

Psychiatry of old age – 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 Psychiatry of Old Age*. 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 Psychiatry of Old Age (SATPOA) on 25 September 2015.

- Successful completion of 24 months* FTE training in accredited psychiatry of old age training posts including:
 - 6 months FTE in an inpatient setting
 - 6 months FTE in a community setting.
- * Up to 12 months FTE can be spent in another clinical area of practice related to psychiatry of old age or research which must be sought and prospectively approved on a case-by-case basis by SATPOA. Any application would need to detail how the required psychiatry of old age EPAs are to be completed. Up to 6 months FTE training in geriatric medicine can be prospectively approved on a case-by-case basis by SATPOA. Any application would need to detail how the required psychiatry of old age EPAs are to be completed. Training in prospectively approved research rotations cannot be approved unless there is a demonstrable completion of the research criteria that the trainee had outlined in their prospective application.
- Written learning plan (including proposed rotations) for year 1 and year 2 of training, agreed with the Director of Advanced Training (DOAT) and submitted prior to the commencement of training.
 - The learning plan will demonstrate how the Certificate of Advanced Training in Psychiatry of Old Age curriculum will be addressed.
 - The learning plan will be discussed with supervisors/DOAT and modified if required throughout training.
 - The learning plan will be reviewed at the end of training by the DOAT to ensure the objectives of training have been met.
 - If a local SATPOA-approved formal teaching program is available, it must be attended (and included as part of the learning plan) but if a formal teaching program is not available, there must be a compensatory increase in the other types of learning activities.
 - Completion of a formal psychiatry of old age teaching program, or equivalent as outlined in the learning plan.
 - 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.
 - Attainment of **eight** Stage 3 psychiatry of old age EPAs; two per 6-month FTE rotation.
 - 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 older persons (> 65 years) during each 6-month FTE rotation.
 - 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.
- Successful completion of the Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age research project; 3000–5000 words in length. [Summative assessment]
 - A successfully completed Fellowship Scholarly Project may be used to fulfil this requirement.
 - A doctoral thesis, research Masters or Honours thesis or an article published within the past 10 years in a recognised, peer-reviewed English-language journal that has satisfied the Fellowship Scholarly Project exemption criteria may be used to fulfil this requirement
 - Trainees and Fellows with no requirement to complete a Fellowship Scholarly Project must submit a research project to the College and will be marked by at least two Psychiatry of Old Age Psychiatrists, with a third assessor required in the event of split decision.
 - There is no fee payable for marking the projects for the Certificate program.
- Completion of **40** discrete case summaries; 10 summaries per 6-month FTE rotation.
 - Diagnostic categories are prescribed to ensure reasonable coverage of both high prevalence and low prevalence disorders. Requirements:
 - 25 high prevalence disorders
 - 15 low prevalence disorders
 - At least 5 cases (of the required 40) must be seen in a consultation–liaison setting.
 - Further specification of the number of cases required within each diagnostic category has been determined by SATPOA. (See required diagnostic categories on the [Certificate of Advanced Training in Psychiatry of Old Age](#) web page.)
 - Typed vignettes of 50–100 words are required for each case and should include: patient age and gender, presenting context, presenting symptom(s), diagnosis, management and what was learnt.
 - Supervisors must sign and date each vignette as an accurate record of the patient treated. Completed case summaries must be attached to the end-of-rotation ITA form.
- Provision of psychotherapy to **three** older persons (i.e. > 65 years) for at least six sessions each.
 - Completion of all three cases will fulfil the Stage 3 Fellowship psychotherapy requirement.
- Completion of **five** medico-legal reports, e.g. testamentary capacity, fitness for trial, guardianship, etc.
- Management (pre- and post-) of **two** older people receiving ECT.
- Attendance at **five half-day** memory clinics.
- 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 SATPOA 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 *Psychiatry of Old Age 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
08/08/2019	v1.6	N/A	Addition of Certificate award process.
15/06/18	v1.5	SATPOA	Clarification that if a trainee is undertaking a prospectively approved research rotation, they will be required demonstrate that they have adhered to the
20/04/18	v1.4	Education Committee	Updated to reflect research project exemption for passed Fellowship Scholarly Project
16/08/16	v1.3	SATPOA	Updated to clarify that only passed Fellowship Scholarly Projects can be submitted for marking.
21/12/15	v1.2	N/A	Clarification of Certificate OCA requirement will be considered for Fellowship OCA requirement
15/12/15	v1.1	N/A	Minor amendment: Final summary report replaced by checklist & sign off.
21/10/15	v1.0	Education Committee	New document. Approved by CFT 08/10/15. Approved EC out of session 14/10/15.
October 2020			NEXT REVIEW