



Recognition of Prior Learning Policy

Department	Education Services
Audience	Registrars
Maintenance	Manager Standards and Accreditation
Approved by	ACRRM Board
Approved date	December 2019
Effective date	1 July 2020
Review date	December 2022

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This policy provides guidelines for granting recognition of prior learning (RPL) that is deemed comparable to the Training Time and 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 any of the three ACRRM Training Pathways: Australian General Practice Training (AGPT), Independent Pathway (IP) and Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS).

3. Policy

- 3.1. The College seeks to facilitate recognition of prior learning that is consistent with supporting a registrar's successful progression through the program to achieve Fellowship.
- 3.2. RPL applications are assessed with consideration of the following principles:
 - 3.2.1. Authenticity - the applicant has demonstrated the level of competency outcomes that are being claimed.
 - 3.2.2. Currency - the competency outcomes are still valid and performable.
 - 3.2.3. Quality - the competency has reached the acceptable level.
 - 3.2.4. Relevance - the competency is applicable to the relevant area of training and curriculum.



- 3.2.5. Transferability - the competency outcome can be applied outside the specific context in which it was gained.
- 3.2.6. Comparability - the assessment mechanisms adopted ensure that the prior learning is comparable to training.
- 3.3. Applicants must demonstrate and provide evidence that Training Time and Training Program Requirements sought through RPL meet the requirements for the Training 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 two years, inclusive of Core Generalist and Advanced Specialised training,
 - 3.5.2 under exceptional circumstances, where a doctor 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 paediatrics, anaesthetics and O&G is five years.
 - 3.6.2 Recency of practice for Core Generalist secondary care, emergency care and rural and remote practice is two years.
 - 3.6.3 Recency of practice for Advanced Specialised disciplines is two years.
- 3.7 Primary care minimum Training Program Requirement cannot be credited through RPL, it must be completed in training to allow completion of workplace assessments.
- 3.8 Clinical experience in Australia and overseas experience in a Medical Board of Australia approved [competent authority](#) may be recognised.
- 3.9 Clinical experience gained in other countries may be considered case by case.
- 3.10 Registrars not demonstrating satisfactory performance during training may be required to undertake Training Program Requirements that have previously been credited through RPL.

4. Roles and 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 early in training and accompanied by a Training Plan
 - 4.1.4 applications are submitted at least 10 weeks prior to enrolling in assessment, if the RPL outcome is required to meet assessment eligibility
 - 4.1.5 applications are submitted through their Training Organisation.



- 4.2 Training Organisations are responsible for:
 - 4.2.1 supporting registrars to understand RPL requirements and outcomes
 - 4.2.2 working with registrars to work out what RPL is appropriate and develop a Training Plan
 - 4.2.3 ensuring RPL application is complete and evidenced prior to sending to ACRRM
 - 4.2.4 sending completed application to ACRRM along with a recommendation of what RPL is supported.
- 4.3 The College is responsible for:
 - 4.3.1 processing the application in accordance with this policy
 - 4.3.2 providing the RPL Outcome to the applicant and their Training Organisation within eight weeks.

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 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

6. Definitions

Word/Term	Definition (with examples if required)
RTO	Regional Training Organisation
Training Organisation	A training organisation accredited by ACRRM to deliver training; this includes the RTOs delivering training on the AGPT pathway, RVTS and ACRRM on the IP.



7. Revision History

Date of Version	Pages revised/brief explanation of revision
March 2011	First version of the policy
June 2013	Applications prior to training are provisional to provide an indication of what may be recognised, RPL confirmed once in training.
January 2017	Maximum RPL set at 2 years for AGPT & RVTS and 3 years for IP. Training Plan must be included with application.
January 2018	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.