



Remote Vocational Training Scheme Ltd (RVTS)

ACN 122 891 838

Applicant Guide for ACCHS Extension Round 2, 2015

Program Overview

The RVTS is a vocational training program, which is available to doctors who under ordinary circumstances could not complete vocational training except by leaving their communities. The four year program allows doctors to access vocational training while they continue to provide general medical services to their communities. The community retains their doctor while the doctor receives the benefits of vocational training.

The program has 2 streams of trainees:

- The RVTS program for doctors working in remote & rural Australia (the Original Program)
- The RVTS extension providing support specifically for doctors in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (the ACCHS Extension)

Both streams train towards fellowship qualifications of the RACGP and/or ACRRM. The training includes webinars, education workshops, remote supervision and individualised training advice.

This second round is only for the ACCHS Extension Stream i.e. doctors working in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for the RVTS extension into ACCHSs, a doctor must meet each of the following criteria:

1. Location

- The doctor must be working in an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service; AND
- The position must be providing continuing comprehensive whole-patient medical care to individuals, families and their communities.

2. Medical Registration

- The doctor must have Limited Registration for Area of Need or General Registration with the Medical Board of Australia; AND

3. For Doctors with Limited Registration

- The doctor must be on the Australian Medical Council Competent Authority Pathway¹ and hold an Advanced Standing Certificate; OR
- The doctor must be on the Australian Medical Council Standard Pathway² and have successfully completed Australian Medical Council part 1 exam; AND
- Limited registration must have first been granted on or after 1 February 2013; AND
- The doctor must have a minimum of 2 years of previous general practice experience as assessed by the RACGP if intending to progress to award of FRACGP or 2 years of recognition of prior learning as assessed by ACRRM if intending to progress to award of FACRRM

All applicants:

- must be working in an eligible location at the commencement of their training and remain in that location throughout their training; OR
- in special circumstances, have an arrangement in place to be in an eligible location at the commencement of training; OR
- be undertaking approved ACRRM or RACGP advanced specialised training/advanced rural skills post at the commencement of training and be in an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service within 12 months of commencement of training.

Applications are accepted from Australian citizens, permanent residents and temporary residents.

Preference will be given to locations where there is no access to onsite supervision with the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program. Preference will also be given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors.

Applicants not currently in an eligible location must provide:

- Written evidence³ that they will be working in a suitable location at the commencement of training; or
- Written evidence that they will be undertaking approved ACRRM or RACGP advanced specialised training / advanced rural skills post at the commencement of training.

¹ See <http://www.amc.org.au/index.php/ass/apo/cap>

² See <http://www.amc.org.au/index.php/ass/apo/sp>

³ Evidence is a signed employment contract by an employer/rural workforce agency.

Ranking of applicants for interview

At the close of applications, all applicants meeting the eligibility criteria will be ranked to develop a list of applicants for interview. Applicants will be ordered sequentially by each of the following steps:

A. Access to Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program

Applicants from locations where there are no AGPT registrars training currently will be ranked higher than applicants from locations where AGPT registrars are currently training⁴.

B. Indigenous Doctors

Following on from ranking by A, indigenous doctors will be ranked higher than non-indigenous doctors.

C. RVTS Category

Following on from ranking by A & B, applicants will be ordered by RVTS Category where applicants meeting Category 1 criteria will have a higher ranking.

The RVTS categories are as follows:

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| Category 1 | Australian or New Zealand citizen or Australian permanent resident, with General Registration with the Medical Board of Australia. |
| Category 2 | A temporary resident who has applied for permanent residence and has General Registration with the Medical Board of Australia. |
| Category 3 | An Australian or New Zealand citizen or Australian permanent resident who has Limited Registration for Area of Need with the Medical Board of Australia. |
| Category 4 | A temporary resident who has Limited Registration for Area of Need with the Medical Board of Australia. |

D. Solo Doctor Town Status⁵

Following on from ranking by A, B & C, applicants will be ranked via their solo doctor town status. Applicants from a solo doctor town will be ranked higher than applicants from a multi-doctor town.

E. RA Classification

Following on from ranking by A, B, C & D, applicants will be ranked via ASGC-RA classification. Applicants from RA5 will be ranked highest, followed by applicants from RA4, RA3, RA2 and then RA1.

Acceptance for interview:

The highest ranked applicants will then be interviewed for a place in the ACCHS Extension

⁴ Evidence may be sought from the local Regional Training Provider, ACRRM, RACGP and/or GPET

⁵ A Solo Doctor Town is a town where the applicant is the only doctor providing medical services in the town on more than 3 days per week as verified by the relevant rural workforce agency or Medicare Local.

The Selection Process

A panel of RVTS representatives will interview selected applicants by telephone or videoconference.

The interview process will allow applicants to demonstrate their suitability for entry into the RVTS extension. Applicants will be assessed against the following criteria, and will be asked to provide examples of their:

1. Interest in and commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
2. Professional development
3. Communication skills
4. Time management
5. Applied clinical knowledge
6. Willingness to receive feedback and learn from it
7. Ethical practice

Acceptance into the Program:

Applicants will be accepted into the program based on eligibility, ranking, interview score and satisfactory referee checks. The offer will only apply for the location referred to in the application. If a successful applicant does not commence training in the location referred to in their application, they will forfeit their place on the program. Only in exceptional circumstances can commencement of training be deferred. At least 80% of applicants must be from RA2 – 5.

Further requirements

All applicants must continue to work in an eligible RVTS location for the majority of their training (except for approved hospital training and advanced skills posts). If a successful applicant moves training location within the first twelve months of commencement of training they may forfeit their place in the training program.

Limited Registration Doctors on the Australian Medical Council Standard Pathway

RVTS requirements are additional to any requirements laid out by the Medical Board of Australia. Doctors with Limited Registration with the Medical Board of Australia may have a requirement to obtain General or Specialist Registration within a certain time frame. Training with RVTS does not remove the need to meet this requirement. Doctors who will not be able to complete sufficient training time to gain Fellowship prior to expiry of their medical registration will not be considered for the program. Thus Limited registration must have first been granted on or after 1 February 2013 and the doctor must have a minimum of 2 years of previous general practice experience as assessed by the RACGP if intending to progress to award of FRACGP or 2 years of recognition of prior learning as assessed by ACRRM if intending to progress to award of FACRRM. It is up to a doctor with Limited Registration to examine their individual registration requirements very carefully and consult with the Medical Board of Australia prior to joining RVTS.

RVTS will not accept responsibility for loss of registration due to failure to meet Medical Board registration requirements.

RVTS provides training toward FRACGP/FARGP and FACRRM. Once Fellowship of ACRRM or RACGP is achieved, doctors with Limited Registration are able to apply to the Medical Board of Australia for Specialist Registration as a “Specialist” General Practitioner. Specialist Registration as a GP should enable doctors to practice in typical office based general practice environments. At this stage it is unclear whether Specialist Registration as a GP extends to hospital practice or some specialty areas e.g. skin clinics.

In order to legally practice in a broad range of environments General Registration is required. RVTS doctors with Limited Registration may apply for General Registration if they have attained the AMC Certificate and can demonstrate that they have completed the equivalent of an intern year. RVTS doctors with Limited Registration on the AMC Standard Pathway are encouraged to complete their AMC Certificate while training with RVTS.

International Medical Graduates without AMC Certificate

Doctors without the AMC Certificate training towards Fellowship of the RACGP are required by the RACGP to meet different pre-requisites in order to sit the FRACGP exam and gain Fellowship. It is an RACGP requirement for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) training towards Fellowship of the RACGP to have completed the AMC Clinical examination. Doctors who do not meet this requirement will only be eligible to gain FRACGP via the practice eligible route. This requires doctors to have 4 years of general practice experience, with at least one having been gained in Australia, to be eligible to sit FRACGP assessment. In addition, doctors who have not passed the AMC Clinical examination are required to have at least 5 years of general practice experience, at least one of which must have been gained in Australia and have completed all assessment requirements in order to gain Fellowship. Your general practice experience must be assessed by the RACGP prior to applying to train with RVTS, to determine that you have sufficient recognised time to be eligible for FRACGP within your RVTS training time. RVTS doctors with Limited Registration are encouraged to complete their AMC Certificate while training with RVTS.

Further information on eligibility for RACGP assessment can be found on the RACGP website at <http://www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/imgaus/pep/>.

Requirements for doctors without the AMC Certificate training towards Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (FACRRM) and wishing to undertake assessment have no additional requirements to those doctors with the AMC certificate.

Termination of Training

RVTS is able to provide the training program as a result of funding from the Australian Government and acknowledges that support. If at any time this funding was to end then the training may be immediately ended by written notice.

The training may also be brought to an end immediately by RVTS if a doctor undertaking the training does not achieve satisfactory progress or no longer meets location, practice status or medical registration and residency requirements or there is found to have been a material error in their application.

Confidentiality

All information submitted with this application will be treated confidentially. RVTS will adhere to the RVTS Privacy Policy available at http://www.rvts.org.au/downloads/RVTS_Privacy_Policy.pdf.

To Apply

Applications are to be completed electronically at <https://rms.rvts.org.au/apply>. Once the application is submitted, an email is sent to the applicant with further instructions.

Changes can be made to the application up until the closing date for applications by following the relevant link provided in the email.

To complete the application, download and print the PDF from the applicable link provided in the email. Sign and date the declaration on page 4 of the application and mail to RVTS along with all required supporting documentation as listed below by the date provided in the timeline.

Supporting Documentation

It is essential that the following documents be included with an application:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Evidence that the doctor is currently working in their ACCHS location or will be at the commencement of training (usually a signed employment contract)
- Written evidence that they will be undertaking approved ACRRM or RACGP advanced specialised training / advanced rural skills post at the commencement of training if appropriate.
- A passport-sized photo
- Evidence of Australian or New Zealand citizenship or Australian permanent or temporary residency (eg copy of birth certificate if Australian or New Zealand born, or citizenship certificate or passport)
- Evidence of primary medical qualification (eg copy of degree or academic transcript)
- Evidence of current medical registration (eg copy of current registration card or certificate)
- Evidence of name change if applicant's name appears differently in supporting documents (eg marriage certificate or deed poll)
- For limited registrants - Evidence of ACRRM RPL or RACGP assessment of GP experience
- For limited registrants on AMC Standard Pathway – Evidence of pass in AMC Part 1 exam
- For limited registrants on AMC Competent Authority Pathway – Copy of Advanced Standing Certificate

Applicants not currently in an eligible location must provide:

- Written evidence that the applicant will be working in a suitable location at the commencement of training (usually a signed employment contract); or
- Written evidence that they will be undertaking approved ACRRM or RACGP advanced specialised training / advanced rural skills post at the commencement of training.

In addition, for doctors who did not obtain their primary medical qualification in Australia, the following must be supplied:

- If applicable, evidence of the date when the applicant became or applied for permanent residency (eg letter from Department of Immigration and Citizenship, or photocopy of Australian permanent residency status in passport). Please ensure that the date of permanent residency or application can be seen clearly.
- If applicable, Australian Medical Council MCQ and Clinical examination results (excluding New Zealand trained doctors)
- Evidence of the date of first medical registration in an Australian state or territory (eg certificate or letter from medical board) (including New Zealand trained doctors).

Certification of Supporting Documentation

Successful applicants will be required to submit copies of original documents, certified by one of the following authorised officers:

- A Justice of the Peace (*Copies certified by a Justice of the Peace must include a registration number and the state in which they are registered as a Justice of the Peace. If no registration number is available, JPs must provide their full name and address*).
- A Commissioner for Declarations
- A bank manager
- A postal manager
- A credit union branch manager
- A barrister, solicitor or patent attorney
- A police officer in charge of a police station, or of the rank of sergeant or above
- A pharmacist.

Documents certified by medical practitioners cannot be accepted.

The authorised officer must certify each document by writing '*I certify this is a true copy of the original document sighted by me*' and sign it on the front page of the document (not on the reverse side of the page). Double-sided documents must be certified on both sides.

If the certifying officer is **not** a Justice of the Peace then they must also include the following details:

- Name
- Address
- Contact telephone number
- Profession or occupation or organisation
- Date verified.

Referees

Applicants are required to provide the names and contact details of two referees on the application form. Referees should be professional colleagues who are familiar with the applicant's work over the last three years. They must have been in a supervisory or management position in relation to the applicant's position at that time. Referees must not be personally or financially related to the applicant. Referees may be contacted to provide information about the applicant's suitability for RVTS.

RVTS reserves the right to request the names and contact details of additional referees.

Address for Applications

Signed applications and all supporting documentation are to be mailed to:

RVTS Ltd
PO Box 37
ALBURY NSW 2640

Timeline

7 September 2014	Applications open
7 November 2014	Applications close
14 November 2014	Signed application and all supporting documentation due
24 November – 5 December 2014	Interviews
2 February 2015	Training commences

Disclaimer

By making an application, you release hold harmless and indemnify RVTS, its officers, staff and agents from and against any liability arising from or as a result of:

- the application;
- any refusal of or delay in granting any application;
- training (or failure or delay in providing that training); or
- otherwise

howsoever arising (including negligence). Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, in no circumstances shall RVTS, its officers, staff and agents be liable for special indirect or consequential loss or damages.

The selection process remains at the unfettered discretion of RVTS. RVTS will not provide reasons for its decisions and is not subject to rules of natural justice.

Acceptance into RVTS does not imply that training will automatically be recognised towards fellowship of either ACRRM or RACGP.

In particular it is up to individual doctors to determine whether their location will be suitable for ACRRM training if they are intending to progress to award of FACRRM.