



RANZCO

The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of Ophthalmologists

Readmission to RANZCO Fellowship

Approved by: CEO

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Next review: Jan 2022

Version: Final

1. Purpose and scope

This policy outlines the requirements for ophthalmologists who are applying for re-admission to Fellowship of RANZCO, including Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements. This policy should be read in conjunction with Medical Board of Australia (MBA) registration standards and the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) registration standards for medical practitioners.

2. Definitions

Readmission to Fellowship is the process where the RANZCO Board may re-admit to Fellowship a Fellow who has previously resigned their Fellowship or had the right to use the post-nominal FRANZCO withdrawn.

Registration as a specialist ophthalmologist is regulated by the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) and the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) in their respective jurisdictions. Ophthalmologists can hold specialist status without holding FRANZCO.

Continuing professional development (CPD) is the means by which ophthalmologists maintain and extend expertise both in ophthalmology, and in the wide range of skills, knowledge, attitudes and attributes that are part of being a medical professional.

3. Background

Ophthalmologists may for various reasons resign from their Fellowship of RANZCO, or have their Fellowship withdrawn by Council.

RANZCO Fellowship is contingent on abiding by the RANZCO Code of Conduct, compliance with RANZCO CPD requirements, as outlined in the CPD Handbook, and maintaining good financial standing.

4. Requirements for Readmission to Fellowship

Ophthalmologists applying for readmission to Fellowship may or may not be simultaneously recommencing practice.

In order to apply for readmission, ophthalmologists must first obtain a copy of the Code of Conduct, undertake CPD activities in line with RANZCO CPD requirements and contact RANZCO requesting an invoice of outstanding fees, which are to be paid prior to readmission.

A 'readmission to Fellowship' form (available on the RANZCO website) should be completed and submitted to the RANZCO Board via the General Manager, Membership Services. The process for readmission to Fellowship is described at Appendix A.

The RANZCO Board has sole discretion to approve, conditionally approve or reject the application. In the instance where the application is rejected, the applying ophthalmologist can access the RANZCO Appeals Policy. Conditional approval will include a listing of conditions that are decided on a case by case basis.

4.1 Readmission to Fellowship (Practising Ophthalmologists)

4.1.1 RANZCO Code of Conduct Requirements

Fellows are required to abide by the RANZCO Code of Conduct. Those applying for readmission must obtain a copy of the Code of Conduct and indicate that they have read and agree to abide by it.

4.1.2 CPD Requirements

Ophthalmologists seeking readmission to Fellowship must complete a minimum of one year's pro-rata CPD activities relevant to their intended scope of practice to the same level as Fellows. The standard RANZCO requires is undertaking CPD to the level required for RANZCO Fellows on the Specialist register. To achieve CPD compliance, Fellows must record a minimum of 80 points of CPD per year, including 30 points in Category 1 Clinical Expertise Level 2. Fellows are recommended to complete activities from at least one other category, and are recommended to develop a personal development plan.

Records of CPD activities must be submitted to the RANZCO CPD secretariat for review by the CPD Committee who will make a recommendation to Council.

4.1.3 Financial Requirements

Fellows are required to maintain good financial standing, including the payment of any outstanding invoices and fees. Approved applicants must have paid any outstanding fees prior to being readmitted as a RANZCO Fellow.

4.2 Readmission to Fellowship (Non-Practising Ophthalmologist)

Non-Practising Ophthalmologists seeking readmission to Fellowship should first apply for specialist registration with either the MBA or MCNZ. Applicants must then fulfil the same requirements as a practicing ophthalmologist reapplying for Fellowship (points 4.1.1 and 4.1.3 as above) and note that conditional approval may be granted based on the advice of the RANZCO CPD Committee, and in some instances, the RANZCO Qualification and Education Committee (QEC).

5. Record of amendments to this document

Page	Details of amendment	Date approved
All	Changed references of Council to Board	

Process for readmission to Fellowship

STEP 1 Application received (includes all supporting documents; Code of Conduct, financial and CPD)

STEP 2 General Manager, Membership Services submits application to the RANZCO Membership Committee along with any documentation held by RANZCO that gives further information on the reason Fellowship was either revoked or lapsed.

STEP 3 The Membership Committee can request further information from the applicant, CPD Committee or QEC.

STEP 4 The Board makes a determination on readmission to Fellowship based on the application, supporting documents and additional documents supplied by RANZCO and any RANZCO Committees.

Application is successful	Conditional Approval	Application declined
Ophthalmologist is readmitted as a Fellow	The Board sets out conditions for approval, including the party or Committee responsible for ensuring conditionals are met prior to fellowship being reinstated	The Board has discretion over whether reasons for the application being declined are given. Applicant can access the RANZCO Appeals process and is able to reapply for Fellowship at the next meeting of the RANZCO Board.