Recognition of Prior Learning Policy

1. Purpose

1.1. This policy provides guidance 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 ACRRM Rural Generalist Fellowship 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 submitted 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 within six months of commencing training by registrars on the Fellowship program

3.3. Registrar Commonwealth funding:

3.3.1. Registrars on the Australian General Practice Training Program (AGPT) are able to access Commonwealth funding for training. Funds are based on a 4-year FTE ACRRM Rural Generalist Fellowship 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 College pathways.

3.5. RPL for training time and / or training requirements is excluded for the following project based ASTs:

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3.5.1. Academic Practice

3.5.2. Population Health

3.5.3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

3.5.4. Remote Medicine.

3.6. RPL approval may be rescinded for the following reasons:

3.6.1. Where a registrar exceeds the allowed training time for program completion

3.6.2. Where the registrar is subject to conditions under the ACRRM Assessment Eligibility policy

3.6.3. Where the registrar seeks approval to change the AST being undertaken through RPL

3.6.4. Where registrars are subject to conditions of training that demand completion of time and competency

3.7. RPL rescindment will be at the discretion of the Censor in Chief/Deputy Censor in Chief.

3.8. RPL applications are assessed with consideration of the following principles:

3.8.1. Authenticity - the applicant has demonstrated the level of competency outcomes that are being claimed.

3.8.2. Currency - the competency outcomes are still valid and performable.

3.8.3. Quality - the competency has reached the acceptable level.

3.8.4. Relevance - the competency is applicable to the relevant area of training and curriculum.

3.8.5. Transferability - the competency outcome can be applied outside the specific context in which it was gained.

3.8.6. Comparability - the assessment mechanisms adopted ensure that the prior learning is comparable to training.

3.8.7. Applicants must demonstrate and provide evidence that training time and training requirements sought through RPL meet the requirements for the Fellowship Program.

3.8 Applicants who demonstrate experience that meets training placement requirements will have training time credited.

3.9 The maximum training time that may be credited through RPL on all pathways is:

3.9.1 two years, inclusive of Core Generalist and Advanced Specialised training,

3.9.2 under exceptional circumstances, where a registrar has undertaken a comparable training and/or academic program, RPL beyond these maximums may be awarded.

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3.10 Training program requirements may be credited when evidence of meeting requirements and recency of practice are provided.

3.10.1 Recency of practice for Core Generalist pediatrics, anesthetics and obstetrics and gynecology is five years, from training start date.

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

3.10.3 Recency of practice for Advanced Specialised disciplines is two years, from training start date.

3.11 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.

3.12 Considerations will be made on recency of primary care experience having been undertaken within two years of entry into the ACRRM Rural Generalist Fellowship Program with supervision at a level consistent with College Registrar placements.

3.13 Clinical experience in Australia and overseas experience in a Medical Board of Australia approved competent authority may be recognised.

3.14 Clinical experience gained in other countries may be considered case by case.

3.15 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. Registrars 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.

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4.2.5 providing the RPL outcome to the applicant within 12 weeks.

5. Related Documentation

ACRRM Training Program Requirements Policy

ACRRM Training Placement Policy

ACRRM Training Time

ACRRM Fellowship Training Program Handbook

ACRRM Fellowship Assessment Handbook

ACRRM Advanced Specialised Training Handbooks

ACRRM Rural Generalist Curriculum

ACRRM Standards for Supervisors and Training Posts

ACRRM Reconsideration, Review and Appeals Policy

ACRRM Assessment Eligibility policy

6. Document Control Management

6.1 Policy Information

Policy Contact and Author	Fellowship Manager	**Approving Body:**	Board
Status:	Final	**Review period:**	Three years
Policy No and Version:	T9 V1.5/2026	**Next review date:**	January 2029
Effective Date:	August 2026	**Document Location:**	Policy Register
Responsible Officer:	Fellowship Manager	**Policy System Manager:**	Advocacy and Policy Manager

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6.2 Document History

Version	Date Approved	Author	Description of revision	Internal Distribution	
				Date	Recipient/s
V1.5	Jul 2026	Fellowship Manager	Commencing 2027.1, Addition of 3.5 project-based - ASTs are excluded from RPL applications.	Jul 2026	GM Education Services
V1.4	Jan 2026	Fellowship Manager	Removal of reference to RGTS Replacement of ACRRM Fellowship Training Program with ACRRM Rural Generalist Fellowship Program	Jan 2026	GM Education Services
V1.3	Aug 2025	Fellowship Manager	Applications for registrars commencing 2026.1 are to be submitted in the first six months from training commencement. Current registrars can submit RPL applications until the end of 2026.1 Applications can be made for up to six months of primary care 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 Commencing 2025.1, addition of 3.4.1, approved training time through RPL will reduce the total allowed training time of 10 years.	Nov 24	GM Education Services
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

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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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