



THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

# Standards for General Practice Education and Training Requirements for Fellowship 2005

This booklet forms part of the *Standards for General Practice Education and Training* series. It is designed for use by doctors working towards Fellowship of The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. The college provides various pathways to Fellowship, which are described in this booklet.

**Publications in this series:**

*Trainers and Training Posts 2005*

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# DEFINITIONS

The key terms relating to education in general practice used in this series are:

Education committee	Each faculty has an education committee with subcommittees that oversee vocational training and associated standards, continuing professional development and relationships with undergraduate departments of general practice.
Faculty	The RACGP is a faculty based organisation with six state and territory faculties, and the National Rural Faculty (see <i>Contact addresses</i> ); the chairs of the state and territory faculties sit on the national council that governs the college.
Fellow	A general practitioner (GP) who has been admitted to Fellowship (or is a Fellow) of the RACGP. Fellowship is granted to those who demonstrate that they have reached the standard required for unsupervised general practice in Australia.
General practice	General practice is part of the Australian health care system and operates through primary care facilities (predominantly private medical practices), which provide universal, unreferral access to whole person medical care for individuals, families and communities. General practice care means comprehensive, coordinated and continuing medical care drawing on biomedical, psychological, social and environmental understandings of health.
General practitioner	A registered medical practitioner who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is qualified and competent for general practice anywhere in Australia</li> <li>• has the skills and experience to provide whole person, comprehensive, coordinated and continuing medical care, and</li> <li>• maintains professional competence for general practice.</li> </ul> <p>Australian GPs are vocationally recognised, ie. recognised by the Health Insurance Commission as a GP. This includes a requirement for maintaining professional development.</p>
General practice training provider	An organisation providing general practice vocational training accredited for this purpose by the RACGP.
General Practice Education and Training Pty Ltd (GPET)	GPET is a not for profit company whose officers are appointed by the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing that contracts general practice training providers to provide general practice vocational training.
Medical educator	A GP employed by the general practice training provider who designs and participates in the general practice training program and takes on the role of an off site clinical educator.
RACGP censor	RACGP censors determine whether college standards have been met.
Registrar	A registered medical practitioner who is enrolled in a general practice training program approved by the RACGP to achieve Fellowship of the RACGP.
Student	A university student who is enrolled in a primary medical degree and is undertaking a general practice placement.
Trainer	The GP with responsibility for registrar training in a clinical setting. The trainer takes responsibility for clinical education and placement management. This includes the role of general practice supervisor and mentor.
Training posts	Training posts are placements where general practice registrars are employed to undertake vocational training in general practice.



# INTRODUCTION

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The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is responsible for maintaining and developing the standards of general practice in Australia. Since 1996, the Australian government has adopted Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practice (FRACGP) as the standard for practising as an unsupervised GP in Australia. It is granted to those who have undertaken suitable experience/training in general practice, and demonstrated their competence by successfully completing a RACGP assessment process.

These processes include the FRACGP Examination, practice based assessment or recognition of equivalent assessment processes in another country.

This booklet addresses the experience, education and assessment requirements for Fellowship in four sections, which correspond to the different pathways currently recognised by the RACGP:

1. Requirements for doctors undertaking vocational training in general practice – the *training route*
2. Requirements for doctors already working in general practice – the *practice route*
3. Requirements for doctors working in general practice while undertaking RACGP approved academic studies in general practice – the *alternate route*
4. Requirements for doctors with an RACGP recognised overseas qualification – Fellowship *ad eundum gradum*.

The requirements are based on the following documents:

- RACGP. College examination handbook 2004
- RACGP. Practice based assessment leaflet for candidates 2004
- World Federation for Medical Education Task Force on defining international standards in postgraduate medical education. Postgraduate medical education: world federation for medical education global standards for quality improvement, September 2001.



# REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING ROUTE

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Doctors undertaking vocational training in general practice must meet all the following requirements:

## Experience

### Requirement V.1

Doctors must have completed 1 year of hospital rotations in addition to and after completing:

- the first postgraduate year (PGY1 or intern year), or
- both parts of the Australian Medical Council examination.

These hospital posts must be accredited by the RACGP and/or state or territory Postgraduate Medical Council or equivalent.

### Requirement V.2

Doctors must have completed 18 months general practice experience:

- in RACGP accredited general practice training posts
- under the guidance of a RACGP accredited trainer
- while enrolled with an approved regional training provider (RTP).

Not more than 12 months of this core general practice experience can be undertaken in special training environments. These environments include Australian Defence Force posts and rural hospitals accredited for general practice training.

### Requirement V.3

Doctors must have completed 6 months training in an area of extended skills training approved by the RACGP. These skills posts can be undertaken in various settings, eg:

- further experience in general practice based on an extended skills learning plan
- general practice in a setting requiring particular skills such as a small rural town or Aboriginal health
- Academic posts in general practice
- community or general practice based palliative care
- extended or advanced skills in a hospital with an approved learning plan such as obstetrics, acute medicine, emergency medicine, paediatrics, surgery or anaesthetics.

These posts are documented on the RACGP and general practice training provider websites.

### Requirement V.4

Doctors must undertake a rotation that provides care for a sufficient number of acutely unwell children. Rotations deemed to meet this requirement are:

- paediatric rotation of one hospital term
- paediatric emergency rotation of one hospital term
- rural hospital rotation which covers paediatrics of two hospital terms
- general emergency medicine rotation of two hospital terms where children are seen first by the resident medical officer.

It is highly recommended that you check the status of the post with your regional training provider and/or the state censor.



Requirement V.5	Doctors must have sufficient variety of experience in general practice. This will involve working in more than one approved general practice training post unless otherwise prospectively approved by the state censors.
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### Recommendations for quality training

Quality V.6	Doctors should have worked in a training post that services a community, which has health indicators significantly below the national average or reduced access to primary healthcare.
Quality V.7	Doctors should undertake a rotation which provides sufficient experience in emergency medicine. Rotations deemed to meet this requirement are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general emergency medicine rotation of 3 months, or</li> <li>• general rural hospital rotation which includes emergency of 6 months.</li> </ul>

## Education

Requirement V.8	Doctors must complete at least 3 years of training recognised by the RACGP. Any training undertaken while not enrolled with the general practice vocational training program must be submitted to, and approved for recognition of prior learning by the state censor.
Requirement V.9	Doctors must be enrolled for at least 24 months with a general practice training provider accredited by the RACGP and complete the education program.
Requirement V.10	Doctors must have completed the Aboriginal health curriculum and include evidence of completion in the Fellowship portfolio.
Requirement V.11	In order to maintain standards, doctors undertaking vocational training must provide feedback about their trainer, training posts, general practice training provider and their program as required by the RACGP.
Requirement V.12	Doctors must complete training in the early management of trauma and advanced life support (ALS).  ALS is a requirement for a registrar to complete vocational training.  ALS requirements for successful completion are demonstrated skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• basic CPR</li> <li>• management of airway using bag and mask, and inserted airway (eg. Guedel's or nasopharyngeal) including knowledge of use of suction and MacGill's forceps to clear airway</li> <li>• stabilisation of neck using stiff collars</li> <li>• defibrillation</li> <li>• use of doctors' bag drugs in scenario simulations of emergencies.</li> </ul>



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These may be undertaken using a pre-existing course, eg. early management of severe trauma, ALS or rural emergency skills training, or may be undertaken internally by the RTP within their educational program. Internal programs should be accredited prospectively by the RACGP Education Department.

## Assessment

### Requirement V.13

Doctors must submit evidence of completion of training requirements in the form of a Fellowship portfolio that includes:

- a log of key capabilities referenced to the college curriculum and signed by their trainer
- a log of educational events attended during training signed by a representative of the RTP
- five feedback reports from medical educators – each report pertaining to 3 hours of observed consultations
- evidence of planned learning with review and reflection at 6 monthly intervals during training
- documentary evidence of completion of Aboriginal health module
- certificate in competency in management of trauma and advanced life support
- the educational program for the 6 months extended skills training and certificate of satisfactory completion signed by the supervisor.

### Requirement V.14

The doctor must be assessed by the FRACGP Examination as competent for unsupervised general practice anywhere in Australia.

Eligibility criteria for enrolment in the FRACGP Examination can be found in the *College examination handbook*. Contact the National Assessment Department on 1800 626 901 for further information or visit the college website at: [www.racgp.org.au/downloads/pdf/2004examhandbook.pdf](http://www.racgp.org.au/downloads/pdf/2004examhandbook.pdf).



# REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PRACTICE ROUTE

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Doctors who have experience in general practice must meet all of the following requirements:

## Experience

Requirement E.1

Doctors must have held registrable qualifications for at least 7 years.

Requirement E.2

Doctors must have experience in general practice which meets one of the following criteria:

- five years full time (or part time equivalent) experience in general practice approved by the RACGP. This may include some experience in deputising services, the Australia Defence Force, Queensland country hospitals, academic general practice or overseas general practice, and must include at least 1 year of Australian general practice
- RACGP Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Training
- Certificate in Family Practice from the College of Family Physicians of Canada
- Master of Medicine (Family Medicine) from the National University of Singapore
- membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners, United Kingdom
- Certificate of the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice, United Kingdom
- membership of the Irish College of General Practitioners
- membership of the Faculty of General Practitioners or Member of the College of Family Practitioners, South Africa (by examination)
- registration as a family physician with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (formerly the South African Medical and Dental Council of South Africa)
- Master of Family Medicine, South Africa
- Master of Prax Medicine, South Africa
- Certificate of the American Board of Family Practice, USA.

## Recommendations for future quality development

Quality E.3

The doctor should have worked in a hospital for 2 years after graduation and undertaken rotations in paediatrics and emergency medicine.



## Education

Requirement E.4 The doctor must participate in recognised quality assurance and continuing professional development activities to the level required in the current triennium (or prorata if the doctor has not worked in Australian general practice for 3 years).

### Recommendations for future quality development

Quality E.5 The doctor should undertake a formal assessment of strengths and weaknesses by a suitable general practice training provider to facilitate success in a college assessment process.

Quality E.6 Depending on the doctor's work situation, he or she should have completed training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, EMST or ALS within 2 years of applying for Fellowship.

## Assessment

Requirement E.7 The doctor must have worked in Australian general practice for 1 year full time (or part time equivalent) before sitting a college assessment process.

Requirement E.8 The doctor must be assessed by the RACGP as competent for unsupervised general practice anywhere in Australia as shown by successful completion of either the FRACGP Examination or practice based assessment.

Eligibility criteria for enrolment in a college assessment process can be found in the relevant handbook. For further information visit the college website at: [www.racgp.org.au/routes/](http://www.racgp.org.au/routes/) or contact the National Assessment Department on 1800 626 901.

Note that although 4 years full time equivalence in general practice is required for enrolment in a college assessment process, Fellowship is not admitted until 5 years experience in general practice is completed.



# REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ALTERNATE ROUTE

A pathway to Fellowship was established by a consortium of the RACGP, university departments, divisions of general practice and General Practice Education Australia. The Alternative Pathway Program provides a flexible pathway that enables doctors to gain the FRACGP and GP recognition. This is available to doctors who have completed 18 months of Australian general practice experience but is only available to those already enrolled in the program as at 30 June 2003.

Doctors seeking Fellowship through this route must meet the following requirements:

## Experience

- Requirement A.1      Doctors must hold a current provider number and work in general practice during the process.
- Requirement A.2      Doctors must provide evidence of at least 4 years of postgraduate experience (or part time equivalent).

## Education

- Requirement A.3      Doctors must complete the academic course work to qualify for awarding the Certificate of General Practice\* by the RACGP.

## Assessment

- Requirement A.4      The doctor must be assessed by the RACGP as competent for unsupervised general practice anywhere in Australia as shown by successful completion of either the FRACGP Examination or practice based assessment.
- Eligibility criteria for enrolment in a college assessment process can be found in the relevant handbook. For further information visit the college website at: [www.racgp.org.au/routes/](http://www.racgp.org.au/routes/) or contact the National Assessment Department on 1800 626 901.

### Recommendations for future quality development

The RACGP is currently exploring other alternate routes to Fellowship.

\* This qualification is subject to ratification by the Higher Education and Regulation Division, Department of Education and Training (currently ongoing at the time of publication).



# REQUIREMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP

## *ad eundum gradum*

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Doctors with the following qualifications may apply for Fellowship *ad eundum gradum*:

- Fellowship of The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners
- Certificate in Family Practice from the College of Family Physicians of Canada and successful completion of both parts of the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination, or
- membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Certificate of the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice, United Kingdom.

In addition, doctors are required to meet the following:

Requirement G.1                      Doctors must be a registered medical practitioner.

Requirement G.2                      Doctors must show evidence of ongoing medical education and professional development.



# APPLYING FOR FELLOWSHIP

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Application forms can be obtained from your state and territory faculty. Applications must be completed and submitted to your faculty with all of the following documentation:

- a copy of current medical registration
- two referees – one of whom must be a financial Fellow of the RACGP
- evidence of successful completion of a college assessment process
- evidence of experience/completion of training in general practice relevant to the chosen route to Fellowship.





## CONTACT ADDRESSES

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### **South Australia & Northern Territory Faculty**

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### **Victoria Faculty**

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