

Criteria for Founding Fellowship of the Faculty of Clinical Forensic Medicine (FCFM) of the RCPA

1. Founding Fellows

This document sets out the criteria by which medical practitioners will be accepted as Founding Fellows of the FCFM. Achievement of Fellowship by this method will continue until **16 October 2015** after which Fellowship can only be achieved by Faculty examination.

Fellowship will be restricted to medical practitioners who are registered in a country acceptable for membership of the RCPA.

2. Qualifications

Applicants will have a relevant postgraduate qualification, obtained by formal assessment, in Clinical Forensic Medicine, which could include:

- Master of Forensic Medicine (Monash)
- Graduate Diploma in Forensic Medicine (Monash)
- Diploma in Medical Jurisprudence (DMJ) (Clin)
- Diploma in Forensic Medicine (DFM)
- Diploma in Forensic Medical Sciences
- Diploma in Forensic Medicine and Bioethics
- Membership of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of London (by Examination)
- Any other relevant postgraduate qualification acceptable to the Faculty Committee and RCPA Board of Directors

3. Eligibility for Fellowship of the Faculty

3.1 Subject to By-law 8, a person is not eligible to be admitted as a Fellow of the Faculty unless:

(1) that person:

(1) (i) is a registered medical practitioner of a State or Territory of Australia, or of New Zealand or Hong Kong or Singapore or Malaysia and is entitled to practise medicine in his or her country of domicile; and

(ii) holds a medical qualification/s regarded as satisfactory by the Board of Directors; or

(2) is a Fellow of the College with demonstrated involvement in the area of Clinical Forensic Medicine; and

(3) that person satisfies any other terms and conditions prescribed by the Board of Directors pursuant to By-law 7.2.

3.2 The Board of Directors will prescribe terms and conditions with which a person must comply in order to be eligible to be admitted as a Fellow of the Faculty, including terms and conditions relating to:

- (1) Exemptions
- (2) Curriculum
- (3) Accreditation
- (4) Training 8

(5) Examination components

(6) Assessments

and in this regard the Board of Directors may seek recommendations by the Faculty Committee.

4. Clinical Practice

In addition to the qualifications listed above candidates will need to demonstrate the equivalent of ten years of practice in clinical medicine. Included in those ten years should be the equivalent of five years of full time practice in the field of Clinical Forensic Medicine at a level adequate to satisfy the Faculty Committee. Clinical practice in Clinical Forensic Medicine includes writing expert opinion reports and giving evidence in court.

5. Other Requirements

Candidates for Founding Fellowship will also need to demonstrate one or more of the following:

5.1 Achievement

The applicant must be able to demonstrate a national and/or international profile in Clinical Forensic Medicine, or a significant leadership role for a Clinical Forensic Medical Service within a nationally recognised institution. This could be evidenced by any of the following achievements:

- Holding a senior role in the field of clinical forensic medicine
- Presentation of research findings at conferences
- Being invited or accepted as a speaker at national/international meetings,
- Being involved in Clinical Forensic Medical scientific bodies or journals
- Other similar activities recognised by the Faculty Committee.

5.2 Academic – A University appointment for the purpose of teaching in Clinical Forensic Medicine. This includes teaching of clinical forensic medicine to one or more of:-

- university undergraduates and/or postgraduates
 - other medical practitioners
 - specialist/postgraduate trainees
- OR
- supervision of a higher degree research student.
- OR
- Delivering courses in CFM on behalf of a University or appropriate medical or scientific body.

5.3 Research and Publications - The applicant must have published (as sole or joint author) publications based on research carried out or supervised by the candidate, in peer-reviewed journals, and/or authored, co-authored or edited chapters, volumes or textbooks on topics clearly related to Clinical Forensic Medicine.

6. Additional Information

In exceptional circumstances, Founding Fellowship may be awarded to medical practitioners who have a relevant appointment in this specialty and do not have any of the above qualifications, but who are working in and have made significant contributions to the field of CFM for a minimum of five years. This will include recognised specialists in other fields (e.g. FRACP) who have satisfied these requirements without a formal qualification in Clinical Forensic Medicine.

6.1 These applicants must be able to demonstrate that they could have met Founding Fellowship criteria listed under paragraphs 4.1 and 5.1 above for at least five years prior to the time of application.

6.2 Up to two references from suitably qualified or prominent sources in the CFM or legal professions may be tendered in support of these applicants.