenced prior to December 2017 and who have NOT chosen to opt into the “Research Points System”, the following apply:

- A research proposal in the health sciences must be submitted to the RAS by the completion of 104 weeks FTE of time in Basic training.
- The proposal must be approved by the RAS by the end of 130 weeks FTE in Basic training.
- Major amendments to the approved research proposal must be prospectively approved by the RAS.
- Trainees are required to present the final proposal that meets satisfactory completion by the end of 52 weeks FTE in Advanced training.
- The format of the research study proposal must meet the eligible study designs criteria as detailed in *“FRANZCOG Research Requirement Policy”*
- The format of the proposal presentation must meet one of the following criteria to be approved as “satisfactorily met” by the RAS:
 - Trainee listed as author; research accepted for publication in peer reviewed journal
 - Acceptance for publication in a journal which is non-peer-reviewed but accords with a pre-set list of journals approved by the RAS, with the trainee listed as a first author.
 - Acceptance for publication of a Cochrane Systematic Review, with the trainee listed as a first author.
 - Oral or poster presentation at a meeting approved as Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activity, accompanied by a written report with the trainee listed as first author.
 - A research report written in a publishable format.
 - The research report must contain a clearly stated hypothesis, outline an appropriate study design, use appropriate methods of statistical analysis, and demonstrate that a relevant, critical literature review has been undertaken.

Recognition of Prior Research

The following may be approved as meeting the requirement of satisfactory completion of the research project requirement:

- A formal higher research degree qualification; or
- A successfully complete honours (by research) year in the biomedical sciences.

Noting that any prior first author publication in English in a peer reviewed journal devoted to a branch of the biomedical sciences may be considered for meeting the requirement. Applications must be submitted to the RAS for assessment and approval.

Research Proposal and Study Points Assessment:

The Research Assessment Subcommittee will assess the suitability of the research proposal and assess the satisfactory completion of the research project.

RANZCOG College staff will make the initial assessment of submitted research study activity points based on “FRANZCOG Research Policy”, Regulations and Handbook. Discretionary issues regarding research study assessment will be referred to the Dean of Education or delegate who in turn may refer to the Chair or deputy Chair of the Research Assessment Subcommittee.

Version	Date of Version	Pages revised / Brief Explanation of Revision
v1.1	October/2021	Initiation of the Policy
v2.1	Month / Year	Details
v3.1	Month / Year	Details

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Policy Approved by:	Education Directorate / ELT / Education Standards Committee/RANZCOG Board
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