



RACGP

Specific Interests

Getting Started in Medical Education Webinar: 31-7-19

Useful Links, Questions and Answers – Dr Rebecca Stewart

- Join [ShareGP Medical Education Network Specific Interests](#) group
- [Medical Education Courses Information](#)
- Support Organisations:
 - Medical Education Network - RACGP
 - RTOs
 - Universities
 - [General Practice Medical Education](#) (GPME)
 - [Australia and New Zealand Association of Health Professional Educators](#) (ANZAHPE)
 - [Creative Careers in Medicine](#) (CCIM)
 - [Association for Medical Education in Europe](#) (AMEE)
 - [Association for the Study of Medical Education](#) (ASME)
 - GP Supervisors Australia [GPSA](#)

Webinar Questions

1. *Do I need to be doctor practicing in Australia to be a ME? My wife is an overseas doctor not registered in Australia. Can she be an ME? Can someone only do a medical educator job without doing clinical work?*

The qualifications required to work in Medical Education differ widely from organisation to organisation. Some Medical Educators have English as a Second Language (ESL) teaching experience or are Cultural Educators, however in most cases a Medical Degree is the primary requirement. Some organisations require their Medical Educators to be maintaining some clinical contact part-time, and in any case, this is useful to keep your knowledge up to date and clinical work is a very rich source of teaching materials!

2. *How could we apply to become a Fellowship Examiner? I am not sure whether it would be a part of being a ME?*

GP Fellowship Examiners (for written and/or oral exams) are trained by the respective colleges. You can become involved in examining only, or in addition to an ME role. Examining does give you a great understanding of what is required to pass the exams which is useful for GP Medical Educator roles. Further information about Examiner training and requirements can be [accessed via the RACGP website](#).

3. *What best advice do you have for IMGs trying to find a GP job with a teaching facility?*

The best advice for anyone seeking a Medical Education job is to identify what type of Medical Education jobs would you like to do, and then to compare that with your skillset. If there is a



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difference, consider if you could start working in that role and learn the skills, or need to upskill first. Then identify the key organisations that might offer that role, i.e. an RTO, a university, a college. Find out how jobs $A = \pi r^2$ usually advertised in that **area**, e.g. organisational website, other website (e.g. Seek) and who you might approach to show your interest as word of mouth is the commonest way Medical Education jobs are advertised. Consider taking a smaller education role as a steppingstone first, e.g. secondary supervisor, examiner, speaking at a workshop.

4. How do I become a GP Supervisor?

In general GP Supervisors are accredited by the RTO in whose footprint they work. Check the RTO website for their specific process. [General Guidelines for Supervision can be found here](#) on the RACGP website. For supervision of medical students and allied health, contact your local university.

5. UK certainly had "mentoring" courses - are they useful in Medical Education context? What is the best way of finding a Mentor?

Mentoring is of great benefit to get started in, or when continuing in medical education. ANZAHPE has the only formal mentoring program available, however, many senior Medical Educators and Supervisors are happy to provide mentorship if approached.

6. Do we need to register to be a Medical Educator?

Most employers do require Medical Registration and current registration also has implications for indemnity cover for work in medical education. The majority of MDOs do offer indemnity for medical education as part of standard insurance but it is important to check your situation with your indemnity provider.

7. How available are Medical Educator jobs?

There are an increasing number of Medical Educator jobs available in all sectors however the advertisements can be difficult to find. If you are interested in working the area, contact the RTO, University or private education provider you are interested in working with directly.

8. Is there a FB group for Medical Education?

RACGP utilises ShareGP rather than facebook. GPME has a facebook page and group.

9. Is there the opportunity to teach high school/university students occasionally on aspects of medicine/health sciences?

Universities are always looking for clinical tutors. The best approach is to contact your closest University and express interest.

10. Does Medical Education require special insurance? I have indemnity for GP, but I'm not sure if need a special additional insurance?

See 6. Above. Supervisors are vicariously liable for their GP Registrar's activities. Medical Educators usually do not provide clinical advice unless there is an emergency or dangerous situation. Check with your MDO what you are covered for. If you are a private Medical Education Consultant you may require additional insurance, including for product and public liability.



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11. How can we find out contact details for the RTOs?

RTO details [can be found here](#).

12. Where can I enrol to undertake formal Medical Education qualifications?

A list of known formal qualifications is available in the resource section above.

13. Is pay reasonable for medical educators?

Medical Educator pay rates differ between organisations. In general, within RTOs, the hourly rate is approximately \$120/hour, and within Universities and hospitals, dependant on seniority. A Senior Lecturer or SMO rate is between \$80-\$90/hour. Many ME jobs are salaried and have additional benefits such as paid sick and annual leave, long service leave, professional development support and salary sacrifice.

14. Any there any scholarships for rural GPs in Medical Education?

I'm unaware of any formal scholarships, however some RTOs offer Registrar Medical Educator positions and Academic Posts that can be undertaken rurally and these roles are salaried. Rural Educators are often in high demand so contact your RTO and express your interest.

15. Are there roles for GP educators in the state prevocational Medical Education organisations?

Yes, more information is available on the [Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Council website](#) and through the Prevocational councils in each state.

Please note:

- There were some specific questions received about the various assessment processes in General Practice and their validity and reliability, however these are outside the scope and context of this webinar.
- The webinar was recorded and will be available via ShareGP. It will also be available on the RACGP Specific Interests Resource webpage <https://www.racgp.org.au/the-racgp/faculties/specific-interests/specific-interests-network-resources>
- If you have any questions that remain unanswered, please don't hesitate to ask via ShareGP or email.