FACD/PhD Policy

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the requirements for FACD/PHD candidates regarding their entry into, and completion of, the Dermatology Training Program.

SCOPE

The policy covers the selection process, thesis verification, commencement into the dermatology training program, and specific requirements in the first year of training.

DEFINITIONS / KEY WORDS / ABBREVIATIONS

Completed means that the PhD must be submitted, marked, any re-writes completed and the degree conferred or confirmed as occurring in the first appropriate conferring ceremony of the year.

Candidate means PhD/FACD candidate

THE POLICY

Selection Process:

In order to be selected into the combined program applicants must have applied through the normal channels to both the university and to the ACD. They must satisfy both the requirements of the University and the College. This means satisfying the iterative stages of the College selection process as well as the PhD selection process of the University.

An applicant must be accepted into both the PhD program and the FACD program in order to be eligible to enrol for the dual qualification. The College and the University require that
the PhD component will have been completed before being offered their position in the FACD training program.

Candidates will be registered as a provisional trainee with the ACD for the period of their PhD candidacy and as such are entitled to the following benefits:

- Access to information provided to all trainees
- Receipt of the Australasian Journal of Dermatology
- Receipt of The Mole
- Any other college material for trainees
- Attendance at the 1st Year Registrars’ Workshop

Candidates cannot become a full trainee of the College and cannot commence registrar training until the successful completion and award of their PhD candidacy. The candidate will pursue their dermatological training in the same state in which they undertook their PhD.

The Thesis:

- The thesis topic will be decided by the University in consultation with the candidate and should be substantially, if not wholly, related to dermatology.
- The University will be asked to keep the College informed of the candidate’s PhD progress, by providing College with copies of all supervisor reports showing the number of meetings, issues discussed and areas of revision of the thesis.
- Candidates must provide evidence to the College of completion and conferring / imminent conferring of the degree
- All verification documentation will go to the National Training Committee and then the National Education Committee for approval before a training position will be offered to the applicant.
- Candidates must complete their thesis in no less than three years and no more than four years.
- If candidates require a fourth year they must notify the State Director of Training and the Honorary Secretary by the second week in October of the preceding year.
- If candidates have not completed their thesis in four years they must notify the Honorary Secretary who will then seek a recommendation from the Board as to the candidate’s continuing status
- A candidate who has not completed their PhD within five years, or who fails their PhD will not be admitted to the Dermatology Training Program.

Commencement in the Dermatology Training Program:

In order to commence in the training program on the first Monday in February, applicants must satisfy the following:

- The PhD must be completed (refer above to the definition of completed).
- The candidate must enter the Training Program the year following completion of their PhD.
- A candidate who has completed their PhD, been accepted to commence training in a particular year, and who finds, through extenuating circumstances that they cannot commence, is covered by the provisions of the Interrupted Training Policy.
First Year in the ACD Training Program:

The FACD/PhD trainee is bound by the same rules as all trainees, but in particular the following are emphasised:

- The trainee must complete a minimum of 44 weeks in the calendar year in an accredited training position.
- The on-line Clinical Sciences Modules and the Pharmacology examination must both be passed in the first year in order to continue in the dermatology training program. Neither of these subjects can be commenced prior to entry into the training program.
- Any clinical work completed during the PhD years while of value as a learning tool will not be eligible for RPL status.
- Subject to scrutiny by the National Examinations Committee, publications and/or presentations completed by the trainee during their PhD candidacy, provided it was published within the five years prior to commencing the dermatology training program, may be considered for RPL purposes.

Entitlements and Obligations:

The PhD/FACD trainee’ entitlements, except part time candidature which is not available, and obligations are the same as all other trainees.

PhD/FACD trainees will be required to pay 25% of the training levy. All other obligations are the same as for all trainees.