

Membership of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA)

The RCPA offers membership at a number of levels including Fellowship, Affiliateship, and Associateship. In addition the College has three Faculties: The Faculty of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, the Faculty of Science and The Faculty of Clinical Forensic Medicine where people are able to attain Faculty Fellowship. There is also a special category of Honorary Fellowship for persons of eminence in relation to Pathology.

All categories of membership have access to considerable benefits of membership which are detailed in this Fact Sheet.

Categories of Membership

1. *Fellow: FRCPA*

To become a Fellow you must hold a medical degree and have completed specialist training (5years) and/or examination/assessment by the College and be granted admission to Fellowship by the College. The College recognizes prior learning and qualifications of overseas trained pathologists and other medical practitioners and on application to the College doctors may be granted exemptions from training time/examinations/assessments. Further information for overseas trained doctors/specialists can be found on the College website. Fellows of the College have full voting rights and access to all College activities and resources.

2. *Trainee*

In order to become a Fellow of the College a person must become a trainee of the College. Trainees will hold a medical degree and be working towards completing Fellowship requirements for the College.

Trainees have full rights to educational and social activities of the College.

3. *Fellow of the Faculty of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology: FFOMP FOMP*

The College Board of Directors has the power to set up Faculties. The Faculty of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology was established in 1996. It has its own set of By-laws. Some Faculty members are dual members (i.e. also full Fellows of the College). Fellows of the Faculty have voting rights within the Faculty. All Faculty Fellows have website and publication rights. Other than those grandfathered in during the first two years of the Faculty, and those grandfathered in as odontologists in 2012, all members go through a full College training program in order to be eligible to become Fellows of the Faculty.

4. *Fellow of the Faculty of Science FFSc and FFSc (Research)*

The Faculty of Science commenced in 2010 via a grandfathering process for Fellows, a process which ceased at the end of December 2011. A full College training program is now required to achieve Fellowship. Another path to Faculty Fellowship is via research. This path is by review and available to very experienced scientists with a high level of documented research/publications. Faculty Fellows have a science or medical degree and are able to demonstrate some seniority in terms of their roles, publications and activities in the realms of pathology. There are many Fellows of RCPA who are also Fellows of the Faculty of Science. Faculty of Science Fellows have website and publication rights.

5. *Fellow of the Faculty of Clinical Forensic Medicine FFCFM*

The Faculty commenced the grandfathering process in 2014 concluding in December 2015 from which time a full College training program became the requirement for Faculty Fellowship. The Faculty also offers a lesser level of Associate membership. To qualify for training a medical degree and postgraduate degree are the minimum requirements. Faculty Fellows have website and rights and voting rights within the Faculty.

6. *Affiliate:*

Specialist Pathologists who have qualifications and experience from their country of origin who have not undertaken RCPA Fellowships examinations may apply for Affiliate Membership.

7. *Honorary Fellowship: Hon FRCPA*

Conferred by the College Board of Directors on persons of eminence, or any person who renders exceptional services to the science or practice of Pathology, to the profession of Pathology, or to the College.

8. *Associate: ARCPA*

University graduates, who have in the opinion of the Board of Directors sufficiently distinguished themselves in a field associated with pathology can apply to be considered as Associates.

- Associates have website and publication rights.

Benefits of Membership

There are considerable benefits to membership. A Fellowship of the RCPA is an internationally recognized qualification and holding the Fellowship of the College and Fellowship of Faculties of the College will confer on members' qualifications which are able to be used in relation to career advancement. (FRCPA, FFOMP, FFSc, FFCFM). In addition there are considerable other benefits, which can be accessed. Other members' benefits include:

Access to the member section of the College Website, which includes many features and documents not available on the general site.

1. *Education Portal*

Access to the password protected member only Education Portal which contains considerable education and training resources across the whole continuum of education from medical student to trainee to specialist pathologist or scientist. Superficially:

- Discipline specific curriculum and related educational material

Modules on generic curriculum activities such as Safety Quality and Laboratory Management

- Other modules
- Supervisor information and training
- Trainee Networks
- Practice Exams/answers/examiner feedback
- Tests
- Case Studies
- Recorded lectures
- Recorded course materials
- RCPA QAP Cases

2. *Access to all other Education Activities of the College*

The College conducts a large number of educational activities including the highly successful annual Pathology Update Conference which attracts well over 1,000 delegates each year across all disciplines of pathology. In addition there are many other conferences, short courses, video conferencing activities, webinars and tutorials run by the College.

3. *College Publications*

The College produces a range of publications including:

- A scientific journal called *Pathology* which is a highly regarded peer reviewed journal.
- *Pathology Today* a fortnightly e-newsletter that keeps members abreast of all College and pathology related activities and news.
- *RCPA Policy Documents* that can provide advice and assistance to you on professional practice and quality issues are on the website.
- *ePathWay*, an electronic newsletter that aims to educate the public about pathology in general and about pathologists and scientists; and
- *Common Sense Pathology* where each issue concentrates on a particular topic and is aimed at informing requesting doctors.
- RCPA Pathology Manual, The Manual, a comprehensive online facility which is aimed at requesting doctors and gives full information on conditions, symptoms, suggested tests.

4. *Continuing Professional Development Program (CPDP)*

All members are eligible to enroll in the RCPA's CPDP program a requirement increasingly required by registration agencies around the

world. CPDP is mandatory for College Fellows.

5. *Advocacy for Pathology and Pathologists and Scientists*

The College has many opportunities to influence governments and other bodies in all matters related to pathology (except industrial relations), but particularly in the areas of standards, quality, safety, and education and training and workforce. The College also has an active public relations campaign to promote pathology pathologists and scientists.

6. *Participation in Large Specialty Networks of Colleagues*

Membership of the RCPA gives you access to the contact details of a very large and diverse range of pathologists and senior scientists in Australasia and also in many other overseas locations.

7. *Participate in Committees of the College*

There are many opportunities for members to become actively involved in College activities via one of its various committees, a very rewarding activity and one which creates many new contacts for people and access to the latest proposals and activities, particularly in discipline based committees.

Other Important Information for potential members

1. *Fee Reductions for Difficult Socio-Economic Conditions*

All training and examination and membership fees may be reduced on the basis of financial circumstances. This is a sliding scale, For example

- If an applicant/members income from professional practice is less than \$20,000 fees are reduced to 10% of normal fees;
- If an applicant/members income from professional practice is between \$20,000-\$30,000 fees are reduced to 20% of normal fees;
- If an applicant/members income from professional practice is between \$30,000-\$60,000 fees are reduced to 50% of normal fees;
- If an applicant/members income from professional practice greater than \$60,000 fees are at normal rates;

Further previous requirements to pay for training time or exams which you have been exempted no longer apply.

2. *Substantially Comparable Overseas Qualifications*

For those qualifications that the College deems to be substantially comparable to the Australasian Fellowship overseas trained pathologists may follow a Peer Review pathway to Fellowship which only involves a period of satisfactory peer assessment (usually 12months) to attain Fellowship. Currently the FRCPATH qualification from the UK is accepted in this category, mainly Anatomical Pathology and Chemical Pathology, but other disciplines may also be eligible depending on training.