

## FAQs - apply to join the network to commence training

### Should I apply to the network?

If you're considering commencing basic physician training in Queensland, you must apply to join the network. However, first discuss your [plans for physician training](#) with a Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) Director of Physician Education (DPE) or Educational Supervisor (ES). This ensures you make an informed decision about pursuing a career as a physician. You'll find a DPE or ES within the department of medicine at any RACP-accredited hospital listed on the [RACP webpage](#).

### Am I eligible?

You're eligible if prior to commencement of training you:

- hold general registration with the [Medical Board of Australia](#)
- are eligible for registration with the RACP as a basic trainee
- qualify as postgraduate year three (PGY3) or above

### How long will I be training on the network?

If successful, you'll be offered a 3-year training position to enable you to meet RACP requirements. A further year will be available if:

- in consultation with your DPE you elect to delay an examination attempt
- you fail an examination attempt

Continuation on the network is subject to satisfactory performance, receipt of two satisfactory referee reports and DPE approval annually.

### When and how do I apply?

Submit your application from 3 June to 1 July 2024, via the [Resident Medical Officer \(RMO\) and Registrar campaign](#) and select :

- *Are you applying for a position on the Qld basic physician training network)? Select **YES***
- *Are you currently training on the Queensland Basic Physician Training Network? Select **NO***

Complete all subsequent questions and upload the following:

1. An up-to-date copy of your curriculum vitae
2. A signed [Planning for Physician Training form](#)
3. A completed [clinical experience template](#) outlining the last three years of experience.

Your experience in **general medicine OR medical specialties** as outlined in the [Medical Experience document](#) will contribute towards merit ranking.

Your application and referee reports will also be assessed to determine eligibility and shortlisting for interview.

### What level position should I apply for (Registrar or SHO)?

If successful, you'll be employed as either a Senior House Officer (SHO) or registrar for your first year of training. All subsequent years will be completed in registrar level positions. You should nominate a position level that you would be comfortable working and commencing training in. Registrar applicants are expected to achieve the registrar standard on interview. Certain hospitals offer only SHO level positions to first year trainees. Depending on the position level that you preference, certain training allocations may not be possible. Sample 3-year training allocations, highlighting position levels available to first year trainees at specific hospitals, are provided in the [how to apply guide](#).

### Do I need to apply for the training program separately from recruitment?

No. You'll submit one application for both. Simply nominate the network as your first preference (see [how to apply guide](#)).

Use preferences 2–5 to select alternate non-training positions in case you're not selected into the network. Once selected, you'll need to finalise your registration with the RACP to commence training. DPEs will only endorse RACP registration for successful network applicants.

### Will I be required to participate in an interview?

If you're shortlisted – yes. In anticipation of this, you're advised to prepare to interview. You'll be notified in July and, if shortlisted, invited to interview.

### When are the interviews?

Interviews will be held in July/August as follows:

*Tuesday 30 & Wednesday 31 July – **Northside***

*Thursday 1 August - **North Qld (Townsville)***

*Friday 2 August - **Far North (Cairns)***

*Wednesday 7 August – **Coastal***

*Thursday 8 & Friday 9 August – **Southside***

Note: In person or virtual attendance requirements will vary between rotations.

### What can I expect at the interview?

The interview will assess you against specific selection criteria (see [how to apply guide](#)).

Interviews are a six station Multiple Mini Interview assessment with each station covering a specific domain e.g. communication.

### Will I get my first preference?

After interview, you'll be merit ranked and notified of the outcome by late August. Network trainees complete training within one rotation across 2-3 hospitals. When choosing preferences, consider the unique merits offered by each rotation including proximity of hospitals and training opportunities available. You'll be allocated hospital placements based on your preferences, merit ranking, training requirements (including when you wish to sit the exam) and available positions. You'll be asked to nominate hospital and term preferences only after you're offered a network training place (post interview).

### Do I have to rotate between hospitals?

Yes. Network training is intended to facilitate a breadth of experiences in different contexts. You'll benefit from the unique and complementary opportunities offered by placements in hospitals throughout Queensland which will aid your preparation for RACP exams.

### Who will arrange my employment contract?

Hospitals arrange employment contracts annually as advised by the network. Appointments will consist of either 2 x 6 or 1 x 12-month contracts in line with your allocations.

### How will hospital placements be set out?

A 3-year program will vary between different rotations. For example, Northside / Southside rotations will generally include:

- (a) One 12-month placement to cover the first year of training
- (b) At least one 6-month placement in a level 1 or 2 hospital outside of Southeast Queensland
- (c) At least 12 months in a level 3 (large tertiary) training hospital

North Queensland trainees will be based in Townsville with a placement at Mt Isa. Coastal trainees will complete placements across Gold Coast, Redlands, Robina or Logan hospitals and Far North trainees will be based in Cairns with a placement at either Atherton, Innisfail or Mt Isa. Variations are possible, dependent upon training needs and preferences.

### When do I commence training?

Trainees generally commence in a network position in January or February of each year. In some instances you may be eligible to apply to commence training early (from this August), refer to [Mid-Year entry into training](#) for further information. Your allocated DPE will endorse your RACP basic training application so that you can finalise registration with the RACP before the relevant registration deadline (August or February).

## Can I request to delay starting my training (defer commencement)?

Yes. You can request a deferral of commencement on the network of up to 6 months. Your NRC in consultation with the rotation education committee can consider allowing deferring without penalty, providing the deferral is no longer than 6 months. Deferrals may impact or change your pre-planned training allocation. NOTE – deferral due to parental, sick or other compassionate leave is considered separately as a flexible training request and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and according to the Network strategy to support flexible training.

If you plan to defer commencement for more than 6 months, you are deemed to have declined your network offer and must re-apply to the network via the [RMO Campaign](#).

## Can I request to change my allocations?

Network trainees must commit to prospectively allocated placements for the duration of basic training (up to 3 years). If special circumstances affect your ability to comply with this, you can apply for [special consideration](#) and request alternate allocation. You must contact your NRC in the first instance to make the request and discuss the process and possible options.

## Further information

Further information can be found on the [network webpage](#) or by contacting the Physician Training team via email [Physician\\_Training@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Physician_Training@health.qld.gov.au)

Version date: April 2024