

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING POLICY

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This policy provides guidelines for granting recognition of prior learning (RPL) that is deemed comparable to the training time and /or training program requirements for training, education, and assessment.
- 1.2. Recognition of prior learning is assessed with consideration of currency of experience, skills, and knowledge.

2. Application and scope

- 2.1. The policy applies to registrars training on the Fellowship Training Program.
- 2.2. Fellows completing an Advanced Specialised Training (AST) outside of the Fellowship Training Program are not eligible to apply for RPL. If a participant progressing through an AST outside of the Fellowship Training Program has undertaken a comparable training and / or academic program, an application is to be submission for recognition through the credentialling process.

3. Policy

- 3.1. The College seeks to facilitate recognition of prior learning that is consistent with supporting:
 - 3.1.1. a registrar's successful progression through the program to achieve Fellowship.
 - 3.1.2. Recognition of the minimum time requirements to support successful exam completion.
- 3.2. Complete RPL applications must be submitted:
 - 3.2.1. within six months of commencing training by registrars on the Fellowship program
- 3.3. Registrar Commonwealth funding:
 - 3.3.1. AGPT and RGTS registrars are able to access Commonwealth funding for training. Funds are based on a 4-year FTE ACRRM Training Program (5 years including the Surgery AST).
 - 3.3.2. access to Commonwealth funding will be reduced based on the approved RPL training time.
- 3.4. RPL may reduce a registrar's training time and requirements based on evidence of previous experience, education, and training. This may allow a Registrar earlier eligibility for assessment and reduce their time to Fellowship.
 - 3.4.1. RPL may also lead to reduced time to complete any remaining requirements, including education and assessments. RPL will also reduce the total allowed training time of 10 years for all ACRRM pathways.
- 3.5. RPL approval may be rescinded for the following reasons:

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- 3.5.1. Where a registrar exceeds the allowed training time for program completion
- 3.5.2. Where the registrar is subject to conditions under the ACRRM Assessment Eligibility policy
- 3.5.3. Where the registrar seeks approval to change the AST being undertaken through RPL
- 3.5.4. Where registrars are subject to conditions of training that demand completion of time and competency
- 3.6. RPL rescindment will be at the discretion of the Censor in Chief / Deputy Censor in Chief.
- 3.7. RPL applications are assessed with consideration of the following principles:
 - 3.7.1. Authenticity - the applicant has demonstrated the level of competency outcomes that are being claimed.
 - 3.7.2. Currency - the competency outcomes are still valid and performable.
 - 3.7.3. Quality - the competency has reached the acceptable level.
 - 3.7.4. Relevance - the competency is applicable to the relevant area of training and curriculum.
 - 3.7.5. Transferability - the competency outcome can be applied outside the specific context in which it was gained.
 - 3.7.6. Comparability - the assessment mechanisms adopted ensure that the prior learning is comparable to training.
 - 3.7.7. Applicants must demonstrate and provide evidence that training time and training requirements sought through RPL meet the requirements for the Fellowship Program.
- 3.4 Applicants who demonstrate experience that meets training placement requirements will have training time credited.
- 3.5 The maximum training time that may be credited through RPL on all pathways is:
 - 3.5.1 Registrar completing Fellowship program:
 - 3.5.1.1 two years, inclusive of Core Generalist and Advanced Specialised training,
 - 3.5.1.2 under exceptional circumstances, where a registrar has undertaken a comparable training and/ or academic program, RPL beyond these maximums may be awarded.
- 3.6 Training programs requirements may be credited when evidence of meeting requirements and recency of practice are provided.
 - 3.6.1 Recency of practice for Core Generalist pediatrics, anesthetics and obstetrics and gynecology is five years, from training start date.

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- 3.6.2 Recency of practice for Core Generalist secondary care, emergency care and rural and remote practice is two years, from training start date.
- 3.6.3 Recency of practice for Advanced Specialised disciplines is two years, from training start date.
- 3.7 Up to a maximum of six months of the primary care training program requirement can be credited through RPL. At the College's discretion or in extenuating circumstances, more than six months may be credited.
- 3.8 Considerations will be made on recency of primary care experience having been undertaken within two years of entry into ACRRM program with supervision at a level consistent with ACRRM Registrar placements.
- 3.9 Clinical experience in Australia and overseas experience in a Medical Board of Australia approved [competent authority](#) may be recognised.
- 3.10 Clinical experience gained in other countries may be considered case by case.
- 3.11 Registrars not demonstrating satisfactory performance during training may be required to undertake training program requirements that have previously been credited through RPL.

4. Responsibilities

- 4.1. RPL applicants are responsible for ensuring that:
 - 4.1.1 information is accurate, complete, and accompanied by all required evidence.
 - 4.1.2 documents in other languages are translated into English by a recognised authority, such as an official translator or government official.
 - 4.1.3 applications are submitted within six months of their commencing training.
 - 4.1.4 applications are submitted at least 12 weeks prior to enrolling in assessment, if the RPL outcome is required to meet assessment eligibility.
- 4.2 The College is responsible for:
 - 4.2.1 supporting applicants to understand RPL requirements and outcomes.
 - 4.2.2 working with applicants to work out what RPL is appropriate and develop a training plan.
 - 4.2.3 ensuring that the RPL application is complete and evidenced.
 - 4.2.4 processing the application in accordance with this policy.
 - 4.2.5 providing the RPL outcome to the applicant within 12 weeks.

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5. Related Documentation

- 5.1 [ACRRM Training Program Requirements Policy](#)
- 5.2 [ACRRM Training Placement Policy](#)
- 5.3 [ACRRM Training Time Policy](#)
- 5.4 [ACRRM Fellowship Training Program Handbook](#)
- 5.5 [ACRRM Fellowship Assessment Handbook](#)
- 5.6 [ACRRM Advanced Specialised Training Handbooks](#)
- 5.7 [ACRRM Rural Generalist Curriculum](#)
- 5.8 [ACRRM Standards for Supervisors and Training Posts](#)
- 5.9 [ACRRM Reconsideration, Review and Appeals Policy](#)
- 5.10 [ACRRM Assessment Eligibility policy](#)

6. Document Control Management

6.1 Policy Information

Policy Contact and Author	Kyra Moss/ David York	Approving Body:	Board
Status:	Final	Review period:	Three years
Policy No and Version:	T9 V1.3/2024	Next review date:	November 2027
Effective Date:	July 2024	Document Location:	ACRRM Admin/Policies/Program Policies/Training Program polices and regs
Responsible Officer:	David York	Policy System Manager:	Mary Jane Streeton

6.2 Document History

Version	Date Approved	Author	Description of revision	Internal Distribution	
				Date	Recipient/s
V1.3	Nov 2024	Fellowship Manager	Incorporation of renewed advice on management of RPL for AST outside of training Incorporation of submission and timeframe requirements Incorporation of reference to Commonwealth funding	Nov 24	GM Education Services

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Version	Date Approved	Author	Description of revision	Internal Distribution	
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V1.2	December 2022	Fellowship Manager	Removal of Regional Training Organisation references Alignment with one Fellowship program	Dec 22	GM Education Services
V1.1	September 2021	L Saul, Mgr A/S	Clarification provided on definition of currency as being measured from start of training	Sep 21	EST, DoT, CiC/OCEO
V1.0	March 2021	L Saul, Mgr A/S	RGTS added to definition for Training Organisations	Mar 21	ELT/CEO
Previous system	July 2020	L Saul, Mgr A/S	Terminology updated to reflect Fellowship Training Pathway terminology changes	Jul 20	ELT/CEO
Previous system	January 2018	L Saul, Mgr A/S	Currency of experience required to apply for RPL reduced to: CCT within past seven years, PRRT within past five years and AST within past two years. Provisional RPL removed, RPL can only be applied for during training.	Jan 18	ELT/CEO
Previous system	January 2017	L Saul, Mgr A/S	Maximum RPL set at 2 years for AGPT & RVTS and 3 years for IP. Training Plan must be included with application.	Jan 17	ELT/CEO
Previous system	June 2013	L Saul, Mgr A/S	Applications prior to training are provisional to provide an indication of what may be recognised, RPL confirmed once in training.	Jun 13	ELT/CEO
Previous system	March 2011	L Saul, Mgr A/S	First version of the policy	Mar 11	ELT/CEO

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