

Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice Overview – Registrars

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, National Rural Faculty



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The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP) is awarded by the National Rural Faculty on behalf of the RACGP in recognition of the additional and different educational requirements needed for general practice in rural communities. The Fellowship is based on the Graduate Diploma in Rural General Practice curriculum and training standards.

The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice provides an educational program to complement and reinforce training and experience in rural general practice. It is closely integrated with the RACGP Curriculum for General Practice and Advanced Rural Skills Training curricula.

The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice is designed for registrars enrolled in vocational training who wish to undertake a recognised educational program to develop their knowledge and skills in rural general practice.

Registrars must be in a vocational training program. To be eligible to receive this award, registrars have to complete 12 months in rural general practice, obtain the FRACGP, complete an advanced rural skills training year and meet the course requirements.

The key features of the Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice are:

- ◆ Identification of learning needs, development of a learning plan and monitoring of progress in consultation with a designated medical advisor.
- ◆ Specific curriculum modules directly relevant to rural general practice are to be completed to meet the goals of the learning plan.
- ◆ Wide choice of educational activities and modules available to candidates.
- ◆ Candidates demonstrate their progress by maintaining a Learning and Educational Assessment Portfolio (including evidence of completion of the FRACGP).

DURATION

The minimum time for completion is one year and the maximum time for completion is four years



PATHWAYS TO THE FELLOWSHIP IN ADVANCED RURAL GENERAL PRACTICE

The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice provides a flexible educational pathway building on the clinical experience of candidates. It is open to registrars in general practice training who satisfy the eligibility requirements.

The following diagram outlines the pathways to entry, eligibility and program requirements:



Registrars are required to complete a minimum of 12 months of their vocational training in accredited rural training posts, award of the FRACGP plus 12 months in an accredited advanced rural skills training post.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice consists of the following educational requirements:

- identification of learning needs
- development of a learning plan of educational modules and activities
- maintenance and submission of a Learning and Educational Assessment Portfolio (LEAP)
- regular consultation with nominated medical advisor in regard to the above
- core curriculum modules – Working in Rural General Practice and Emergency Medicine

ROLE OF THE NOMINATED MEDICAL ADVISOR

Each candidate will have a medical advisor. The candidate and the medical advisor are expected to have regular contact (at least once every six months) throughout the candidate's period of enrolment.

The role of the medical advisor is to advise and give guidance to candidates about their learning needs, development of their learning plan of educational modules and activities, monitoring and reviewing progress, certifying satisfactory completion of specific activities and ensuring that the LEAP is maintained.

APPROVED LEARNING PLAN OF EDUCATIONAL MODULES & ACTIVITIES

The learning plan containing the proposed program of educational activities must be submitted to the National Rural Faculty *within 3 months* of commencement of the program.

The approved learning plan forms the reference point for the candidate's work in undertaking the program requirements. It is also important for the regular meetings between the candidate and the educational advisor to review progress.

DEVELOPING THE LEARNING PLAN

The development of a learning plan is the means by which the learning objectives for the program are appropriately planned and achieved.

Early consultation with the candidate's nominated medical advisor should occur to review learning needs and develop a learning plan. The pro-forma specifically designed for the learning plan should be used to review learning needs and develop the proposed program of educational modules and activities. The learning plan should reflect agreement reached between candidate and medical advisor on the proposed program of educational modules and activities.

The learning plan is a living document, and as candidates progress through the program, the learning plan should be modified as necessary.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The two core modules are 'Working in Rural General Practice' and 'Emergency Medicine'.

Elective activities are chosen in consultation with the candidate's educational advisor. There are a variety of educational activities that may be undertaken by the candidate.

Educational activities may include

- ◆ active learning through tutorials, seminars, workshops
- ◆ on-line learning activities
- ◆ case histories
- ◆ regular meetings with the educational advisor
- ◆ peer group discussion
- experiential learning under the supervision of rural specialists and GP supervisors
- self-directed learning through projects, research, case presentations.

LEARNING AND EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT PORTFOLIO (LEAP)

It is the candidate's responsibility to maintain their LEAP.

The LEAP consists of a portfolio or folder which includes evidence of all completed educational modules and activities. The completed LEAP is the means by which the candidate demonstrates that all educational requirements have been met. It will be used to determine eligibility for the award of the Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice.

As the various modules and activities are completed, they should be submitted to the nominated educational advisor who is responsible for reviewing progress and certifying that particular educational activities have been completed satisfactorily.

As different activities are undertaken, a record of completion together with the educational advisor's certification will be progressively developed and included in the LEAP.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

All candidates must meet the programs educational requirements; however, those whose previous educational coursework and qualifications are relevant, may apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Candidates are required to formally apply for RPL.

Candidates applying for RPL are required to complete a learning plan in consultation with their nominated educational advisor. The learning plan must identify the proposed program of educational modules and activities.

Candidates may be eligible for RPL for a *maximum of 50%* of Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice educational activities.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Assessment is based on the development and maintenance of a Learning and Educational Assessment Portfolio (LEAP), which will include evidence of:

- ◆ clinical experience and performance
- ◆ completion of educational assessment activities

Assessment should demonstrate mastery of the subject matter with a rural focus. Assessment activities can take the form of case studies, case commentaries, research papers, articles for publication, successful completion of relevant courses and activities (e.g. clinical audit) or specific areas of interest determined in consultation with the educational advisor. Certification of competence in specific clinical and consultation skills can also form part of the assessment process.

The candidate's completion of assessment activities should be based in the context of their practice environment as much as possible. For instance, if the participant is working or intends to work in a rural farming community, a mining town or cross-cultural context, this should be reflected in the portfolio.