

Policy

Subject: Examinations for Overseas Trained Specialists Incorporating Timing of Part II Examinations

Approval Date: August 2004, March 2007, May 2010, July 2011, February 2014, July 2017, April 2021

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Review By: Board of Education and Assessment

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Unless following the Peer Assessment Pathway, the assessment of Overseas Trained Specialists (OTs) seeking Fellowship of the College always includes at least some components of the Part II examination. It may also include components of the Part I examination, particularly practical examinations, in order to assess diagnostic competence. Since the Part I examinations are only available in the May/August examination cycle, the College offers special conditions to facilitate the completion of Fellowship requirements.

The following policy applies to OTs seeking to sit Fellowship examinations:

1. Under normal circumstances OTs who have had a training determination will be required to submit an examination application by the standard annual closing date of seven days before the last day in February of the year of examination. These candidates will sit in the May/June/August examination cycle.
2. If 5 years of Training Time has been approved the candidate does not need to register for training but will need to apply for examinations, and in the year sitting the examinations pay a Mailing/Deferment Fee (see Fees for Training and Examination 4/2008).
3. If further top up training is required a candidate will need to register as a Trainee and pay the normal annual registration fees (see Fees for Training and Examinations 4/2008).
4. OTs who are required to undertake one year or less of supervised assessment may enrol to complete Part I and Part II exams within the one year (With the exception of Anatomical Pathology and Forensic Pathology disciplines). Those required to undertake more than one year must take their Part II examinations in the final year.
5. Candidates in disciplines other than Anatomical Pathology who are required to sit both Part I and Part II examinations, may apply to sit Part II in the November cycle after success in the Part I examination (refer to Policy 7/2001: Repeat Examinations),
6. Candidates receiving a determination after the annual examination closing date, including those required to take assessments should apply to the Registrar, Board of Education and Assessment for permission to sit assessment in that year.
7. All applications are accepted at the discretion of the Chief Examiner. It should be noted that in the case of late applications for practical examinations, insufficient examination materials may preclude acceptance.
8. OT applicants will be required to pay the standard fee for all examinations they are required to undertake.
9. All OT applicants sitting for examinations even those who are not required to undertake supervised training are required to have an RCPA supervisor to assist them in familiarisation with Australian practice and examination requirements. The College may request that supervisor reports are submitted.

Please also refer to:

Policy 2/1998: Assessment of Overseas Trained Specialists seeking Medical Registration in Australia or New Zealand via the Australian Medical Council and the Medical Council of New Zealand Processes

Policy 7/2001: Repeat Examinations

Policy 2/2009 Award of FRCPA to Overseas Trained Specialists via Peer Review Pathway