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Program overview

The Fellowship Training Program is a postgraduate medical course for doctors. On successful completion of the program, you are eligible to become a Fellow of the RANZCP (FRANZCP). This qualifies you to practice independently as a consultant psychiatrist in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Fellowship Program takes a minimum of 60 months full-time equivalent (FTE) to complete. During the training period, you will work as a registrar in hospitals and clinics, where you will be supervised by experienced psychiatrists.

Entry into the program

Prerequisites for applying to enter the Fellowship Program are:

- successful completion of a medical degree
- two years (FTE) of general medical training for applicants commencing in 2025*
- current general registration as a medical practitioner in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand.

More about [entry requirements](#)

*In contrast to past requirements, applicants who wish to apply to the Fellowship Training Program must now complete a minimum of 24 months (2 years FTE) of prevocational medical training to be eligible. This requirement is applicable for all applicants who wish to commence training rotation from 2025 onwards.

Applicants are selected for psychiatry training based on their suitability, skills and experience.

Program structure

Training is undertaken in three stages:

- [Stage 1 \(12 months FTE\)](#)
- [Stage 2 \(24 months FTE\)](#)
- [Stage 3 \(24 months FTE\)](#).

Certificates of Advanced Training

In Stage 3, trainees can choose to complete a Certificate of Advanced Training by developing advanced competencies in a particular area of practice.

More about [Certificates of Advanced Training](#)

Exams and assessments

You will be assessed during training through a range of [exams and assessments](#).

Formal education

All trainees must be enrolled in a College-approved [formal education course](#).

Fellowship Competencies

By the end of the training program, you will have gained competence in the major roles expected of a psychiatrist, based on the CanMEDS roles.

More about [Fellowship Competencies](#)

Help and support

Use the [help centre](#) to find answers to common questions and contacts during training.

A [Training Program Basics](#) webinar is available on Learnit [member sign-in required] to provide an overview of the training basics and is useful for trainees to navigate and get started.


Governance


The Fellowship Program is overseen by the College's Education Committee and operates in accordance with regulations, policies and procedures approved by the Board.

[Training regulations](#)

Downloads

[Fellowship-Program-overview-2024](#)

 PDF (155 KB)

 PDF (155 KB)

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Stage 1

Stage 1 is the first year of psychiatry training. The focus is on gaining the knowledge and skills to practice in an adult clinical setting.

Duration

Minimum of 12 months full time equivalent (FTE).

Clinical work experience

Minimum of 12 months FTE in adult psychiatry training, including a minimum of six months FTE in an acute setting.

Supervision requirements

Minimum of four hours per week for 40 weeks, including:

- two hours per week exclusive of ward rounds and case review
- at least one hour per week of individual supervision of clinical work.

Formal Education Course

You must enrol and demonstrate satisfactory participation in a College-accredited formal education course during the first three years of FTE accredited training.

Curriculum

Stage 1 curriculum map [PDF; 231 KB]

Stage 1 Syllabus [PDF; 53 KB]

Assessments and requirements

During Stage 1 you will be assessed in the workplace complete a range of training requirements. See the full list of Stage 1 assessments and requirements.

Learning outcomes

You must attain the Stage 1 Learning Outcomes in order to progress to Stage 2.

Learning Outcomes [PDF; 238 KB]

The Developmental Descriptors are behavioural descriptors for the Fellowship Competencies. They are intended to provide supervisors and trainees with a reference point for defining performance standards. It is anticipated that the descriptors will be of use as criteria supporting workplace-based assessments and guiding the provision of formative feedback to trainees.

Developmental Descriptors [PDF; 249 KB]

Making the most of Stage 1

A Making the most of Stage 1 webinar is available on Learnit [member log-in required]. It covers specifics of Stage 1 and real-life trainees' experiences of the training program, including:

- Stage 1 requirements
- Helpful hints
- Hear from five trainees and their experiences of Stage 1
- Where to find support
- Q&A

Resources

[Stage 1 training checklist \[PDF; 87 KB\]](#)

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Stage 2

Stage 2 comprises the second and third years of psychiatry training. The focus is on applying knowledge and skills within a variety of settings and with diverse patient populations.

Duration

Minimum of 24 months full-time equivalent (FTE).

Rotations

Mandatory rotations:

- child and adolescent psychiatry (6 months FTE)
- consultation–liaison psychiatry (6 months FTE).

Additional rotations in one or more of the following areas of practice (12 months FTE):

- addiction psychiatry
- adult psychiatry
- child and adolescent psychiatry
- consultation–liaison psychiatry
- forensic psychiatry
- Indigenous psychiatry
- psychiatry of old age
- research (maximum 6 months FTE).

Supervision requirements

A minimum of 4 hours per week for 40 weeks annually, including 1 hour per week of individual supervision of clinical work.

Formal Education Course

Trainees must enroll and demonstrate satisfactory participation in a College-accredited formal education course during the first 3 years of FTE accredited training.

Curriculum

[Stage 2 Curriculum map](#)

[Stage 2 Syllabus](#)

Assessments and requirements

During Stage 2 you will be assessed in the workplace complete a range of training requirements. [See the full list of Stage 2 assessments and requirements.](#)

Learning Outcomes and Developmental Descriptors

The Learning Outcomes prescribe the expectations of what trainees will need to attain in their rotations in order to meet the Fellowship Competency requirements and will be assessed in the In-Training Assessment (ITA) forms.

[Learning Outcomes](#) [PDF; 238 KB]

The Developmental Descriptors are behavioural descriptors for the Fellowship Competencies. They are intended to provide supervisors and trainees with a reference point for defining performance standards. It is anticipated that the descriptors will be of use as criteria supporting workplace-based assessments and guiding the provision of formative feedback to trainees.

[Developmental Descriptors](#) [PDF; 249 KB]

Resources

[Stage 2 training checklist](#) [PDF; 217 KB]

A [Making the most of Stage 2](#) webinar is available on Learnit [member log-in required]. It covers specifics of Stage 2 and real-life trainees' experiences of the training program, including:

- Stage 2 requirements
- Planning EPAs
- Preparing for exams, Psychotherapy Written Case and Scholarly Project
- Making the most of supervision
- Helpful hints, interviews with three trainees and Q&A



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Stage 3

Stage 3 of the Fellowship Training Program comprises the fourth and fifth years of training. This stage focuses on increasing levels of responsibility as trainees prepare to become consultant psychiatrists.

Duration

Minimum of 24 months full-time equivalent (FTE).

Trainees may commence a [Certificate of Advanced Training](#) during Stage 3.

Rotations

Trainees complete four elective rotations (each 6 months FTE) in a single or multiple area(s) of practice:

- addiction psychiatry
- adult psychiatry
- child and adolescent psychiatry
- consultation–liaison psychiatry
- forensic psychiatry
- Indigenous psychiatry
- psychiatry of old age
- psychotherapies
- research/medical education/medical administration (prospective approval required).

Supervision requirements

A minimum of 4 hours per week for 40 weeks annually, including 1 hour per week of individual supervision of clinical work.

Formal education course

No syllabus for generalist trainees. During Stage 3, trainees are expected to build on the knowledge base developed in Stages 1 and 2.

Generalist trainees are encouraged to attend an adult psychiatry Formal Education Course (FEC), if available. [Adult psychiatry curriculum](#) [PDF; 145 KB]

Trainees in Certificate programs may be required to attend a formal education course for their area of subspecialty training per the [Certificate program training requirements](#).

Assessments and requirements

During Stage 3 you will be assessed in the workplace, completing a range of training requirements. All required assessments for Fellowship must be completed by the end of this stage of training. [See the full list of Stage 3 assessments and requirements.](#)

Learning Outcomes and Developmental Descriptors

The Learning Outcomes prescribe the expectations of what trainees will need to attain in their rotations in order to meet the Fellowship Competency requirements and will be assessed in the In-Training Assessment (ITA) forms.

[Learning Outcomes \[PDF; 238 KB\]](#)

The Developmental Descriptors are behavioural descriptors for the Fellowship Competencies. They are intended to provide supervisors and trainees with a reference point for defining performance standards. It is anticipated that the descriptors will be of use as criteria supporting workplace-based assessments and guiding the provision of formative feedback to trainees.

[Developmental Descriptors \[PDF; 249 KB\]](#)

Resources

A Stage 3 generalist training checklist is available to help you keep track of training requirements during Stage 3.

[Stage 3 generalist training checklist \[PDF; 183 KB\]](#)

[Transitioning from Stage 3 trainee to early career psychiatrist](#) webinar is available on *Learnit* [member log-in required] presented by consultant psychiatrists who have recently attained RANZCP Fellowship. They shared their experiences about the realities of transitioning into professional practice.

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Formal education courses

Trainees must enrol and demonstrate satisfactory participation in a College-accredited formal education course during the first 3 years of FTE training.

Course applications require approval by the local course provider (and/or associated Branch Training Committee) as well as the Director of Training.

The following courses are accredited by the RANZCP.

Australia

Australian Capital Territory

ACT Psychiatry Training Program - Accredited until October 2026

New South Wales

Brain and Mind Centre, University of Sydney - Accredited until November 2026

Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) - Accredited until September 2026

Hunter New England Training in Psychiatry - Accredited until September 2026

Queensland

Postgraduate Training in Psychiatry Formal Education Course Queensland - Accredited until November 2026

For general enquires concerning the Queensland Psychiatry Training Program, please contact:

Postgraduate Training In Psychiatry

Tel: +61 (0)7 3156 9898

Fax: +61 (0)7 3069 4686

Email: pgt.pah@health.qld.gov.au

South Australia

South Australian Psychiatry Branch Training Committee FEC - Accredited until September 2026

Tasmania

Tasmanian Psychiatry Training Program - Accredited until October 2023

Victoria

Master of Psychiatry, Monash University - Accredited until November 2026

Master of Psychiatry, University of Melbourne - Accredited until November 2026

Please note online delivery available to Victorian trainees:

Brain and Mind Centre, University of Sydney - Accredited until November 2026

Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) - Accredited until September 2026

Western Australia

Postgraduate Training in Psychiatry WA - Accredited until September 2026

Aotearoa New Zealand

Christchurch Psychiatric Registrar Teaching program - Accredited until September 2026

Dunedin Psychiatry Training Program - Accredited until November 2024

FEC, Northern Region Psychiatry Training Programme (Auckland) - Accredited until November 2026

New Zealand Wellington Lower and Central North Island Psychiatric Registrar Training Programme - Accredited until November 2026

New Zealand Upper Central North Island Psychiatric Registrar Training Programme - Accredited until November 2026

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Reading list

Recommended texts

The reading list recommendations are aimed to assist you to prepare for the RANZCP Fellowship Program examinations, particularly the Written Examinations.

As a trainee, you are required to have in-depth and comprehensive knowledge of the curriculum.

In addition to core clinical psychiatry, you need to cover areas including:

- phenomenology

- epidemiology
- relevant neurology and brain diseases
- addictions
- history of psychiatry
- research in psychiatry and evidence base
- drug prescribing
- ethics
- medico-legal concepts
- professionalism.

The level to target in preparation is that of a competent junior consultant. A junior consultant needs in-depth specialist knowledge to be able to act independently and safely, working with a broad overview of the related and significant issues.

The following texts are not listed in order of priority, but rather in groups covering general and focused areas of knowledge. The list has been prepared in consultation with a number of Directors of Training and psychiatrists involved in current registrar training and exams. Source the most recent editions – some current ones are listed here. This list represents basic requirements and is not intended to limit the scope of reading.

[Recommended text and useful resources for psychiatry trainees](#) [PDF; 121 KB]

Guide to psychotherapy training

This guide has been written to assist trainees in understanding the psychotherapy training requirements set out by the RANZCP in the Fellowship program. Under the RANZCP Fellowship Regulations, trainees must achieve competent performance to a proficient level in psychotherapies by the end of their training.

[Guide to psychotherapy training](#) [PDF; 312 KB]



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Fellowship competencies

These are the core Fellowship competencies expected of all trainees on completion of the Fellowship Program, defined across the major roles expected of a contemporary psychiatrist (based on the CanMEDS roles).

Medical expert

As medical experts, psychiatrists perform comprehensive, culturally appropriate psychiatric assessments with patients of all ages. Fundamental to the practice of psychiatry is the ability to perform and report thorough mental state exams, integrating all available information to accurately formulate and diagnose patient conditions, subsequently providing an evidence-based biopsychosociocultural

management plan, mindful of the impacts of patients' physical health. Demonstrable skills in psychotherapeutic, pharmacological, biological and sociocultural interventions are requisite. Psychiatrists define and review patient outcomes, revising management as appropriate based on this review, and are committed to early intervention and recovery. Medical expertise is supported by the application of contemporary research, psychiatric research and treatment guidelines, as well as the application of mental health and related legislation in patient care.

Fellowship Competencies

- 1.** Conduct a comprehensive, culturally appropriate psychiatric assessment with patients of all ages.
- 2.** Demonstrate the ability to perform and report a comprehensive mental state examination, which includes cognitive assessment.
- 3.** Demonstrate the ability to integrate available information in order to formulate the patient's condition and make a diagnosis according to ICD or DSM.
- 4.** Develop, negotiate, implement and evaluate outcomes of a comprehensive evidence-based biopsychosociocultural management plan.
- 5.** Demonstrate skills in psychotherapeutic, pharmacological, biological and sociocultural interventions to treat patients with complex mental health problems
- 6.** Demonstrate the ability to integrate and appropriately manage the patient's physical health with the assessment and management of their mental health problems.
- 7.** Demonstrate the ability to critically appraise and apply contemporary research, psychiatric knowledge and treatment guidelines to enhance patient outcomes.
- 8.** Demonstrate the ability to appropriately apply mental health and related legislation in patient care.

Communicator

As communicators, psychiatrists communicate effectively with a range of patients, carers, multidisciplinary teams, general practitioners, colleagues and other health professionals, using their interpersonal skills for the improvement of patient outcomes. Communication skills range from the ability to provide clear, accurate, contextually appropriate written communication about patients' conditions, to being able to enter into dialogue about psychiatric issues with the wider community.

Fellowship Competencies

1. Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with a range of patients, carers, multidisciplinary teams, general practitioners, colleagues and other health professionals.
2. Demonstrate the ability to provide clear, accurate, contextually appropriate written communication about the patient's condition.

Collaborator

As collaborators, psychiatrists are able to work effectively with other psychiatrists, within multidisciplinary teams and with other health professionals, whilst working within relevant health systems and with government agencies. Psychiatrists are also able to work respectfully with patients, families, carers, carer groups and non-government organisations.

Fellowship Competencies

1. Demonstrate the ability to work respectfully with patients, families, carers, carer groups and non-government organisations.
2. Demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal skills to improve patient outcomes.
3. Demonstrate the ability to work effectively with other psychiatrists, within multidisciplinary teams and with other health professionals.
4. Demonstrate the ability to work within relevant health systems and with government agencies.

Manager

As managers, psychiatrists are able to work within clinical governance structures in health-care settings, providing clinical leadership, and able to work within management structures within the health-care system; the ability to critically review and appraise different health systems and management structures is also requisite. Psychiatrists prioritise and allocate resources efficiently and appropriately, with the facility to perform appropriate management and administrative tasks within the healthcare system, applying health and other relevant legislation where appropriate. Psychiatrists also incorporate an awareness and application of information and communication technology (ICT) into their practice.

Fellowship Competencies

1. Demonstrate the ability to work within clinical governance structures in health-care settings.
2. Demonstrate the ability to provide clinical leadership within management structures within the health-care system.
3. Demonstrate awareness of the importance of review of and critical appraisal of different health systems and governance/management structures.
4. Demonstrate the ability to prioritise and allocate resources efficiently and appropriately.
5. Demonstrate the ability to perform appropriate management and administrative tasks within the health-care system.

Health advocate

As health advocates, psychiatrists use their expertise and influence to advocate on behalf of individual patients, their families and carers, as well as more broadly, on an epidemiological level. Psychiatrists lessen the impact of mental illness through their understanding of and application of the principles of prevention, promotion and early intervention.

Fellowship Competencies

1. Demonstrate the ability to use expertise and influence to advocate on behalf of patients, their families and carers.
2. Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply the principles of prevention, promotion and early intervention to reduce the impact of mental illness.

Scholar

As scholars, psychiatrists are committed to life-long learning, having the ability to critically appraise and apply psychiatric and other health information for the benefit of patients. Psychiatrists are able to transfer information to colleagues, other health professionals, students, patients, families and carers and are able to facilitate the learning of colleagues, trainees and other health professionals, contributing to the development of mental health knowledge.

Fellowship Competencies

1. Demonstrate commitment to life-long learning

2. Demonstrate the ability to educate and encourage learning in colleagues, other health professionals, students, patients, families and carers
3. Contribute to the development of knowledge in the area of mental health.

Professional

As professionals, psychiatrists' commitment to their patients, profession and society is demonstrated through their adherence to ethical conduct and practice, complying with all relevant regulatory requirements, at all times comporting themselves with integrity, honesty, compassion and respect for diversity. Psychiatrists actively engage in reflective practice, giving due consideration to feedback received from others. Psychiatrists are expected to contribute to the profession beyond their commitment to patient care, whilst mindful of the necessity of maintaining a responsible equilibrium between personal and professional priorities in the pursuit of sustainable practice and well-being.

Fellowship Competencies

1. Demonstrate ethical conduct and practice in relation to patients, the profession and society.
2. Demonstrate integrity, honesty, compassion and respect for diversity.
3. Demonstrate reflective practice and the ability to use and provide feedback constructively.
4. Demonstrate the ability to balance personal and professional priorities to ensure sustainable practice and well-being.
5. Demonstrate compliance with relevant professional regulatory bodies.



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Fellowship Program

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Fellowship Training Programs and Zones

This page contains information about the accredited status of Fellowship training programs and zones.

Australia

ACT

ACT Branch Training Program

- Accredited from 5 October 2022 to 11 January 2028

- Published data Q1 2028

NSW

NSW Northern Sydney / Central Coast Training Program (NSWN)

- Accredited from 27 September to 11 January 2028
- Published data Q1 2028

NSW Sydney South West Mid North Coast (NSWSSW)

- Accredited from 21 April 2023 to 1 April 2024
- Published data Q2 2024

NSW South Eastern Sydney / Illawarra Psychiatry Training Network (NSWSESI)

- Accredited from 27 June 2023 to 1 March 2024
- Published data Q1 2024

NSW Hunter New England Training Program (HNET)

- Accredited from 17 September 2019 to 15 November 2023
- Published data Q3 2024

NSW North West (NSWNW)

- Accredited from 27 November 2018 to 26 November 2023
- Published data Q3 2024 (extended from Q4 2023)

NT

Northern Territory Training Program (NT)

- Accredited from 30 November 2021 to 29 November 2026
- Published data Q4 2026

QLD

Queensland (QLD)

- Accredited from 27 October 2023 to 26 October 2028

- Published data Q4 2028 TBC

SA

South Australia (SA)

- Accredited from 13 May 2021 to 12 May 2026
- Published data Q2 2026

TAS

Tasmania (TAS)

- Accredited from 13 September 2023 to 12 September 2028
- Published data Q3 2028 TBC

VIC

Victoria Western Region Training Program (VICW)

- Accredited from 13 October 2021 to 24 October 2024
- Published data Q1 2027

Victorian Northern Region Psychiatric Training Program (VICN)

- Accredited from 9 January 2026 to 24 October 2024
- Published data Q2 2026

Victoria Southern Region (VICS)

- Accredited from 25 October 2019 to 24 October 2024
- Published data Q4 2024

WA

WA Metropolitan (WAMPT)

- Provisional from 17 August 2023 to Accredited to 30 June 2024
- Published data - Q3 2024

WA Rural (WARBT)

- Provisional from 12 May 2023 to 30 June 2024
- Published data - Q3 2024

New Zealand

North Island

Hinengaro Ākonga ō Tokerau / Northern Region Psychiatry Training Programme (NRPTP) (Auckland)

- Accredited from 2 September 2022 to 10 November 2027
- Published data Q4 2027

Upper Central North Island Region Psychiatry Training Programme (UCNI) (Hamilton)

- Accredited from 28 June 2022 to 28 June 2027
- Published data Q1 2028

Lower and Central North Island Training Programme (LCNI) (Wellington)

- Accredited from 10 August 2022 to 9 August 2027
- Published data Q3 2027

South Island

Christchurch

- Accredited from 21 March 2019 to 20 March 2024
- Published data Q2 2024

Dunedin

- Accredited from 22 November 2019 to 21 March 2024
- Published Q2 2024



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