



ANZCA  
FPM

# Applying to South Australia and Northern Territory Rotational Anaesthesia Training Scheme (SANTRATS)



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 a number of hospitals in South Australia and the Northern Territory. Eligible registered medical practitioners in Australia and New Zealand who have not started anaesthesia training or are currently an introductory, basic or advanced trainee wishing to specialise in anaesthesia may apply to the scheme.

Rotational supervisors oversee SANTRATS with advice from the directors of anaesthesia at the teaching hospitals which form part of SANTRATS and the [ANZCA SA/NT Trainee Committee](#).

## SANTRATS rotations

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

- Royal Adelaide Hospital.
- The Queen Elizabeth Hospital.
- Flinders Medical Centre.
- Northern Adelaide Local Health Service comprising Lyell McEwin Hospital and Modbury Hospital.
- Women's and Children's Hospital, Paediatric Anaesthesia and Women's Anaesthesia.
- Mt Gambier District Health Service.
- Royal Darwin Hospital and satellites of these sites.

Please note that this is a four year rotational anaesthesia training scheme requiring rotation to either Royal Darwin Hospital for a six to 12 month period or Mount Gambier Hospital for six months.

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 supervisor well before appointments are made.

## Entry requirements

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

- A Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Doctor of Medicine or equivalent.
- Current registration with the Medical Board of Australia as a medical practitioner with general registration. Applicants with provisional registration are not eligible to apply.
- Completion of post-graduate year two (PGY2) qualifications or more.
- Eligibility for registration by ANZCA as an anaesthesia trainee.
- Australian citizenship or permanent residency.

Introductory trainee – extended (IT-E), basic trainee – extended (BT-E) or advanced trainee – extended (AT-E) are ineligible to apply via SANTRATS. These trainees should apply directly to individual hospitals.

## 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. Progression through this rotation depends on the successful completion of the primary exam by the end of your second year of basic training, and other training requirements as per the curriculum during introductory and basic training. Failure to complete these requirements will mean you will not be reappointed to the scheme.

Trainees joining the scheme part-way through training from interstate or overseas do not have the same assurance but will be offered appropriate rotations wherever possible.

Trainees remain on the scheme for four years without having to be re-interviewed if all training and requirements are met. However, there is an annual formal process of reapplication including confirmation of ongoing support from the supervisor of training (see scheme duration below).

SANTRATS doesn't offer provisional fellowship training.

## Program key dates

There are two intakes 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'd 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 courses, workshops, and conferences in support of your application. List these in your CV but do not repeat in the cover letter.
- Provide a CV listing relevant anaesthesia, emergency medicine, and ICU experience, and extra-curricular activities/passions/pursuits. Remember, the panel want to learn about you, not only your medical career.
- Select relevant and supportive referees – direct supervisors and managers are helpful (but not essential) if they are ANZCA fellows. Please ensure referees are available for up to two weeks post the closing date of the advert.
- Provide a succinct cover letter, 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 provide anticipated timelines at each stage of the process.

## Referees

Applicants must nominate three referees from senior medical officers to support their application. It is important that referees are available to complete an online referee report for up to two weeks after the closing date of the position advertisement.

Once an application is deemed complete, we will notify you that your application has progressed to reference check. This triggers an email to your referees requesting them to complete an online referee proforma; a quick and simple process, taking approximately 15 minutes. Referees will respond to 10 multiple choice questions on competency levels and an additional four criteria with free text responses. If there are issues with obtaining referee reports, we will inform applicants and give you an opportunity to provide an alternative referee.

Once reference checking is complete, applications progress to shortlisting for review and scoring by a panel of anaesthetic 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.

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

## Appointment recommendations

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

We don't offer contracts of employment to trainees. We offer training positions on behalf of the anaesthesia directors 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.

The number of available positions is not predictable as there are a range of factors that determine the number of vacancies. Generally, there are more positions at the beginning of year intake (around nine to 15) and lesser vacancies at mid-year (about five to 10), however this has been known to be reversed in previous intakes.

## Scheme duration

Trainees remain on the scheme for four years without having to be re-interviewed if all training and requirements are met.

There is a mandatory annual online re-application process required which is via the SA Health careers website but does not require an annual interview. Together with the re-application process, a mid-year questionnaire is circulated providing trainees the opportunity to simultaneously update details, training requirements, impacting circumstances, exams plans and rotational preferences.

Applicants who do not meet the requirements for basic training within the first two years of commencing anaesthesia training will "time-out" but will be able to reapply as an advanced trainee once these requirements are met. This will require another interview.

The provisional fellowship training year 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 aren't rotated to other hospitals. The college is not involved in recruiting for these positions as we're 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).