

Policy

Subject: Fees for Training and Examination for General Fellowship and Fellowship of Faculties

Approval Date: November 2008, August 2009, December 2009, November 2011, August 2012, November 13, July 2014, November 2016, February 2017, November 2019

Review Date: November 2023

Review By: Board of Education and Assessment (BEA)

Number: 4/2008

All Trainees and International Medical Graduates undertaking RCPA training and examinations in order to gain an RCPA Fellowship or Fellowship of Faculties have to pay fees. In addition, Medical Students and other doctors sitting the Basic Pathological Sciences Exam will need to pay fees.

There are five types of fees:

1. Initial Registration Fee
2. Annual Training Fee
3. Examination Fees
4. Overseas Trained Specialist (OTS)/International Medical Graduate (IMG)/Area of Need (AON) Application and Determination Fees.
5. Mailing Deferment Fee for those candidates who wish to defer training a deferment/ mailing fee will be charged to enable continued web access and College mailings.

Fees are set by BEA and the Board of Directors annually. The fees are payable by Trainees at the time of Initial Registration or in the case of IMGs/AON on receipt of application.

1. Payment of Fees for Retrospective Accreditation of Training Time

At the time of applying for initial registration for training with the College, Trainees or IMGs may apply for the retrospective accreditation of training.

- (a) Trainees and IMGs who have commenced training in an accredited laboratory and have delayed registering with the College are required to pay the equivalent of the current annual training fee for the period accredited retrospectively.
- (b) Trainees who have been awarded a qualification in pathology from another medical specialist college or professional body which the College approves, for example FRCPath or equivalent or Masters of Pathology Malaysia are not required to pay a fee for that period of retrospective accreditation. In addition trainees who apply for retrospective accreditation of training time having started their pathology training under the auspices of the Hong Kong College of Pathologists, Singapore Medical Council or are undertaking the Master of Pathology Malaysia or have been granted training time exemptions as an IMG by the College, are not required to pay a fee for that period of retrospective accreditation.

- (c) In all other cases, for example a research degree, the Trainee will be required to pay a fee of 50% of the current annual trainee fee for each year of retrospective accreditation granted.

2. Fee for Exemption from Examination

Candidates who are granted exemptions from any part of the examination process will not have to pay the fee for the examinations from which they have been exempted.

3. Failure to Attend Examination and Withdrawal from Sitting Examination

The College recognises that on occasions candidates may wish to withdraw from examinations. While this is permitted, there is considerable work associated with organising examinations. As a consequence, withdrawal fees will be charged. The date of withdrawal shall be the date on which the College receives written notification of withdrawal.

- (a) If the reason for withdrawal is based on medical or compassionate grounds the fee will be refunded less a cancellation fee of 10% plus GST or held over until the next examination cycle. (See Policy 2/2001 "Examination of Candidates Suffering from Illness, Accident or Disability").
- (b) If the reason is other than those specified in 1, for those candidates who withdraw from an examination more than 8 weeks prior to the date of the examination a cancellation fee of 10% of the fee plus GST will be charged. In this circumstance the balance of the fee will be refunded.
- (c) For those candidates who withdraw from an examination less than 8 weeks but more than 4 weeks prior to the date of the examination a cancellation fee of 50% of the fee plus GST will be charged. The balance of the fee will be refunded.
- (d) For those candidates who withdraw from an examination less than 4 weeks prior to the date of the examination, there will be no refund of any fees.
- (e) For those candidates who fail to attend a set of examinations without prior notice of withdrawal, not only will there be no refund of any fees, but a record of "Failed to Attend" will be recorded.
- (f) For those candidates who fail to attend one component of a set of examinations, "Failed to Attend" will be recorded for that component. There will be no refund of any fees.

4. Fee for Repeat Examination

Candidates who repeat any examination must pay the full examination fee for the repeated examination. Refer to Policy 7/2001, Repeat Examination.

5. Late Application for Examination

Applications for all examinations (except the Repeat Part 2 exams) close at 1700 hours Sydney daylight saving time, 7 days before the last working day of February each year. The closing date is observed strictly. An examination fee is payable at this time.

Where a repeat Part II examination is offered to candidates the closing date is 15 working days after the release of the examination results.

Late applications will be accepted within a two week period after the original closing date. A substantial late fee of 50% of the exam fee will be charged.

Any of these provisions can be waived on application to the Board of Directors, having regard to the circumstances of individual cases.

6. Fee payment for Pathologists (Applying for Fellowship) from areas where the College conducts Training Programs

Pathologists with qualifications from countries where the College has training programs will need to apply to the College to obtain a determination as to exam requirements and training time exemption that would be granted to them for sitting for Fellowship. These pathologists do not need to pay the OTS/IMG application and determination fee but will pay a fee equivalent to the current Initial Registration fee. They will also be required to pay any exam fees and training fees for any additional training required.

7. Application and Trainee Fees for OTS /IMG/AON

Any overseas trained specialists wishing to apply for Fellowships Determination in order to work in Australia apply directly to the College. For overseas trained specialists who wish to work in New Zealand they are required to apply initially to the New Zealand Medical Council (see Policy "Assessment of Overseas Trained Doctors and Overseas Trained Specialists in Australia and New Zealand/2006").

For OTS/IMG wishing to work in Australia an application and determination fee is payable.

A fee is also charged by the New Zealand Medical Council and New Zealand Council of Pathology for OTS/IMGs wishing to work in New Zealand.

OTS/IMG/AON applicants who proceed with Fellowship will only be required to pay annual training fees for the additional training years required in an accredited laboratory. In the year(s) in which OTS applicants apply to undertake College examinations only they will need to pay the mailing fee.

Overseas Trained Specialists (IMGs) with basic medical qualifications from Australia or New Zealand do not need to apply via the AMC or NZ Medical Council as they are able to be registered already in these countries. These doctors are required to pay a fee equivalent to the current Initial Registration Fee and any other costs incurred in obtaining primary source verification of overseas qualifications.

8. Eminent Pathologists seeking to become Fellows from countries where the College has training programs for Fellowship and in areas where Fellowship numbers are small

- (a) State and Regional Council members and Chairs of Advisory Committees may from time to time nominate (after canvassing appropriate committees and other Fellows) eminent Fellows or doctors with qualifications in genetics or doctors or dentists with oral pathology qualifications to apply for Fellowship.
- (b) The Applicant will need to complete the required form detailing their qualifications and experience and requesting a training determination from the BEA/Chief Examiner as to what requirements they need to complete to gain Fellowship.

No initial application fees or OTS Assessment fees would be payable. No trainee fees would need to be paid.

9. Reduction of Fees in the Case of Financial Hardship

The BEA may in its discretion waive the whole or any part of the initial registration, annual registration and examination fees which would otherwise be payable by a Trainee of the

College who in the opinion of the BEA is suffering from financial hardship or in such other circumstances as the BEA considers appropriate and upon such terms and conditions and for time as the BEA sees fit.

The Board of Directors has delegated responsibility for this decision in accordance with the following:

- The Trainee completes an “Application for Release or Remission of Subscriptions/Fees because of Financial Hardship or other circumstances” form which is available from the College
- The form is returned to the College for review by one of the Management Team cheque signatories; those being the Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Financial Controller and Executive Officer who determine the fees to be charged
- The fees chargeable will be on a sliding scale:
 - If the Trainee’s gross income from professional practice is less than AUD\$20,000 per year the Trainee will be charged 10% of normal fees.
 - If the Trainee’s gross income from professional practice is between AUD\$20,000 - \$30,000 per year the Trainee will be charged 20% of normal fees.
 - If the Trainee’s gross income from professional practice is between AUD\$30,000 - \$70,000 per year the Trainee will be charged 50%.
 - If the Trainee’s gross income from professional practice is over AUD\$70,000 per year the Trainee will be charged the normal rate prescribed for that year.
- A new invoice will be issued to the Trainee detailing the new subscription rate.
- The Trainee must apply annually for this fee reduction.

10. Fee Reduction for Medical Students undertaking the Basic Pathological Sciences Examination

Medical students undertaking the BPS exam will only be required to pay 20% of the normal examination fee.

Review of Decisions:

If the Applicant is not satisfied with the outcome of the decision, the Fellow who nominated the applicants should write to the College Secretary/Treasurer who will take the issue to the Board of Directors for review.

If the Fellow is not satisfied with the decision of the Board of Directors, the Applicant may appeal the decision under normal College Review process under Article 49A.



**Application for Release or Remission of Subscriptions because of
Financial Hardship and Other Circumstances – for Trainees**

The Information Supplied on this Form will be treated as Confidential

The Board of Education and Assessment (BEA) may in its discretion waive the whole or any part of the initial registration or examination fee which would otherwise be payable by a Trainee of the College who in the opinion of the BEA is suffering from financial hardship or in such other circumstances as the BEA considers appropriate and upon such terms and conditions and for time as the BEA sees fit.

Applicant's Surname: _____ D.O.B. _____

Given Names: _____

Address for Correspondence: _____

Telephone
(Home): _____ (Work): _____

E-mail address _____

Statement of Circumstances in Support of Reduction in Annual Subscription:

My expected Gross Income from Professional Practice will be:

- Greater than AUD \$70,000
- AUD \$30,000 – AUD \$70,000
- AUD \$20,000 – AUD \$30,000
- Less than AUD \$20,000

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature of BEA representative or delegate: _____

Please Note: Fellows will need to reapply annually for fee reduction.