

## 1. Registrar Handbook

This handbook outlines the training, assessment and administrative requirements for doctors to be admitted to Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP) via the vocational training pathway. Doctors on this pathway are referred to as “registrars”.

## 2. Requirements for the Vocational Training Pathway

For Fellowship via the vocational training pathway registrars must:

1. complete specialist general practice vocational training in a Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) recognised training program; and
2. complete training in the early management of trauma and advanced life support (ALS); and
3. demonstrate they are competent to deliver unsupervised general practice anywhere in Australia by successful completion of the RACGP Exams. Please note the Practice Based Assessment (PBA) is not available to registrars.

Registrars must be a financial RACGP member from the time of joining the Vocational Training Pathway and throughout their candidature. This requirements applies to all Registrars from 1 January 2016.

## 3. Vocational Training

The RACGP writes the curriculum, sets the standards and through the Bi College Accreditation process accredits Regional Training Providers (RTPs) to deliver vocational general practice training.

Two organisations are responsible for delivery of general practice training in Australia; Australian General Practice Training (AGPT), managed by General Practice Education and Training Limited (GPET), and the Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS). Registrars apply to GPET for entry to the AGPT program. Please see AGPT at [www.gpet.com.au/](http://www.gpet.com.au/) or RVTS at [www.rvts.org.au](http://www.rvts.org.au) for further information.

### 3.1. Experience

1. Registrars must complete one 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 Post graduate Medical Council or equivalent.

Prevocational General Practice Placements Program (PGPPP)

A PGPPP term is regarded as a hospital training term. It is not accepted as fulfilling the AGPT requirements for the General Practice Training 1 (GPT1) Term (also known as the basic term), as the purpose, education and supervision of the GPT1 term are different.

2. Registrars must enrol with an approved RTP and as part of the training program complete 18 months general practice experience in RTP accredited general practice training posts under the guidance of a RTP accredited trainer.

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

3. Registrars must also complete six months extended skills training in an area of training accredited by the RTP or appropriate accrediting authority. These posts can be undertaken in various settings, eg:
  - further experience in general practice based on an extended skills learning plan

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- 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
  - training in a hospital with an approved learning plan addressing such skills as obstetrics, acute medicine, emergency medicine, paediatrics, surgery or anaesthetics.
4. Registrars must undertake rotation(s) that fulfil the requirements of the *Paediatric Term Requirements Policy*, available at [www.racgp.org.au/becomingagpp/students/vocational-training-pathway/](http://www.racgp.org.au/becomingagpp/students/vocational-training-pathway/).
  5. Registrars 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.
  6. Registrars may opt to undertake a further 12 months of advanced skills training in a hospital with an approved learning plan addressing such skills as obstetrics, acute medicine, emergency medicine, paediatrics, surgery or anaesthetics. This can be undertaken as one of the requirements for the Fellowship of Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP).
  7. Recommendations for quality training
    - a) Registrars 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.
    - b) Registrars should undertake a rotation which provides sufficient experience in emergency medicine. Rotations deemed to meet this requirement are:
      - general emergency medicine rotation of three months, or
      - general rural hospital rotation which includes emergency of six months.

## 3.1.1 ADF Registrars

Where ADF registrars have been released from hospital training for a minimum of three months to facilitate training in a full-time accredited civilian-basic / GPT1 general practice unit during the Post Graduate Year 2 (PGY2), the RACGP will accept a 40 week PGY2 year for ADF registrars with the remaining 12 weeks to be completed as a mandatory elective.

## 3.2. Education

1. Registrars must complete at least three years of RACGP accredited general practice vocational training. Any training undertaken while not enrolled in the training program must be applied for and approved as recognition of prior learning as per the *Recognition of Prior Learning Policy*, available at [www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/).
2. Registrars must be enrolled for at least 24 months with a RACGP accredited RTP and complete the education program.
3. Registrars must complete the Aboriginal health curriculum.
4. In order to maintain standards, registrars undertaking vocational training must provide feedback about their trainer, training posts, general practice training provider and their program as required by the RACGP.
5. Registrars must complete training in the early management of trauma and advanced life support (ALS).

## 2.2 Advanced Life Support (ALS)

ALS may or may not be undertaken as part of the training program but must be completed prior applying for Fellowship. The ALS program undertaken must reach the College standards. For all ALS requirements please refer to the *ALS Companion Document*, available at [www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/).

### 3 The RACGP Exams (The Exams)

#### 3.1 Eligibility to enrol in the Exams

The Exams may be attempted prior to the completion of training in line with the requirements below. For all information regarding the Exams, please see the *Fellowship Exams Candidate Handbook* available at [www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/).

##### 3.1.1 AGPT Registrars

*i. AKT only*

AGPT registrars who will have completed six active training units by the date of the AKT may enrol in the AKT only. Two of the training units must be GPT1.

A unit is defined as “a period of thirteen weeks fulltime (or its part time equivalent) during which a GP Registrar is actively engaged in an accredited and / or recognised term of training experience in the Training Program”.

*ii. AKT, KFP, and OSCE*

Registrars who will have completed eight active training units by the date of the OSCE in a particular cycle (e.g. 2013.1) may enrol in all three of the Exams in that same cycle. Units must include:

- (i) Two basic units – GPT1;
- (ii) Two advanced units – GPT2; and
- (iii) Four other units – these units may be hospital training, special skills, extended skills, subsequent time (GPT3), or mandatory elective. Recognition of prior learning (RPL) with time credit may contribute up to four units. RPL without time credit does not contribute to active training units required.

##### 3.1.2 RVTS Registrars

RVTS registrars are eligible to enrol in the Exams following satisfactory completion of 12 months in the RVTS. Evidence of completion must be available upon request.

##### 3.1.3 Other requirements

*i. RTP sign off*

Registrar enrolments will be subject to sign off from the RTP on:

- completion (or prospective completion) of the required units / training time; and
- the Registrar's readiness to sit the exam.

Registrars should ensure with their RTP that they are eligible and have their RTP's sign off to sit the Exams before enrolling.

If at any time a Registrar becomes ineligible for the Exams (for example, they will not complete the required active training units by the date of the OSCE) then they must inform the RACGP and withdraw from any assessments. Enrolling or presenting for any assessments with knowledge the eligibility criteria has not been met will be considered and handled as academic misconduct under the *Academic Misconduct Policy* available at [www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/).

*ii. Current medical registration*

All registrars are expected to hold current medical registration throughout the assessment process. Registrars may be required to submit evidence that they have medical registration as per the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency website [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) (including those whose registration renewal application is being processed).

## iii. RACGP membership

All registrars must have current financial membership of the RACGP to sit the Exams.

### 3.2 Expiry of eligibility

Candidates on the vocational training pathway will remain eligible for the Exams as registrars if:

- a) they have support from their RTP; or
- b) for a maximum of three years from the time this support lapses.

After their eligibility expires all candidates will need to fulfil the eligibility requirements of a pathway again. For former registrars this means applying for eligibility under the General Practice Experience (Practice Eligible) pathway.

## 4. Applying for Fellowship

Registrars who have completed the Exams must apply for Fellowship within five years. After this time their Exam results will expire and cannot be used to meet the requirements for Fellowship. This requirement will take effect from January 1 2016 and applies to all past Exam candidates.

Registrars can access the Fellowship application form from their results statement when they log in to the RACGP website.

RTPs usually send completed application forms on behalf of Registrars to their RACGP State / Territory Faculty Office. Fellowship applications can take up to six weeks to process from the date the completed application is received.

This application must be accompanied by a Fellowship portfolio that includes:

- Completion of Training worksheet
- Documentary evidence of completion of Paediatrics requirements
- Documentary evidence of completion of Aboriginal health module
- Documentary evidence of Advanced Life Support / Rural Emergency Skills Training
- GP Vocational Training Programs Requirements Certificate certifying satisfactory completion of the training program and signed by the supervisor
- GP Vocational Training Programs Exit interview documentation
- A correctly completed application form, including support from a current member of the RACGP, and payment of registration fees.

Once registrars have been admitted to Fellowship they are eligible to receive 150 category 1 points as part of the QI&CPD Program. For further information regarding the QI&CPD Program, please see [www.qicpd.racgp.org.au](http://www.qicpd.racgp.org.au).

When registrars are admitted to Fellowship they receive Medicare forms for inclusion on the Fellows List. Registrars are responsible for updating their status with Medicare.

### 4.1 Registrars who leave the training program

Candidates who leave the training program prior to obtaining Fellowship are required to either:

- a) obtain endorsement of their former RTPs to support their application for Fellowship, or
- b) transfer to the General Practice Experience (Practice Eligible) pathway and fulfil all requirements for Fellowship of that pathway.