

Transitional award of diploma and recognition of prior experience

This document defines the eligibility requirements and provisions available to holders of the ANZCA certificate of DHM and highly experienced practitioners of DHM at the launch of the ANZCA Diploma of Advanced Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine, hereafter “diploma”, on July 31, 2017. Application for recognition must be made before January 31, 2019.

Pathways for recognition

Pathway 1: Transitional award of diploma. For current holders of the ANZCA certificate of DHM who can demonstrate current or recent practice in DHM.

Pathway 2: Recognition of prior experience. For highly experienced practitioners of DHM who do not hold an ANZCA certificate of DHM and can demonstrate current or recent practice in DHM.

Pathway 3: Recognition of prior experience and summative assessment. For experienced practitioners of DHM who do not meet the requirements of pathway 2 and can demonstrate current or recent practice in DHM.

Please note that this is a guide and each application will be considered by the DPA assessor on individual merit based on the documentation provided.

Requirements of each pathway

Pathway 1: Transitional award of diploma.

For current holders of the ANZCA certificate of DHM.

To apply for award of the diploma, holders of the ANZCA certificate of DHM must submit a current CV and an application for recognition within 18 months of launch and meet the following requirements:

1. As of July 31, 2017, hold FANZCA, FACEM, FCICM, FRACP, FRACGP, FRNZCGP, FACRRM or another qualification recognised by the ANZCA Council for this purpose.
2. Be currently employed as a specialist hyperbaric and/or diving medicine practitioner for the last six months at a minimum of one day each week or recently employed as a specialist hyperbaric and/or diving medicine practitioner for at least six months within the last two years at a minimum of one day each week prior to July 31, 2017.
3. Be compliant with the CPD requirements set by the relevant specialist medical college for the specialty in which they hold specialist registration and provide evidence of participation (within the past two years for currently employed practitioners or within the past three years for recently employed practitioners) in activities relevant to DHM (including, but not limited to, attendance at professional meetings, teaching, publications, journal reading and reflection).
4. Have completed or instructed on an advanced life support course, or equivalent within three years prior to application. ALS courses must meet the standard defined in section 8.3.3 of the ANZCA Handbook for Training and Accreditation. Fellows of ANZCA, CICM or ACEM are exempt from this requirement.
5. Hold unconditional registration with MBA or MCNZ.
6. Provide a declaration of fitness to practice.

Applicants assessed as meeting the above requirements will be awarded the diploma with no additional requirements.

Pathway 2: Recognition of prior experience.

For highly experienced practitioners of DHM.

To apply for award of the diploma, other experienced practitioners of DHM must submit a current CV and an application for recognition within 18 months of launch and meet the following requirements:

1. As of July 31, 2017, hold FANZCA, FACEM, FCICM, FRACP, FRACGP, FRNZCGP, FACRRM or another qualification recognised by the ANZCA Council for this purpose.
2. Be currently employed as a specialist hyperbaric and/or diving medicine practitioner for the last five years at a minimum of one day each week or recently employed as a specialist hyperbaric and/or diving medicine practitioner for at least five years at a minimum of one day each week and finishing no more than two years prior to July 31, 2017. The facility must have been accredited for training for the ANZCA certificate of DHM, or in the process of assessment for accreditation when the program was suspended.
3. Be compliant with the CPD requirements set by the relevant specialist medical college for the specialty in which they hold specialist registration and provide evidence of participation (within the past two years for currently employed practitioners or within the past three years for recently employed practitioners) in activities relevant to DHM (including, but not limited to, attendance at professional meetings, teaching, publications, journal reading and reflection).
4. Have completed or instructed on an advanced life support course, or equivalent within three years prior to application. ALS courses must meet the standard defined in section 8.3.3 of the ANZCA Handbook for Training and Accreditation. Fellows of ANZCA, CICM or ACEM are exempt from this requirement.
5. Hold unconditional registration with MBA or MCNZ.
6. Hold the SPUMS diploma or have completed equivalent research activities ([criteria outlined below](#)).
7. Provide a declaration of fitness to practice.
8. Contribute to the advancement of DHM in at least two of the following ways:
 - Development of professional activity in this field.
 - Regular contributions to undergraduate/postgraduate education in this field.
 - Publications in scientific journals and/or contributions to scientific meetings in this field.

Applicants assessed as meeting the above requirements will be awarded the diploma with no additional requirements.

Pathway 3: Recognition of prior experience and summative assessment

For highly experienced practitioners of DHM who do not meet the requirements of pathways 1 and 2.

To apply for a summative assessment for award of the diploma, other experienced practitioners of DHM must submit a current CV and an application for recognition within 18 months of launch and meet the following requirements:

1. As of July 31, 2017, hold FANZCA, FACEM, FCICM, FRACP, FRACGP, FRNZCGP, FACRRM or another qualification recognised by the ANZCA Council for this purpose.
2. Be currently employed as a specialist hyperbaric and/or diving medicine practitioner for the last five years at a minimum of one day each week or recently employed as a specialist hyperbaric and/or diving medicine practitioner for at least five years at a minimum of one day each week and finishing no more than two years prior to July 31, 2017. The facility must have been accredited for training for the ANZCA certificate of DHM, or in the process of assessment for accreditation when the program was suspended.
3. Be compliant with the CPD requirements set by the relevant specialist medical college for the specialty in which they hold specialist registration and provide evidence of participation (within the past two years for currently employed practitioners or within the past three years for recently employed practitioners) in activities relevant to DHM (including, but not limited to, attendance at professional meetings, teaching, publications, journal reading and reflection).
4. Have completed or instructed on an advanced life support course, or equivalent within three years prior to application. ALS courses must meet the standard defined in section 8.3.3 of the ANZCA Handbook for Training and Accreditation. Fellows of ANZCA, CICM or ACEM are exempt from this requirement.
5. Hold unconditional registration with MBA or MCNZ.
6. Hold the SPUMS diploma or have completed equivalent research activities ([criteria outlined below](#)).
7. Provide a declaration of fitness to practice.

Applicants assessed as meeting the above requirements must successfully complete the viva voce section of the diploma examination before they are eligible to apply for award of the diploma.

Acceptable DHM-related research activities

Applicants under pathways 2 and 3 who do not hold a SPUMS diploma may submit an activity meeting the criteria below for consideration with their application.

- A formal project meeting standards outlined below:
 - A project must include a written report of at least 1500 words (excluding references) on the work undertaken. This will include a critical review and an evidence-based approach to the specific topic. The trainee should show that he or she has assessed background data relating to the project and objectively weighed up the validity of relevant information obtained from the scientific literature and other sources. The project must be conducted in major part by the trainee. Examples of formal projects are:
 - A case report of interest or clinical significance.
 - A review of a topic relevant to diving and hyperbaric medicine.
 - A meta-analysis of published work on a topic relevant to diving and hyperbaric medicine.
 - A research project. This may be a self-contained project conducted mainly by the trainee or be a large trial involving multiple investigators to which the trainee contributes. When the trainee participates in a large trial, a log book of involvement should be presented which has been signed off by the trainee's supervisor.
 - Any other project which has value from a clinical, scientific or educational perspective, such as a quality assurance project, a project submitted for a higher qualification relevant to anaesthesia, or an instructional video or computer program.
- A paper (relevant to diving and hyperbaric medicine) published in an indexed and peer-reviewed journal. Letters to editors are excluded.
- A qualification relevant to diving and hyperbaric medicine, conferred by an educational or professional institution, which requires examination of a written dissertation.
- An oral or a poster presentation at a South Pacific Underwater Medicine ASM (or other equivalent national or international scientific meeting in DHM), an ANZCA annual scientific meeting (DHM SIG session), Australian Society of Anaesthetists (ASA) national scientific congress, regional ANZCA/ASA continuing medical education meeting, New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists/ANZCA New Zealand National Committee annual scientific meeting, ANZCA registrars meeting, or other meeting having selection criteria of an acceptable standard and where the subject matter is relevant to DHM. Any oral or poster presentation submitted as a formal project must include written report of at least 1500 words (excluding references) on the work undertaken. This will include a critical review and an evidence-based approach to the specific topic. The trainee should show that he or she has assessed background data relating to the project and objectively weighed up the validity of relevant information obtained from the scientific literature and other sources.