



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

AMC Bridging Courses for Overseas Trained Doctors

RACGP bridging programs are developed in context with the Australian Medical Council's process for professional recognition of overseas trained doctors. The programs are designed to rapidly enhance the capacity of candidates to improve their professional knowledge in the areas necessary to pass the AMC examinations and for subsequent clinical practice.

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The programs have been designed to assist overseas-trained doctors who:

- Seek professional recognition in Australia
- Are preparing for the AMC examinations
- Are seeking guided learning to target key performance gaps in sitting the AMC examinations
- Have experienced difficulties with past AMC examinations.

Multiple Choice Questions

In preparation for the AMC examination

KEY COMPONENTS

- Flexible delivery format
- Unique and intensive ten week course that combines block lectures, guided tuition, trial exams and RACGP's online testing facility
- Developed by medical educators experienced in the AMC examination processes
- Guided learning centres on the AMC specifications for the Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) examination
- Targets performance gaps and expedites the learning process
- Simulated examination activities promotes high standards of medical competence
 - Real-time feedback
 - Medical knowledge is tested on the following key subjects:
 - Internal Medicine
 - Surgery
 - Paediatrics
 - Psychiatry
 - Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Medical educators who are experienced in the examination process provide an environment that is both supportive and within the context of the examinations. The course is designed to immerse participants in content that is equivalent to an internship standard in Australian medical practice.

Format

This course paces you through the extensive knowledge areas covered in the AMC MCQ Examination, with particular attention given to interpretation in the Australian context.

The MCQ course is a ten week intensive course in preparation for the AMC MCQ examination. The **majority of the course is run online** (internet), although you are also required to attend **3 face-to-face weekend workshops usually about a month apart** (from 9 am to 5 pm). You will receive a total of 400 questions online throughout the course. On the Monday of each week 40 questions are posted on the online site and then remain online for TWO weeks, 24 hours a day. Participants receive immediate feedback by way of the correct answer and explanation after each question as well as a weblink to an article relating to each question. Our online testing system provides an intensive learning experience that will help you identify areas for improvement.

On the online site there is also a **discussion board** which is monitored by an experienced medical educator. This discussion board is a forum for you to ask questions of other participants on the course and receive guidance from a medical educator moderator when required.

We provide access to our "AFP Clinical Challenge" (**Australian Family Physician**) on-line resources. This on-line activity comprises a total of 16 multiple choice questions. The questions are drawn from articles of each month's issue of "AFP". You are encouraged to read the relevant "AFP" articles and use them as a resource to answer the questions. Orientation to this resource will be provided. They will be available for six months.

You are also required to attend **three face-to-face weekend workshops** (5 days in total).

- a. The first of these is an orientation day on the first day of the course (a Saturday) and begins with an orientation to the Australian Health System and the AMC examination process. During this workshop you will be given details of the process of doing a multiple choice question paper, information on how to navigate the online learning website, and you will undertake a short trial examination in order to test your skills. This Trial exam will then be analysed in detail by an experienced medical educator on the day with the course participants..
- b. The second face-to-face weekend workshop will take place half way through the course with the third face-to-face weekend workshop towards the end of the course. For both of these workshops you will have previously sat a three hour, 125 questions trial examination paper online and the weekend will involve analysing your scored paper, question by question. You will receive a folder of relevant readings and information

HEALTH TOPICS

The course centres on a wide range of topics that are commonly covered in the AMC MCQ examination and are relevant to the Australian context of health care. They include the following key topics:

Internal Medicine

Coverage of all the systems, regions and disciplines will be taught, including the complex topics of Neurology, Breast and Endocrine, Musculoskeletal, Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Nutrition/Metabolism. Key areas of community health and public medicine will also be covered.

Surgery

Comprehensive coverage of all the systems, regions and disciplines will be taught, including pre-op and post-op complications, cancers, acute abdominal and surgical emergencies.

Paediatrics

Common paediatric conditions will be explored, with particular emphasis on childhood infections, paediatric emergencies such as meningitis, foreign body injuries and child abuse.

Psychiatry

This includes coverage of depression and anxiety disorders, schizophrenia and management of these.

Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Particular attention will be given to complications of pregnancy, intrapartum management of normal and abnormal labour as well as post-partum complications. Gynaecological conditions will include contraception, menopause and vaginal infections.

Program advantages

- Experienced medical educators provide participants with support and guidance to maximise the learning environment.
- Guided learning provides participants with the opportunity to improve their professional knowledge in all disciplines to the level required to pass the AMC MCQ examination.
- All participants are provided with appropriately timed performance feedback.
- Groups are kept to a small number to allow easy participation in the discussion.

Courses have been developed by experienced medical educators who have examiner experience and some of whom are themselves overseas trained doctors.

Candidates should be:

- assessed by the Australian Medical Council as being eligible to sit for the MCQ exam (contact the AMC directly for details on this – e.g. allocation of an AMC reference number)
- able to prove they have passed the Occupational English Test (OET) for medical practitioners or the International Language Testing System (IELTS) with an overall B grading for the OET and a Band 6.5 in the IELTS system, or have been granted exemption as per the requirements set out by the AMC for eligibility to sit the examination.

Course fee: \$3,960. Financial assistance through paying by instalments can be arranged.

Clinical Course

In preparation for the AMC Structured Clinical Assessment Examination

KEY COMPONENTS

The nine-week program is run on 8 consecutive Fridays from 9 am to 5 pm with the last session being the Trial Exam (Structured Clinical Assessment = SCA) on the following Saturday.

- Developed by expert medical educators experienced in the AMC examination processes
- Flexible delivery format
- Identifies and targets performance gaps
- Small group learning (**1 Medical Educator to 6 participants**)
- Simulated examination activities promoting high standards of medical competence
- Projects designed to be rigorous in the context of the Australian medical environment
- Focus on communication skills and application of medical knowledge in the context of practising medicine in Australia.

The program is based on small group learning principles. Learning is enhanced in an environment that is both supportive and in context with the examinations, with experienced Medical Educators providing demonstrations of effective performance.

The teaching methodology is based on clinical examination and case study training. It promotes rapid detection of performance gaps. Candidates are immersed in the social, legal and ethical contexts of Australian Medical Practice through a learning content that is relevant to Australian medical practitioners. A key focus is on the communication skills required for diagnosis and management of a consultation.

KEY LEARNING MODULES**Medical and Surgical consultations (including psychiatry)**

Medical and surgical consultations include case scenarios and cover core disciplines of medicine and surgery. The diagnosis and management of crisis counselling for a wide range of serious illnesses will be covered. 'Difficult' (e.g. bad news, angry patients) consultations are featured.

Obstetrics and Gynaecology consultations

Conditions covered will include antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal complications of pregnancy. A range of gynaecological conditions commonly seen in Australia will also be considered.

Paediatric consultations

Common paediatric conditions will be explored, with particular emphasis on consulting, counselling and management skills. Difficult and more complex issues, such as counselling parents of a child with a newly-diagnosed condition, will also be covered.

Physical Examination

Demonstration and supervised practice in physical examination of different clinical scenarios will be offered.

Investigations

Interpretation of pathology and ECG results will be incorporated into the simulated clinical consultations.

PROGRAM ADVANTAGES

- Experienced medical educators provide participants with close attention and support to maximise the learning environment.
- Training simulations actively involve the candidate in targeted learning for rapid skills development and retention. Immediate feedback is provided to better identify and correct performance gaps.
- Candidates are taught current methods of good doctor-patient relationships and the opportunity to critically appraise and improve their own consulting skills.
- Courses have been developed by medical educators who have examiner experience, some of whom are themselves overseas-trained doctors.

We provide access to our "AFP Clinical Challenge" (**Australian Family Physician**) on-line resources. This on-line activity comprises a total of 16 multiple choice questions. The questions are drawn from articles of each month's issue of AFP. You are encouraged to read the relevant AFP articles and use them as a resource to answer the questions. Orientation to this resource will be provided. They will be available for six months.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates should be:

- registered with the Australian Medical Council, have successfully completed the Australian Medical Council MCQ examination, and be able to provide proof of this.
- able to prove they have passed the Occupational English Test (OET) for medical practitioners or the International Language Testing System (IELTS) with an overall B grading for the OET, or a Band 6.5 with no score below 6 in the IELTS system, or have been granted exemption as per the requirements set out by the AMC for eligibility to sit the examination. When applying to sit the AMC Exam, please check the AMC website as to the English language test requirement.

CLINICAL TRIAL EXAMINATION

Structured Clinical Assessment

Key components

- Simulated multi-station trial examination
- Standardised assessment of clinical skills
- Developed by expert medical educators experienced in the AMC
- Examination processes
- Practise in simulated examination conditions

The program is designed to engage the participant in a multi-station assessment that is structured according to the AMC Structured Clinical Assessment examination process. Clinical skills are assessed in the areas of physical examination, investigation, diagnosis, management, therapeutics, counselling/patient education and procedures and are critically assessed by our experienced medical educators. Feedback is provided following the trial examination.

Key learning objectives

Stations utilise actual or role playing patients. Stations assess clinical skills in the following areas:

- Participant's approach to the patient, physical examination technique and communications skills
- Participant's skills, thoroughness and orderliness in eliciting physical signs
- Interpretation of signs and investigations to arrive at a diagnosis and management plan
- Appropriateness of management plan and of any additional investigations

These are similar to the structured clinical assessment examination assessment objectives.

Program Advantages

Even well prepared examination candidates will benefit from a trial examination. Simulated examination conditions help participants' time management, improve prioritisation of tasks and help reduce examination nerves. All participants are provided with timely performance feedback. This provides opportunities for participants to improve their examination performance. Courses have been developed by experienced medical educators who have examiner experience and are themselves, overseas-trained doctors.

Eligibility

Candidates should be registered to sit the Australian Medical Council exam and have passed the MCQ examination.

Course fee: \$5,940 Financial assistance through paying by instalments can be arranged.

For further information on our bridging courses ...

call RACGP (1800 284 732)
email gpeducation@racgp.org.au
visit our website at www.racgp.org.au/protd/amc