

Advanced Specialised Training Outside of Training Guide

Purpose

Advanced Specialised Training (AST) expands the professional scope of doctors and offers benefits such as:

- Clinical privileging in hospitals
- Contribution to and expansion of medical services in rural and remote communities

Having advanced skills is an essential component of being a Rural Generalist.

ASTs are typically delivered as part of the ACRRM Rural Generalist Fellowship Program, but doctors can also complete an AST outside of the program, providing an excellent opportunity to grow skills in a specific area.

Eligibility

To enrol in an AST program, medical practitioners must:

- Hold general or specialist registration with AHPRA
- Have obtained or hold a position in a post accredited or creditable for the relevant AST (see *Standards for Teaching Posts*)
- Have completed or enrolled in compulsory courses as applicable to the relevant AST (refer to *AST curriculum*)
- Be prepared to submit a project proposal if undertaking:
 - Population Health
 - Remote Medicine
 - Academic Practice
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
(*Ensure Ethics Approval is sought and granted where applicable*)
- Meet specific eligibility requirements outlined in the relevant [AST curriculum](#)
- Complete a rotation or gain experience in the chosen discipline before advanced training
- Minimum of two years postgraduate experience required



- Additional relevant experience is strongly recommended for:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
 - Adult Internal Medicine
 - Remote Medicine

AST Disciplines

Choose from the following disciplines:

- 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
- Surgery

More information on each AST discipline can be found at ([AST disciplines](#)).

Duration:

- 12 months for most AST disciplines
- 24 months for the Surgery AST.

Fees

Participants completing an AST outside the Fellowship Program must pay:

- Application submission fees
- Ongoing training and assessment fees

More details are available at ([fees](#)).

Application

Applications for an AST outside of training are made through the [application form](#).

Placements



Training must be completed at an ACRRM-accredited training post, accredited specifically for the scope of the AST required, which may include:

- General practices
- Hospitals

Supervision

Supervision requirements are detailed in the respective AST handbook ([AST disciplines](#)) and supported by [Supervisor and Training Post Standards](#).

Support

Participants undertaking the AST outside of training will receive ongoing support in the form of:

- Medical Educator
- Training Program Advisor
- Eligibility for self funded attendance on the following assessment preparation activities:
 - Mock Structured Assessment using Multiple Patient Scenarios (StAMPS)
 - Study groups

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Participants may be eligible to apply for RPL through a Certificate of Equivalence (CoE). The CoE is an official recognition of training, clinical experience and professional competencies aligned with the standards expected of the AST completed by rural generalists in Australia.

This certification provides a pathway for doctors to have their prior work acknowledged—particularly those who have developed broad, advanced, or extended skills in rural and remote settings—without requiring unnecessary duplication of training already achieved.

Withdrawal

Withdrawal from the AST may occur in two ways:

Voluntary Withdrawal

- Must be in writing to the College
- Finalised after a 28-day cooling-off period.

Involuntary Withdrawal



May be initiated by the College under circumstances such as:

- Poor performance or progression, refusal/failure to comply with support measures
- Inability to meet AST requirements despite reasonable adjustments
- Lapse or removal of medical registration for >6 months
- Conditions on registration preventing AST completion
- Failure to pay fees by due date
- Exceeding maximum training time (per AST handbook)
- Failure to maintain eligibility
- Findings of professional or substantial academic misconduct.