

# Forensic psychiatry – Certificate program

## Training requirements



*Trainees undertaking a Certificate of Advanced Training program and Stage 3 of the Fellowship Program concurrently must follow the requirements for both programs.*

This document provides a summary of the training requirements of the *Certificate of Advanced Training in Forensic Psychiatry*. The requirements apply to both trainees and Fellows-in-training.

**Please note:** The requirements listed below were approved by the Subcommittee of Advanced Training in Forensic Psychiatry (SATFP) on 29 September 2015.

- Successful completion of 24 months\* FTE training in accredited forensic psychiatry training posts. The following experiences can be achieved concurrently:
  - 3 months FTE treatment of prisoners/remandees
  - 3 months FTE acute inpatient unit in a hospital
  - 3 months FTE rehabilitation
  - 3 months FTE community (treatment and/or assessment work).
- \*At least 12 months FTE must be working with adults (i.e. over 18 years old). Up to 12 months FTE of forensic research/medical administration/medical education can be prospectively approved on a case-by-case basis by SATFP. Any application would need to detail how the required forensic psychiatry EPAs are to be completed. Trainees are required to maintain their clinical currency by spending at least 0.2 FTE (or 1 day per week) in direct clinical work.
- Attainment of **eight** Stage 3 forensic psychiatry EPAs; two per 6-month rotation.
  - Six forensic psychiatry EPAs are mandatory for Certificate completion (see [Certificate of Advanced Training in Forensic Psychiatry](#) web page for details), trainees are to choose an additional two EPAs to attain from the remaining forensic psychiatry EPAs.
  - A minimum of three WBAs are required to contribute to the evidence base for each required EPA.
- Completion of a mandatory minimum of one Observed Clinical Activity (OCA) WBA with forensic patients during each 6-month FTE rotation.
  - This applies to all trainees (including transitioning trainees) and Fellows-in-training regardless of OCI pass.
  - The OCA will be recorded on the end-of-rotation In-Training Assessment (ITA) form.
  - This will satisfy the Fellowship OCA requirement for pre-Fellowship trainees.
- Completion of a formal forensic psychiatry teaching program, equivalent to a Graduate Certificate.
  - The teaching program must be university level and externally assessed.
  - SATFP have approved the following courses:
    - o Graduate Certificate in Forensic Behavioural Science (Swinburne)
    - o Master of Forensic Mental Health (University of New South Wales; Graduate Certificate available)
    - o Graduate Certificate in Forensic Mental Health (Griffith University)
    - o Youth Forensic Psychiatry (The University of Auckland)<sup>†</sup>.

<sup>†</sup> This program meets 50% of the formal forensic psychiatry teaching program requirements. In order to facilitate the full completion of a formal forensic psychiatry teaching program, trainees undertaking this course will also need to complete two core units from any of the three approved programs listed above.

- Trainees can apply prospectively to SATFP for approval of equivalent courses (not outlined above) that are university level and externally assessed.
- The teaching program can be undertaken while on a break in training depending on the arrangements with the course provider and with the employing health service, where relevant.
- Successful completion of a research project. [Summative assessment]
  - A successfully completed Fellowship Scholarly Project may be used to fulfil this requirement.
  - A doctoral thesis, Masters thesis or Honours thesis in a field relevant to psychiatry or mental health or an article published within the past 10 years in a recognised, peer-reviewed English-language journal relevant to psychiatry or mental health that has satisfied the Fellowship Scholarly Project exemption criteria may be used to fulfil this requirement.
  - Trainees with no Fellowship Scholarly Project must submit a research project to their Director of Advanced Training for marking.
    - o There is no fee payable for marking projects for the Certificate program.
- Completion of (formative) mid-rotation and (summative) end-of-rotation ITAs.
  - End-of-rotation ITA forms must be submitted within 60 days of the completion of each rotation.
- Submission of checklist & sign off.
  - To be signed by the trainee, DOAT and SATFP Chair as declaration and confirmation that the trainee has satisfactorily completed the requirements of the Certificate training program.
  - For more information on the awarding of advance certificate process, please visit the [Certificates of Advanced Training mandatory requirements](#) section on the RANZCP website.

For trainees and Fellows who **transition from the 2003 training program**, please refer to the *Forensic Psychiatry Certificate Program Transition Matrix* for the transition rules. It is a trainee's/Fellow's responsibility to be familiar with the requirements post-transition.

## Revision Record

Contact	Training team	Project Officer, Education and Training	
Date	Version	Approver	Description
21/10/15	v1.0	Education Committee	New document. Approved by CFT 08/10/15. Approved EC out of session 14/10/15.
15/12/15	v1.1	N/A	Minor amendment: Submission of checklist & sign off added.
23/12/15	v1.2	N/A	Clarification Fellowship OCA considered met by Certificate OCA.
16/08/16	v1.3	SATFP	Updated to include up to 12 months of research/administration/education, clarification that successful Fellowship Scholarly Projects can satisfy the research project requirement. SATFP approved 04/03/16.
31/10/16	v1.4		Clarified OCA is mandatory for all enrolled in the Certificate program.
26/05/17	v1.5	CFT	Updated to include Youth Forensic Psychiatry (Auckland University) as an approved formal forensic psychiatry teaching program. Approved CFT 27/04/2017.
08/08/19	v1.6	N/A	Addition of Certificate award process.
October 2020			<b>NEXT REVIEW</b>