

Clinical Genetics and Genetic Pathology 2023 Reciprocal Training Arrangements Guide



About this guide

This guide has been developed by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) to provide trainees and supervisors with advice on how to complete Advanced Physician Training in Clinical Genetics concurrently with training in Genetic Pathology.

The reciprocal training arrangements outlined in this guide offer medical graduates an opportunity to gain Fellowship of both colleges (FRACP and FRCPA) in a shorter time than is required to gain both Fellowship's sequentially. The shortened overall time requirement for dual Fellowship is achieved by simultaneous recognition of supervised training in overlapping domains of the two curricula.

Over the course of the training programs, trainees must carry out a variety of teaching and learning activities, assessments and other program requirements in consultation with their supervisors. Satisfactory completion of the requirements set out in the relevant RACP and RCPA Training Handbooks is a prerequisite for admission to Fellowship of the RACP and Fellowship of the RCPA. Each training program is governed separately by the respective College. Each College can make its own decisions about the progression of individual trainees (certification/accreditation of training); the award of Fellowship; and changes to training program requirements using existing processes and structures. Trainees must plan their training in order to comply with both Colleges' policies and procedures

This guide applies to trainees registered in Australia or New Zealand in 2023. It includes information for both Australian and New Zealand based trainees and supervisors. Where not specified as being particular to either Australia or New Zealand, information applies to trainees and supervisors in both countries.

This guide is to be read in conjunction with the following:

- [RACP Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics 2023 Program Requirements](#)
- [RACP Clinical Genetics Advanced Training Curriculum](#)
- [RACP Professional Qualities Curriculum](#)
- [RCPA Genetic Pathology \(Medical Genomics\) Trainee Handbook 2023 \(if relevant\)](#)
- [RCPA Genetic Pathology \(Biochemical Genetics\) Trainee Handbook 2023 \(if relevant\)](#)
- [RCPA Trainee Handbook – Administrative Requirements 2023](#)

Overseeing committees regularly evaluate their training requirements to ensure that they are in line with educational best practice, and requirements are published and communicated annually. Changes to the training program that may substantially impact a trainee's plan for training will be implemented following an extended period of notice. It is the trainee's responsibility to ensure that they are following the correct version of the guide.

Quick links

- [Program overview](#)
- [Reciprocal Training Arrangement examples](#)
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Program overview

Trainees must complete all RACP requirements for [Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics](#), and all RCPA portfolio requirements included in the relevant [RCPA Trainee Handbooks](#), including workplace-based assessment of core practical skills.

RACP Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics

Trainees undertaking the reciprocal training arrangement need to fulfil all the requirements of the relevant Clinical Genetics stream set out in the Handbook.

Overview of Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics

Program	Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics
Overseeing committee	Advanced Committee in Clinical Genetics
Entry requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completion of RACP Basic Physician Training, including the RACP Written and Clinical Examinations• Current Medical Registration• Appointment to an appropriate Advanced Training position
Minimum duration	3 years (full-time equivalent (FTE))
Training Handbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RACP Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics 2023 Program Requirements
Curricula	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RACP Clinical Genetics Advanced Training Curriculum• RACP Professional Qualities Curriculum
Qualification	Fellowship of the Royal Australasian RACP of Physicians (FRACP) NB: Metabolic genetics and cancer genetics represent subspecialties within clinical genetics, and are not recognised by regulators in Australia or New Zealand as specialties in their own right. Certification as a subspecialist in cancer genetics or metabolic genetics can be provided by the Human Genetics Society of Australasia.

RCPA Training in Genetic Pathology

Trainees can choose to undertake one of two Genetic Pathology pathways.

The requirements and learning outcomes for Genetic Pathology (Medical Genomics) training are documented in the [RCPA Genetic Pathology \(Medical Genomics\) Trainee Handbook 2023](#).

The requirements and learning outcomes for Genetic Pathology (Biochemical Genetics) training are documented in the [RCPA Genetic Pathology \(Biochemical Genetics\) Trainee Handbook 2023](#).

Trainees must complete a minimum of 30 months of supervised laboratory training.

Consistent with the RCPA requirements, supervised training must be undertaken in at least two pathology services that are accredited to support RCPA Fellowship training in Genetic Pathology.

Overview of Training in Genetic Pathology

Program	Genetic Pathology
Overseeing committee	Board of Education and Assessment
Entry requirements	Completion of at least one year of clinical work
Minimum duration	30 months of supervised laboratory training (FTE)
Curriculum/ Training Handbooks/Summaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCPA Genetic Pathology (Medical Genomics) Trainee Handbook 2023 • RCPA Genetic Pathology (Biochemical Genetics) Trainee Handbook 2023 • RCPA Trainee Handbook – Administrative Requirements 2023 • RCPA Genetic Pathology Biochemical Genetics Portfolio Summary Spreadsheet • RCPA Genetic Pathology Medical Genomics Portfolio Summary Spreadsheet
RCPA Examinations	<p>The RCPA Basic Pathological Sciences (BPS) examination, the Part I and II Examinations must be undertaken. Trainees are eligible to sit the Part I examination after 24 months of accredited laboratory training time. Trainees are eligible to sit the Part II examination after successful completion of Part I. A pass in the BPS examination is required before the end of training.</p> <p>It is strongly recommended that trainees undertake the RCPA Part I and II examinations during a laboratory training year.</p>
Qualification	Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (FRCPA)

Examples of reciprocal training arrangements

The following tables are examples of what the reciprocal training arrangement may look like in practice for a trainee to complete Basic Physician Training and Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics, concurrently with training in Genetic Pathology

The examples demonstrate possible methods for completing training pathways in eight years.

Assumptions

In developing the examples in tables below, the following assumptions have been made:

- The trainee is able to obtain the training rotations shown in the examples.
- All training is full-time and completed satisfactorily.
- The trainee passes every assessment on the first attempt.
- The trainee does not interrupt their training, i.e., take leave in excess of eight weeks.
- There are no exemptions from training time beyond those indicated in the current training requirements
- 30 months (FTE) of supervised laboratory training must be completed.

Potential exemptions and training variations

- **12 months in another pathology service:** by the final year of training, some trainees may not have met the RCPA minimum requirement for 12 months' supervised training in another pathology service. Trainees may apply to the RCPA Registrar for up to four months concession from the 12 month requirement when submitting their final year training plan for prior approval.
- **Research during training:** For trainees undertaking research, the research training time may contribute up to a third of the 30 months supervised laboratory training requirement, subject to prior approval. The extent of the approved overlap for research and supervised laboratory training times will be determined by the extent to which the trainee's research relates to current and future genetic pathology practice.

Example of the Genetic Pathology and Clinical Genetics reciprocal training arrangement

Year of training	Training rotations and key assessments	Training program requirements fulfilled by rotations		
		RCPA Genetic Pathology Training Requirements	Basic Physician Training in Paediatrics & Child Health (Australia)	Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics
1	12 months clinical basic training rotations	<i>Not accreditable towards laboratory training</i>	12 months BPT	
2	12 months clinical basic training rotations		12 months BPT	
3	12 months clinical basic training rotations		12 months BPT	
	RACP Written Examination	<i>Not accreditable</i>	Written Examination	
	RACP Clinical Examination	<i>Not accreditable</i>	Clinical Examination	
Basic Physician Training completed				
4	12 months general clinical genetics	<i>Not accreditable</i>		12 months core general clinical genetics training*
	Approved university genetics course	<i>Not required</i>		Approved university genetics course
5	12 months laboratory (100%)	12 months laboratory training		6 months non-core training
	RCPA Basic Pathological Sciences examination	Pass in the BPS examination required by the end of RCPA training		<i>6 months not certifiable</i>
6	6 months clinical genetics (50%)	<i>Not accreditable</i>		6 months core training*
	6 months laboratory (50%) RCPA Part I Examination (Please refer to the relevant RCPA Handbook for specific requirements regarding timing and eligibility for the Part I Examination).	6 months laboratory training Part I Examination		<i>Not certifiable</i>
7	12 months general clinical genetics	<i>Not accreditable</i>		12 months core general clinical genetics training*
	Research project	Research project (if applicable)	Research project	
FRACP awarded (immediately on completion of all RACP training requirements)				
8	12 months laboratory (100%)	12 months laboratory training		
	RCPA Part II Examination	Part II Examination		
FRCPA awarded				

* Trainees who commenced before 2023, must undertake 12 months minimum (24 months strongly recommended) of core training in general clinical genetics.

Example of the Genetic Pathology and Clinical Genetics (Metabolic Genetics) reciprocal training arrangement

Year of training	Training rotations and key assessments	Training program requirements fulfilled by rotations		
		RCPA Genetic Pathology Training Requirements	Basic Physician Training in Paediatrics & Child Health (Australia)	Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics
1	12 months clinical basic training rotations	<i>Not accreditable towards laboratory training</i>	12 months BPT	
2	12 months clinical basic training rotations		12 months BPT	
3	12 months clinical basic training rotations		12 months BPT	
3	RACP Written Examination	<i>Not accreditable</i>	Written Examination	
	RACP Clinical Examination	<i>Not accreditable</i>	Clinical Examination	
Basic Physician Training completed				
4	12 months metabolic genetics	<i>Not accreditable</i>		12 months core metabolic genetics
	Approved university genetics course	<i>Not required</i>		Approved university genetics course
5	12 months laboratory (100%)	12 months laboratory training		6 months non-core training
	RCPA Basic Pathological Sciences (BPS) examination	Pass in the BPS examination required by the end of RCPA training		<i>6 months not certifiable</i>
6	6 months clinical genetics (50%)	<i>Not accreditable</i>		6 months core general clinical genetics training
	6 months laboratory (50%) RCPA Part I Examination (Please refer to the relevant RCPA Handbook for specific requirements regarding timing and eligibility for the Part I Examination).	6 months laboratory training Part I Examination		<i>Not certifiable</i>
7	12 months metabolic genetics	<i>Not accreditable</i>		12 months core metabolic genetics
	Research project	Research project (if applicable)	Research project	
FRACP awarded <i>(immediately on completion of all RACP training requirements)</i>				
8	12 months laboratory (100%)	12 months laboratory training		
	RCPA Part II Examination	Part II Examination		
FRCPA awarded				

Training processes and policies

Entering the program

Trainees must meet the entry requirements of the respective College prior to entry into the relevant program. Trainees must adhere to the registration process for each College.

Trainees who wish to apply for simultaneous recognition for a training period by both Colleges, must complete the relevant College forms and submit these separately to each College.

At the time of registration, trainees who indicate that they wish to join the reciprocal training arrangements will be asked to provide their consent for their information to be shared between Colleges.

RCPA

New trainees are required to submit an [Initial Registration](#) form to the RCPA.

Each year after initial registration as a trainee, trainees must reapply for [Annual Registration](#) and provide a Prospective Training Program every year.

During the first year of Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics, RACP trainees may apply to the RCPA to be considered for entry into the Clinical Genetics and Genetic Pathology reciprocal training arrangement.

Please refer to the [RCPA Trainee Handbook – Administrative Requirements 2023](#) for further information on the RCPA application process.

RACP

RACP trainees may commence Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics following satisfactory completion of Basic Training requirements including success in the Divisional Written and Clinical Examinations, and appointment to an appropriate Advanced Training position.

Candidates must secure an Advanced Training position at a suitable training site. Core training usually needs to be undertaken at [training sites accredited by the RACP](#) for Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics.

Once trainees have secured a training position, they must apply prospectively each year for the approval of their training in accordance with the due dates below. Applications can be made [online](#). Trainees must organise the timely submission of all necessary documentation and keep a copy of the application for future reference.

Trainees must indicate on the Online Registration system that they are part of the reciprocal training arrangement and that they have registered with the RCPA.

For any periods of laboratory training that will not be accepted by the RACP, trainees will be required to submit an Application for Interruption of Training to the RACP and pay the relevant fee.

The reciprocal training arrangement is not available to individuals who already hold FRACP. Clinical Geneticists wishing to train in Genetic Pathology should contact the RCPA for advice about entry requirements and recognition of prior learning.

Closing dates for RACP applications

15 February	Closing date for applications for prospective approval of rotations in the current year
31 August	Closing date for applications for prospective approval of rotations in the second half of the current year

Closing dates for RCPA Applications

15 February	Closing date for Annual Registration for all trainees
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Training fees

If a proposed training period is accepted by both Colleges concurrently, the trainee will be required to pay the relevant annual training fee to each College. If a training period is not accepted by one of the Colleges, the trainee will not be required to pay the relevant annual training fee to that College but may be required to pay an administrative fee (i.e. RACP Application for Interruption fee or RCPA Deferment Fee).

- [RACP membership fees \(including training fees\)](#)
- [RCPA schedule of fees](#)

Education policies

Trainees must plan their training in order to comply with both college's policies and procedures.

- [RACP education policies](#)
- [RCPA policies](#).

List of accredited settings

Each relevant College overseeing committee maintains list(s) of sites/settings accredited for training in the particular training program in Australia and New Zealand.

- [RACP accredited sites](#)
- [RCPA accredited sites](#)

RACP Advanced Training Portal

Resources for many of the requirements of this training program can be accessed through the [Advanced Training Portal](#). These include:

- summary of training completed and required
- detailed information on training rotations, including approval and certification decisions
- past examination results
- online teaching and learning and formative assessment tools
- information sheets, workflows, rating forms and interactive video tutorials for online tools

Admission to Fellowship

Trainees are eligible to be admitted to Fellowship of the RACP and Fellowship of the RCPA on the completion of all relevant requirements of each training program. Trainees will be notified by the relevant College once the overseeing committee has recommended them for admission to Fellowship, to invite them to apply for admission to Fellowship. The admission process involves completion of an application form, and the payment of a fee prior to admission.

Fellowship can be awarded for completion of one training program independently of progress in the other training program (as approved by the RCPA Board of Education and Assessment). FRACP in Clinical Genetics can be awarded before completion of pathology training.

More information

Contact the RACP

<p>Member Services Contact Centre First point of contact for general enquiries.</p>	<p><i>Australia</i> Email: raccp@raccp.edu.au Phone: 1300 MyRACP 1300 69 7227</p> <p><i>New Zealand</i> Email: raccp@raccp.org.nz Phone: 0508 MyRACP 0508 69 7227</p>
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Other RACP contacts

<p>Education Officer The education officer administers the training program and can respond to training-related enquiries.</p>	Email: ClinicalGenetics@raccp.edu.au
<p>Training Support The Training Support Unit supports trainees and supervisors of trainees who are experiencing difficulties in their training.</p>	Email: trainingsupport@raccp.edu.au
<p>Supervisor Support The Supervisor Learning Support Unit provides and coordinates supervisor skills training.</p>	Email: supervisor@raccp.edu.au
<p>Trainees' Committee The RACP Trainees' Committee (CTC) reports to the RACP Board and represents and advocates on behalf of trainees.</p>	Email: traineescommittee@raccp.edu.au
<p>New Zealand Trainees' Committee The New Zealand Trainees' Committee represents and advocates on behalf of trainees.</p>	Email: traineescommittee@raccp.org.nz

Contact the RCPA

<p>Email: rcca@rcca.edu.au Phone: +61 2 8356 5858</p>

Other contacts

<p>Specialty societies Specialty societies are medical/scientific societies that bring together research and clinical scientists and physicians who are actively involved in a particular area of medical practice, e.g. cardiology, geriatric medicine. The specialty societies are independent organisations that contribute to physician education through their members' involvement in RACP education committees and activities.</p> <p>Australasian Association of Clinical Geneticists (AACG) The Australasian Association of Clinical Geneticists (AACG) is the peak professional body representing Clinical Genetics physicians/paediatricians in Australia and New Zealand.</p>

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