

Medical Councils in NZ and Australia have emphasised that MRCPsych alone is *not* a specialist qualification. MRCPsych *plus* a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCT) *is* the UK specialist qualification in psychiatry.

The vast majority of UK trainees achieve MRCPsych at 3+ years of “basic training”. Achievement of the CCT takes a further 3 years of “advanced training” (SpR posts). The UK specialist qualification thus currently takes about 6 years.

The NZ Medical Council will provisionally register any doctor coming from the UK who has worked for min. 3 years in a “comparable system” (e.g. UK, Ireland, USA, Canada), even if their basic medical degree is not from the UK (i.e. is from a developing nation)<sup>1</sup>. The NZREX exam is thus not required for such doctors to get Provisional General registration.

### **1) Early on In Psychiatric Training** (but with 3 years of medical work in the UK)

Time completed in the RCPsych training programme can be retrospectively accredited after arrival in NZ. Usually 1 year can be accredited, max. is 18 months.

You have to become a registrar in the RANZCP system and complete the rest of the trainign requirements.

Ex-UK docs without MRCPsych need to do:

- min. 18 months worth of rotations here to complete basic training after arrival (i.e. you get max. 18 months credited from UK training – but you may possibly only get 12 months cross-credited in fact)
- You have to do a 6 months Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry post here (as part of that 18 months, unless this was specifically done in UK)
- Have to complete the Old Age requirement (unless OAP post done in UK)
- Have to complete the Addictions requirement (unless an A&D post done in UK)
- Have to complete the ECT requirement (unless very similar experience done in UK)
- Have to complete 12 specific activities called the “annual activities” – small tasks/discussions involving carers, consumers, NGOs and an annual “ethical activity”
- Have to complete all the RANZCP psychotherapy requirements (several short cases, 1 x 40 session psychodynamic case, and group or family therapy experience)
- Have to complete Maori mental health training (based on usual clinical work and an on-line training website)
- Have to write up and pass two 8-10,000 word case histories (the ‘1<sup>st</sup> Episode’ and ‘Psychotherapy’ cases)

See [http://www.ranzcp.org/images/stories/ranzcp-attachments/PreFellowship/Training/Fellowship\\_Training/bt\\_gsat%20regulations\\_v19.pdf](http://www.ranzcp.org/images/stories/ranzcp-attachments/PreFellowship/Training/Fellowship_Training/bt_gsat%20regulations_v19.pdf) to read the RANZCP Training Regulations for details about the above requirements).

All the above would have to be done (plus passing the Written exam) BEFORE you could apply to sit the RANZCP Clinical exams. Note that this applies to all programmes in NZ and Australia.

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<sup>1</sup> NB - in NZ: from end of 2006 only Drs with medical degrees from UK/Ireland can get Provisional General registratn. no matter how junior in training they are. After this date, even Drs from USA/Canada must have worked in the USA or Canada system for 3 yrs pre emigrating, so as to get Prov. Gen. regn. without NZREX. Drs from South Africa will have to work in a “comparable system” like UK/USA/Canada (see MCNZ website for full list) for 3 years before coming to NZ so as to get Prov. Gen. regn. on arrival, ie. they’ll be treated like those with medical degrees from developing nations.

## 2) **Post-MRCPsych** (and with 3 years of medical work in the UK)

Such doctors can come to NZ and become basic trainees (registrars) straight away, with provisional general registration. They then apply to the Training Committee and get the Exemptions decision as above.

Decisions to date have shown that all RANZCP Basic Training requirements will be cross-credited – i.e. 3 years of time, and almost all of the required tasks. However, 6 months of Child Psychiatry *must* be done in the UK or in NZ, and training in Maori mental health (done via usual clinical work here, and a training website) will also be required. The RANZCP Written and Clinical exams are always required, even with the MRCPsych achieved.

Trainees with MRCPsych but with little or no UK SpR time accrued can commence General Advanced Training in NZ only after passing the RANZCP Written exam, and can enter subspecialty Advanced Training *only* after passing the RANZCP Clinical exam.

They may be exempted some Advanced Training time in the RANZCP system – it depends if they have done any SpR or post-MRCPsych staff-grade time before starting here.