

# *Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice Frequently asked questions*

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## Question

## Answer

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**What is the difference between the Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP), and the Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP)?**

The FRACGP is the College's vocational qualification. It certifies that the Fellow is competent to deliver general practice services unsupervised in any general practice setting in Australia – urban, regional, rural, remote or very remote.

The RACGP is accredited by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) as the college responsible for qualifications, assessment, curriculum and standards in general practice.

FRACGP provides access to the RACGP Fellows list and recognition as a general practitioner on the Commonwealth's Vocational Register.

The **FARGP** is a qualification awarded by the RACGP beyond vocational Fellowship.

- It is awarded only to GPs who have attained Fellowship of the RACGP.
- It recognises advanced rural skills training (ARST), resulting from additional training, undertaken in preparation for practice in the range of general practice contexts to be found in rural and remote Australia .
- It has its own curriculum built on the FRACGP curriculum but with a rural focus, and a range of curricula in advanced rural skills training.
- ARST curricula have been developed in consultation with the other medical specialties with which the skills and knowledge involved are shared, such as the RANZCOG (for obstetrics), ANZCA (for anaesthetics), and RACS (for surgery).

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**What are the eligibility requirements to enrol in the FARGP?**

Registrars who are undertaking their RACGP general practice training with a Regional Training Provider (RTP) or RVTS are eligible to enrol as soon as the RTP/RVTS have accepted them into vocational training.

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**Do I have to attain my FRACGP before I can enrol in the FARGP?**

- No – in fact we encourage candidates to enrol in the FARGP at the same time as they begin working towards their FRACGP. This is because the FARGP is based on the FRACGP curriculum, and many of the FARGP educational activities will assist in preparation for the FRACGP assessment processes.
- We encourage registrars to enrol in the FARGP as soon as they enrol in GP training because:
  - the FARGP's core modules, Working in Rural General Practice and Emergency Medicine, are good preparation during hospital terms for general practice terms, and
  - some registrars may wish to undertake advanced rural skills training following their hospital terms, so they can apply these skills in their general practice terms.

**What do I have to do to receive the FARGP?**

**Registrars:**

- complete a minimum of 12 months general practice training in RACGP accredited rural training posts – RA 2-5
- complete a total of 12 months ARST in accredited post/s
- meet the ARST curriculum requirements
- complete the FARGP curriculum requirements:
  - core modules – Working in Rural General Practice and Emergency Medicine
  - complete 160 hours of self-identified educational activities – these activities may be undertaken in a wide variety of ways, eg. online via gplearning, other online education activities, QI&CPD activities, workshops
- submit a portfolio of educational activities for final assessment
- hold the FRACGP.

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**Can general pathway registrars enrol in the FARGP?**

Yes – all registrars may enrol in the FARGP. The registrar will have to negotiate with his/her RTP if he/she wishes to make a commitment to rural training and the FARGP.

The Australian General Practice Training Program supports training towards the FARGP.

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**Does FARGP lead to vocational recognition?**

All graduates of the FARGP must first attain the FRACGP – the College's vocational Fellowship award.

FRACGP provides access to the RACGP Fellows list and recognition as a general practitioner on the Commonwealth's Vocational Register.

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**When do I sit my exam for the FARGP?**

Candidates do not have to sit for an exam for the FARGP.

Assessment for the FARGP is based on a continuous assessment framework. You are required to develop and maintain a FARGP portfolio of all relevant educational activities undertaken during your enrolment period in the FARGP. The portfolio includes:

**Mandatory components**

- Completion of Vocational Training documentation from the RTP:
  - either print out of training units or official letter
  - copy of notification of completion of ARST (discipline, dates and location).
- Learning plans.
- Assessment activities – assessment is based on evidence of educational activities, learning and reflection:
  - learning plan review/assessment
  - record of elective educational activities (min 160 hours)
  - ARST assessment activities – as per ARST curriculum requirements.
- Completed record of key areas of clinical practice/procedures.
- Completed learning activities undertaken in the:
  - Working in Rural General Practice module
  - Emergency Medicine module.
- Summative reflection on learning (500 words).
- Post FARGP portfolio questionnaire.

### Optional components

- Summary of educational activities completed, including a record of learning activities occurring in your practice, educational releases and their content from a personal perspective, QI&CPD points certificates from CPD activities and your reflections on these activities.
- Learning resources (such as journal articles) that you found useful.
- Critical incident recordings.
- Resource kit activities.
- Clinical attachment details and evaluations.
- Research projects.
- Records of any other educational activities undertaken (copies of certificates, diplomas etc.).
- Other educational activities of interest.
- Assessment in the FARGP is progressive, to demonstrate the outcomes of learning objectives as identified in the candidate's learning plan.
- Curricula for advanced rural skills, agreed to by the relevant medical colleges through joint consultative committees, stipulate required assessment measures.

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### Why should I choose to complete the FRACGP / FARGP?

- Recognition of advanced clinical skills.
- Option to undertake own ARST, eg. palliative care.
- Credentialing and clinical privileging for hospital appointments.
- FRACGP / FARGP – qualified to practice unsupervised as a GP with an advanced skill set and eligible for Medicare provider number anywhere in Australia – urban, regional, rural or remote.
- Builds on the FRACGP curriculum, so it offers:
  - access to vocational recognition
  - internationally validated assessment process
  - international recognition.
- There are two exit points:-

It is possible to exit training with the FRACGP:

- after 3 years (if you haven't completed ARST), or
- after 4 years with two Fellowships – the FRACGP and the FARGP.
- Higher salary packaging in some areas.
- No formal examination or major assignments for the FARGP as the award is built on a portfolio-based continuous assessment framework.
- Accredited with the AMC.
- It's free to all registrars enrolled in the training program.

NB: Registrars must be financial members of the RACGP for the duration of enrolment in the FARGP.

- Each Fellowship attracts 150 Category 1 QI&CPD points.
- The parchments look great!

### Notes:

The aim of the RACGP is to make the attainment of the FARGP as simple and easy as possible so as to blend seamlessly with ongoing QI&CPD requirements. The FARGP can be completed over a period of 4 years from enrolment regardless of when you enrol in vocational training.

If you require more information, please contact Di Schaefer – Rural Education Manager:

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