



Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists

ANZCP Overseas Trained Perfusionists Certification Recognition Policy and Procedure.

Policy

Policy name: Australia and New Zealand College of Perfusionists (ANZCP) Overseas Trained Perfusionists Certification Recognition Policy (OTP Policy).

Purpose: To provide governance and clarity relating to recognition of overseas perfusion certification for those in scope.

Scope: This policy applies to Overseas Trained Perfusionist (OTP) applicants who have received perfusion training and education in countries identified in the procedure, and who wish to have this certification recognised by the ANZCP or for employment in Australasia.

Date: January 2020.

Review: This policy and associated procedure will be reviewed from time to time and no longer than two years from the date above.

Procedure

Procedure name: ANZCP Overseas Trained Perfusionists Certification Recognition Procedure (OTP Procedure).

Purpose: To provide a mechanism for the OTP Policy to be implemented.

Introduction

In July 2018, the ANZCP Executive and Australasian Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) agreed to move towards recognition of perfusion certification achieved via:

- The Canadian perfusion governing body (Canadian Society of Clinical Perfusion);
- The US perfusion governing body (American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion);
- The United Kingdom and Ireland perfusion governing body (the Society of Clinical Perfusion Scientists of Great Britain and Ireland);
- Or such perfusion certification and qualifications deemed to be equivalent by the Australasian Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion;

The reasons for this are several-fold. Not all perfusionists practising in Australasia are certified or are Fellows of the ANZCP. There are a number of issues and problems which arise due to this fact:

- Without having passed the ABCP certification examination this group are not eligible to be Fellows and so cannot be full members of the ANZCP.
- This will potentially be an issue if and when hospitals, the NZ government or Australian state governments mandate perfusion practice activities which can only be performed by perfusionists with Australasian certification.
- ANZCP's ability to be a member of NASRHP could be affected if not all perfusionists practising in Australia are certified.
- Perfusionists who are not Fellows / Full Members cannot partake in AGM voting; cannot influence the perfusion agenda within Australasia; and cannot stand for Executive membership;
- Enough practising perfusionists in New Zealand and Australia are not Fellows and/or are ineligible to be Fellows. This group represents a significant barrier to the principle that only fully credentialed and certified perfusionists should be practising;
- This is also a barrier to ensuring all perfusionists satisfy CPD requirements.

At the ANZCP AGM in November 2018, it was put to the College Membership that the ANZCP move to recognise perfusion certification overseen by the above-mentioned perfusion governing bodies. The membership voted to alter the Regulations and Guidelines for Perfusionists to give this effect. The alteration to the Regulations and Guidelines for Perfusionists at Section 10: Rules of the Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists was as follows:

All Perfusionists who are members of the Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists, who hold the Australasian Certification in Clinical Perfusion (CCP (Aust.) issued by the Australasian Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) and who are certified by the ABCP (as defined in Rule 31) are eligible to be considered as "Fellows of the College" and entitled to use the title FANZCP. Additionally, all Perfusionists who are members of the Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists, who hold US, Canadian or UK / Ireland certification, or such perfusion certification and qualifications deemed to be equivalent by the ABCP and who have satisfied the ANZCP Policy requirements relating to Overseas Trained Perfusionists (OTPs), and who have satisfactorily passed the Australasian Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) credentialing requirements for OTPs are eligible to be considered as "Fellows of the College" and entitled to use the title FANZCP. Fellows of the College are entitled to vote at each meeting and shall be eligible for election to the Executive Office.

Categories of perfusionist applicant

The ANZCP Executive and ABCP agree that the likely OTP applicants for OTP certification recognition and Australasian Fellowship will fall into three categories and that the examination requirements should be tailored accordingly.

Category 1: Perfusionists with certification from either US, Canada, UK & Ireland or certification and qualifications deemed to be equivalent by the Australasian Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion and who are currently working in Australasia.

- This group will complete OTP policy requirements (1) to (6) (below).
- If successful, they will be eligible for Fellowship and free ANZCP membership for their first year.
- Ongoing, they will be expected to satisfy the requirements of the ANZCP CPD Policy and Procedure to maintain Australasian certification and Australasian Fellowship.
- Timeframe is open to all OTP's working in Australia and New Zealand prior to and including December 31st, 2019.

Category 1 Perfusionists will have the deadline of 31st December 2020 by which to apply for OTP certification. Following the 31st December 2020 this option will no longer be available.

Category 2: Perfusionists with certification from one of the three countries, or certification and qualifications deemed to be equivalent by the Australasian Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion; not yet working in Australasia and who expect to be working short-term.

- Short-term is defined as 12 months or less.
- This group will complete OTP policy requirements (1) to (5) (below).
- While working in Australasia, they will be obliged to satisfy the requirements of the ANZCP CPD Policy and Procedure to maintain ABCP certification equivalency.
- With endorsement and recommendations from their Australasian senior surgeon in their Cardiac Surgery Unit and their perfusionist Head of Unit a 12 month extension will be available. After two years (i.e. one 12-month extension) the perfusionist will be expected to complete the OTP policy requirements (6) and (7) in order to be eligible to be Fellow of the College.

Category 3: Perfusionists with certification from one of the three countries, or certification and qualifications deemed to be equivalent by the Australasian Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion; not yet working in Australasia and who expect to be working in Australasia permanently.

- This group will complete OTP policy requirements (1) to (6) and (7) (below).
- They will be expected to complete the full standard ABCP Course Examination (MCQ, Short-answer and viva).
- They will be eligible for Fellowship and free ANZCP membership for their first year.
- Ongoing, they will be obliged to satisfy the requirements of the ANZCP CPD Policy and Procedure to maintain Australasian certification and Australasian Fellowship.

Process and evidence

In order to have certification obtained via the perfusion governing body in one of the three countries recognised, the following supporting evidence must be provided:

1. The OTP applicant has attained **certification** from either:
 - a. The Canadian perfusion governing body (Canadian Society of Clinical Perfusion); or
 - b. The US perfusion governing body (American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion); or
 - c. The United Kingdom and Ireland perfusion governing body (the Society of Clinical Perfusion Scientists of Great Britain and Ireland): or
 - d. Presented documentation from the perfusion governing body of the jurisdiction of the certification and qualifications being presented for equivalency.
2. The OTP applicant (Categories 2 and 3) has **attestation* from the overseas certifying body** (in UK and Ireland, US or Canada), stating that the OTP is currently recognised as a perfusion practitioner in that jurisdiction, that they are fit for practice, and that there are no current pending conduct, performance, ethical or legal issues involving the practitioner.
3. The OTP applicant has:
 - a. a **tertiary qualification(s)** at, or greater than, Australian Qualifications Framework Level 7; (Bachelors level or greater), in relevant perfusion-related domains; <https://www.aqf.edu.au/aqf-qualifications>; or
 - b. a qualification which satisfied the entry requirements for certification with respect to education at the time they presented for certification overseas.
4. The OTP applicant has provided a **log of their last three years' cases** (case type as per ANZCP CPD).

5. The OTP applicant has **letters of attestation*** from the senior surgeon in their current or overseas Cardiac Surgery Unit and their current or overseas perfusionist Head of Unit as to their competency, level of experience and capacity to practise safely.
6. In addition, in order to demonstrate competency, experience and capacity to practise safely, and once the application has been accepted, the OTP applicant in **Categories One and Two (above)** will participate in a viva interview:
 - a. The viva will be constructed to demonstrate evidence and knowledge of safe perfusion techniques (rather than being designed to demonstrate knowledge of the scientific basis of perfusion theory).
 - b. The ABCP viva will involve two senior, independent perfusionist examiners who are Fellows of the College.
 - c. The standard of the viva shall be that any experienced practising perfusionist who has certification from one of these countries and who has practised continuously for the past three years would be expected to pass.
 - d. Sample questions will be made available on request.
7. OTP applicants not yet working in Australasia will be expected to complete the full standard ABCP Course Examination (MCQ, Short-answer and viva) within 12 months of beginning a position in Australasia / at the next ABCP examination round.

Submission of material and consideration of application

OTP applicants interested in having their overseas certification recognised by the ANZCP should initially contact the ABCP abcpssec@anzcp.org with a copy to admin@anzcp.org. OTP applicants will be required to submit supporting evidence to the ABCP, and the ABCP will inform applicants of the precise mechanism(s) for their submission. Assessment will be by the ABCP who will make a recommendation to the ANZCP Executive. A decision on adequacy of supporting evidence will be made within six weeks of receipt of all necessary supporting evidence. Arrangements for the oral interview viva for Category One and Two applicants will be made on a case by case basis to suit the applicant and the ABCP.

Outcomes

When an OTP applicant satisfies the requirements the ABCP will move to recognise the OTP certification and the ANZCP will award Fellowship of the ANZCP. This will then entitle the recipient to use FANZCP, and all entitlements of Fellowship of the College. ANZCP Fellowship (membership) will be *gratis* for the first year, and membership of the College will need to be maintained to continue the entitlement of FANZCP. OTP certification allows the OTP to state that their certification has been recognised as equivalent to the Australasian

* Letters of attestation must be able to be verified and be on official hospital letterhead. They will be checked.



Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists

CCP by the ABCP, recognition does not result in the award of Australasian certification, *per se*.

Application and assessment fee

The fee for assessment and recognition of overseas certification (any category) is \$100.00 AUD.

Reciprocity, visas and migration

As at January 2020, there is not yet mutual reciprocity or reciprocal recognition of qualifications from the overseas governing bodies. ANZCP will follow up with these governing bodies on the matter of reciprocity.

This Policy / Procedure and the recognition of certification from the perfusion governing bodies in the UK and Ireland, US, Canada or from other governing bodies so recognised, does NOT ensure or guarantee employment in Australasia or any country which the perfusionist may visit. Additionally, this Policy / Procedure and the recognition of certification does NOT ensure migration to any country. All conditions for migration are still required to be met.