Transition to 2012 Fellowship Program

The letters for transition to the 2012 Fellowship Program were emailed to candidates in December 2015.

You are strongly encouraged to read the following policies to assist you in your progression to Fellowship under the 2012 Fellowship Program:

- [SIMG candidate requirements to RANZCP Fellowship policy](#)
- [Maintenance of comparability status policy](#)

Under the 2012 Fellowship Program, SIMG candidates are required to complete the trainee Stage 3 forms, located on the [Training program forms A–Z](#) web page. SIMG candidates will only need to obtain the signature of their College-accredited supervisor not the Director of Training, like College trainees do. Completed forms can be submitted to the RANZCP SIMGE team via simge@ranzcp.org.

The Stage 3 ITA form is available now on the [Training Program Forms](#) or [In-Training Assessment Forms](#) web pages.
**SIMG Support**

**Coaching grant support for SIMG candidates**

Are you a SIMG working in Australia and looking for extra support? The College continues to make available grants of up to $3000 for exemption candidates to fund and organise one-on-one coaching sessions with a Fellow or other suitably qualified professional to provide support on the pathway to Fellowship.

All SIMG candidates on the Specialist Pathway to RANZCP Fellowship (Substantially or Partially Comparable Placements) working within Australia continue to be eligible to apply for the grant. At this stage, eligible SIMG candidates are limited to receiving a maximum of $3000.00 in grant funds under this initiative in 2016.

All SIMG candidates are encouraged to consider taking up this opportunity. Since the initiative’s inception, SIMG candidates have organised sessions to assist with topics such as:

- exam content
- language assistance
- cultural understanding
- confidence building
- interview skills and techniques
- case formulation
- case-based discussions
- developing management plans.

A range of experienced Fellows including past examiners, SIMG Fellows, workshop facilitators and communication and culture experts are keen to provide you with assistance to meet the requirements for Fellowship. Many coaches are available for face-to-face sessions and a portion of the grant is permitted for use by the SIMG candidate to travel if required.

Applications are open now and will be available up to **30 September 2016** (funds permitting). Applications are assessed by a panel of College Fellows from the SIMG Support Working Party. All candidates will be notified of the outcome. To apply and to find out more, see the [One-on-one coaching grants web page](#). For queries, please contact the STP team at [stp.project@ranzcp.org](mailto:stp.project@ranzcp.org).

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists has received Australian Government funding under the Specialist Training Program for the SIMG Support Project one-on-one coaching individual grants initiative.

**Interested in coaching SIMG candidates on the pathway to Fellowship?**

The College seeks expressions of interest from Fellows and other suitably qualified professionals to provide coaching to Australian-based SIMG candidates. Under the SIMG Support Project one-on-one coaching initiative, the College has grants available of up to $3000.00 for SIMG candidates to access paid coaching and receive support on the pathway to Fellowship. Examples of suitable coaching topics include:

- exam preparation
- cultural adaptation
- interview skills and techniques
- case based discussions
- case formulation
- management plans.

To assist SIMG candidates to source a coach, the College continues to compile a list via the members’ login section of the website of Fellows, linguists, communication experts and other professionals who have expressed interest in coaching SIMG candidates. For further information and to express interest in being considered for this coaching list, please visit the [coaching web page](#). Any queries can be directed to [stp.project@ranzcp.org](mailto:stp.project@ranzcp.org).

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists has received Australian Government funding under the Specialist Training Program for the SIMG Support Project one-on-one coaching individual grants initiative.
Australian Clinical Practice Skills Workshop
Saturday, 9 to Sunday, 10 April 2016 - Melbourne, Victoria

As part of the College’s commitment to supporting SIMG candidates on the pathway to Fellowship, the RANZCP is pleased to offer this weekend workshop at the RANZCP Head Office in Melbourne.

The Australian Clinical Practice Skills (ACPS) Workshop is a personalised workshop that gives a concise and effective run-through of the nature and expectations of the clinical interview and psychiatric clinical practice in Australia.

At this highly interactive workshop, participants are given specific insights into what adjustments are needed to be made in their practice to prepare for their assessments and to successfully adapt to the practice of psychiatry in Australia. As a result, participants learn very quickly how to refine their clinical skills to match the expectations of the RANZCP and their workplace.

All SIMG candidates on the Specialist Pathway (Substantially and Partially Comparable Placements), working in Australia, are eligible to apply. However, feedback from previous ACPS workshop participants has indicated that this workshop may be best suited to early stage SIMG candidates and those on the Partially Comparable Placement. More than 100 SIMG candidates have already participated in these workshops since 2014 with very positive feedback.

To apply, simply fill in the application form or visit the Support programs web page for more information. Any questions can be directed to stp.project@ranzcp.org.

Participants can expect:
- extensive exposure to role-plays (live and recorded)
- practical exercises in small groups
- professional feedback from former examiners, experienced Fellows, language and cultural experts
- high facilitator-to-student ratio
- insights into exams and assessments
- an action plan to identify a path forward following the workshop.

Examples of workshop feedback from previous participants includes:
- ‘Essential preparation and skill enhancement exercise’.
- ‘It was very realistic and interactive, giving opportunity to get sensitised to everyday practice issues’.
- ‘Sessions on formulation and management were exceptionally helpful’.

The workshop has been developed through broad consultation with examiners, successful SIMG Fellows and current SIMG candidates, and benefits those who are new to clinical practice in Australia as well as those who plan to sit exams and assessments in 2016.

Funds are available to assist with the travel expenses of those who reside greater than 100km from Melbourne, Victoria.

Please note that:
- Submission of an application does not guarantee a place at the workshop. Places are limited and will be accepting according to the order of application.
- The College reserves the right to forego scheduling and delivering the workshop if sufficient interest/applications are not received.

The RANZCP has received Australian Government funding under the Specialist Training Program for this event.
Substantial Comparability candidates in Area of Need positions

If you are currently in the process of completing the Substantial Comparability Placement in an Area of Need position, but your status is about to expire with the College for the Area of Need position, you are required to extend your Area of Need status with the College.

This will need to be done by submitting an Area of Need extension application to the College for the review of the Committee for Specialist International Medical Graduate Education (CSIMGE). This will allow you to obtain the medical registration with AHPRA to continue to work in the Area of Need position.

This application should include the completed 2016 Area of Need Application Form, all supporting documentation listed in the application form for an Area of Need extension and payment of the relevant fee for an Area of Need extension.

Area of Need extension applications need to be submitted to the College via post:
Specialist International Medical Graduate Education
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
309 La Trobe Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

The Area of Need extension application will need to be submitted by the closing date of the CSIMGE meeting at least a month prior to your Area of Need status with the College expiring; see the Committee Assessment Dates document on the web.

Your Area of Need expiry date with the College should be noted on your final outcome letter or most recent progression to Fellowship letter from the College.

The RANZCP is here to support candidates and assist with the application process. Candidates are encouraged to contact simge@ranzcp.org for any queries.
Review of comparability status fee

Existing SIMG candidates can now apply for a review of their comparability status, and therefore a change in their pathway requirements from partial to substantial comparability, if they wish. Please refer to the eligibility criteria on the Substantial Comparability Placement web page.

A new fee has been introduced for SIMG candidates applying for a review of their comparability. This fee, referred to as the ‘review of comparability status fee’, has been introduced to cover the Committee’s assessment of the new application. Please refer to the 2016 SIMG fee schedule.

The RANZCP is here to support any candidates experiencing financial difficulty. For assistance, please email simge@ranzcp.org.

Observed Clinical Activity (OCA) Videos

OCA videos have been uploaded on the College website on the 2012 Fellowship Program: supervisor resources page under the heading of ‘Congress 2015 videos’.

The videos are a series of videos filmed during and after the RANZCP 2015 Congress, with an aim to deliver greater understanding of the OCA in the 2012 Fellowship Program.

2016 examination timetable and fees

The RANZCP Committee for Examinations 2016 examination timetable, exam and assessment fees, and cancellation and refund schedule are available from the College website. They can be located under the 2012 Fellowship Program, Exam centre web page.

Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

The Committee for Examinations directs Trainees and SIMG candidates to the Exam centre web page for further information regarding the OSCE examination under the 2012 Fellowship Program.

The OSCE Subcommittee of the Committee for Examinations has released a sample station and scoring key set at the standard of a Junior Consultant. The station may be found on the Exam centre web page, under the title ‘OSCE Exam’.
Exam Assistants for OSCE Examination -
Saturday, 16 April 2016 -
Volunteers required for Melbourne

The Committee for Examinations would like to invite local trainees and SIMGs to assist with the running of the OSCE examination. The April 2016 OSCE Examination is to be held in Melbourne on Saturday, 16 April 2016. Your attendance at the examination venue would be required from 7:00am to 5:30pm. The examination will be held at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Royal Women’s Hospital.

Exam assistants play a pivotal part in the smooth running of this event. This is an excellent opportunity for future candidates to improve their chances of success by seeing the examination process in action.

A training webinar will be conducted on Friday afternoon, 15 April 2016 at 3:00pm, which you are also required to attend. Your help will be very much appreciated by the College and your colleagues who will be sitting these examinations.

If you are interested, please contact the Exams Department at clinicals@ranzcp.org

April 2016 OSCE Examination

Candidates undertaking the April 2016 OSCE are not to bring their travel luggage with them to the examination site. One small handbag/document satchel will only be accepted for storage by College staff, and personal belongings should be kept to a minimum. Please note that local security protocols at the hospital will prohibit any baggage being left unattended.

Whilst the College aims to start the examination on time, there are instances where it can be delayed. For candidates who are travelling/flying, we ask that you please **do not** book flights immediately following the examination. We highly recommend that you book a flight at least 2.5 to 3 hours after the **scheduled conclusion** of the examination.

The College regrets any inconvenience these arrangements may cause, but thanks candidates in advance for their cooperation. Please contact the Exams department at clinicals@ranzcp.org if you have any further questions.

OSCE Examination Attire

The Committee for Examinations recommends that candidates presenting at the examinations wear comfortable modest clothing and footwear, but still be professionally presented. Candidate attire should not restrict movement and their attire should allow them to move swiftly and freely across stations as well as within a station.

Candidates are also reminded that should their performance be seriously affected by illness or other personal circumstances, they should consider withdrawing from the examination.
2012 Fellowship Program Essay Style paper

Written Examination candidates sitting the 2012 Fellowship Program Essay Style paper are advised that the Committee for Examinations has published the August 2015 Critical Essay Question and the associated scoring key. There is also a Modified Essay Question (MEQ) from the August 2015 examination and the scoring key available on the College website.

The 2015 Congress presentation given by Dr Lisa Lampe, Chair, Committee for Examinations, ‘Guide to the Critical Essay Question’, is also available from the College website. These documents may be found on the Exam centre web page.

Break in comparability status

SIMG candidates may apply to the CSIMGE for a break in comparability status. Candidates are required to provide proof of exceptional circumstances to support the temporary suspension of their comparability status.

A Break in comparability status notification form must be completed and signed by the supervising Fellow and forwarded to the CSIMGE at least one month prior to the proposed break in comparability status. Such breaks may have implications for maintaining the currency of candidate’s progress in the training and assessment process.

Please refer to the Maintenance of comparability status policy for more information.

It is important to note that current medical registration in Australia or New Zealand is required to maintain comparability status with the RANZCP.
Submission of applications
All applications (including application for extensions, renewals and reviews) need to be submitted to the RANZCP via post:

Specialist International Medical Graduate Education
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
309 La Trobe Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Applications submitted via email or fax will not be accepted.

Updating your contact details with the RANZCP
You are required to advise the RANZCP of any changes to your contact details. This can be done by clicking on Member Access on the top right-hand corner of the RANZCP website home page, logging-in and clicking on the My personal details link.

Referee guidelines for applications
It is important to note that referees are asked to comment on your abilities as a specialist and therefore need to be familiar with your current professional practice.

The RANZCP guidelines in terms of referee reports are as follows:

- A minimum of three referee reports are required.
- At least one referee must be a current clinical supervisor who is a specialist in psychiatry. Preferably all three referees should be clinical supervisors.
- If you are already working in Australia, your referees must be Fellows of the RANZCP or RANZCP accredited Training supervisors.
- Referees will receive one reminder only from the RANZCP. It is the candidate’s responsibility to follow up missing referee reports.
- Your application will not proceed to assessment if any referee reports are missing on the closing date.
- The RANZCP may seek additional specified referees to clarify issues arising from the assessment.

Any applications that are found to have reports or referees that do not comply with the RANZCP guidelines will be delayed until satisfactory reports can be provided.