

Post-Fellowship specialty recognition policy

Policy Name	Post-Fellowship specialty recognition policy
Department	Education Services
Approved By	College Education Committee
Approval Date	03/11/2017
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Policy Status	Version 2 <i>(This policy supercedes the Recognition in a subspecialty of Adult Medicine or Paediatrics and Child Health without completion of the relevant Advanced Training Program Policy)</i>

1. Purpose and scope

- 1.1. This policy outlines a framework for Fellows of The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) to be recognised by the RACP in a specialty or specialty field (hereafter referred to as 'specialty') related to an RACP training program, usually for the purpose of supporting an application for specialist registration with the relevant regulatory bodies in Australia or New Zealand.
- 1.2. The policy applies to Fellows seeking recognition in a specialty:
 - 1.2.1. which is different to the specialty for which the Fellow is currently recognised by the RACP.
 - 1.2.2. where the Fellow is currently recognised by the RACP as a Specialist Physician or Specialist Paediatrician without a nominated specialty.
- 1.3. 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 New Zealand.

2. Eligibility criteria

- 2.1. To be eligible to apply for recognition in a specialty an applicant must:
 - 2.1.1. if applying for a specialty within a Faculty or Chapter, be a Fellow of the RACP (Divisions, Faculties or Chapters);

- 2.1.2. if applying for a specialty within a Division be a Fellow of a Division;
- 2.1.3. 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
- 2.1.4. have paid all membership subscriptions due and have no outstanding debts to the College.

3. Assessment process for recognition in a specialty

- 3.1. 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 Advanced Training Program.
- 3.2. The assessment of the applicant's knowledge, skills and experience will take account of the:
 - 3.2.1. Length, breadth and seniority of professional experience compared to the expected graduate outcomes of the relevant RACP training program.
 - 3.2.2. Currency of expert knowledge and skills in the specialty.
 - 3.2.3. Active continuing professional development in the specialty.
 - 3.2.4. Contribution to the specialty.
- 3.3. The applicant should refer to published supporting guidelines and complete the appropriate application form for Post-Fellowship Specialty Recognition.
- 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.
- 3.5. Applications will be considered by the relevant Training Committee or delegate(s) thereof.

4. Assessment outcomes

- 4.1. An assessment for recognition in a specialty will result in one of the following outcomes:
 - 4.1.1. The applicant is recognised by the RACP in the specialty, or
 - 4.1.2. 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 2 years will be allowed to satisfactorily complete additional requirements.

4.1.3. The applicant is not recognised in the nominated specialty and the applicant is directed to apply to join the relevant Advanced Training program via the post-Fellowship training pathway.

4.2. 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 Appeal

5.1. Rights of appeal and procedures on appeal are to be found in the College By-Law: Reconsideration, Review and Appeals Process.

6. Related policies and other documents

6.1. Post-Fellowship specialty recognition application form and guide

6.2. Post-Fellowship specialty recognition assessor guide

6.3. Post-Fellowship specialty recognition referee report form

7. Monitoring and evaluation

7.1. This policy will be monitored and evaluated by Education Services.