

Policy

Subject: **Interrupted and Part-time Training**
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The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia does not limit the duration of training and acknowledges that training may be interrupted or undertaken on a part-time basis for a number of reasons, including ill-health, research, and parenting. However, in order to maintain the currency and integrity of training, the following conditions shall apply:

Part-time Training

1. Any period of part-time training must entail at least 20% of a full-time clinical load, ie eight hours per week.
2. Trainees proposing to undertake part-time training must provide the Board of Education and Assessment with a prospective training program agreed to by the supervisor so that this may be taken into account in calculating the duration of training.
3. Full annual trainee registration fees must be paid for part-time training. There is a provision for Trainees to apply for reduction of fees for financial hardship if appropriate (see Policy Fees for Training and Examination for General Fellowship 4/2008).

Interrupted Training

1. Trainees must notify the Board of Education and Assessment, prospectively wherever possible, of interruptions to training and anticipated duration thereof.
2. Trainees who take leave for part of a year will still be required to pay the full annual trainee registration fee.
3. Trainees on leave from the program are strongly advised to maintain communication with the College, which provides access to the website and mailings. This can be achieved by payment of a deferment fee.
4. Other than in exceptional circumstances Trainees may not defer for more than two consecutive years.
5. Where training has been interrupted for more than five years, additional training may be required at the discretion of the Board of Education and Assessment.

Trainees should refer to Policy No. 2/1998: Limitation on the Number of Examination Attempts and Length of Time Examination Passes Remain Valid, regarding the currency of any examinations they have completed.