

TRAINING OVERVIEW

An overview of training in Phlebology with the ACP



THE AUSTRALASIAN
COLLEGE OF
PHLEBOLOGY

About the Australasian College of Phlebology

Phlebology has evolved as a distinct medical specialty in the past two decades. Most European countries have a strong tradition of excellence in the management of venous disease and phlebology is a well-established medical specialty in continental Europe. The Australasian College of Phlebology (ACP) was formed in 1999 having evolved from the Sclerotherapy Society of Australia (SSA) which was established in 1993. The College was established to further reinforce and expand phlebology education in Australia and New Zealand with plans to achieve recognised accreditation for practitioners in phlebology. The College has been inclusive of all practitioners with recognised skills in this field. Fellowship criteria have been solid and transparent.

The ACP is now a multidisciplinary independent body with members sub-specialising in medical, surgical or interventional aspects of phlebology. The College is committed to providing the Australasian public with the highest quality care in phlebology. The College is also committed to continuing education in phlebology and quality assurance programs. The College is dedicated to improve and increase awareness of phlebology as a distinct specialty in Australia and New Zealand and plays an active role in both the local and international scene. In recognition of its efforts, the College was formally admitted as a member of International Union of Phlebology in 2005.

The ACP has developed one of the most comprehensive training programs in phlebology worldwide. The College can train and certify practitioners in performing a range of procedures such as endovenous ablation, ultrasound guided sclerotherapy and direct vision sclerotherapy. The College has been very active in the field of training. The Preceptorship program was established in mid-1994 and has proven to be very popular, with four different programs to choose from. Formal training and certification in sclerotherapy was first established in 2002. Yearly examinations have been held since then. The College is re-defining the boundaries of phlebology as a medical specialty and aims to serve the community by improving the standards of care for patients with venous disease.

Please note the ACP is not a higher education provider and courses offered are intended to only provide medical education and training in the related field.

Overview of Phlebology Training

The ACP is committed to maintaining the highest standards of education and training in phlebology. Fellowship of the ACP is achieved following a period of supervised training and the successful completion of several examinations, both written and clinical, in all aspects of the principles and practice of Phlebology. Fundamental to this is the constant review of selection, curriculum and assessment strategies of the training program.

Trainees pass through defined stages that culminate in the ACP Fellowship. These stages are structured to facilitate the progressive and cumulative acquisition of knowledge and skills. Each stage must be completed satisfactorily before the trainee can move on to the next. The training year starts on the first Monday of February each year. Applicants are invited to an interview upon meeting all the minimum criteria. Once a position has been approved and offered placements we require payment of all fees in order to commence training.

This training does not imply in any way that the college endorses or accredits the clinical skills or practice of the candidate. Please note the ACP is not a higher education provider and courses offered are intended to only provide medical education and training in the related field.

PROGRAM FEES

	Basic	Advanced	Fellowship
Prerequisite	Current registration as a medical practitioner in Australia or New Zealand	Basic Training in Phlebology Course	Advanced Training in Phlebology Course
Training period	1 year	2 years	1 year
Leads to	Certificate of Basic Training in Phlebology	Certificate of Advanced Training in Phlebology	ACP Fellowship
Application Fee	\$220.00	\$220.00	\$220.00
Annual Training Fee	\$7,700.00	\$7,700.00	\$7,700.00
Trainee Membership	\$945.00	\$905.00	\$905.00
Exams Application Fee	\$110.00	\$110.00	\$110.00
Written Exam Fee	\$770.00	\$770.00	\$770.00
Clinical Exam Fee	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00

All fees are non-refundable and inclusive of GST.

Structure of the Training Program

	Basic Training	Advanced Training	Fellowship
Training Period	1 year	2 years	1 year
Prerequisites	Possess medical registration in Australia or New Zealand. At least 3 years post-graduate experience in clinical medicine.	Certificate of Basic Training in Phlebology Medicare Provider Number (AUS)	Certificate of Advanced Training in Phlebology Medicare Provider Number (AUS)
Supervised Training	Attend at least 10 days of clinical attachment at an accredited training centre	Attend 40 days of supervised clinical training over the 2 years.	Attend at least 44 weeks of supervised training per year. 16 Hours per week supervised phlebology including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours diagnostic ultrasound • 2 hours interventional phlebology 16 hours per week unsupervised phlebology
Doppler and Duplex Ultrasound	40 Duplex Ultrasound Scans 30 Venous incompetence scans 10 bilateral ABI measurements *all can be unsupervised	100 Duplex Ultrasound Examinations including 30 DVT scans *all can be unsupervised	
		Certificate of Clinician Performed Ultrasound (CCPU LEVU) 1-year course through ASUM	ACP Advanced Certificate of Ultrasound in Phlebology (ACUP) 1-year online course
Procedural Logbooks	50 Direct vision sclerotherapy procedures 20 under direct supervision	100 Ultrasound guided sclerotherapy procedures 20 under direct supervision	20 Vascular laser therapy procedures 10 under direct supervision
		20 Endovenous Ablation Procedures (laser or radiofrequency) 10 under direct supervision.	20 Chronic Venous Disease cases 10 under direct supervision
			Venous Surgery Procedures Recommended but not compulsory
Publications and Presentations		1 Presentation at ACP ASM	1 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish an original article. • Do a second presentation or poster presentation, specifically being a literature review • Complete a postgraduate subject in Clinical Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Research Methods, or Evidence based medicine. • Complete a novel research project or post-graduate university course.
Courses and Workshops	Attend 1 Annual Scientific Meeting or Workshop	Pass in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)	Attend 1 Annual Scientific Meeting or Workshop
		Laser Safety Course	
		Attend 1 Annual Scientific Meeting or Workshop	
Assessments and Examinations	1 SITA assessment per year	1 SITA assessment per year	1 SITA assessment per year
	ProPA assessment once per year	ProPA assessments once per year	
	Written Examinations (Online) 1. Sclerotherapy MCQ 2. OSCE	Written Examinations (Online) 1. Procedural Phlebology MCQ 2. Pharmacology and Therapeutics MCQ 3. OSCE	Written Examinations (Online) 1. General Phlebology MCQ 2. Phlebological Medicine Short Essays 3. OSCE
	Clinical Examinations 1. Short Cases	Clinical Examinations 1. Duplex Ultrasound Cases 2. Short Cases	Clinical Examinations 4. Duplex Ultrasound Cases 5. Long Cases

Training Program Pre-requisites

A number of pre-requisites must be satisfied in order to be eligible to apply for a training program with the Australasian College of Phlebology.

Applicants must:

- have resident status in Australia or New Zealand
- have current registration as a medical practitioner in Australia or New Zealand
- have a recognised medical post graduate qualification (eg FRACGP) or more than 3 years post graduate experience in clinical medicine
- Medicare Provider Number (for advanced and fellowship trainees)

A person who has satisfied the above prerequisites is eligible to apply for admission to the College Training Program.

Legal Liability:

Onus is on the clinic and is not on the College to take action regarding trainees' employment conditions in clinics. Employment conditions and obtaining medicare provider numbers are a matter of the individual trainee and the clinic to negotiate/arbitrate.

Part-time Training

The ACP allows trainees to participate in part-time training provided the following criteria, as approved by the BOT and BOC, are met.

All requests for such training will be carefully considered but cannot always be accommodated. When a request for a part time position is considered the following is taken into consideration:

- A part-time trainee is not eligible to sit for the written or clinical examinations until the final year of their training.
- A part-time Trainee has to perform at least 50% of the full-time workload each year.
- A part-time Trainee is expected to attend at least 50% of tutorials, clinical meetings and other educational meetings held at their training centre or organized by their State Faculty.
- A part-time Trainee is expected to work continuously during their part time position (with the usual provisions for leave).
- A suitable timetable for the part-time position is to be developed by the Supervisor of Training. This should occur as soon as practicable after selection and position allocation is completed.
- The overall duration of training must not exceed:
 - 2 years for basic training
 - 4 years for advanced training
 - 2 years for fellowship training
- It is appreciated that unforeseen circumstances may arise that lead to a request by a Trainee to undertake part-time training outside the time frame referred to above. All requests should be submitted in writing to the college. All requests will be carefully considered but approval of the request cannot be guaranteed.
- Applications to change the format of training must be made in writing to the college. Such applications must be made by 1 July in the year prior to the proposed shared/part-time training.
- If a part-time trainee decides that they would be able to meet all requirements of full-time training in one year and would like to switch to full-time training, they would need to apply in writing to the college by 1 May of the first training year. This would only be considered if the trainees' current supervisor is able to accommodate the position of a full-time trainee.

Training Positions

Each year Fellows of the College are approached prior to applications opening to indicate if they are able to provide any training positions for the following year's intake.

The Fellows will indicate how many positions they have available for each stage of training and indicate if they have any trainees continuing through the program with them.

The available positions in each state will be advertised on the College website when applications open.

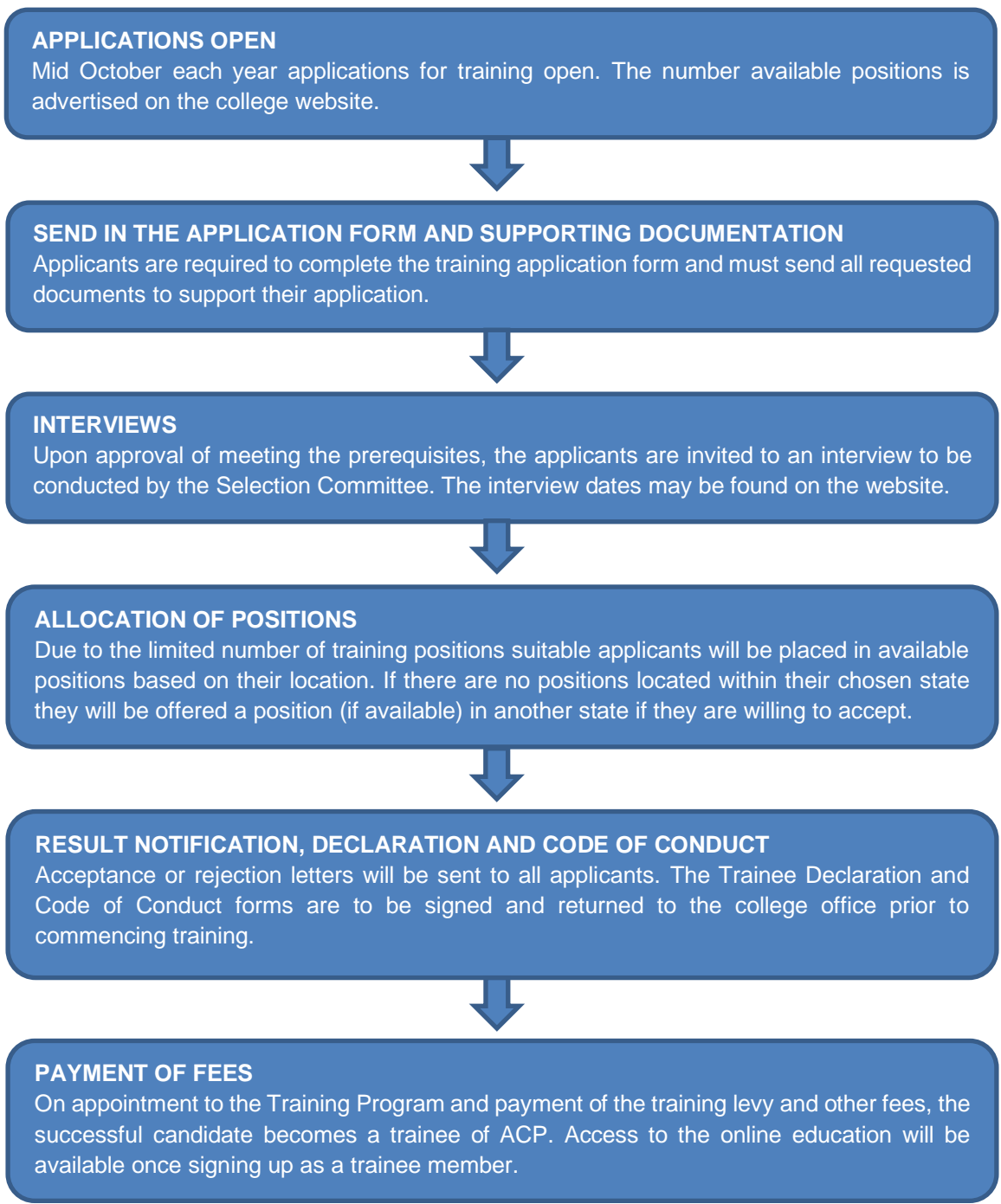
Unfortunately, due to the limited number of positions we cannot guarantee you will get a placement in the training program. If there are available positions in another state, you may apply to travel for your supervised clinical days in another state. All travel expenses are the responsibility of the trainee.

Once the training interviews have taken place, we are able to determine the placement of applicants.

If you have already been in contact with a Fellow of the College and have arranged a position with them you will still need to go through the same application process, however, need to indicate that you have a prearrangement with the Fellow to be your Training Supervisor. Please notify the College as soon as you have made this arrangement so we may take this in to account when allocating positions.

Selection Process of Trainees

The selection process involves an application and an interview. Prospective trainees are required to complete the ACP training application form and must agree to the program fees. The selection process is transparent and involves the following steps:



Clinical Attachment

Each trainee must complete a prescribed number of supervised clinical training days under the supervision of an ACP Fellow/s. This training is done at an ATC which the College will allocate to the trainee. Trainees are encouraged to visit more than one practise during the training period. The days of supervised training may be completed in a block or spread over a number of weeks depending on what is feasible for the relevant ATC. These days will be organised by the trainee directly with their allocated Supervisor of Training.

At the completion of the clinical attachment, if the trainee has not, in the opinion of the supervisor, achieved reasonable competence in performing direct vision sclerotherapy, then additional attachment days should be added to the training. This process should be continued until the trainee is deemed to be competent in performing this procedure.

The duties of the trainee for example in Basic Training will be to assist the supervisor in managing patients, taking history, doing a physical examination, performing a basic screening Duplex Ultrasound examination, assisting with and performing direct vision sclerotherapy and other duties allocated by the supervisor.

For this attachment, it is the responsibility of the trainee to make sure the following documentation is available to be presented to the ATC:

- Australian or New Zealand Medical Registration in the relevant country where the ATC is located.
- Provider number for the relevant ATC for billing purposes.
- Medical indemnity to work at the ATC.
- Provide a copy of Workers compensation Basic of currency to work at the ATC

The trainee is responsible for all the fees required to obtain these documents.

NOTE

The Board of Censors accepts that there are significant practical difficulties involved in having supervisors observe trainees performing 20 sclerotherapy cases. This is especially the case when the trainee is required to travel either interstate or long distances within their state to undergo their clinical attachment, therefore making it very difficult to supply their own patients. The Chief Censor is satisfied that for the 20 mandatory logbook cases of "observed sclerotherapy" in the sclerotherapy certificate course, that those cases be made up of either the supervisor observing the trainee perform direct vision sclerotherapy or the trainee observing the supervisor perform direct vision sclerotherapy, or a combination of the two. The supervisor will still be required at the end of the training period to be satisfied that the trainee is reasonably competent to perform direct vision sclerotherapy.

Examinations

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Examination consists of Modular Online Training Assessments and Course Reviews, a Written, and a Clinical examination. A pass in the Written Component (Online Modular plus Written Exam) is required before a candidate is invited to sit the Clinical Examination.

B. EXAMINATION DATES

A pass in the online training module assessments and written examinations is valid for three years, during which time the candidate can sit for the Clinical Examination without having to repeat the modular assessments or written exams. The date of the Clinical examination is announced by the Board of Censors and is available on the College website. In general, the written examinations are mid October and the Clinical examinations are mid November.

Application forms and payment must be received by the College office 3 months prior to the examinations or by the date as specified by the Board of Censors.

C. CERTIFICATION

Successful candidates who have met the minimum requirements for Basic Training will be awarded the Certificate of Basic Training in Phlebology and become an Ordinary Member of the Australasian College of Phlebology. Completing the Basic Training course does not qualify the candidate to perform ultrasound guided sclerotherapy or other advanced venous procedures.

After having satisfied all requirements of the Advanced Training the candidate will have achieved the Certificate of Advanced Training in Phlebology of the Australasian College of Phlebology.

The title 'Phlebologist' is reserved only for the Fellows of the College and should not be used by the trainees or holders of the Basic or Advanced training certificates until Fellowship is achieved.

Phlebology Fellowship Program

A. GENERAL OVERVIEW

Fellowship Phlebology Training involves satisfactory completion of at least 1 year of approved vocational training in phlebology which includes formal ultrasound training. This program is comprised of supervised attachments at ACP Accredited Training Centres (ATC) where supervision is provided by ACP fellows. In keeping with the guidelines set by the Australian Medical Council, the trainees are required to receive supervised training in all aspects of phlebology. The number of training posts is limited and competition for these positions is considerable. Practical learning at these ATCs is complimented by structured educational activities such as Vein Schools, Journal Clubs, Clinical Meetings and e-learning organised by relevant State Faculties as well as training courses and workshops held by the College. If the candidate's primary ATC is unable to provide the trainee with the range of training requirements in terms of disease variety or exposure to procedures, then the Clinical supervisor will arrange rotations to other centres. For instance, not all centres may be running leg ulcer clinics or perform advanced interventional procedures. Under these circumstances, a rotation needs to be arranged to centres where these training requirements can be met. This ensures adequate exposure to all aspects of phlebology and minimises the risk of missing out on clinical variety. Additional services such as ultrasound medicine, interventional phlebology and lymphology supplement the core training and are encouraged.

An ACP Mentor, who is an approved fellow of the ACP, must also be nominated by the trainee and maintained for the duration of the program.

Unsupervised work as stated in the requirements during the Fellowship Training period must be within the field of phlebology and the trainee and supervisor will be required to verify this by providing a roster of days worked.

Before being considered for Fellowship of the ACP, trainees must have satisfied all the prescribed requirements of the College's training program and passed all the College's assessments as outlined in the Training Program Handbook. Fellowship of the College certifies professional competence in phlebology according to the College's prescribed standards.

The title 'Phlebologist' is reserved only for the Fellows of the College and should not be used by the trainees or holders of the Basic or Advanced training certificates until Fellowship is achieved. Those successful candidates who wish to continue their studies in phlebology and gain Fellowship of the ACP need to meet the Phlebology Fellowship Training requirements. Fellows of the College sub-specialise in Medical, Surgical or Interventional aspects of phlebology. Interventional Phlebologists specialise in ultrasound guided procedures such as ultrasound guided sclerotherapy and endovenous laser ablation therapy.

Venous surgery in Australia and New Zealand is performed primarily by surgeons, Fellows of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS) or equivalent as recognised by the Australian Medical Council. Fellowship Training in Phlebology does not qualify the practitioner to perform venous or vascular surgery other than ambulatory phlebectomy.

Fellowship Training Minimum Clinical Requirements

Trainees must complete the following minimum requirements of supervised clinical training under the supervision of a Chief Supervisor who must be an ACP Fellow.

A minimum of 16 hours of supervised phlebology clinics per week.

- 1) Clinics to be supervised by a College fellow.
- 2) The candidate is directly responsible for patient care.
- 3) Supervisors are required to be present and available for consultation but are not required to review every patient.

Supervised phlebology clinics per week must include;

- 1) A minimum of 2 hours of diagnostic imaging
 - a) The trainee to personally perform the scanning and is responsible for the generation of the worksheets and reports.
- 2) A minimum of 2 hours of interventional phlebology
 - a) The trainee to personally perform ultrasound guided sclerotherapy, endovenous laser therapy and other interventional procedures.

A further 16 hours of supervised or unsupervised phlebology clinics per week.

The total number of supervised clinic hours required for the duration of Fellowship Training must be achieved otherwise the trainee will need to complete more years of training to make up the total number required. Full Training Fees may apply for any extra year of training.

Positions in the Fellowship program are usually negotiated between a trainee and the supervisor of training they have maintained over the course of their Basic and Advanced training.

Contact

For assistance, please contact the Executive Manager, Mrs Zivka Nicholls on the details below.

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