

Policy

Subject: Admission to College training programs
Approval Date: July 2018; August 2021
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Review Committee: Board of Education and Assessment
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Preamble

The purpose of this policy is to set out eligibility criteria for trainee registration with the College, and to clarify the responsibilities of the College and employers in applying eligibility and selection criteria respectively.

Selection and appointment of pathology registrars, or trainees in the RCPA faculties, is the responsibility of employers. For pathology trainees, this must be in accordance with the RCPA Guideline for Selection of Pathology Trainees where applicable.

Employers should ensure that prospective trainees meet eligibility criteria prior to selection.

Prospective trainees, in addition to ensuring that they meet eligibility criteria, should consult the applicable curriculum handbooks and the selection guideline for information about desirable experience and personal characteristics expected of applicants.

The administrative processes for registration applications are set out in the Trainee Handbook – Administrative Requirements.

General requirements

Before applying for training with the College, the prospective trainee must be employed in a supervised training position at a site accredited by the College for training. Trainees will not be accredited with training undertaken whilst in an observer position.

Registrars or trainees who are employed in supervised positions at RCPA accredited sites will be eligible for registration for training with the RCPA, provided they meet the criteria as set out in this policy.

Eligibility for registration as a medical pathology trainee

1. To be eligible for registration as a medical pathology trainee, the applicant must meet one of the following requirements:

Either:

A. Qualifies for registration as a trainee with the RCPA, i.e., the applicant must:

- I. Have a medical degree recognised for registration purposes in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, or Saudi Arabia. In Australia, medical graduates of universities outside of Australia and New Zealand must satisfactorily complete requirements of the Australian Medical Council for the AMC Certificate (including the mandatory clinical year) and have obtained General Medical registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) before commencing specialist training.

- II. Be registrable as a medical practitioner in the country of domicile.
- III. Have completed at least two years (full-time, or part-time equivalent) clinical experience post primary medical degree. The Chief Examiner may, in exceptional circumstances or in an area of need, consider applications from those who do not have at least two years clinical experience, provided applicants can demonstrate alternative experience relevant to the practice of pathology.

Applications should be submitted via bea@rcpa.edu.au in the form of an email or letter outlining relevant and demonstrated experience and qualifications for the Chief Examiners consideration.

OR

B. Be an Overseas Trained Specialist assessed by the College as requiring no more than 2 years additional assessment/training.

2. In Australia, the College will only accept prospective trainees who have full general registration or, for those who have gone through the overseas trained specialist (OTS) pathway, have limited registration, and have been issued with an AMC Report 1 or have limited registration under the Medical Board of Australia's Competent Authority Pathway.

Eligibility for registration as a trainee in the Faculty of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology

To be eligible for registration as a trainee in the Faculty of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, the applicant must meet one of the following requirements:

Either:

A. Qualifies for registration as a trainee with the RCPA.

i.e., The applicant must either meet the criteria prescribed for medical pathology trainees, OR:

1. Have a dental degree recognised for registration purposes in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, or Saudi Arabia
2. Be registered as a dental practitioner with the relevant Dental Board or Council and be entitled to practice dentistry in the country of domicile.
3. Have completed at least two year's (full-time, or part-time equivalent) dental practice post primary dental degree in posts approved by the RCPA Board of Education and Assessment. In exceptional circumstances, applicants who do not have at least two years' clinical experience may be considered provided they can demonstrate alternative relevant experience of a similar level.

OR

B. Be a specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology or Forensic Odontology from a country other than Australia or New Zealand, who is assessed by the College as requiring no more than 2 years additional assessment/training to achieve the standards prescribed in the respective trainee handbooks.

Eligibility for registration as a trainee in the Faculty of Clinical Forensic Medicine

To be eligible for registration as a trainee in the Faculty of Clinical Forensic Medicine, the applicant must meet one of the following requirements:

Either:

A. Qualifies for Registration as a trainee with the RCPA.

i.e., The applicant must:

1. Have a medical degree recognised for registration purposes in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, or Malaysia. In Australia medical graduates of universities outside of Australia and New Zealand must satisfactorily complete requirements of the Australian Medical Council for the AMC Certificate (including the mandatory clinical year) and have obtained General Medical registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) before commencing specialist training.
2. Be registered as a medical practitioner in the country of domicile.
3. Have completed at least three years (full-time, or part-time equivalent) clinical experience post primary medical degree. In exceptional circumstances, applicants who do not have at least three years clinical experience may be considered provided they can demonstrate alternative relevant experience of a similar level and are competent in the management of acutely ill and injured patients.

OR

B. Be an overseas trained medical specialist assessed by the College as requiring no more than 2 years additional assessment/training to attain the standards prescribed in the Clinical Forensic Medicine Trainee Handbook

Eligibility for registration as a trainee in the Faculty of Science

To be eligible for registration as a trainee proceeding to Fellowship of the Faculty of Science by examination, the applicant should be a graduate of a university in Australia or New Zealand with a degree at Australian Qualifications Framework level 7 (minimum) with subjects relevant to the field of pathology. If such a degree is awarded by an overseas tertiary education institution the qualifications should be approved by the College. To enter the program, trainees are ordinarily required to have five (5) years post graduate experience working as scientists in a Pathology related field.

References

RCPA Trainee Handbook – Administrative Requirements

Curriculum/Trainee Handbooks <https://www.rcpa.edu.au/Trainees/Curriculum>

Faculty By-Laws