



RANZCR Education and Training

Guidelines for decision-making related to COVID-19 crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected many facets of the RANZCR's training programs and is expected to continue to do so for some time.

This document sets out the overarching priorities, principles and strategies, as at Monday, 30 March 2020, to guide decision-making on training and accreditation, assessments, examinations and other training activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in its aftermath.

The College will regularly review and revise these guidelines, particularly the stipulated timeframes, in line with government advice and the status of the COVID-19 situation in our region.

Our Priorities

In developing this guidance, RANZCR has sought to:

- Act in the best interests of patient safety, quality of care and the community
- Protect the wellbeing of trainees and trainers
- Maintain a balance between the provision of clinical services and the pedagogic objectives of the training experience.

Our Principles

1. RANZCR will act to serve the interests of all stakeholders (Fellows, educational affiliates, trainees, international medical graduates (IMGs) and College staff), as well as the jurisdictions and healthcare systems in which they work.
2. RANZCR will act consistently, fairly and transparently across Faculties and health jurisdictions.
3. RANZCR will seek to ensure, as far as is practicable, that trainees continue their progress through the training programs at the usual pace.
4. RANZCR recognises that considerations for clinical service provision may override those of training, and that training and IMG placements will be significantly affected for a period of at least six months.
5. RANZCR recognises that the clinical service provision and training experiences that trainees will have during the COVID-19 pandemic will be different from normal but nonetheless professionally valuable; this departure from normality will be taken into account when evaluating trainees' progress.



Our Strategies

- A. RANZCR will suspend all face-to-face educational and training activities until further notice; instead the College is considering alternative methods of educational delivery and the appropriateness of the timing of such activities.
- B. RANZCR will cancel the Series 1 2020 examinations and follow the advice of the Australian and New Zealand governments when considering the timing of future examination series.
- C. RANZCR will consider alternative methods of examination delivery, while ensuring capacity to deliver and maintain the integrity of the examination process.
- D. RANZCR will suspend all training site accreditation and reaccreditation visits for a period of at least six months and facilitate alternative approaches to address urgent accreditation issues as they arise.
- E. RANZCR will be flexible when considering the impacts of changes to the training environment on the ability of trainees to fulfil their training requirements, for a period of at least six months.
- F. RANZCR will not penalise trainees if they are unable to meet training requirements (such as work-based assessments, experiential training requirements and logbooks) within prescribed timeframes, for a period of at least six months.
- G. RANZCR has a flexible training program and will continue to be supportive of extended time in training, if required, to help ensure training requirements are fulfilled.
- H. RANZCR recognises that local jurisdictional and personal issues may affect the progress of individual trainees and will therefore manage each trainee's unique circumstances through its Consideration of Special Circumstances policy. The trainee's experience and associated impacts will, by this process, be recorded and managed accordingly.
- I. RANZCR will suspend all IMG assessments and consider alternative methods of assessment delivery and the appropriateness of the timing of such methods, for a period of at least six months.
- J. RANZCR will extend the timeline for IMGs to complete assessment pathways by up to 12 months, if needed and will manage these circumstances through its Consideration of Special Circumstances policy.
- K. RANZCR will advise all stakeholders of major training decisions with at least three months' notice. These decisions will include the timing and format of examinations, IMG assessments and accreditation processes.
- L. RANZCR will advocate with government where appropriate to minimise adverse impact on trainees' progress and help ensure a sustainable and flexible workforce.