



AGPT FAQs

February 2022

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Application process and selection

There are no major changes to the selection process for the 2023 intake.

Will applicants apply through the colleges?

Applicants will continue to apply directly to the colleges.

More information on the application processes:

[ACRRM AGPT Eligibility Guide](#)

[RACGP AGPT Applicant Handbook](#)

Will the colleges undertake selection?

ACRRM and the RACGP will continue to manage the selection process for their respective applicants.

ACRRM will advise applicants directly of the outcome of their application

For RACGP applicants, Training Organisations will continue to answer specific questions on training in their regions and undertake the RACGP interview and offer stage.

More information:

[ACRRM application process- – Application Process](#)

[RACGP AGPT application process](#)

What criteria are used for selection?

ACRRM

ACRRM selects candidates for entry into the Fellowship program based on the following criteria:

- demonstrated commitment to a career as a specialist general practitioner working in rural or remote Australia
- demonstrated capacity and motivation to acquire abilities, skills and knowledge in the ACRRM domains of practice
- demonstrated connection with rural communities
- demonstrated commitment to meeting the needs of rural and remote communities through an extended scope of practice
- possesses the personal characteristics associated with a successful career in rural or remote practice.



RACGP Selection takes place in two parts:

- Candidate Assessment and Applied Knowledge Test (CAAKT)
- Interviews (either multiple, mini-interview or single panel format).

The CAAKT and the interview are based on the RACGP Curriculum and assess the knowledge, skills and attributes required to enter GP training. The interview also assesses the applicant's motivation for a career in general practice.

How does selection work?

ACRRM Application is a two-step process consisting of providing your personal details to assess eligibility and the written suitability assessment addressing the selection criteria.

Shortlisted applicants who successfully move through the eligibility and suitability assessment stage of the selection process are invited to attend an interview.

To find out more, review the application process, including key dates, [here](#).

RACGP The RACGP National Eligibility and Selection Process is split into three stages:

1. Application and eligibility

- Candidates must complete an online application [form](#) and provide supporting documentation and referee details. Candidates can nominate up to four preferred training regions between the rural and general pathways.
- The RACGP will check applications and supporting documents to establish eligibility for the AGPT Program.

2. National entry assessment

- Eligible candidates sit the Candidate Assessment and Applied Knowledge Test (CAAKT), a computer-based test featuring Knowledge Test questions and Situational Judgement Test questions. The CAAKT is based on the RACGP Curriculum and focuses on knowledge, skills and attributes related to becoming a GP.
- Candidates who achieve the required standard in the CAAKT will progress to the next stage of selection.

3. Interviews and offers

- Interviews are offered based on CAAKT score ranking and stated training region and pathway preferences.
- Candidates are notified of the interview outcome via email and must respond to any training offers in writing.



Applicants applying for a Dual Fellowship

Applicants for the AGPT Program wishing to pursue Fellowship with both ACRRM and the RACGP must indicate this in the application and be successful in both colleges' selection processes in the same year.

Dual fellowship applicants must:

- nominate identical training region preferences on the rural pathway
- pay both colleges' application fee (non-refundable)
- successfully complete all colleges' assessments.

Dual fellowship applicants can only be accepted onto the AGPT Program as dual fellowship applicants if they are offered a training place in the same training region and on the rural pathway with both colleges. If not, they will train towards one college fellowship only.

What is the interview format?

ACRRM The Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) are a series of six short interviews conducted online by a panel of Fellows and community representatives. Throughout the two-and-a-half-hour interview, candidates have two minutes to read each question and eight minutes to respond.

RACGP If you are successful in being offered an interview, it will be conducted by a training organisation from one of your preferred training regions. Interviews will consist of five common questions in either multiple, mini-interview or single panel format. Each training organisation may ask an additional three questions specific to their region.

Interviews may be done remotely or face to face. This will depend on the region and other considerations such as COVID restrictions. However, the format, questions, interviewers and marking will be the same in each training region.

What kind of questions are asked?

ACRRM A series of scenario-based questions focussed on the selection criteria. Candidates can prepare for MMIs by reading the selection criteria and relating experiences to the key elements of the selection criteria.

RACGP Interview questions cover motivation to become a GP, clinical scenarios and accounts of experiences that exemplify important clinical and behavioural attributes required for becoming a GP.



Will there be a second intake?

Yes, there will be a second intake for AGPT. It is recommended that applicants interested in GP training apply in the first intake to give them the best chance of securing a training position in their chosen location, with either ACRRM or RACGP.

Do I need to have passed both Australian Medical Council (AMC) exams as an International Medical Graduate (IMG) to be able to enter training? (Joint)

ACRRM You are required to pass both AMC clinical 1 and 2 to enter the standard training pathway and the ACRRM fellowship program. We recommend you read the AGPT Eligibility Guide and self-assess before applying. Questions on eligibility and selection, including registration types and visas, can be referred to the ACRRM Member Engagement Team at selection@acrrm.org.au

RACGP You must have completed all the AMC requirements prior to applications closing for the RACGP AGPT Program. You will be required to supply your AMC certificate at the point of application. For further information please see the RACGP AGPT FAQs or contact our Eligibility team at agpteligibility@racgp.org.au.

Are there any changes to Temporary Visa Holder requirements?

ACRRM The College will honour current visa agreements, and training arrangements for 2023. For more information, visit the [ACRRM AGPT Eligibility Guide](#)

RACGP There will be no changes for the 2023 cohort. Applicants will need to obtain a letter of support from their preferred Regional Training Organisation to be considered eligible for the 2023 cohort.

More information is available in the [RACGP AGPT Applicant Handbook](#) including information on the regions accepting temporary visa holders.

Should I do more time in the hospital to get ready?

ACRRM Additional time in a hospital setting is not a requirement for eligibility for the ACRRM Fellowship Program. Full eligibility and suitability details can be found on our website at [Australian General Practice Training Program \(AGPT\) \(acrrm.org.au\)](#)

RACGP Additional time in hospital is not a requirement for eligibility for the AGPT Program with the RACGP. You may choose to do more hospital time to gain additional skills for your chosen GP training pathway. If you are considering this, we recommend discussing this with a medical educator from your preferred region. You can



access more information about eligibility requirements in our [AGPT Application Handbook](#).

Recognition of prior learning and mandatory rotations

I have not completed anaesthetics, paediatrics and O&G rotations. Will I be eligible to start my training in primary care?

ACRRM Providing you have general registration and are PGY3 or above, you can start training in primary care. The skills in anaesthetics, paediatrics and Obstetrics and Gynaecology can be gained while you progress through training. See the [Fellowship Training Handbook](#).

RACGP The RACGP mandatory rotations are Medicine, Surgery, Emergency Medicine and Paediatrics. These can be undertaken in an accredited Australian or New Zealand Hospital prior to your commencement into GPT1. In exceptional circumstances you may be able to apply for an alternative model to ensure competency in these rotations have been met. For more information please see - [Mandatory Hospital Term Requirements Guidance Document](#) .

Do I have to do a paediatric rotation?

ACRRM ACRRM offers a range of options to meet the Core Generalist Training Paediatrics requirements. See [Fellowship Training Handbook](#).

RACGP Paediatric clinical experience and competence in the detection and management of serious or potentially serious illness across the full spectrum of the neonatal period through to young adulthood is required prior to entering general practice terms. This is usually achieved through undertaking a Paediatric rotation.

There are alternative options for achieving this requirement. Please see the [Vocational Training Pathway Requirements for Fellowship Policy](#), the [Mandatory Hospital Term Requirements Guidance Document](#) and the [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#) for more information.



I did hospital rotations a number of years ago. Can I still claim this for RPL or mandatory rotations?

ACRRM Training Program requirements may be credited when evidence of meeting requirements and recency of practice are provided. Recency of practice includes:

Core Generalist paediatrics, anaesthetics and O&G is five years, from training start date.

Core Generalist secondary care, emergency care and rural and remote practice is two years, from training start date.

Advanced Specialised disciplines is two years, from training start date.

See the [Recognition of Prior Learning policy](#)

RACGP All rotations must have been completed within 10 years of your application. For those rotations completed over 5 years ago, you will be asked to supply evidence demonstrating how you have maintained your knowledge and skills.

Please see the [RACGP RPL Policy](#) for more information.

I undertook training overseas. Can I claim RPL for this?

ACRRM Clinical experience in Australia and overseas experience in a Medical Board of Australia approved competent authority may be recognised. Clinical experience gained in other countries may be considered case by case.

RACGP Your hospital training time must be completed in an accredited Australian or New Zealand hospital to be eligible for RPL.

How will my readiness to commence in general practice terms be assessed?

Your GP readiness for the 2023 cohort will be assessed by your Regional Training Organisation.



Placements

How will placements occur and will I have choice over where I train?

Placements for the 2023 training year will be managed and confirmed by the Regional Training Organisations. The Colleges will honor these placements, including any 12month placements, however any new placements, or placement updates required for semester 2, 2023 will be done in collaboration between the two Colleges. Placements for 2024 will continue to be done in collaboration between the two Colleges to ensure efficient and equitable placement of registrars.

For more information on how each region will manage placements for 2023, please contact the Training Organisation from your preferred region.

ACRRM *Additional ACRRM information:*

Registrars will be able to select their preferred placement from the list of available ACRRM accredited training posts. Where appropriate, ACRRM will work with the registrar and the medical services to determine suitability as a training placement and provide provisional accreditation.

Registrars may request a training post or region in which to train. As training posts have limited capacity, ACRRM will work with you and the available training posts to determine suitability and availability. ACRRM will also work with registrars to map out a training plan to ensure all the training requirements for Fellowship are able to be met

RACGP *Additional RACGP information:*

The RACGP placement process will take place over several rounds with an initial round of targeted priority placements. Registrars will have an opportunity to submit their placement preferences which will be taken into consideration, along with those of training sites and supervisors.

A new placement policy is expected to be available on the [Fellowship Pathways Policy Framework](#) by mid 2022.

Registrars will have an opportunity to submit their placement preferences, including where they would like to train (by region). This along with training site and supervisor preferences will inform the placement outcomes.



Can I stay in the same location for the whole training period?

ACRRM Yes, registrars are encouraged to find a location where they can undertake the majority, if not all, their training. The ideal training placement involves working in a rural general practice, admitting into the local hospital, providing inpatient care and after-hours cover in the emergency department.

In locations not able to provide the full range and level of training to meet ACRRM Fellowship requirements, registrars are encouraged to source the necessary skills and experience in other locations to bring back to their “home” community.

RACGP Yes, this is possible. Whilst the RACGP Fellowship requires registrars are exposed to multiple practice environments and diverse patient populations, there are provisions which allow a registrar to remain at one location and still achieve the outcomes of this requirement. For more information please refer to the [RACGP guide to managing practice diversity](#)

Can I work in non-rural locations?

ACRRM ACRRM encourages all registrars to take up rural placements as the ACRRM Fellowship Program is designed to train Rural Generalists. We recognise there may be times (particularly for AST posts) where a semi-urban placement may be more suitable to provide the necessary scope of training. Training must be MM2-7, and MM1 in exceptional circumstances.

RACGP RACGP general pathway registrars may work in any general practice location, including rural and remote.

RACGP rural pathway registrars are expected to complete their community training terms in a rural location. (MM2-7).

RACGP-RG and Fellowship Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP) registrars must complete 12 months of community training in MM 3 – 7. Some non-community terms eg, some ARST or Extended Skills posts, may be completed in an urban location if an accredited post is not available in a rural area.



What are the locations for rural placements?

ACRRM All locations MMM4-7 and some MM3 locations.

RACGP For rural registrars placements will be located MM 2 – 7. Registrars undertaking the FARGP will need to complete at least 12 months of community practice in MM 3 – 7 locations. This includes any general pathway registrars undertaking the FARGP.

Can I transfer to another region part way through training?

ACRRM Yes, ACRRM training allows registrars to move between regions providing there is training capacity.

RACGP The RACGP program will enable greater flexibility for transfers between regions and some pathways to meet distribution targets and training needs. All transfers will need to be discussed with and approved by the College.

If I get accepted to the rural pathway, can I transfer to the general pathway?

ACRRM The ACRRM Fellowship program is dedicated to rural training. In accordance with Department of Health requirements, you will need to enrol on the rural pathway to train with ACRRM on AGPT. The ACRRM program has been designed to accommodate the flexibility needed for rural and Rural Generalist training. There are a range of mechanisms to enable registrars to map their training locations and order of progression to fit their needs.

RACGP All transfers must be discussed and approved by the college. Transfers will only be in exceptional circumstances or an identified educational need and need to meet any 19AB or Department of Health obligations. The RACGP is committed to rural training and supporting registrars working in these areas.

Remuneration

What training subsidies will I get?

Subsidies for registrars are currently being finalised through discussions with stakeholders and the Department of Health. Subsidies will be nationally consistent and reflect training needs as well as rural loading to incentivise workforce in rural and remote areas. Expectations are that subsidies will be used



for relocation, education and training activities, rental assistance, learning materials, and well-being and psychosocial support.

What will my salary be?

The base rate salary for registrars training in general practice training terms is informed by the National Terms and Conditions for the Employment of Registrars [NTCER](#). Salary should be negotiated between the registrar and the employer.

Working arrangements

Can I work part time? What are the minimum hours?

ACRRM You may work part time as long as you are still deemed able to meet the scope of training and education requirements of your Fellowship training. Minimum hours for part time training with ACRRM are 16 hrs per week. Registrars can work and train part time as outlined in the [Training time policy](#).

RACGP Part time general practice experience is calculated pro-rata against the definition of full-time general practice experience. Part time general practice must comprise a 14.5-hour minimum working week, over a minimum of two days per week. At least 10.5 hours must be in face-to-face, rostered, patient consultation time undertaking general practice activities. Work periods of less than three consecutive hours, or of less than one month in any one practice, will not be considered.

Can I go on leave once in training?

ACRRM ACRRM training is governed by the current College policy for Leave from Training. Leave, if approved, will be granted on a full-time basis only. AGPT registrars can apply for 6 months leave and a further 6 months if required.

RACGP Various forms of leave are available to registrars in the AGPT Program, outlined in the Department of Health [AGPT Program Leave Policy](#). Please note that apart from statutory leave, you cannot start your program with leave.



Can I take maternity leave in the program?

ACRRM Yes, the ACRRM policy indicates maternity leave can be accessed as leave from training. See [Leave from Training policy](#)

RACGP Maternity leave is a valid form of leave. See the Department of Health [AGPT Program Leave Policy](#).

Can I do two hospital years once I am in the program?

ACRRM Yes, ACRRM training delivery is flexible, and we recognise hospital years are an important component. All hospital placements must be approved and accredited as per the standard College process. See the [Fellowship Training Program Handbook](#)

RACGP When training with the RACGP, you undertake one hospital year on the training program. You may return to a hospital setting to complete an extended skills post or if you work in a rural or remote community where general practice is located within a hospital. Additional Rural Skills Training (ARST) posts may also involve further training in an accredited hospital.

Does annual leave accumulate?

Annual leave is governed by your Employment Agreement and should meet the standard terms under the NCTER. Your annual leave will accumulate during each placement. You should negotiate when to take annual leave with your employer. .

How many sick days do I have per semester? Do they accumulate?

Sick leave is governed by your Employment Agreement and should meet the standard terms under the NCTER, this is 10 days personal/carers leave per year.

Please review the National Terms and Conditions for the Employment of Registrars for any further information.

Training

When will training commence in 2023?

ACRRM and RACGP will align semester start dates with those of the hospitals as is currently done.



How long is training?

ACRRM

ACRRM Fellowship is a four-year-minimum program with the rural context embedded in the curriculum from day one. The Fellowship is made of three years Core Generalist Training and a minimum of 12 months Advanced Specialised Training where registrars must meet training, education, and assessment requirements.

Core Generalist Training develops broad knowledge, skills and attributes in primary, secondary and emergency care in a rural and remote context and registrars gain essential Rural Generalist skills across a variety of domains. Training is made up of general surgery* general medicine*, emergency medicine*, paediatrics, obstetrics, anaesthetics, community primary care, secondary care, emergency care, and rural and remote practice (MMM 4-7). **Limited/provisional registration only.*

Advanced Specialised Training (AST) covers a minimum of one year of the four-year Fellowship program. ASTs expand your professional scope and can include clinical privileging in hospitals, access to additional Medical Benefits Scheme item numbers as well as contributing and expanding the pool of medical services in rural and remote communities.

Having advanced skills is an essential component of being a Rural Generalist. Choose from: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Academic Practice, Adult Internal Medicine, Anaesthesia, Emergency Medicine, Mental Health, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, palliative care, population health, remote medicine, or surgery.

RACGP

Training for FRACGP is normally three years (full-time). Training for the FRACGP-RG (which includes the FARGP component) is normally four years (full-time). You may have the option to reduce your time on the training program based on recognised prior learning (RPL) – [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#). In some circumstances, training time may be extended for specific training needs or if training part-time.

Are there ways to reduce my training time?

ACRRM

ACRRM will assess and grant up to a maximum of two years of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in training. See the [Recognition of Prior Learning policy](#).

RACGP

The RACGP will assess and grant up to a maximum of one year for recognition of prior learning. View the [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#). For those training towards the FRACGP-RG, up to 12 months of RPL may be awarded for the ARST.



How likely am I to get a training place?

ACRRM ACRRM delivers an open and transparent selection process annually and will manage capacity across all regions and placement requests. Once deemed eligible for the AGPT program and suitable for ACRRM Fellowship training by passing both the written suitability assessment and Multiple Mini Interview (MMI), you will be offered a place on the ACRRM Fellowship Program. The training team will then work with you to secure a suitable training post to meet your training and education requirements.

RACGP Once you have been accepted into the AGPT Program with the RACGP, we will work with you to make sure you have appropriate training posts throughout your training.

What professional development will I receive during training?

ACRRM ACRRM registrars have access to the ACRRM online learning environment with a range of modules and courses available. Face-to-face delivery through mandatory courses such as REST are also available.

RACGP While in the training program the RACGP will deliver all educational requirements to support you through to fellowship. Once you have fellowship you will be responsible for managing your own Continuing Professional Development.

Some examples of the educational support during your program are:

- Online resources including gplearning, AJGP
- John Murtagh Library resources including textbooks and academic journals
- Regional workshops
- Small group learning
- Workplace-Based Assessments (WBA)
- Medical Educator Mentor



When should I sit exams?

- ACRRM** You may choose to sit exams at any time during your training term providing that the eligibility requirements are met:
- Multiple Choice Question (MCQ); have completed one year of Core Generalist Training or the equivalent in Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) or a combination of training and RPL.
 - Case Based Discussion (CBD); have completed two years of Core Generalist Training or the equivalent in RPL or a combination of training and RPL.
 - Structured Assessment using Multiple Patient Scenarios (StAMPS); must have:
 - a. completed two years of Core Generalist Training or the equivalent in RPL or a combination of training and RPL
 - b. passed the MCQ assessment and Assessment Eligibility Policy
 - c. successfully completed all Mini CEX formative assessments and/or MSF
 - d. completed at least one formal StAMPS preparation activity with the College or Training Organisation

- RACGP** To sit the RACGP Fellowship exams you must have completed your hospital year (or have approved RPL) and GPT1 and GPT2 terms by the time of your first exam. Your Medical Educator will work closely with you to determine your readiness to sit your exams.

Exam eligibility requirements can be found here: [RACGP AGPT Examination Eligibility](#)

What exam support is offered?

- ACRRM** ACRRM offers a range of assessment supports including but not limited to online introductory assessment courses, study groups, focussed assessment support programs, mock exams, practice exams, public reports with exam performance indicators and one-to-one medical educator support and feedback sessions.

- RACGP** Registrars will be provided with extensive assessment preparation resources. Assessment support will be an integral part of the PLT Education and Training Program. For more information on resources available visit:

[RACGP Exam Support Resources](#)
[GP in Training Resources](#)



What teaching opportunities are available? (for the registrar to teach)

ACRRM ACRRM recognises that registrars are often required to teach and supervise junior doctors in practice. Modules to support this skill set are available as a part of the ACRRM Fellowship program.

RACGP GPs and registrars are expected to teach junior colleagues and peers. The PLT program will include medical education as part of the syllabus for all registrars. Educational professional development for supervisors and Medical Educators (MEs) is detailed in the supervisor and ME professional development sections.

Medical education as an extended skill can be gained through an academic post or as a registrar ME. Scholarship in medical education will be supported by regional journal clubs focusing on medical education.

What research opportunities are available?

ACRRM Several of the Advanced Specialised Training options have a project as the main assessment component. Registrars may seek funding through the Academic Post grant funding offered annually.

RACGP Research opportunities can be access through Registrar Medical Educator Extended Skills Terms and the [AGPT Academic Post Program](#)..

Training in research and evidence-based practice will be provided to all RACGP registrars. This will include training in research methodology, critical appraisal of literature, collection and use of scientific data, and evidence-based practice.



How will I be supported in rural practice?

ACRRM

The health and wellbeing of our registrars is a priority, and throughout ACRRM's Fellowship Program you will be supported to train in rural and remote practice.

Your dedicated training officer and your College education and support team will be with you for the duration of your training and will work with your training post to ensure you have the appropriate support mechanisms in place and that ACRRM training is contextualised to your learning needs and career aspirations..

ACRRM Fellowship pathways are based on an apprenticeship model of training. The model includes the development of training learning contexts that model the development of skills, ability and expertise; provision of mentoring, coaching and sound frameworks as registrars become immersed in authentic and safe clinical practice; independent practice so that registrars gain awareness and use safe judgement of the use of domain-related principles across multiple contexts; professional standards that define the essential competencies, knowledge, skills and attributes required of a FACRRM, and competency-based training, incorporating flexible approaches to meeting the professional knowledge, skills and attributes.

The College's Respectful Workplaces Committee, Registrar Committee and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Members Group are in place to provide additional wrap-around peer support.

RACGP

RACGP PLT support for registrars on both the general and the rural pathway is built on the highly developed and successful registrar support and wellbeing programs currently delivered by the RTOs. These are complemented by direct support from our GPiT and Rural faculties, as well as indirect contributions to the program and advocacy.

A personalised case management approach to registrar support is a foundational feature of the PLT design, recognising that the best training outcomes are achieved by acknowledging each registrar's own specific context, needs and aspirations.

The PLT personalised case management supports those training in rural to gain the skills necessary for their communities, matched to the skills and training opportunities needed. Support structures are also in place for personal and family considerations.



Advanced Specialised Training (AST) / Additional Rural Skills Training (ARST)

Can I do more than 1 AST / ARST?

ACRRM Yes, registrars can complete more than one AST pending sufficient and accredited placement being available. Registrars wanting to undertake more than one AST will be required to undertake the summative and formative assessments for each AST a required.

RACGP A second ARST may be possible depending on availability of training posts. This should be discussed and planned with the training organisation in consultation with the rural censor. Each will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

When should I do my AST / ARST?

ACRRM You can choose when to do your AST at any time after your first year of training. The best timing will depend on the discipline chosen and your own preferences. Refer to the [AST Handbooks](#) for more information.

RACGP Your ARST can be completed at any point after your hospital year, however, the RACGP recommendation is for a registrar to gain some community context prior to undertaking their Additional Rural Skills Training. This is also dependent on training post availability and should be planned with the training organisation.

Do I have to do an AST / ARST?

ACRRM Yes, all ACRRM registrars must complete an AST as part of the ACRRM Fellowship Program requirements. See [Fellowship Training Handbook](#)

RACGP If you are completing the RG Pathway, or enrolled in the FARGP, then you must complete an ARST.



Moratorium

How does the moratorium impact my training?

- ACRRM** Doctors who are subject to Section 19AB are restricted from nominating the general pathway and must train on the rural pathway. All ACRRM training positions are on the rural pathway. Doctors who train with ACRRM generally undertake all training in rural and remote areas of Australia (defined as Modified Monash (MM) 2-7). The MM model classification for any given area can be found by using the locator tool on the Department of Health [Workforce Locator website](#). Your moratorium requirements will be assessed as a part of your training placement and MPN number support provided as a part of your training onboarding.
- RACGP** Your moratorium status will be confirmed as part of your eligibility assessment. Applicants who are subject to the 19AB Moratorium are only eligible to preference the rural pathway. For more information on the Rural Pathway with the RACGP, see our [applicant handbook](#).