



SPECIALIST IMG ASSESSMENT

APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSORS

Background

The College relies upon the willingness of individual Fellows to give of their time in order to conduct many of its core activities. The assessment in Australia and New Zealand of the training and experience of Overseas Trained Specialists (SIMGs) for comparability to a RANZCOG trained specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology is one such area. SIMG applicants seeking recognition of their overseas specialist qualification apply first to the Australian Medical Council (AMC) or the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) and then, subject to fulfilling certain minimum requirements, are assessed by the College through an initial paper-based assessment, followed by assessment at interview for comparability to a RANZCOG trained specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology. These interviews are currently held six times each year in Australia and four times each year in New Zealand. Initial paper-based and interview assessments are also used to assess the suitability of Area of Need (AoN) applicants, in Australia, for the position to which they have been recruited, with AoN applicants concurrently assessed for comparability to an Australian-trained specialist at interview.

The interview panels typically comprise three (3) RANZCOG assessors and one (1) Community Representative. The number of panels required on any given occasion varies with the number of eligible SIMG/AoN applicants, but is generally two or three. That is; six times each year, 6 - 9 assessors are required in order for the interviews to be conducted. In addition to this, paper-based assessments are undertaken by individual assessors at other times throughout the year.

To allow for appropriate mentoring of new assessors, as well as ensuring a sustainable workload, the SIMG Assessment Committee recognises the ongoing need for the appointment of new assessors. Guidelines for the appointment of assessors are set out below.

Eligibility for Appointment

To be eligible for appointment as an SIMG/AoN assessor, the applicant:

- must hold the FRANZCOG
- must be involved in ongoing contemporary clinical practice in Australia and/or New Zealand and have completed at least three years of specialist clinical practice
- should ideally have had some previous experience in training and/or assessment of College trainees
- may have been through the SIMG/IMG assessment process or have involvement with SIMGs.

Roles and Responsibilities for Assessors

The role of an SIMG/AoN assessor is pivotal to the success of the RANZCOG's assessment of overseas trained specialists seeking to practice as specialist obstetricians and gynaecologists in Australia or New Zealand. It is expected that a Fellow appointed as an SIMG/AoN assessor will:

- be available to observe at least three interviews prior to participation as an active member
- be available to attend at least 3 interview days during the course of the year as an assessor

- participate in briefing sessions held immediately prior to and after the assessment interviews
- contribute to assessment processes designed to assess the competencies expected of a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology to practice independently and unsupervised in Australia
- adhere to all processes and protocols relating to the RANZCOG assessment of SIMG/AoN applications
- declare a potential conflict of interest of an individual SIMG being interviewed

Application & Appointment

Fellows wishing to become an assessor should complete the Application Form (available from the SIMG Coordinator at College House or from the College website at: www.ranzcog.edu.au/fellows/ots-assessors.shtml) and submit this, together with any accompanying information/documentation requested on that form. Applicants should ensure that the names and contact details of two Fellows of the College are included with their application for the purposes of obtaining written references. Fellows appointed as an SIMG/AoN assessor are eligible to claim one (1) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) point per hour for each candidate assessed, to a maximum of two hours per assessment, and to a maximum of 20 points per CPD period in the *Educator Activities* category.

Term of Appointment

Appointment to the SIMG/AoN Assessment Panel is initially for a period of three years. With the agreement of the Fellow, appointments can be rolled over to the next 3-year term if the SIMG Assessment Committee is satisfied that the ongoing requirements are met. Assessors may serve a maximum of three consecutive three-year terms.

Fellows who have served the maximum of three terms may formally reapply for appointment to the SIMG/AoN Assessment panel and if reappointed and continue to meet the requirements, they can serve another three (3) consecutive terms.

Ongoing Requirements

It is generally expected that a Fellow appointed as an SIMG/AoN assessor will attend at least three interviews during the course of each year. In the event that an assessor is not able to attend any interviews in a 12 month period, their status as an assessor will be reviewed by the Committee.

The Committee may elect not to reappoint an assessor in the event of:

- Repeated episodes of unavailability without valid reason
- Poor performance or unethical behaviour in the conduct of one's duties as an assessor
- Discontinuation of active clinical practice.

Periodically, the College runs workshops for SIMG/AoN assessors and new assessors are encouraged to attend following their appointment as an assessor.