

Academic Post Guide



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Terminology used in this guide

ACRRM	Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
AGPT	Australian General Practice Training
AST	Advanced Specialised Training
FACRRM	Fellowship of Australian College of Rural & Remote Medicine
Health	Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
RMA conference	Rural Medicine Australia conference
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
Ex GST	Excluding Goods and Services Tax
MSF	Multi Source Feedback assessment
RDA	Rural Doctors Australia

Introduction

ACRRM manages three Academic Posts each year on behalf of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. Applications are open to ACRRM registrars training through the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program to the ACRRM curriculum.

This guide provides information for those preparing for and completing an Academic Post. It is designed for prospective and current academic registrars and university supervisors who are supporting a registrar to complete an Academic Post.

Registrars undertaking ACRRM-funded Academic Posts must consider how their research project supports ACRRM's research priorities:

- Enhancement of Rural Generalist education and training that would ultimately benefit the rural and remote communities
- Rural Generalist Advanced Specialised Training (AST)
- Rural Generalist training and supervision – in all contexts
- Teaching in the practice. Formal, informal and 'by the bedside'
- Competency-based training in the practice
- Data and information arising from a Multi Source Feedback (MSF)
- Examination of the role of the patient (community member) in teaching undertaken in the practice

Overview

Evidence is the foundation of everyday general practice. GPs and registrars need to be able to filter, critically appraise, interpret and apply the information available to them.

The AGPT program and ACRRM seek to ensure registrars have the opportunity to build skills in the areas of research and critical thinking through 12-month part-time Academic Post training terms.

Purpose

The Academic Post is an AGPT training term where registrars learn academic skills through individualised learning plans with mentoring and support from universities and the College.

The Academic Post provides exposure to research and the academic environment and encourages registrars to incorporate academic work into their careers.

Academic Post Timeline

The Academic Post will be completed part-time over a 12 month period (specific dates should be set by the College and your university). Research, teaching and clinical work activities occur throughout the term period.

Key Dates

Milestone	Timeframe
Applications open	May
Applications close	July
Outcomes provided to applicants	September
Letters of offer	October
Funding contracts	November / December
Commence Academic Post	January / February
Orientation progress report due	April
Mid-term progress report due	July
Attend Rural Medicine Australia Conference (RMA)	October
Conclude Academic Post	January
Final report due	February

Information for Registrars

Contracts and Funding

Contract Overview

ACRRM sends a Letter of Offer to successful applicants of the Academic Post training term. The Letter is a contract between the registrar and the College and outlines the responsibilities and obligations in completing an Academic Post. These obligations include:

- participation in support sessions held throughout the year,
- attendance at the Rural Medicine Australia (RMA) and one other approved conference, and
- completion and submission of orientation, mid-term and final reports.

More information about the above activities is provided in this guide.

Funding

Funding is paid in three instalments to the University. Funding includes:

- salary equivalent to the registrar's university "Lecturer level A" (0.5 FTE)
- clinical loading equivalent to that of an academic staff member "with significant responsibility for patient care" (0.5 FTE)
- statutory on-costs of 12% superannuation and 2% workers compensation
- payroll tax (as per the state/territory requirement)

Any costs exceeding the statutory requirement (as per university conditions of employment for academic staff) will not be covered by the College.

Funding is paid to the University in three instalments on submission of an invoice.

1. 50% of the total funded amount at the commencement of the training term *and* on receipt and approval of:
 - > a signed copy of the Letter of Agreement
 - > an approved copy of the budget template
 - > an invoice
2. 40% of the total funded amount on receipt and approval of:
 - > a signed copy of the mid-term report from both the academic registrar and their university supervisor
 - > an invoice
3. 10% of the total funded Amount on receipt and approval of:
 - > a signed copy of the final research findings report from the academic registrar and their university supervisor
 - > a completed reconciliation template
 - > an invoice

Reconciliation

At the end of an Academic Post, the university is required to submit an itemised reconciliation of expenses during the Academic Post. The reconciliation is due within 30 days of the Academic Post end-date and may be submitted with the final reports.

Registrar Research Funding

Academic registrar research projects are supported through the Registrar Research Fund. ACRRM reimburses up to \$5000 (ex GST) to academic registrars to assist with the cost of undertaking their research project.

Registrar research funding is managed by the College. To access these funds, the policies and procedures as set out by the College are to be followed. Any changes to the research funding budget requires approval before expenditures are made.

Professional Development Funding

Academic registrar professional development activities are supported through Professional Development Funding. ACRRM reimburses up to a total of \$7,000 (ex GST) to complete professional development activities.

Up to \$4,000 (ex GST) is allocated to covering costs of attending the a primary health care conference aligned to research and the annual Rural Medicine Australia (RMA) Conference. Registrars are entitled to use the remaining \$3000 (ex GST) professional development funding as per their application form, and as approved in the Letter of Offer.

Professional development funding is managed by the College. To access these funds please follow the policies and procedures as set out by the College. Any changes to the professional development funding budget require College approval before expenditures are made.

Registrar Research Funding and Professional Development Funding are held by the College and should be made available to the registrar as expenses are incurred. This funding is **not released to the university** in any instalments of funding.

Academic Registrar Activities

Mentoring, support and educational information

Academic registrars are to be linked with experienced university researchers who provide support sessions throughout the year. These sessions will provide educational information and networking opportunities. Researchers also support registrars to prepare papers and posters for the two conferences as outlined below.

Conference Attendance

Rural Medicine Australia (RMA) Conference

Academic registrars are expected to attend the RMA conference and are asked to submit an abstract for a paper or poster.

The RMA conference is delivered by ACRRM and Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA). It is held annually in October over three days with the location differing each year. In addition to RMA, registrars are required to attend one other approved conference such as:

- A primary health care conference aligned to research
- AMA National Conference

Registrars must seek prior approval from ACRRM to attend a conference not listed.

Academic Post Reports

Academic registrars are asked to complete three reports whilst completing an Academic Post: an orientation report, a mid-term report, and a final research-findings report.

The purpose of the orientation report is to:

- ensure registrars are on track with their post
- ensure registrars received sufficient on-boarding support.

The purpose of the mid-term report is to:

- ensure registrars are on track with their post and are receiving the support they need
- reflect on experiences as an academic registrar and assist in shaping the project
- help improve the program for future academic registrars
- provide a mechanism for mid-term funding to be released.

The purpose of the final research findings report is to:

- provide a copy of the registrar's research findings
- ensure adequate support was provided and identify any challenges faced throughout the post
- encourage registrars to reflect on their experiences as an academic registrar and assist them in shaping their future goals
- suggest improvements in the program for future academic registrars
- provide a mechanism for final funding to be released.

University supervisors must contribute to, and sign, the mid-term and final research findings reports. The registrar's medical educator must sign off all Academic Post reports.

Completed and signed reports must be submitted to the College

Reporting templates will be provided by the College.

Information for Universities and Supervisors

Role of a university supervisor

The university supervisor is expected to work with the prospective academic registrar to develop a research proposal as part of the Academic Post application. This may include a suitable individual project or involvement in a larger project, where the registrar has a clear and independent role.

The supervisor is expected to provide advice on the appropriate scope and breadth of the research project, the applicability to general practice, feasibility and timeline.

Once the registrar's research and teaching proposal has been accepted, the university supervisor is expected to meet regularly with the registrar to monitor progress of research, allocate appropriate teaching tasks, provide guidance and feedback on research and teaching, and involve the registrar in daily departmental activities. The supervisor is required to contribute to and sign the mid-term and final research findings reports.

Funding and Contracts

Contract Overview

The College enters into an agreement contract with the university regarding employment of the registrar.

The registrar will undertake a fixed term 12 month contract. As this is a fixed term contract, ACRRM will not cover severance costs.

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding any information provided in this guide, please contact the ACRRM Training Team via email training@acrrm.org.au.