Final sitting of MOCI Examination – Specialist Pathway

The Education Committee at its meeting on 19 September 2014 has approved that for Exemptions Candidates on the Specialist Pathway:

- Cycle 2 June 2015 will be the last offering for MOCI candidates sitting the first two MOCIs of a new or initial attempt.
- The final MOCI examination will be held in October 2015 (Cycle 3) and will be available for only those candidates who have to appear for their third MOCI in this cycle.

All candidates eligible to sit for MOCIs are encouraged to make an attempt at MOCIs in 2015.

The Committee for Specialist International Medical Graduate Education (CSIMGE) in consultation with the Overseas Trained Psychiatrists Representative Committee is currently working on workplace-based assessment requirements to replace MOCIs based on the 2012 Fellowship program. Candidates will be informed of these requirements in due course.

You can find the updated Examinations time table for 2015 on the RANZCP website on Examinations page under Changes and News.

Maintenance of Exemption Status

NEW policy, Link 19b, for new applicants to Specialist Pathway from 1 September 2014

It is important to note that a new Maintenance of Exemption Status policy, Link 19b, has been introduced for candidates who commence on the Specialist Pathway after 1 September 2014. These candidates will be granted a maximum six years Exemption Status time to meet all requirements to RANZCP Fellowship. This has been introduced to align with AHPRA registration requirements. Link 19b is available on the Links and Forms web page: https://www.ranzcp.org/Pre-Fellowship/2003-Fellowship-Program/Links-and-Forms.aspx

Candidates who commenced on the Specialist Pathway prior to 1 September 2014 should still refer to Link 19a. The maximum Exemption Status time allowed will not change for these candidates.

For any queries, please contact simge@ranzcp.org.
2003 Fellowship Training Program for Exemptions Candidates

Exemptions Candidates currently enrolled in the Specialist Pathway continue to be governed under the 2003 regulations.

Please note that the current Specialist Pathway and the related assessment requirements are expected to exist until 2015, after which the Specialist Pathway is anticipated to align with the 2012 Fellowship Training Program. It is expected that there will be changes to the assessment of requirements and completion of the pathway. The RANZCP is unable to predict the likely outcome, or the currency of successfully passed components of the examination and training due to the introduction of the 2012 Fellowship Training Program.

Considering the anticipated changes, the Committee for Specialist International Medical Graduate Education is encouraging all candidates currently on the Specialist Pathway to obtain help to get through the clinical examinations before the end of 2015. There are support programs and grants available to Specialist International Medical Graduates on the Specialist Pathway.

The CSIMGE is also happy to comment on educational plans, as outlined in [Link 19a Maintenance of Exemption Status policy](http://www.ranzcp.org/Pre-Fellowship/2003-Fellowship-Program/Links-and-Forms.aspx)

Breaks in Exemption Status

Specialist International Medical Graduates may apply to the Committee for Specialist International Medical Graduate Education (CSIMGE) for a Break in Exemption Status. Candidates are required to provide proof of exceptional circumstances to support the temporary suspension of their Exemption Status.

A Break in Exemption Status Notification Form must be completed, signed by the supervising Fellow and forwarded to the CSIMGE at least one month before the proposed break. Such breaks may have implications for maintaining the currency of your progress in the training and assessment process.

Refer to [Link 19a Maintenance of Exemption Status policy](http://www.ranzcp.org/Pre-Fellowship/2003-Fellowship-Program/Links-and-Forms.aspx) on the Links and Forms page of the College website for more information:

It is important to note that current medical registration in Australia or New Zealand is required to maintain Exemption Status with the RANZCP.

*NEW* Please note that a [Guidelines for Breaks in Exemption Status](http://www.ranzcp.org/Pre-Fellowship/2003-Fellowship-Program/Links-and-Forms.aspx) is now available at Link 19a as well.

Contact us
Email: simge@ranzcp.org
Website: www.ranzcp.org
Changes to the Specialist Pathway

Please note these changes, effective from 1 July 2014, are applicable to new applicants to the Specialist Pathway and existing Exemptions Candidates applying for new Area of Need positions.

The Medical Board of Australia is making changes to the Specialist Pathway for International Medical Graduates recognised as specialists in their country of origin (SIMGs). The changes are aimed at streamlining the assessment process for SIMGs.

From 1 July 2014, SIMGs who wish to practice Psychiatry in Australia must apply directly to The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) for an assessment of their comparability to an Australian trained specialist in Psychiatry, rather than applying first through the Australian Medical Council (AMC).

The RANZCP’s SIMG assessment process evaluates the training, qualifications and experience of the SIMG for comparability with an Australian trained Psychiatrist.

There are two components associated with the Specialist Pathway for Psychiatrists:

- Assessment for specialist recognition to enable individuals to be registered and practice as specialists; and for some
- For an Area of Need position to assess the suitability of a SIMG for a specific position, and which does not of itself, lead to recognition as a specialist in Australia.

Before a SIMG can apply for assessment by the RANZCP, an application must be submitted to the AMC for Primary Source Verification of their primary and specialist medical qualifications. The AMC verifies a SIMG’s medical qualifications through the ECFMG International Credentials Services (EICS).

You should refer to the AMC website for information on how to apply for Primary Source Verification.

Under short-term Specialist Specified Training (SST), an internationally qualified specialist or international specialist in training can undertake short-term training in Australia without being required to complete the AMC examinations process or to have a full comparability assessment by the relevant specialist medical college. Please note that with short-term Specialist Specified Training status, a SIMG is not permitted to sit for RANZCP examinations and assessments or otherwise progress to RANZCP Fellowship.

An updated version of the RANZCP Application Form for the Specialist Pathway will be available to download from the RANZCP website in due course.

April 2015 OSCE/MOSCE Examination

The Committee for Examinations wishes to advise Trainees and SIMGs who plan to make application to sit the April 2015 OSCE/MOSCE examination in Sydney on Saturday 18 April 2015, that the examination may be run over three sessions (morning, afternoon and evening) or over two sessions (but only afternoon and evening). The evening session is planned to finish at around 9.00pm.

Applications to sit the April 2015 OSCE/MOSCE examination close on Friday, 5 December 2014. Applications will be available from the College website in November 2014.

The Committee for Examinations will keep applicants informed of developments as they occur.

2015 Examinations Timetable (2003 Regulations)

The Committee for Examinations wishes to advise candidates planning to sit the September 2015 OSCE/MOSCE examination in Christchurch that the date has been brought forward by one week. The examination is now scheduled for Saturday, 12 September 2015. SIMGs and 2003 Trainees will locate the timetable under Changes and news.

August 2014 Written Exam Results

Candidates are reminded that results from the August 2014 Written Exam are scheduled to be released at 5:00pm Melbourne time on Monday, 3 November 2014.

Results will be posted on the Examinations Changes and News page of the Examinations website. You will need to know your College ID to obtain your results.

February 2015 Written Exam application form

The application for the February 2015 Written Exams is scheduled to go up on the Examinations Changes and News page of the Examinations website in the week beginning 3 November 2014.

Applications close on Friday, 5 December 2014.
Written Examination – MCQ paper to be delivered computer-based by August 2015

The College is pleased to announce the transition from paper to computer-based delivery for the MCQ paper comprising Extended Matching Questions (EMQs) and Critical Analysis Problems (CAPs).

All candidates will sit by August 2015 the MCQ paper in dedicated computer-based test centres. There are many accredited centres in both Australia and New Zealand, and candidates will be able to select their venue at the time of registration.

The online MCQ examination will be delivered in partnership with Pearson VUE, a company with an international reputation for delivering computer-based examinations. Their product is secure, easy to use and is already used by many medical associations such as the Australian Medical Council, the Royal College of General Practitioners UK and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

The only change will be the delivery mode. The nature and content of the MCQ examination will remain identical with the same standards. Please note that the coming February 2015 Written Examination will be conducted as usual; registration and examination will be business as usual.

The College, with the introduction of computer-based examinations, expects to improve candidates’ experience and is excited to be put on par with the latest international best practices.
News from the OTP Committee

Now that the Phase II Substantial Comparability Pathway has opened for eligible OTPs from all over the world and a new working party has been assembled to determine the requirements for OTPs assessed as partially comparable with the introduction of the 2012 Fellowship Program in 2016, we would like to again hear from you as to how we can best support all OTPs. We therefore have provided a copy of a letter you hopefully received recently by email from us. Please take some time to read this letter and send a response.

Kind regards,

Annette van Zeist,
Chair OTP Committee and NZ representative.

Dear Colleague,

I write to you as a member of the Overseas Trained Psychiatrists Representative Committee (OTP Committee) within The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.

The OTP Committee consists of overseas trained psychiatrists from the various Australian states and territories and New Zealand. Some of our members are still working towards gaining full Fellowship with RANZCP, whereas others have successfully completed the process.

As a committee, our mission is to ensure fairness for, and to support all, overseas trained psychiatrists.*

The committee reports to the RANZCP Board via the CEO, and provides formal representation for all overseas trained psychiatrists and especially Affiliate Members within the College’s organisational structure.

I write to you today to ask for your feedback on a couple of questions:

- Do you feel you could benefit from any support from our group, e.g. in relation to issues with RANZCP, AHPRA, AMC, Department of Immigration, etc?
  
  Please send us a response, even if you feel we might not be the “right” address for your request – we might be able to help! If we are not, we will try to get you in contact with a more appropriate service.

  This might be of special importance for OTPs in the last couple of years of limited registration with AHPRA.

- What is your experience of working in Australia, dealing with institutions, etc?
  
  We would be very happy to hear from you. A number of our members are currently designing a research project to assess the well-being of our overseas trained colleagues, and your comments are valuable in setting up this research project.

  * In a meeting on 16 November 2012, the following goals were formulated by the OTP Representative Committee (please see www.ranzcp.org for more detail):

  - Ensuring fairness for OTPs
  - Supporting OTPs
  - Improve our “marketing” and communication
Fairness is about exam pass rates, how OTPs are treated by the RANZCP, AHPRA, AMC, Department of Immigration etc. The committee is committed to working within the College to ensure fairness with respect to the Substantial Comparability Pathway and the 2012 Fellowship program for Exemptions Candidates.

Support is about helping OTPs as a group as well as individuals. Support in passing exams, maybe developing or supporting an exam preparation program. The Committee will communicate regularly with all OTPs to identify possible avenues of support.

Marketing/communication is not a goal in itself, but a way to reach the first two goals. Our mission is to ensure fairness for, and to support all, overseas trained psychiatrists.

Please feel free to contact me by email florian.wertenauer@act.gov.au or on my mobile on 0469 689 881.

I am looking forward to hearing from you

With kind regards

Dr Florian Wertenauer
OTP representative for the ACT

Alternatively, you can always contact your state or territory OTP representative:

Dr Annette Van Zeist
Chair, NZ representative
annette.vanzeist-jongman@waikatodhb.health.nz

Dr Ettore Guaia
Deputy Chair, WA representative
ettore.guaia@health.wa.gov.au

Dr Timothy Amor
NSW representative
tim.amor@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Dr Rita Kronstorfer
TAS representative
rita.kronstorfer@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Dr Florian Wertenauer
ACT representative
florian.wertenauer@act.gov.au

Prof Carlos Zubaran
SA representative
lrcarlos.zubaran@swahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Dr Nader Yakoub
VIC representative
naderyakoub@agedpsychiatry.com

Dr Rewant Desai
NT representative
rewantdesai@yahoo.co.uk
Submission of applications

All applications (including 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 Latrobe Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Applications submitted via email or fax will not be accepted.

Expiry of Exemption Status

If your Exemption Status is likely to expire within the examination period, which includes the time required for release of results, you must re-apply for your new Exemption Status in time to be able to submit a copy of your outcome letter for review by the Committee for Specialist International Medical Graduate Education at least four weeks prior to the date of the examination.

It is important to note that if your registration is about to expire, but your RANZCP Exemption Status is still current, you can contact the SIMGE department via simge@ranzcp.org and request an RANZCP progression to Fellowship letter (also known as a letter of support) to submit to AHPRA as a part of your registration application.

Completion of RANZCP Fellowship requirements

Once you have completed a requirement, such as Indigenous/NGO, Observed Interviews/Consultancy Exercises, as well as any additional training requirements, please ensure that you complete and submit the relevant certificate of completion (available on the Links and Forms webpage: https://www.ranzcp.org/Pre-Fellowship/2003-Fellowship-Program/Links-and-Forms.aspx).

The completed certificate of completion should be submitted to the SIMGE department via email (simge@ranzcp.org) or fax (03 9642 5652).

It is your responsibility to ensure the SIMGE department receives the appropriate documentation.

When received, the SIMGE team will update your RANZCP record accordingly and will send you an acknowledgement email to confirm receipt of the forms.
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 (www.ranzcp.org), logging-in and clicking on the ‘My personal details’ link.

Fellowship Requirements – EICS Verification

All Exemptions Candidates applying for Fellowship must have their primary and specialist qualifications verified by EICS through the Australian Medical Council (AMC). The College cannot grant Fellowship without EICS Verification of primary and specialist qualifications.

Please contact the AMC directly if you have any questions regarding the EICS Verification process: http://www.amc.org.au/index.php/ass/psv

Depending on your overseas institution, obtaining EICS Verification can be a lengthy process. As such, we suggest that you start the EICS Verification process as early as possible to avoid delays in admission to Fellowship.

Notice of Intention (NOI) - Admission to Fellowship

Exemptions Candidates are reminded to submit their Notice of Intention (NOI) Admission to Fellowship form, via email: simge@ranzcp.org or fax: (03) 9642 5652, prior to the relevant Education Committee meeting closing date for Fellowship approval.

Please refer to the Admission to Fellowship Schedule, located under Link 81 (https://www.ranzcp.org/Pre-Fellowship/2003-Fellowship-Program/Links-and-Forms.aspx), for further information on upcoming deadlines and Education Committee and Board meeting dates.

Please be reminded that the Exemptions Candidate NOI Form is only valid for six months. After this time has lapsed, all Exemptions Candidates are required to submit a new NOI form, signed by two Fellows of the RANZCP.
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 listed in the RANZCP CV template (https://www.ranzcp.org/Pre-Fellowship/Overseas-specialists/Forms-Documents-page.aspx) and are as follows:

- A minimum of three (3) 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 (FRANZCP) or Training Supervisors who are approved by the RANZCP.
- 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.
SIMG Support

New workshop for partially and substantially comparable Exemptions Candidates

The Australian Clinical Practice Skills Workshop
22-23 November 2014, Melbourne

The College is pleased to offer this free weekend workshop at the RANZCP Head Office in Melbourne after receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants at our workshops in Bendigo and Wollongong.

The Australian Clinical Practice Skills Workshop is a personalised workshop that gives a concise and effective run-through of the nature and expectations of the clinical interview and clinical examination in Australia, and has been developed through broad consultation with examiners, successful SIMG Fellows and SIMGs.

The aim is for the workshop to be as interactive as possible. Participants are given give specific insights into what adjustments they need to make in their practice to pass the MOSCE and MOCI and 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 College and their workplace.

You can expect:
- extensive exposure to role-plays (live and recorded)
- insights into passing the MOSCE and MOCI and Workplace Based Assessments
- lots of hands-on activities such practical exercises in small groups and role playing
- high facilitator-to-student ratio
- lots of professional feedback from former examiners, experienced Fellows, language and cultural experts
- an action plan to identify a path forward following the workshop.

The workshop will benefit those who are new to clinical practice in Australia equally to those who plan to sit exams within the next year (partially and substantially comparable pathways).

Places for the Melbourne workshop are filling fast.

To secure a place at this free workshop, please express your interest by emailing stp.project@ranzcp.org ASAP, telling us your name and where you are based. We will then send you further details about the workshop and an application form.

The RANZCP has received Australian Government funding under the Specialist Training Program for this Workshop. Please note that this Workshop does not substitute or replace the mandatory RANZCP ECE Preparation Workshop, next scheduled for Friday 14 to Saturday 15 November, 2014.
SIMG Support coaching grants available – apply now

Are you a SIMG Exemptions Candidate in need of additional coaching support?

All candidates on the exemptions pathway to RANZCP Fellowship (both partially and substantially comparable) working within Australia are eligible to apply for the grant of up to $3000 to access paid coaching from a professional.

A range of experienced Fellows including past examiners, SIMG Fellows, workshop facilitators and communication and culture experts are interested in providing you with assistance to meet the requirements for Fellowship.

Grant applications are assessed periodically, so if you have an upcoming assessment or are in need of extra support in preparation for examinations in the coming year, apply now!

For more information about the SIMG Support Project one-on-one coaching individual grants initiative please see the Guidelines for Candidates.

For queries please contact the STP team at 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.

Rural Trainee webinar series: Next session on forensic psychiatry

The Webinar series for rural trainees and SIMG candidates continues in November on the subject of forensic psychiatry.

Guest speakers Associate Professor Kimberlie Dean and Dr Anthony Cidoni will be discussing approaches to violence risk assessment and related exam content.
STP Rural Psychiatry Working Party member Dr Greg Young will be chairing this webinar.

The webinar will be held on Tuesday 18 November, 1pm - 2pm AEDT.

Registration details will be on the RANZCP website and sent to members of the webinar mailing list in the lead up to the webinar.

The webinar on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and its Comorbidities which was held earlier this month is now online on the RANZCP website here.

For any queries, please contact the Rural Project STP team.