

2025 Queensland Advanced Skills Training (AST) Campaign

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

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 and streamlined selection in line with Queensland Health's recruitment and selection policy. The QRGP, in conjunction with AST advisory groups and relevant colleges coordinate the placement of trainees into AST posts in the disciplines of obstetrics and gynaecology, internal medicine, mental health, paediatrics, anaesthetics and palliative care annually.

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

The key benefits to applicants are:

- A standardised and streamlined 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 obstetrics and gynaecology, internal medicine, mental health, paediatrics, anaesthetics or palliative care?

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 college 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 ranking of applicants. If you are unable to secure your first preferred location, a member of 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 main RMO Campaign to make application for an alternate discipline position.

Other AST disciplines which Rural Generalist trainees are able to 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 <https://www.racgp.org.au/the-racgp/faculties/rural/education-and-training/fellowship-in-advanced-rural-general-practice/arst-information-from-2022>

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 college have in this process?

Applicants must notify their college of their training intentions well in advance so that colleges can assist in confirming 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 college to assist in a smooth transition to placement. The QRGP team will also seek a suitability assessment from your college, if enrolled, prior to shortlisting. Doctors with vocational registration should ensure the post they are applying for is accredited by contacting ACRRM or RACGP.

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

Applicants are strongly encouraged to make application to a College / RVTS or another training pathway prior to applying for an AST position. This helps to ensure that the position counts toward your training and demonstrates commitment to Rural Generalist training. We recognise that some trainees may not have applied 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 a College / RVTS or another training 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 or three (PGY2/3); however, this is dependent upon a range of factors for each individual, including their professional and personal 'readiness'. This should be discussed in further detail with a RGTA and your College.

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

College 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 college for more information.

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 discipline or skill mix desired at the 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 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 location you are tracking towards doesn't have a confining hospital. Similarly, if you are applying for AST in surgery and the location 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 your RGTA and local facility and general practice at the location you are tracking towards; as well as your college.

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

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

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

What is the duration of AST?

Training in obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, internal medicine, mental health, palliative care and anaesthetics 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 Advanced Skills Training placement process?

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

Review

This guide is reviewed annually.

Date of last review: March 2024