

Q: What training is involved?

A: The prerequisite to becoming a haematologist is a qualification as a medical practitioner (including internship).

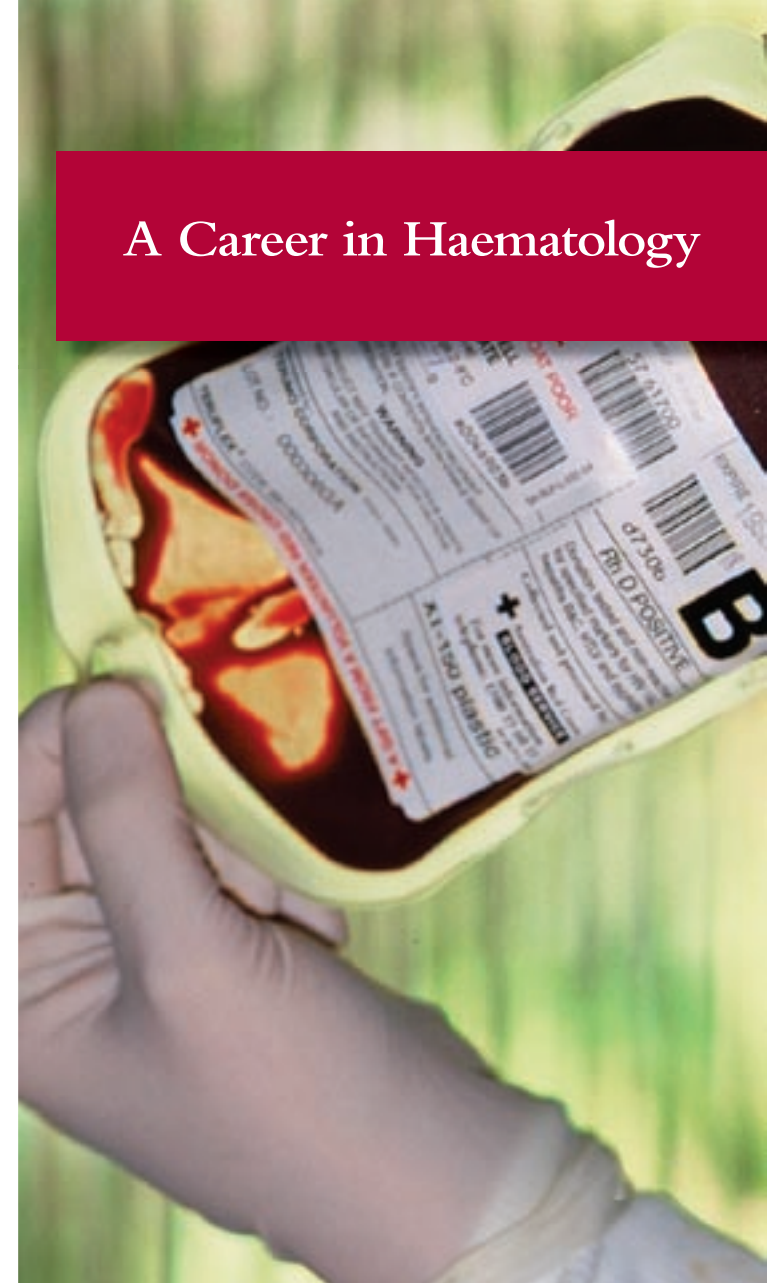
Following your internship you will train as a specialist in pathology.

The minimum time for specialist training is five years, in a registrar position accredited by the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia. This means that although you are undergoing further study, you are actually working and earning as a doctor at the same time. Once you have completed all the requirements and examinations and are accepted as a Fellow of the College, you are entitled to use the letters FRCPA after your name.

There are alternative paths for training in haematology. You can train for the RCPA qualification alone or train for dual fellowship with the Royal Australian College of Physicians (RACP). Entry into the joint training occurs after completion of all requirements for Basic Physician Training and success in the FRACP examination.

Medicine is Pathology

For more information
on becoming a Haematologist
go to the College website at
www.rcpa.edu.au



A Career in Haematology

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 **RCPA**
The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia

Haematology

Q: What is Haematology?

A: Haematology is an exciting discipline which encompasses both clinical and laboratory aspects of primary disorders of the blood as well as how other diseases affect the blood. Primary haematological diseases include the various forms of leukaemia and lymphoma, some forms of anaemia and diverse blood clotting disorders. Transfusion medicine also falls into the specialty of haematology.

Q: What does a Haematologist do?

A: Haematologists are not only involved in the diagnosis and management of patients with diseases of the blood, but are also often consulted to provide advice on the diagnosis and management of patients where a particular disease causes blood related problems. As a result of this dual role, haematologists take an active role in every stage of a patient's management, from initial clinic visit to laboratory assessment/diagnosis and finally to treatment.

Haematologists also supervise blood transfusion services and take a supervisory role in the management of haematology laboratories.



Q: What personal characteristics does a Haematologist need?

A: Varying combinations of the following traits:

- both an interest in technical and scientific laboratory matters and sound clinical skills
- interpretive and report writing skills
- communication and interpersonal skills
- capacity to work as part of a team of medical, nursing and laboratory personnel
- ability to follow through from diagnosis to prognosis to treatment
- ability to be consistent

Q: What are the advantages of becoming a Haematologist?

A: Haematologists may be involved in many activities at both a laboratory and clinical level, and it is often this variety and diversity which can provide a major attraction to the discipline.

For haematologists interested in the laboratory aspects of the specialty, there are many opportunities to develop specialised skills in diverse areas such as blood cell and bone marrow morphology, haemoglobinopathies, haemostasis and thrombosis, transfusion medicine & malignant haematology.

Haematology is a very rewarding branch of medicine, which has many attractions. It combines the challenge of accurate diagnosis using modern scientific techniques with the application of these laboratory based tests to the clinical setting. It also lends itself well to part time work.

