

Frequently Asked Questions

FRANZCOG Program Trainee Selection

The following are Frequently Asked Questions relating to the FRANZCOG Selection Process. For clarification around Institutional Ranking, please refer to the Institutional Ranking FAQ information document available on our website.

1. General

What eligibility criteria do I need to meet to apply for the FRANZCOG training program?

Applicants must:

1. For Australia:
 - 1a. Have completed an approved Australian medical degree or successfully obtained the Australian Medical Council certificate (For IMGs)
 - 1b. Hold general registration with Medical Board of Australia
 - 1c. Hold citizenship or permanent residency or provide satisfactory evidence that they will have all necessary approvals to undertake training by the date of commencement of training.
2. For New Zealand (NZ):
 - 2a. Must be a graduate of a medical school recognised by the Medical Council of New Zealand
 - 2b. Hold general registration with Medical Council of New Zealand
 - 2c. Hold citizenship or residence permit or permanent residency or provide satisfactory evidence that they will have all necessary approvals to undertake training by the date of commencement of training.
3. Must be at least in PGY2 at the time of application and have completed the year prior to commencing training.

Do I have to attach documents to my application?

Specific sections of the application form will require documentary evidence of claims be attached. Every claim made in your CV/Application needs to be backed by documentary evidence. This must be provided in PDF format only and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all these attachments are checked and confirmed to be accessible files. The College will not tolerate false declarations and audits are carried out annually. Information found to be misleading will result in immediate disqualification of the application, and a lifelong ban from making future applications.

How do I get documents certified and who is able to certify?

It is important to ensure you provide certified copies of documents when directed to during the Selection application process. [Click here](#) to find out more information on how to and who can certify documents.

What are my chances of success if I apply?

In Australia, approximately the top third of applicants who apply are selected for training. In New Zealand, approximately half of applicants who apply are selected for training.

What should I consider if I was unsuccessful and wish to apply again?

Some applicants may benefit from waiting another year to improve their CV score before applying again. The likelihood of success for second and third time applicants is slightly higher than first time applicants, indicating that for each additional time you apply, there is a good chance of being selected. Applications to enter the FRANZCOG Training Program are capped at three attempts.

1.1 Eligibility

I will only receive my AHPRA (Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency) registration after the application closing date. Can I still apply to the program?

You may still submit your application as long as you submit your AHPRA registration to the College at least one week prior to interviews. This is the same for New Zealand applicants who receive their medical registration with the New Zealand Medical Council after the closing date of applications.

I am awaiting my permanent residency (AU)/residence permit (NZ). When do I need this by?

As per **RANZCOG Regulation 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.

1.2 Preferencing

Am I more likely to get in if I preference multiple regions?

If your personal circumstances would allow you to move to a new region in order to commence training then being able to preference more than one region/state/ITP may increase the likelihood of your selection. However, you should only preference regions/states/Integrated Training Program (ITP) that you are able and willing to accept if offered a position. This will be your training site/ITP for the duration of your Basic Training. If you are genuinely not able to commit to the commencement of Basic Training at a particular region/state/ITP then you should not list it in your preferences.

Australia only - Why are there two “phases” in FRANZCOG selection?

This strategy was implemented to ensure selection of applicants that are genuinely keen to train at these training sites are matched to these locations.

Australia only - Will preferencing Phase 1 increase my chances of selection?

The proportion of successful candidates for Phase 1 selection is very similar to the overall success rate for Phase 2 selection. You can apply for up to two Phase 1 sites. You should apply for a Phase 1 site if you have a genuine desire to train at that site and only apply to locations that you are happy to accept if offered a position. Selection of Phase 1 positions occurs prior to Phase 2 and the best ranked applicants for the location/ITP will be chosen, without consideration of Phase 2 preferences. It is the expectation that applicants who accept a position in a Phase 1 site, will complete their Basic Training at this site.

Australia only – I preferenced a Phase 1 region and was not successful, will I still be considered for a Phase 2 position?

Yes, all unsuccessful Phase 1 applications will automatically be added into Phase 2. It is compulsory to choose at least one Phase 2 region.

Australia only – On the Selection timeline I can see that Phase 1 offers are released before Phase 2. If I have preferenced Phase 1 and am not successful, will I be advised at the same time as the successful Phase 1 applicants?

Yes, all applicants who preferenced a Phase 1 region will receive a letter of a successful or unsuccessful outcome at the same time. Successful applicants have 48 hours to accept or decline the offer. All unsuccessful Phase 1 applications will automatically be considered for Phase 2.

If a successful Phase 1 offer is declined, the application will not be considered for Phase 2, and will be counted as an attempt.

Australia only – I would like to apply for the Rural ITP (RITP), but I do not meet the eligibility criteria. Can I still preference a rural Phase 1 region?

Applicants interested in applying for a RITP post who do not meet any of the eligibility criteria, are required to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). In the EOI, you will need to outline the reasons you wish to apply for a regional post. Your EOI will be reviewed, and you will be notified if you are eligible or ineligible. If you are deemed ineligible, you can choose to provide the Selection team with a new Phase 1 preference that is not rural.

2. CV/Application

What are some tips to improving my CV?

There are some areas of the CV where applicants may gain additional points, such as poster presentations, publications, and undertaking the Prevocational Pathway (PVP). Consider areas to improve in where you are currently unlikely to achieve maximum points. For example, if you haven't attained maximum points for research then this could be something you can focus on to achieve the maximum points available. If you have not maximised your points for clinical experience, you might consider delaying your application to maximise the available points.

2.1 Capping

I submitted my application but have decided that I no longer what to go ahead with the selection process. Can I withdraw my application?

An application can be withdrawn within ten days of the closing date without counting towards your number of attempts.

If you have exceeded the ten days and wish to withdraw your application due to exceptional circumstances, you can apply for special consideration [Exceptional Circumstances and Special Consideration Policy - RANZCOG](#).

My third application was unsuccessful however I wish to apply again. Is it possible to be granted another attempt?

If you are unsuccessful on your third attempt and you score within 10% of the required score for selection for that year, you will be offered one further final attempt. This will be stated in the outcome letter from Chair of RANZCOG Selection Committee.

If you have a further attempt available and you would like to apply again in future, then it would be worth spending time to review the feedback provided and then work on your application to improve areas such as CV and interview technique/knowledge.

I have applied three times as an Australian applicant. Can I apply as a New Zealand applicant?

No. An application for the FRANZCOG Training Program in Australia is counted separately to an application for the FRANZCOG Training Program in New Zealand. If you apply for both, then this is counted as two attempts. If you have exhausted all application attempts, whether they be for Australia or New Zealand, no further attempts are available.

2.2 Overseas Experience (Outside of Australia and New Zealand)

2.2.1 Recognised Prior Experience (RPE)

I have completed some of my O&G specialist training overseas, am I able to gain points for this in my application to FRANZCOG?

Yes, you may be eligible for points if you meet the required criteria. You will need to indicate this on your application and provide the following documentation:

- A statement or certificate attesting to satisfactory performance in the relevant training program, from the appropriate college or certifying body.
- Evidence of successful completion of written and/or oral examinations in O&G (where applicable).
- Certificate of Registration Status, also known as Certificate of Good Standing or Certificate of Current Professional Status, from the jurisdiction(s) where the applicant is currently practising.
- Must have commenced training not more than five (5) years prior to the date of application to FRANZCOG.

Assessment of your application for RPE will be undertaken and you will be advised as appropriate.

I am applying for RPE and am a Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) trainee from the UK - is one year of training at RCOG deemed equivalent to one year as FRANZCOG?

Not necessarily. A review of submitted information will be conducted as appropriate in relation to RPE and RPL.

2.2.2 Recognised Prior Learning (RPL)

I have been selected for the FRANZCOG training program. How do I apply for Recognised Prior Learning (RPL)?

If you are successful in obtaining a FRANZCOG training position and you have overseas experience outside of Australia and New Zealand that meets the specified criteria, then you can apply for RPL.

You will need to complete the application form which will be evaluated by the RPL committee to determine whether your overseas experience meets criteria, exams status and course recognition.

2.3 Clinical Experience

I have a 12 months of non-O&G contract which finishes after applications close. Am I able to gain points for this as 12 months of non-O&G experience?

No. For 12 months of non-O&G experience to count it must be followed immediately by minimum 12 months of O&G experience.

Why are points awarded for clinical experience outside of O&G?

Clinical experience outside of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, prior to commencing FRANZCOG training, may be valuable and can ensure a trainee has a well-rounded understanding of medical and surgical conditions and complications.

Does experience outside of O&G need to be working as a doctor?

Yes. Clinical work experience outside of O&G must be as a doctor and at least 12 months consecutively. Points will not be awarded for work experience for other medical professions e.g. Paramedic, Radiographer.

What locations are considered as 'rural'?

In Australia, the Modified Monash Model is used. Any area classified as MM2 and greater is rural.

In New Zealand, an approved regional/rural area is defined as any part of New Zealand that does not fall under the local authority boundaries of the City Councils of Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Porirua, Hutt, Upper Hutt, Christchurch, and Dunedin.

2.4 Professional

If I have completed the Prevocational Pathway (PVP) can I still get points for doing professional O&G development courses?

No. If you have completed your PVP you will earn points for this, and can gain no further points in this section.

Australia only – I have completed the Diploma of RANZCOG (DRANZCOG) but not the Prevocational Pathway (PVP). Can I receive points for the Diploma?

No, the Diploma does not earn any points. The PVP includes online modules and courses intended to prepare trainees for specialist practice that the Diploma does not. For more information on PVP please refer to the RANZCOG website.

New Zealand only – If I have completed the NZ Diploma can I still get points for doing professional O&G development courses?

No. If you have completed your NZ Diploma you will earn points for this and can gain no further points in this section.

2.5 Research

Does the topic of my research articles have to be specific to O&G?

1st author Publications in PubMed and/or MedLine journal can be on any medical topic.

Does the topic of my presentation have to be specific to O&G?

Presentations at a Regional, National, or International ASM or equivalent as a 1st author must be on a topic relevant to women's health.

2.6 Outstanding Leadership and Altruism

Does demonstrating evidence of unpaid/voluntary teaching and mentoring earn points?

No. Unpaid/voluntary teaching does not earn any points.

3. Referee Reports

Advice on choosing your referees:

It is important to choose referees that best support your application whilst meeting the following criteria:

- At least two referees must be Fellows of RANZCOG or holders of the NZ Postgraduate Diploma in Obstetrics and Medical Gynaecology (PGDipOMG); or a combination of both.

The remaining referees may include:

- RANZCOG Trainees who have completed Basic Training and are undertaking Advanced Training level or above.
- Any other consultants who are Fellows of Australian or New Zealand medical colleges with whom you have worked closely.

An example of an inappropriate referee might be a senior consultant who barely knows you. It is advised to use the most appropriate referees possible to support your application. An inappropriate referee is more likely to provide an invalid reference.

Is it advantageous to submit the maximum number of referees?

You must submit a minimum of three referees with the maximum being four. The overall score for referee reports is averaged based on the following:

- Where four reports are received, the total is averaged out of four.
- Where one, two or three reports are received, the total is averaged out of three.

What is an invalid reference?

If a referee marks 50% or more of the report as 'insufficient opportunities to assess' it becomes invalid and the referee has the option to modify their response or 'opt out'. If they opt out, you will be given the opportunity to nominate a replacement referee however, they will still be bound by the same deadline for completion. Referees will be given one reminder only from the College and ultimately it is your responsibility to ensure references are completed.

4. Interviews

What are some helpful tips to prepare for the interview?

- Practice with colleagues including supportive consultants and registrars, particularly those that have recently been successful in the Selection process.
- Review the sample interview questions available on the RANZCOG website.
- Be aware of important contemporary issues in women's health.
- Be prepared for a difficult question or two. If you find a question difficult, others will likely have trouble with it too.
- Don't let what you perceive as a poor performance on one question put you off answering other questions with which you are more comfortable.

5. Matching

Approximately how many training positions are available each year?

Whilst the College cannot provide specific numbers, approximately there are 80-90 positions in Australia each year. In New Zealand, there are approximately 20-30 positions each year. However, position numbers do vary from year to year in Australia and New Zealand. There are many factors such as, but not limited to, commencement of deferred trainees and returns from parental leave.

What is the state-based process for matching to ITPs?

A list of the successful applicants in national selection will be sent to each RANZCOG state/territory office and Chair of local Training Accreditation Committee (TAC). The process is conducted by each state/territory whereby successful applicants are matched with the available training positions in that region.

If an applicant receives an offer from a hospital or ITP, they have 48 hours to confirm their acceptance.

Australia only - Are employment requirements different across regions and states?

Some regions have specific jurisdictional requirements for employment in that region that must be completed before selection. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all requirements for employment in the jurisdictions in which you have applied. Failure to complete these may lead to being ineligible and again the training offer will lapse and offered to the next eligible applicant.

6. Feedback

My application outcome was unsuccessful, what feedback will I be provided with?

You will be provided with your final score percentile as well as your CV score and Interview score percentile. Final score percentile = CV application + Applicant nominated referee scores + Institutional Ranking (IR) score (if applicable) + Interview score.

Am I able to request my ranking and scores for each component?

In order to maintain confidentiality and integrity of the RANZCOG Selection process, the College cannot provide details of absolute scores or rankings.

Am I able to request the details of my individual referee reports?

In order to maintain confidentiality for the referee, the College cannot provide details of submitted reference reports at any stage.

My percentile rankings were better last year. Why are they lower this year?

Rankings are in relation to the scores of the current years' cohort only. Past performance, rank or scores from previous years, are not taken into consideration with ranking.

I have exhausted all my attempts and have been unsuccessful in getting onto the program.

What are some other options I could consider?

There are other career options in women's reproductive health, other than the specialist training program. We recommend seeking further career advice from senior medical staff in your local area.

There is also the RANZCOG Trainee Support Unit available (TSU) at trainee liaison@ranzcof.edu.au

7. Deferral*

*(only applicable to successful applicants)

I have personal circumstances that I believe meet grounds for deferral. How to do I apply for a deferral?

If you are offered and have accepted a place in the FRANZCOG Training Program may apply to defer commencement of training if they meet the grounds for deferral. You must lodge an application in writing (e.g. email) with appropriate evidence attached no later than four weeks prior to the commencement of the relevant semester. More information on the policy can be found on our website here: [Policy on Deferral of Training \(ranzcog.edu.au\)](https://www.ranzcog.edu.au/policy-on-deferral-of-training)

Version	Date of Version	Pages revised/Brief Explanation of Revision
V1	June 2023	Initial version
V2	November 2023	Full Review and addition of FAQs

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