

Committee for Specialist International Medical Graduate Education (CSIMGE)

COMMUNIQUÉ

Removal of Category III, Seniority and Eminence



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From 1 January 2017, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) Board has approved the removal of Category III, Seniority and Eminence, as a possible assessment outcome for Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) applying for Specialist Assessment with the RANZCP.

Applications for Specialist Assessment that seek consideration for Category III, Seniority and Eminence, received after 31 December 2016 will not be accepted.

Rationale

Category III, Seniority and Eminence, was introduced in 2009 as a possible assessment outcome for SIMG applicants who had at least five years' experience as a senior psychiatrist and were distinguished at an international level in the field of psychiatry, either in academic or administrative fields.

The Committee for Specialist International Medical Graduate Education (CSIMGE) has considered all applications for Category III, Seniority and Eminence extremely thoroughly as the candidates are eligible for Fellowship of the RANZCP without having to complete any assessment requirements (other than Indigenous experience in certain cases).

In August, 2016, a Working Group was convened by the Board to review a recommendation by the CSIMGE that Category III, Seniority and Eminence, be removed as a possible assessment outcome. The reasoning for this was that Psychiatrists who were awarded Category III, Seniority and Eminence, would be able to obtain specialist positions in a clinical setting with no assessment of their clinical skills and this was agreed to be a significant risk to patients. The Working Group supported this recommendation and the Board has subsequently approved the removal of this pathway to Fellowship.

Alternative to Category III, Seniority and Eminence

Candidates with an appropriate level of experience at a consultant level may be awarded a specialist assessment outcome of Substantial Comparability, enabling them to attain Fellowship following a twelve month supervised placement involving a robust assessment of their clinical skills.

Queries

Any queries relating to this communiqué should be directed to simge@ranzcp.org.
