



## Guidelines for Assessing SIMG Research Experience

### 1. Purpose & Scope

These Guidelines are intended for Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMG) being assessed at interview for the purposes of determining their comparability / equivalence to an Australasian-trained specialist in emergency medicine (FACEM) as well as the members of the ACEM SIMG Panel of Assessors, and provide guidance in relation to the type and nature of research training and/or experience that may be considered to meet the College's requirement for trainees in the FACEM Training Program.

### 2. Learning Objectives

The assessment is to be made referencing the Scholarship and Teaching domain within the [ACEM Curriculum Framework](#).

While also encompassing teaching, this domain has been defined by the College's statements:

'a FACEM maintains and enhances their professional activities through a lifelong commitment to education and research'.

'...on completion of Advanced Training Stage 2, the trainee will be independently driven to undertake learning focused on attaining mastery at the level of a new FACEM. They will use evidence-based practice as the foundation for their clinical care and systematically evaluate its relevance. They will create and address meaningful research questions. They will routinely seize the teachable moment and accept that providing education is an integral component of Emergency Medicine practice.'

Within the domain of Scholarship and Teaching (Research), the relevant sub-topics are:

- Finding and Critically Appraising the Evidence
- Applying Academic Knowledge to Emergency Medicine Practice
- Basic Elements of Creating Research: Academic writing and research presentation

The Advanced Training outcomes associated with these subtopics are shown in Appendix A.

### 3. Research Requirement

Regulation B4 sets out the research requirement of the College's Specialist (FACEM) Training Program and includes specific information in relation to each of the three (3) avenues by which the requirement may be met.

#### 1. Published Paper/Research Project

A full transcript of a research project paper as major author published in a recognised peer reviewed medical journal with evidence from a DEMENT/Supervisor confirming sufficient contribution in study design and planning, study work, data analysis and write up and ethics approval, if applicable.

#### 2. Approved Research Coursework

A university transcript for two completed postgraduate units of study in Clinical Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Research Methods or Evidence-Based Medicine listed on ACEM approved coursework

#### 3. Thesis

A full transcript of completed thesis of a completed higher degree of PhD awarded by Australasian institution, higher degree by Research thesis (Master or higher) from an Australasian institution with this

based on at least 50% research or a non-PhD research thesis comprising 50% of the assessment component of the relevant higher degree.

It must be noted that, in addition to the three (3) avenues associated with the FACEM Training Program, attainment of the learning outcomes associated with research, as set out in the Scholarship and Teaching domain within the *ACEM Curriculum Framework*, may also be demonstrated through other avenues that include, but are not limited to the following:

4. Critical Appraisal and either the Clinical Topic Review (CTR) projects or the Quality Improvement Projects (QIP) completed for the FRCEM (UK) prior to August 2021, where these are also components of the FRCEM Final Examination. Note: Applicants who completed FRCEM after August 2021 should be assessed on individual merit in the research domain at interview, including where indicated, the use of the supplementary questions

**It is incumbent on assessors to assess the capacity of the SIMG to demonstrate the possession of the learning outcomes expected of a FACEM in regard to research, rather than determine whether, or not, the individual has met one of the specific requirements prescribed for ACEM trainees in the FACEM Training Program Regulations.**

As such, while it is not necessary for the candidate to have completed a research project in the course of their specialist training that meets the research project requirements of the FACEM Training Program, the extent to which the candidate demonstrates attainment of the learning outcomes associated with the above listed topics, will be assessed.

Where it is determined that the candidate has not, either wholly or in part, through their training and experience demonstrated that they have attained the learning outcomes of the above listed topics, they may be required to satisfactorily complete the research requirement of the FACEM Training Program in order to become eligible for election to Fellowship

If there is any uncertainty as to whether the candidate has met the research requirement as per the outcomes of the *ACEM Curriculum Framework* (ACF 440), the following or similar questions may be asked at interview, to clarify a candidate's experience and understanding:

#### **Finding and Critically Appraising the Evidence**

- Can you describe a time where you have used the results of a literature search or a published research report to inform the Emergency Medicine practice in your department?
- Can you describe a time when you critically appraised a research report or published standard/guideline, or evaluated statistical results to validate the findings in a report?
- Describe the design elements of a research project that you have been involved in or studied. How did these elements, strengthen the relevance of the project to Emergency Medicine?

#### **Applying Academic Knowledge to Emergency Medicine Practice**

- Can you describe a time when you used newly published research to justify and suggest variance of clinical practice in your department?
- Have you ever been involved in the revision of core clinical protocols and guidelines as applied to Emergency Medicine practice in your department?
- Describe how you ensure you are up to date with new research in Emergency Medicine and give an example of new finding you have shared with others.

#### **Basic Elements of Creating Research: Academic Writing and Research Participation**

- Describe your experience in writing an evidence-based article for publication.
- Describe your understanding of the principles of privacy, confidentiality, consent and disclosure of information to a research project that has been conducted in your department.
- Have you ever been involved in recruiting participants for a research project in your department? Describe the processes you used.

As with all aspects of the assessment of an SIMG applicant, assessors must be able to justify their decision where it is decided that an individual requires further training in relation to the required outcomes of the Scholarship and Teaching domain in this case, specifically in regard to Research.

#### 4. Document Review

Timeframe for review: every two (2) years, or earlier if required.

##### 4.1 Responsibilities

Document authorisation: Council of Education  
Document implementation: Director, Education / GM Education Assessment  
Document maintenance: Manager, Standards

##### 4.2 Revision History

Version	Date of Version	Pages revised / Brief Explanation of Revision
v1	Jul-2016	Approved by Council of Education
V2	May-2020	Approved by Council of Education
v3	Nov-2021	Revision reflects the change in research requirements of FRCEM Examination

## Appendix A

### ACEM Curriculum Framework Advanced Training outcomes pertaining to the Research Requirement

A FACEM maintains and enhances their professional activities through a lifelong commitment to education and research.

On completion of Advanced Training Stage 3, a FACEM will be able to make sound judgements regarding the creation, translation, application and dissemination of medical knowledge. They will be committed and able to independently advance and maintain their own professional skills and knowledge, as well as contributing to teaching others.

#### Finding and Critically Appraising the Evidence

##### Finding the evidence

On completion of Advanced Training Stage 3, the FACEM will be able to...

- Regularly search for a range of literature relevant to Emergency Medicine.

##### Reviewing the evidence

On completion of Advanced Training Stage 3, the FACEM will be able to:

- Review the results acquired from a literature review for effectiveness and relevance in local Emergency Medicine practice.

##### Critical appraisal

On completion of Advanced Training Stage 3, the FACEM will be able to:

- Critically appraise, without the use of a template, a published article with quantitative data.
- Critically appraise the evidence that informed a published standard or guideline for applicability to local Emergency Medicine practice.

##### Statistical analysis

On completion of Advanced Training Stage 2, the trainee will be able to:

- Evaluate quoted quantitative statistical results to validate findings in a published clinical article.
- Objectively evaluate qualitative research for its relevance and applicability to Emergency Department practice.

#### Applying Academic Knowledge to Emergency Medicine Practice

##### Applying evidence-based medicine

On completion of Advanced Training Stage 3, the FACEM will be able to:

- Systematically integrate broad academic reading with self-reflection to improve their Emergency Medicine practice.

##### Applying guidelines

On completion of Advanced Training Stage 3, the FACEM will be able to:

- Combine critically appraised literature and local expert practice to amend a local clinical guideline or protocol.
- Participate in the evaluation of locally developed and applied clinical guidelines as applied to Emergency Medicine practice.
- Participate in the revision of core clinical protocols and guidelines as applied to Emergency Medicine practice.

#### Basic Elements of Creating Research: Academic Writing and Research Participation

##### Research design and analysis

On completion of Advanced Training Stage 3, the FACEM will be able to:

- Appropriately analyse and critique research design including strengths and limitations of approach taken.

### **Academic writing**

On completion of Advanced Training Stage 2, the trainee will be able to:

- Apply the principles of research and referencing to write an evidence-based article.

### **Patient consent to research**

On completion of Advanced Training Stage 3, the FACEM will be able to:

- Supervise and monitor the application of principles of privacy, confidentiality, consent and disclosure of information to clinical research projects conducted in an Emergency Medicine context.

### **Participation in research**

On completion of Advanced Training Stage 3, the FACEM will be able to:

Advocate for appropriate clinical research to be conducted in Emergency Departments.