



Frequently Asked Questions

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Current trainees

How will current trainees be affected by these changes?

There will be no immediate changes for current FACEM Trainees. Current FACEM trainees will continue to follow the existing FACEM Training Program structure. From 2022, the revised FACEM Curriculum content and Site Accreditation will apply to all trainees, with the assurance that no trainee will be disadvantaged as a result of these changes. Transition arrangements to the new site accreditation guidelines will be investigated and applied as necessary to ensure fairness to all trainees. ACEM will be in contact with current FACEM Trainees in due course to provide more details; any changes will come into effect from 2022.

I am commencing training in 2021. What are my training requirements?

The revised requirements only apply to new trainees commencing training from 2022. You should refer to the information for current trainees on the website and the FACEM Training Program Handbook.

Do the new accredited site limits apply to me?

The revised site limits will apply to all trainees from 2022, irrespective of when you commenced training. Most sites will either retain or increase their current time limit. ACEM will be in contact with current FACEM Trainees in due course to provide more details on how this may affect your future training; placements already completed will not be affected by this change.

Will any of the new training program requirements be implemented for the current training program?

Possibly. The ACEM Council of Education is considering which new requirements may be implemented to the current training program. A significant period of notice will be provided to trainees should any changes be made, and any transition arrangements will be provided to current trainees. For now, you should continue to plan your training in accordance with the current regulations and requirements.

The New FACEM Training Program

Why has the rural rotation been discontinued?

ACEM does not currently mandate rural rotations in the FACEM training program. Current trainees must train in a Major Referral ED and an Urban District or Regional/Rural site. In regions where there are no accredited Urban District EDs, trainees may train in a Regional/Rural ED to complete this requirement.

What is ACEM doing about Rural/Regional training?

The revised FACEM Training Program mandates that 12 months of training time must be completed outside of a Major Referral ED, an increase of 6 months from the current training program. This is designed to encourage trainees to train in rural/regional centres for longer periods while allowing the flexibility for trainees to remain in metropolitan centres. ACEM strongly encourages trainees to train in as many diverse settings as possible.

Can I train overseas and have this counted towards FACEM training?

Yes! In the new training program, trainees can undertake up to 6 FTE months of their core ED training in Training Stages (TS) 1-3, or 6 months of Elective ED time in TS4 in a TS4 approved ED outside of Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Trainees can also undertake Non-ED training overseas and have this certified towards FACEM training requirements. Prior approval is required for all overseas training.

Does my first year of training need to be all in ED?

A. No, however trainees must complete at least 6 months (FTE) of ED training within the first 12 months of commencing Training Stage (TS) 1. Trainees may undertake Non-ED training before completing TS1, but will not progress from TS1 until 12 months (FTE) of training in an Adult or Adult/Mixed ED has been completed.

For example, a trainee may choose to undertake 6 months of ED and 6 months of non-ED in their first 12 months of training, but would need to complete another 6 months of ED training before progressing to TS2.

Why are the names being changed from Provisional and Early/Late Phase Advanced to Training Stages 1-4?

The current curriculum aligns learning outcomes to four training stages; Provisional Training and Advanced Training stages 1-3. However, the current training program only has three training stages; Provisional, Advanced Early and Advanced Late Phase.

This change to the training program aims to simplify the system and enable trainees to clearly identify what is expected from each stage of training with direct reference to the curriculum.

What has happened to Provisional Training?

In recent years, the SIFT (Selection into FACEM Training) process has changed the focus of Provisional Training from being a 'taste of EM' to the start of formal training. The introduction of specific entry requirements, and of WBAs in Training Stage 1 of the revised Training Program confirm that trainees commence training when they are accepted into the FACEM Training Program rather than when they progress to Advanced Training.

Why has the amount of ED time been increased?

The minimum ED time required in the revised Training Program is 42 months. This has been implemented to enable trainees to achieve the learning outcomes and prepare for a career as an ED consultant. Trainees must also undertake 6 months of non-ED, 6 months of critical care and can complete a further 6 months of Non-ED training as part of the elective component of Training Stage 4. The elective component can also be undertaken in an ED.

How much non-ED time can trainees do?

Excluding critical care time, trainees can undertake up to 12 months of accredited training time in non-ED placements (6 months in Training Stage (TS) 1-3, and 6 months in TS4). Additional time can be undertaken through mechanisms such as interruption to training or surplus training time.

Accreditation structure

Does a site have to do anything to be transitioned across to the new structure?

No. All sites will be automatically transitioned across to the new tiers accordingly.

Current Accreditation	Accreditation from 2022
18 and 24-months ED	Tier 1 (36 months)
6 and 12-months ED	Tier 2 (24 months)
6-months Linked-ED	Tier 3 (12 months)
Private ED	Private ED (12 months)
Paediatric ED	Paediatric ED (12 months)

When will sites be transitioned across to the new structure?

We anticipate that sites will be transitioned across to the new tiers towards the end of 2021, to align with the implementation of the new curriculum in 2022.

What if a site is currently conditionally accredited?

Sites with conditional accreditation will be transitioned across to the new tiers according to the current level of accreditation. If required, the Accreditation Tier can be adjusted after the Quality Improvement Plan is satisfactorily addressed.

What if a site cannot meet the requirements for the new structure?

Sites will be given until 2024 to meet any new requirements relevant to the revised accreditation structure.