

ANZCP Overseas Trained Perfusionists Equivalency Recognition Policy and Procedure

Policy

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

Purpose: To provide governance and clarity relating to the recognition of overseas perfusionists and their training, education and certification as equivalent to Australasian certification.

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: August 2021.

Review: This policy and associated procedure is reviewed 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 several issues and problems which arise due to this fact:

- Without passing the ABCP certification examination, unrecognised OTP's are not eligible to be Fellows of the college and cannot be full members of the ANZCP.
- A lack of ANZ CCP or OTP equivalency recognised by the ABCP will potentially be an issue if hospitals, the New Zealand government or Australian state governments mandate perfusion practice activities that can only be performed by perfusionists with Australasian certification or equivalency.
- ANZCP's ability to be a member of NASRHP could be affected if not all perfusionists practising in Australia are certified and thus involved in a recertification process;
- 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;
- Practising perfusionists in New Zealand and Australia who are not Fellows and/or are ineligible to be Fellows of the ANZCP including OTP's represents a significant barrier to the principle that only fully credentialed, and certified perfusionists should be practising.

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 ANZCP Rules for Perfusionists to give this effect. The current Rules of the ANZCP for Perfusionists at Rule 8 is as follows:

8. Who is eligible to be a member in each category:

(i) Fellow of the College

(a) All Perfusionists who are members of the Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists, who hold the Australasian Certification in Clinical Perfusion (CCP (ANZ) issued by the Australasian Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion and who are certified by the Australasian Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (as defined in Rule 81) 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.

(b) Additionally, all Perfusionists who are members of the Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists, who hold United States of America, Canadian or United Kingdom / Ireland certification or equivalent, and who have satisfied the ANZCP Policy requirements relating to Overseas Trained Perfusionists (OTPs) and who have satisfactorily passed the ANZCP credentialing requirements for OTPs are eligible to be considered as "Fellows of the College" and entitled to use the title FANZCP.

Categories of perfusionist applicant

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

Category A: Perfusionists with certification from either the 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 on a short-term basis

- Short-term is defined as 12 months or less
- A 1-year recognition of OTP equivalency will be awarded upon completion of OTP policy requirements (1) to (5)
- If successful, they will be eligible for Fellowship membership with the ANZCP upon application
- If the applicant wishes to extend their recognition of OTP equivalency, they will be obliged to satisfy OTP policy requirements (6) to (9)

Category B: Perfusionists with certification from either the US, Canada, UK & Ireland or certification and qualifications deemed to be equivalent by the Australasian Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion who are currently working in Australasia on a long-term basis

- Long-term is defined as 12 months or greater
- This group will complete OTP policy requirements (1) to (9) (below)
- If successful, they will be eligible for Fellowship and obtain complimentary ANZCP membership for the remainder of the financial year in which their OTP equivalency is processed*

*If the application is approved within 3 months of the end of financial year, the complementary membership will be offered for the new financial year

Process and evidence

In order to have certification obtained via the perfusion governing body in either the US, Canada, UK & Ireland 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. Conferred documentation from the perfusion governing body of the jurisdiction of the certification and qualifications being considered for equivalency.
2. The OTP applicant 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. For information on the Australian Qualifications Framework: <https://www.agf.edu.au/aqf-qualifications>

If a formal assessment is required:
<https://internationaleducation.gov.au/services-and-resources/services-for-individuals/qualifications-assessments/pages/qualification-assessment.aspx>
 - b. a qualification that 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 policy).
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.

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

Once all the documentation has been submitted and **payment of the [Category A application fee \(\\$100.00 AUD\)](#)** is accepted the OTP applicant will participate in the OTP examination process to demonstrate competency, experience and capacity to practise safely.

6. Following **submission of a logbook of 30 supervised cardiopulmonary bypass cases, completed within a 6-month period and payment of the [Category B application fee \(\\$500.00 AUD\)](#)** via the college website and, the OTP will complete the examination process consisting of:
 7. A **written component**, comprising of 3 short-answer questions, must be completed to demonstrate the OTP's understanding and awareness of common workplace practice issues.
 8. A **viva interview**

The OTP will have two weeks to supply answers to the written component. A pass rate of 60% is required. If the OTP fails the written component a second set of questions will need to be completed. Once the written component has successfully been completed, the OTP will be invited to participate in the viva. The viva will be constructed to demonstrate evidence and knowledge of safe perfusion techniques. The process is as follows:

- a) The ABCP viva will involve two senior, independent perfusionist examiners who are Fellows of the College.
 - b) 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.
 - c) Sample questions will be made available on request.
 - d) The viva will be held within two weeks from the date of submission of the written component.
9. The OTP will be obliged to satisfy the requirements of the ANZCP CPD Policy and Procedure to maintain ABCP certification equivalency, which includes maintaining their CCP in their country of origin

If eligible, an OTP may choose to gain the CCP (ANZ) by applying to the ABCP and completing the full standard ABCP Course Examination (MCQ, Short-answer and viva) at the next ABCP examination round. Please contact the ABCP secretary at abcpsec@anzcp.org for further information.

Submission of material and consideration of the application

OTP applicants interested in having their overseas certification recognised by the ANZCP should complete the form below and email it to admin@anzcp.org. OTP applicants will be required to submit their 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 the adequacy of supporting evidence will be made within six weeks of receipt of all necessary supporting evidence. Arrangements for the interview will be made on a case-by-case basis to suit the applicant and the ABCP.

Outcomes

When an OTP applicant successfully satisfies the requirements of Category A or B, the ABCP will recognise the OTP equivalency. The applicant may apply for membership with the ANZCP, which, upon approval, will entitle the recipient to use FANZCP, and all entitlements of Fellowship of the College. For Category B OTPs, ANZCP Fellowship (membership) will be *gratis* for the remainder of the financial year, and membership of the College will need to be maintained to continue the entitlement of FANZCP. Only one complementary membership will be approved. Recognition of OTP equivalency allows the OTP to state that their certification has been recognised as equivalent to the Australasian 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 for [Category A](#) is \$100 AUD and \$500 AUD for [Category B](#) application. Payment of fees must be received prior to examination.

Reciprocity, visas and migration

As of August 2021, there is no mutual reciprocity or reciprocal recognition of qualifications from overseas governing bodies. The ANZCP will follow up with these governing bodies on the matter of reciprocity.

This Policy and Procedure and the recognition of certification from the perfusion governing bodies in the UK and Ireland, US, Canada, or other governing bodies so recognised, do not ensure or guarantee employment in Australasia or any country that 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.