



ANZCA  
FPM

# South Australia and Northern Territory Rotational Anaesthesia Training Scheme



Australian and New Zealand  
College of Anaesthetists  
& Faculty of Pain Medicine

## Program overview

The South Australia and Northern Territory Rotational Anaesthesia Training Scheme (SANTRATS) is a comprehensive anaesthesia training program that offers rotation through hospitals in South Australia and the Northern Territory. Eligible registered medical practitioners in Australia and New Zealand wishing to specialise in anaesthesia may apply. This includes those who are yet to commence anaesthesia training, and those introductory, basic or advanced trainees who will not be in an extended training period at the time of appointment.

Rotational supervisors oversee SANTRATS and liaise between the ANZCA SA/NT Trainee Committee and the directors of anaesthesia at the teaching hospitals which provide the SANTRATS rotations.

## SANTRATS rotations

The scheme involves rotation through several metropolitan hospitals in South Australia and the Northern Territory. Hospitals included in the scheme are:

- Royal Adelaide Hospital.
- Flinders Medical Centre and Noarlunga Hospital.
- Women's and Children's Hospital, paediatric anaesthesia and women's anaesthesia.
- The Queen Elizabeth Hospital.
- Lyell McEwin Hospital and Modbury Hospital.
- Royal Darwin Hospital.
- Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service.

Please note that this is a four-year rotational anaesthesia training scheme, with a required six-month rotation to either Darwin or Mount Gambier. Trainees should also expect to spend a minimum of 18 months of their training time in peripheral or regional hospitals.

We expect trainees to accept the rotations they are offered. Where there are exceptional circumstances that would prevent a particular rotation at a particular time, written requests should be sent to the rotational supervisors well before appointments are made.

## Entry requirements

Before you can apply for the scheme, applicants must have:

- Australian citizenship or permanent residency.
- Current registration with the Medical Board of Australia as a medical practitioner with general registration. Applicants with provisional registration are not eligible to apply.
- A Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Doctor of Medicine or equivalent.
- Completion of post-graduate year two (PGY2) qualifications or more.
- Eligibility for registration by ANZCA as an anaesthesia trainee.
- Minimum of three months full-time equivalent experience working in anaesthesia.
- Nominated three referees who are senior medical officers the applicant has worked with within 18 months of application submission. One referee must be your supervisor or head/deputy head of department from your most recent anaesthesia position. Most often, this referee will be a registered consultant anaesthetist or GP anaesthetist. If not, then at least one of your other referees must be.

If, at the time of application, you meet any of the following criteria, you are not eligible to apply to SANTRATS and should apply to the individual hospitals:

- Introductory trainee – extended (IT-E).
- Basic trainee – extended (BT-E).
- Advanced trainee – extended (AT-E).
- Following the ANZCA specialist international medical graduate (SIMG) pathway.
- If you have had three prior unsuccessful applications to join SANTRATS (all unsuccessful applications prior to 2027 entry count as one attempt).

## Training

Once appointed to the scheme, SANTRATS trainees are assured access to ANZCA-accredited anaesthesia training sites to complete the ANZCA training program requirements within four years of training. Trainees joining the scheme part-way through training do not have the same assurance but will be offered appropriate rotations wherever possible.

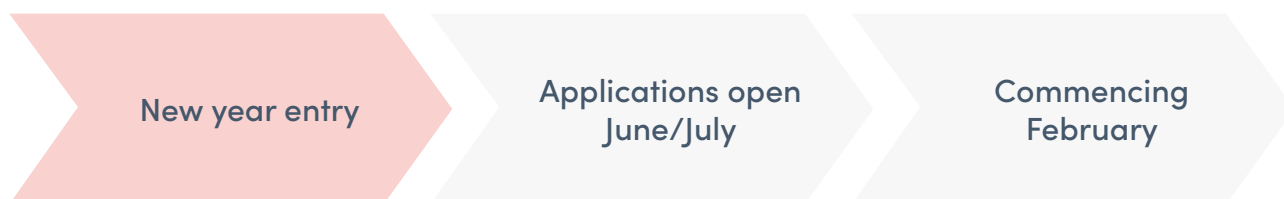
Progression through this rotation depends on the successful completion of the primary exam, plus other training requirements as per the curriculum during introductory and basic training. If the primary exam has been attempted but not successfully completed in Basic Training, trainees will be able to remain on the scheme for one year of BT-E (extended basic training) to complete the primary exam. Failure to attempt the primary exam during basic training, or successfully complete the primary exam during the first year of BT-E, or meet other training requirements will mean you will not be reappointed to the scheme.

Trainees remain on the scheme for four years without having to be re-interviewed if all training and requirements are met. However, there is a formal process of reappointment; trainees are required to complete an annual trainee questionnaire. This is required by the rotational supervisors for ongoing rotational rostering, review of status of hospital contracts and confirmation of ongoing support from the supervisor of training (see scheme duration below) and directors of the anaesthesia departments. Reappointment is at the discretion of the rotational supervisors.

SANTRATS will provide no more than two years of advanced training rotations and does not offer provisional fellowship training.

## Program key dates

There is one intake per annum:



SA Health is responsible for the advertising process and positions are advertised via the [SA Health careers website](#).

Details of the advertisement dates, link to the SA Health careers website, job number and all relevant details are also updated on the [ANZCA SANTRATS webpage](#) when finalised. Once the position goes live, it usually closes within a two-to-three-week period.

Email [SANTRATS@anzca.edu.au](mailto:SANTRATS@anzca.edu.au) if you would like to be notified when the advertisement is live on the SA Health careers website.

## Application process

In preparation for your application, applicants should:

- Undertake relevant clinical and educational activities demonstrating a commitment to a career in anaesthesia. List these in your CV but do not repeat in the cover letter of relevant anaesthesia and critical care.
- Provide a CV listing of relevant anaesthesia and critical care experience, and extra-curricular activities/passions/pursuits. Remember, the panel wants to learn about you, not only your medical career.
- Select relevant and supportive referees that you have worked with within 18 months of your application, and who are available to complete the referee report up to two weeks after the closing date. Consider recency of clinical experience with your chosen referee(s), their commitment to clinical anaesthesia and ongoing education, together with their ability to directly comment on your skills and attributes. One referee must be your supervisor or head/deputy head of department from your most recent anaesthesia position. Most often, this referee will be a registered consultant anaesthetist or GP anaesthetist. If not, then at least one of your other referees must be.
- Provide a succinct cover letter (maximum one page), detailing your commitment to anaesthesia, future plans and interest in the scheme.

IMPORTANT – Please *do not* respond to the selection criteria in your cover letter.

Mandatory documents that must accompany your online application:

- Employment history form – download, complete and upload the completed form as indicated in the application instructions.
- A copy of your primary medical degree.
- A copy of your current unconditional Ahpra medical board registration.

Applicants are not required to bring these documents to the interview. Vaccination records and credentials such as security clearances are also not required at the time of application or interview. Successful candidates will need to provide these to the employing health unit.

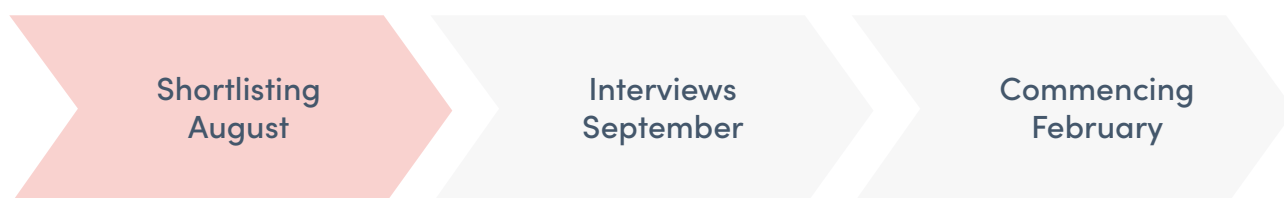
We will keep applicants informed of the status of their application via email and we will provide anticipated timelines at each stage of the process.

## Referees

Once an application is deemed complete, we will notify you that your application has progressed to reference check, triggering an email to your referees requesting them to complete the online referee proforma. If there are issues with obtaining referee reports, we will inform applicants and provide an opportunity to provide an alternative referee. Members of the selection committee may also contact your referees directly to clarify points in your references.

Once reference checking is complete, applications progress to shortlisting for review and scoring by a panel of anaesthesia fellows. This process usually takes four weeks, after which we will advise all applicants if they have been invited to interview. We will let applicants know the tentative interview date once they have progressed to shortlisting and an approximate date for shortlisting outcomes.

## SANTRATS interviews



We expect all interviews to be in person, unless there are significant extenuating circumstances. Interviews are held at the ANZCA SA/NT Regional Office – 168 Ward Street, North Adelaide, South Australia.

The interview panel consists of a chairperson and five panel members. Each of the five panel members asks one question. The duration is approximately 20 minutes.

## Appointment recommendations

Following interviews, the panel chair and SANTRATS rotational supervisors make recommendations to the directors of anaesthesia who determine the number of appointments and placements available.

SANTRATS does not offer employment contracts to trainees. We offer training positions on behalf of the directors of anaesthesia at the scheme hospitals. Contracts of employment are provided by the HR departments of those teaching hospitals prior to the start date of the term appointment. Under the current SA Health Salaried Medical Officers Enterprise Agreement, trainees entering SANTRATS can anticipate receiving an initial three-year contract from their employing Local Health Network (LHN). On completion of the initial contract, and subject to meeting all requirements, a further three-year contract will be offered by the LHN to which they are rotated. This structure aims to provide clarity and consistency regarding contract expectations for SANTRATS trainees.

The number of available positions is not always predictable as there are a range of factors that determine the number of vacancies.

## Scheme duration

Those commencing their introductory anaesthesia training with SANTRATS will remain on the scheme for four years without having to be re-interviewed, provided all their training requirements are met at the appropriate times.

There is a mandatory annual online re-appointment process required without having to reinterview provided all training requirements are met. The rotational supervisors require trainees to complete an annual trainee questionnaire for ongoing rotational rostering, review of status of hospital contracts and confirmation of ongoing support from the supervisors of training and directors of the anaesthesia departments. Reappointment is at the discretion of the rotational supervisors.

Applicants who do not meet the requirements for basic training within the first three years of commencing anaesthesia training will "time-out" but will be able to reapply as an advanced trainee once these requirements are met. There is an expectation that regional rotations will be completed in the scheme whether or not the Part 1 exam is completed. There will be no exemption for regional rotations in the third year on the scheme if the Part 1 exam has not been passed.

Trainees should expect no more than two years of Advanced Training time to be provided. Provisional fellowship training is not part of the scheme.

## Non-rotational training positions

The training hospitals listed above also offer non-rotational anaesthesia service registrar positions, which can also be accredited positions with ANZCA for independent trainees. Trainees employed in this way are not rotated to other hospitals. The college is not involved in recruiting for these positions as they are not part of the rotational training scheme, however ANZCA training can continue and trainees will have a nominated ANZCA supervisor of training.

Non-rotational service registrar positions are also advertised via the [SA Health website](#) under the individual hospitals or local health network.

## Contact us

For further information, please contact us at [santrats@anzca.edu.au](mailto:santrats@anzca.edu.au).