



# Post-Fellowship Specialty Recognition Policy

<b>Area of College</b>	Education, Learning & Assessment
<b>Document Writer</b>	Executive Officer, Education Policy, Research and Evaluation (EPRE), Education, Learning & Assessment
<b>Document Owner</b>	Manager, EPRE, Education, Learning & Assessment
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<b>References/Legislation</b>	
<b>Associated RACP Documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Post-Fellowship specialty recognition application form and guide</li><li>• Post-Fellowship specialty recognition assessor guide</li><li>• Post-Fellowship specialty recognition referee report form</li></ul>
<b>Applicability</b>	Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

*Note: This is a controlled document within the [RACP Policy Framework](#).*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Post-Fellowship Specialty Recognition is the process by which Fellows of RACP Divisions, Faculties or Chapters can apply to be recognised by the College in a specialty or specialty field (hereafter referred to as 'specialty') related to an RACP training program, without having completed the relevant training program.

Post-Fellowship Specialist Recognition is not designed to replace post-Fellowship training. Post-Fellowship training is the standard pathway available to Fellows who wish to be recognised in an additional specialty. Post-Fellowship training is prospectively approved and supervised training in accordance with the requirements for advanced training in the relevant specialty. Provisions for recognising the prior learning of Fellows who undertake post-Fellowship training are outlined in the Recognition of Prior Learning policy.

## 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline a framework through which Fellows can be recognised by the RACP in a specialty related to an RACP training program. This is usually for the purpose of supporting an application for specialist registration with the relevant regulatory bodies in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand.

## 3. SCOPE

The policy applies to Fellows seeking recognition in a specialty:

- a) which is different to the specialty for which the Fellow is currently recognised by the RACP; and
- b) where the Fellow is currently recognised by the RACP as a Specialist Physician or Specialist Paediatrician without a nominated specialty.

This policy is limited to RACP recognition in a specialty. Specialty recognition for medical registration purposes is the responsibility of the relevant regulatory bodies in Australia and in Aotearoa New Zealand.

## 4. POLICY CONTENT

### 4.1. Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to apply for recognition in a specialty an applicant must:

- a) if applying for a specialty within a Faculty or Chapter, be a Fellow of the RACP (Divisions, Faculties or Chapters);
- b) if applying for a specialty within a Division be a Fellow of a Division;
- c) have practiced for a minimum of five years full-time equivalent (FTE) at Consultant level or equivalent in the specialty in which the applicant is seeking recognition; and

- d) have paid all membership subscriptions due and have no outstanding debts to the College.

### **4.2. Assessment process for recognition in a specialty**

- 4.2.1 Recognition in a specialty is based on an assessment to determine if a Fellow's competence, knowledge, skills and experience is at the level expected of someone who has completed the relevant RACP training program.
- 4.2.2 The assessment of the applicant's knowledge, skills and experience will take account of the:
  - a) Length, breadth and seniority of professional experience compared to the expected graduate outcomes of the relevant RACP training program.
  - b) Currency of expert knowledge and skills in the specialty.
  - c) Active continuing professional development in the specialty.
  - d) Contribution to the specialty.
- 4.2.3 The applicant should refer to published supporting guidelines and complete the appropriate application form for Post-Fellowship Specialty Recognition.
- 4.3.4 It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the required supporting documentation to the application. Required documentation may differ according to the specialty.
- 4.3.5 Applications will be considered by the relevant Training Program Committee or delegate(s) thereof.

### **4.3. Assessment outcomes**

- 4.3.1 An assessment for recognition in a specialty will result in one of the following outcomes:
  - a) The applicant is recognised by the RACP in the specialty, or
  - b) The applicant is recognised by the RACP in the specialty pending satisfactory completion of additional requirements determined by the RACP. These requirements must be able to be completed within 12 months FTE. A maximum of two calendar years will be allowed to satisfactorily complete the additional requirements.
  - c) The applicant is not recognised in the nominated specialty and the applicant is directed to apply to join the relevant training program via the post-Fellowship training pathway.
- 4.3.2 In cases where the applicant is recognised by the RACP in a specialty within a Faculty or Chapter, the applicant may be offered Fellowship of the relevant Faculty or Chapter.

## 5. RECONSIDERATION, REVIEW AND APPEALS

See the College By-Law: Reconsideration Review and Appeals Process By-Law for rights and procedures.

## 6. REVIEW OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed every three years or as required in the event of legislative changes or requirements. The policy may also be changed as a result of other amendments.

Staff and members of the College may provide feedback about this document by emailing [RACPPolicy@racp.edu.au](mailto:RACPPolicy@racp.edu.au).

## 7. DEFINITIONS

Term	Means
Board	The Board of Directors of the College.
College	The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, ACN 000 039 047, an incorporated body limited by guarantee.
Fellow, Trainee, and Member	have the same meaning as in the College Constitution.

## 8. HISTORY

Revision	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
1.0	01.01.2010	New policy - Recognition in a subspecialty of Adult Medicine or Paediatrics and Child Health without completion of the relevant Advanced Training Program policy
2.0	01.01.2018	Full revision
2.1	02.12.2022	Administrative update and transfer to new policy template
2.2	27.03.2025	Administrative update of committee titles as part of the Education Governance Review Initiative.