

2020 Queensland Advanced Skills Training (AST) Campaign

Anaesthetics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Mental Health and Internal Medicine

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Queensland Rural Generalist Pathway (QRGP) coordinating the recruitment and selection process for AST positions across regional Queensland?

This process was established to ensure fair, equitable and open merit selection in line with Queensland Health's recruitment and selection policy. The QRGP, in conjunction with AST consultative committees, relevant Colleges and Regional Training Organisations (RTOs) coordinate the placement of trainees into AST posts in the disciplines of anaesthetics, obstetrics and gynaecology, internal medicine, mental health and paediatrics annually.

What are the benefits of the QRGP's centralised state-wide recruitment and selection process?

The key benefits to applicants are:

- A fair, equitable and open merit recruitment and selection process.
- Safety for trainees – to ensure trainees are suitably experienced and personally and professionally ready to progress to AST.
- Maximise training opportunities – to ensure trainees are aligning AST intentions with future career plans and community need.

How does the process work?

Please refer to the [AST flowchart](#) on our website.

How do I apply for an AST position in a discipline other than anaesthetics, obstetrics and gynaecology, internal medicine, mental health and paediatrics?

Trainees will be required to enter the Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Campaign and follow the usual process including speaking with the relevant Directors of Medical Services and Directors of specialty departments at training hospitals. Additionally, trainees should be discussing their training options with their RTO and Rural Generalist Training Advisor (RGTA).

If I am unsuccessful in securing an AST position in my preferred discipline and / or location what are my options?

Placements occur via the meritorious ranking of applicants. If you are unable to secure your first preferred location, the QRGP team will contact you to discuss your options.

If I am unsuccessful through the AST application and / or interview process what are my options?

If you are unsuccessful in securing an AST post through the QRGP centralised process you may enter the RMO Campaign to make application for an alternate discipline position. Other AST disciplines which Rural Generalist trainees may train toward include emergency medicine, Indigenous health and surgery.



How do I know what will be involved in my AST training?

AST curriculum statements are available from the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) websites:

ACRRM www.acrrm.org.au/advanced-specialised-training-curricula

RACGP www.racgp.org.au/the-racgp/faculties/rural/education-and-training/essential-fargp-and-arst-curriculum-information

Am I able to speak with the relevant department directors across regional Queensland about the positions on offer for AST?

Yes, trainees are encouraged to do so.

What role does my RTO have in this process?

Applicants must notify their RTO of their training intentions well in advance so that RTOs can confirm that the position you wish to apply for is appropriately accredited. It is the responsibility of the applicant to be in close communication with department directors, the QRGP and their RTO to assist in a smooth transition to placement. Doctors with vocational registration should ensure the post they are applying for is accredited by contacting ACRRM or RACGP.

Am I required to join Australian General Practice Training (AGPT), the Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS), the ACRRM Independent Pathway or RACGP Practice Eligible Pathway prior to application?

Applicants are strongly encouraged to make application to AGPT / RVTS or a college-led pathway prior to applying for an AST position. This helps ensure that your position counts toward your training and demonstrates commitment to Rural Generalist training. We recognise that some trainees may not have applied to AGPT / RVTS at the time of AST application for various reasons; this will be discussed with applicants during the selection process.

If you are not enrolled with AGPT / RVTS or a college pathway at the time of commencing your AST, you will need to ensure you thoroughly document your training experience for RPL purposes, unless you are already vocationally registered.

Can I apply for an AST position if I am not a Rural Generalist trainee?

Yes. The QRGP accepts applications from trainees on the Generalist Pathway, those who are external to the Generalist Pathway and Fellowed doctors.

At what stage in my career should I apply for an AST position?

Usually trainees on the QRGP would apply in postgraduate year two (PGY2); however this is dependent upon a range of factors for each individual, including their professional and personal 'readiness'. This should be discussed in detail with your RGTA and RTO.

Can I apply for a second AST position prior to fellowship if I have already completed one?

AGPT policies allow for completion of a second advanced skill in certain circumstances, provided applicants are training with a state-run pathway such as the QRGP. You should contact the QRGP and your RTO for more information. If you are training via a college-led pathway you should seek information directly from your college contact.



How do I decide on which discipline to select and the location?

A fair degree of consideration should be given to the discipline and location for AST. Items to research and seek advice on include the particular discipline or skill mix desired at the hospital / location in which you wish to undertake your vocational training.

For example, if you have a particular discipline in mind you will need to research and determine if the hospital/location you are tracking toward requires that advanced skill. There will be little use in obtaining an advanced skill in obstetrics and gynaecology if the hospital you are tracking towards isn't a confining hospital. Similarly, if you are applying for AST in surgery and the hospital you are tracking toward doesn't have an anaesthetist on staff or an outreach service it would be difficult to maintain your skills.

Assistance in making your decision can be obtained from you RGTA and the Executive Director of Medical Services (EDMS) at the hospital you are tracking towards; as well as your RTO.

What will assist me in making successful application for a rural AST post?

Posts are allocated on merit to doctors committed to providing obstetrics and gynaecology, anaesthetic, internal medicine, mental health and paediatric services in rural areas.

- QRGP trainees with Rural Generalist Medicine Prevocational Certification who are training toward fellowship (ACRRM and/or RACGP plus FARGP) demonstrate commitment, as do senior vocational trainees and Fellows.
- The interview process will address commitment to rural procedural practice. Achieving milestones such as successful AGPT application demonstrates commitment.
- Interstate applicants may be considered.

What is the duration of AST?

Training in obstetrics and gynaecology, anaesthetics, paediatrics, internal medicine and mental health will usually occur over a 12-month period.

Where can I undertake AST and in what discipline?

For information on available AST positions please visit the [QRGP website](#).

Who can I contact to ask further questions about the AST placement process?

For more information, please contact the QRGP team on 1800 680 291 or rural_generalist@health.qld.gov.au

