



# Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine

## AGPT Application Guide



Your guide to applying to train with an  
ACRRM accredited training organisation  
in the 2019 Australian General Practice  
Training (AGPT) Intake







## About the AGPT program

The Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program is a vocational training program for medical graduates wishing to pursue a career in general practice in Australia.

Selection into the AGPT Program is a highly competitive, merit-based process which ensures the best candidates are selected into training.

AGPT is open to medical graduates who are permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand, and who have general medical registration without conditions or undertakings in Australia before the commencement of training in January 2019.

DATE	ACTIVITY
Monday 26 March 2018	Applications open for eligibility and ACRRM Written change to assessment
Monday 30 April	Applications close
Tuesday 26 - Friday 29 June 2018	Eligible candidates are notified by RTO of their Multi Mini Interview date and time
Friday 13 - Sunday 22 July 2018	MMIs conducted at RTO of first preference
Wednesday 1 - Friday 3 August 2018	Offers are made
Friday 10 August 2018	Acceptance of offers due
30 November 2018	ACRRM Membership fees due

## Program benefits

### Why choose our General Practice Training Program?

#### Extended scope of practice

GPs working in a rural or remote area experience a broader scope of practice and a continuity of care that exceeds any other specialisation. Your skills will help you work in obstetrics, anaesthetics, emergency medicine, mental health, paediatrics and more. Choose ACRRM to build a broader set of skills to confidently manage the diverse range of health issues and challenges of rural and remote practice.

#### Career choice and flexibility

Develop skills throughout your career to address a community's health needs at a local level. Provide care in a GP clinic, hospital, through retrieval medicine, at Aboriginal Health Services, and more. Once Felloved, you can make your own hours and work in a variety of locations, giving you the flexibility and choice to build your own career.

#### Mobility of qualification

The unique rural and remote practice competencies of Fellowship of ACRRM make it your passport to work around in the world. The competencies encapsulated by the FACRRM have supported our Fellows' to work in places as diverse as Antarctica, in Ebola crisis centres in Liberia, in health services throughout the South Pacific islands and for NASA.

#### Choose your own adventure

A FACRRM demonstrates that you can confidently and competently work in the broadest range of locations and environments, and entitles you and your patients to the maximum benefits available from Medicare's A1 items. Make your own path with the greater flexibility and career choice that a FACRRM provides.





## The road to rural generalist medicine

### Your learning journey and your career

By choosing to become a specialist general practitioner in a rural setting, you are choosing an exciting and rewarding career path that will see you performing the primary clinical care role for your community. This often means extending from primary care to secondary and ongoing care. This broader scope of practice gives you choice and diversity throughout your career, as you take on new skills to address a community's health needs at a local level.

### A lifetime partnership

ACRRM offers more than just a training program – we are your career partner, providing the support you need to become the best rural doctor you can be. With four years of training, including at least two years in a rural and remote location, our program is like no other and will provide you with the specialist training needed to provide services to a rural or remote community.

We recognise the unique health care needs of Australians living in rural and remote areas. Our curriculum focuses on providing you with an extended range of skills in preparation for the complex and broad scope of issues experienced in communities which are rural or geographically remote.

### What does rural and remote mean?

As a general practitioner who cares for patients in rural or remote areas, you need a clear set of additional skills, competencies and professional values to provide safe and appropriate care. At ACRRM, we refer to this unique scope and nature of general practice as rural and remote medicine.

Rural and remote medicine is typically delivered through accredited or private community-based practice facilities and hospitals. However, it can also occur on roadsides, in remote clinics, in prisons, at Aboriginal Medical Services, and via telephone or eHealth systems.

### Why choose FACRRM?

With successful completion of the AGPT Program, you will earn the qualification of Fellowship of ACRRM or FACRRM. A FACRRM demonstrates that you can practise independently and safely in the broadest range of locations and environments.

Once you're a Fellow of the College, you are qualified to practise:

- > independently as a specialist general practitioner anywhere in Australia
- > in a team (in a community practice, hospital, emergency, or retrieval service) or
- > as a collaborator (complementing the local region's health service with your specialist skills in a range of disciplines such as emergency medicine, anaesthetics, surgery, or obstetrics).

### How is training delivered?

Regional Training Organisations (RTOs), accredited by the College and contracted by the Department of Health, deliver the College's education and training program to registrars within a specific geographic region. RTOs provide your training and support, tailored to regional and individual training needs.

On the AGPT Program, you will be required to complete four years of training. The core components of ACRRM training are:

- > 12 months core clinical training including six mandatory rotations in emergency medicine, general medicine, general surgery, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, and anaesthetics. Gaps in core clinical training can be remediated within your four year program
- > 24 months primary rural and remote training
  - Six months hospital/emergency
  - Six months community primary care
  - 12 months rural and remote practice
- > 12 months advanced specialised training (AST).

The selection process for the 2019 AGPT Program will be conducted by ACRRM, in collaboration with RTOs, and the Department of Health.

If you have any questions as you proceed through the application process, please call us on 1800 223 226 or email us at [agpt@acrmm.org.au](mailto:agpt@acrmm.org.au).

## Step 1

**Online application – Applications open at 10am AEST on 26 March 2018 and close at 10am AEST 30 April 2018.**

To start your AGPT application click on the 'begin your AGPT application' button on ACRRM's website - [acrmm.org.au/agpt](http://acrmm.org.au/agpt).

You will be directed to an eligibility and referee check on the AGPT website. Once you have completed and submitted this part of the application, you will be directed back to ACRRM's website to complete your ACRRM written assessment.

## Step 2

**ACRRM written assessment**

Written assessment is due before 10am AEST on Monday 30 April 2018.

## Step 3

**Application fee - due before 10am on 7 June 2018**

A \$700 application fee is payable to ACRRM once you have been deemed eligible for the 2019 AGPT Program. Once your application fee has been paid, the selection panel will assess your application.

## Step 4

**Multi Mini Interviews**

If you are selected for an interview, you will be notified by email of the scheduled time and location for interviews. Find out more on page 9.

## Step 5

**Offer**

You will be contacted by email with the outcome of your application. If you are successful, you will be offered a position in the AGPT Program. If you wish to accept the offer, you must complete your acceptance within seven days of the offer. If you are unsuccessful in the first round of offers, you will be notified. If a region has been over-subscribed and you have made additional preference choices, you may be offered a position in another region. This may involve a further interview and/or additional submissions.

# Preparing for your application

## Check your eligibility

Eligibility for the program is determined by the Department of Health based on the following factors:

- > Citizenship status
- > Primary Medical Qualifications
- > Medical Registration.

Check your eligibility by referring to the 2019 AGPT Program Eligibility Guide on the AGPT website [www.agpt.com.au](http://www.agpt.com.au).

If you are not sure that you're eligible or meet the requirements but would still like to be considered for the Program, please note that the Department of Health may assess special requests individually. You can contact them on [agpteligibility@health.gov.au](mailto:agpteligibility@health.gov.au) or 1800 372 478.

## Nominate your referees

You will require two referee reports for your application. Your referees must have supervised you for four weeks or more in the past three years (prior to 1 June 2018).

Your referee reports are an important part of your application. We strongly advise you to talk to each of your chosen referees to ensure that they are aware of your application for the AGPT Program and are willing to commit some time to completing the report for you.

## Review the selection criteria

Applicants for AGPT through ACRRM are selected on merit in relation to the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated commitment to a career as a specialist general practitioner working in rural or remote Australia
2. Demonstrated capacity and motivation to acquire abilities, skills and knowledge in the ACRRM domains of practice
3. Demonstrated connection with rural communities
4. Demonstrated commitment to meeting the needs of rural and remote communities through an extended scope of practice
5. Possession of the personal characteristics associated with a successful career in rural or remote practice.

Before you submit your application, you should consider these criteria and how your interests and experience relate to each criterion. Each criterion will be considered throughout the selection process. Alignment with these criteria will form the foundation of successful selection as a registrar in AGPT on the ACRRM pathway.

## Select a region and your Regional Training Organisation

During the application process, you will be asked to select a preferred region. You will be able to select up to four regions. A map showing the boundaries of the regions is located [www.agpt.com.au/Training-organisations](http://www.agpt.com.au/Training-organisations).

You should carefully consider how the experience available in each region matches your interests and learning needs. You are encouraged to contact the RTO which delivers training in that region to assist you with your decision. Contact details for the RTOs are available on page 12. You can check the ACRRM website to determine where the ACRRM accredited training posts are in your preferred region.

As places in some regions are limited, nominating up to four preferences will ensure that you have the greatest opportunity for selection into AGPT. ACRRM may contact you to discuss further options if there are no places available in your preferred region at the time offers are made.

You must remain in your selected training region for the entire training program. Transfers may only be possible in extenuating and unforeseen circumstances so it is important that you thoroughly research your choices before nominating preferred regions. For further information please read the AGPT Transfer Policy at [agpt.com.au](http://agpt.com.au).

## Prepare to write your submission

As part of your application, you will answer a number of questions that address the selection criteria.

You can prepare for your written submission by considering the selection criteria and how your interests and experience relate to each of the criteria.

With the selection criteria in mind, think about the following points:

- > Have you lived, worked, studied or spent significant time in rural or remote communities? How has this experience affected your decision to pursue Fellowship of ACRRM?
- > If you participated in a Rural Clinical School, Rural Health Club, or the John Flynn Placement Program, what benefits did this experience provide?
- > How have you already demonstrated your interest in Specialist General Practice in a rural or remote community? Have you actively sought education activities or professional experiences in a general practice in a rural context?
- > Do you engage in community activities or events, such as a Rural Students Association? What were these? For how long did you participate?
- > Are you familiar with or have you any experience with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Health management?
- > How would you describe the personal characteristics that will enable you to work independently in a rural or remote community? These could include time management skills, team work and collaborative skills, ability to maintain accurate patient records, a tolerant and respectful attitude, good communication skills, and a genuine empathy for people. Specific examples which illustrate these characteristics will be important for the selection process.

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## Prepare your documents

Collect and prepare all of the application documentation prior to starting your application. You must upload this documentation so please ensure that they are in the required formats.

## Recent colour photo of your head and shoulders

This photo must have been taken within the past 12 months. Please note that photos taken from other documents (e.g. passport or driver's licence) are not accepted

## Evidence of permanent residency or citizenship

You must provide a clear, colour, original scan of one of the following:

- > Australian/New Zealand citizenship certificate
- > Current Australian/New Zealand passport
- > Current International passport with Australian/New Zealand permanent residency visa label
- > Visa grant letter from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection confirming permanent residency status (must be accompanied by original scan of current international passport)
- > VEVO printout (must be accompanied by original scan of current international passport)
- > Australian birth certificate\*
- > New Zealand birth certificate\*

\*The AGPT selection team accepts an Australian birth certificate if you were born prior to 20 August 1986. If you were born on or after 20 August 1986, you must provide documentation that demonstrates at least one parent was an Australian citizen or permanent resident at the time of your birth.

The AGPT selection team accepts a New Zealand birth certificate if you were born prior to 1 January 2006. If you were born on or after 1 January 2006, you must provide documentation that demonstrates at least one parent was a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident at the time of your birth.



## Academic Qualifications

You must provide a clear, colour, original scan of **one** of the following three options:

### Option 1

Primary medical qualifications certificate  
AND  
Complete official academic transcript

### Option 2

Primary medical qualifications certificate  
AND  
Letter from the university which includes the date degree commenced and was conferred

### Option 3

Complete graduation statement showing date of conferral and units undertaken.

## Medical Registration

You must provide **one** of the following:

- > A clear, colour, original scan of current Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) registration certificate
- > A clear, colour, original scan of current AHPRA registration card
- > Screen shot of proof of listing on [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) in the Registers of Practitioners

## First date of medical registration

You must provide details of your current Australian medical registration status. An application will be accepted from you if you have, or expect to receive general medical registration, by the commencement of training (8 February 2019).

Documents must include one of the following:

- > A clear, colour, original scan of your first medical registration certificate from the state medical board
- > A clear colour original scan of your first medical registration certificate from AHPRA
- > Screen shot of proof of listing on [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) in the Registers of Practitioners stating first date of medical registration
- > Additional documentation may be required depending on your circumstances
- > Proof of residency status upon commencement of primary medical degree
- > Evidence of name change
- > Exemption from 19AB (3) of the Health Insurance Act 1973
- > Details of Medical Registration with Conditions/Undertakings
- > Evidence of resignation from current vocational training program.



## Multi Mini Interviews (MMIs)

MMIs are short interviews in which you can display your experience, knowledge and skills by answering questions based on the selection criteria. Each MMI station has two minutes of pre-reading and eight minutes to respond to the interviewer at that station. The interviewers include College representatives who live and practise in the region, senior medical educators or managers from the RTO, and a community representative who knows the context and health services needs of the region.

Questions are designed to allow you to display your ability to think logically about a topic and communicate your response and ideas effectively.

Whilst the details of the MMI questions will not be known to you until the day of interview, you can prepare for these interviews by reading the selection criteria and relating your experiences to the key elements of the selection criteria.

Questions may be in a number of formats.

Experience based questions generally ask you to describe a situation and what you did in relation to aspects of that situation. If you are asked to describe how you completed a task or dealt with an issue, it would be expected that you could describe:

- > The situation
- > Your role or task in the situation
- > The role of others in the situation
- > Your actions in the situation
- > The outcome or result of the situation

Scenario based questions generally provide you with a situation that requires you to think through a course of action. If you are asked 'what would you do if', you would be expected to describe the steps you would take in the situation including how you would address the issue and whom you may involve (if applicable).

## Preparing for your interview

MMIs will be held at locations around Australia. You will be contacted by the RTO in your region of first preference with specific time, date and location. MMIs will be held between Friday 13 July and Sunday 22 July 2018.

Some RTOs may also require a separate individual interview and / or completion of a short survey. You will be notified if this is the case.

## Medicare Provider Numbers

It is important to note that once accepted into AGPT, you will require a Medicare provider number to:

- > claim Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) rebates for your services or have rebates claimed on your behalf by your employer or patients
- > refer patients to other specialists through the Medicare system
- > request services on behalf of your patients.

Medicare provider numbers are location specific and you will require one for each training post. Your RTO can assist you with your application for your Medicare Provider Number. It is important to note that approval for a Medicare Provider Number can take up to six weeks so this should be a priority for you when you have accepted your offer.

If you have not had a Medicare Provider Number previously, you will need to complete an application form online once you have completed your AGPT placement form with your RTO. For more information, please visit [agpt.com.au](http://agpt.com.au) > 'GP Registrars' > 'Application Forms' or call 132 150.





## Frequently asked questions

### What are the eligibility criteria I need to meet to apply for the AGPT Program?

Eligibility for the program is determined by the Department of Health based on the following factors:

- > Citizenship status
- > Primary Medical Qualifications
- > Medical Registration.

### What are the selection criteria for the written assessment?

Candidates are selected on merit. ACRRM grades written assessments based on the following criteria:

- > Demonstrated commitment to a career as a specialist general practitioner working in rural or remote Australia.
- > Demonstrated capacity and motivation to acquire abilities, skills and knowledge in the ACRRM domains of practice.
- > Demonstrated connection with rural communities.
- > Demonstrated commitment to meeting the needs of rural and remote communities through an extended scope of practice.
- > Possession of the personal characteristics associated with a successful career in rural or remote practice.

### Do I have to undertake all training in rural and remote locations?

No. Whilst most registrars will spend a significant amount of training time in rural areas, the focus is on gaining the skills and knowledge required in rural and remote settings. Some of these skills can be developed in urban facilities. However, all registrars must spend a minimum of 12 months of their training living and practising in a rural or remote setting.

### Can I choose the location for my AGPT training?

You are required to nominate a minimum of one Regional Training Organisation (RTO) and are encouraged to nominate up to four RTO preferences. By nominating a preference, you must be willing to train in that region for the duration of your training.

We recommend you contact your preferred RTO for more information about training posts in their region. Further information on training regions can be found at [agpt.com.au](http://agpt.com.au). Locations of current ACRRM accredited training posts are on the ACRRM [website](#). You should research these posts so that you are aware of specific practices in the locations of that region.

### Can I claim Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)?

Registrars can potentially claim up to 24 months RPL through their RTO. A maximum of 12 months for Primary Rural and Remote Training can be awarded, with the remaining 12 months in Core Clinical Training or Advanced Specialised Training.

### What assessments will I be required to undertake to gain Fellowship of ACRRM?

Assessments are undertaken progressively throughout the key stages of your training, rather than one big exam at the end.

Assessments include:

- > Multi Source Feedback (MSF) – eligible after 12 months training
- > Multi Choice Question exam (MCQ) - eligible after 12 months training
- > Case Based Discussion assessment (CBD) - eligible after 24 months training
- > Structured Assessment using Multiple Patient Scenarios (StAMPS) – eligible after 24 months training
- > Relevant AST assessment (either StAMPS or project depending on AST selected).

### Can overseas trained doctors and foreign graduates apply for AGPT?

Some restrictions apply to Medicare benefits for overseas-trained doctors (OTDs) and foreign graduates of an accredited medical school (FAGMS) under Section 19AB of the Health Insurance Act 1973. This may affect the location where you train.

### Can Australian Defence Force doctors apply for the AGPT Program?

Australian Defence Force (ADF) doctors are encouraged to apply for AGPT. Training for ADF doctors can be undertaken as a combination of civilian and military practice. If you are an ADF doctor wishing to apply, please talk to the RTO in your preferred training region to discuss options available to you.

### I am on a state-based Rural Generalist Program. Do I still need to join a General Practice Training Program?

The State and Territory Rural Generalist programs provide supported and facilitated frameworks for rural training, however they are not a formal training program. To become a general practitioner, you will need to gain a training position on a General Practice training program that leads to Specialist Registration as a General Practitioner, and Vocational Recognition with Medicare. Gaining a training position with the ACRRM through the AGPT program will meet this requirement.

### Need more help?

Contact our Training Team on 1800 223 226  
or email [agpt@acrrm.org.au](mailto:agpt@acrrm.org.au).

# Regional Training Organisation Contacts

## Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales

### GP Synergy

Western New South Wales, Lower Eastern New South Wales, and North Eastern New South Wales

Contact details

W: [gpsynergy.com.au](http://gpsynergy.com.au)

T: 1300 477 963

(International: +61 2 8321 4000)

E: [applicant@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:applicant@gpsynergy.com.au)

## Victoria

### Eastern Victoria GP Training

Eastern Victoria

W: [evgptraining.com.au](http://evgptraining.com.au)

T: 1300 851 753

E: [enquiry@evgptraining.com.au](mailto:enquiry@evgptraining.com.au)

### Murray City Country Coast GP Training

Western Victoria

W: [mccc.com.au](http://mccc.com.au)

T: 1300 622 247

E: [info@mccc.com.au](mailto:info@mccc.com.au)

## Queensland

### Generalist Medical Training

North Western Queensland

W: [gmt.edu.au](http://gmt.edu.au)

T: 1300 823 874

E: [gmt.admin@jcu.edu.au](mailto:gmt.admin@jcu.edu.au)

### General Practice Training Queensland

South Eastern Queensland

W: [gptq.qld.edu.au](http://gptq.qld.edu.au)

T: (07) 3552 8100

E: [gptq@gptq.qld.edu.au](mailto:gptq@gptq.qld.edu.au)

## South Australia

### GPEX

W: [gpex.com.au](http://gpex.com.au)

T: 1300 473 972 or (08) 8490 0400

E: [selection@gpex.com.au](mailto:selection@gpex.com.au)

## Northern Territory

### Northern Territory General Practice Education

W: [ntgpe.org](http://ntgpe.org)

T: (08) 8946 7079

E: [registrar@ntgpe.org](mailto:registrar@ntgpe.org)

## Tasmania

### General Practice Training Tasmania

W: [gptt.com.au](http://gptt.com.au)

T: (03) 6215 5000

E: [enquiries@gptt.com.au](mailto:enquiries@gptt.com.au)

## Western Australia

### Western Australian General Practice Education and Training

W: [wagpet.com.au](http://wagpet.com.au)

T: (08) 9473 8200

E: [gpcareers@wagpet](mailto:gpcareers@wagpet)



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Australian College of  
Rural & Remote Medicine

WORLD LEADERS IN RURAL PRACTICE

