TEAP Admission Policy

1. Purpose

The Australasian College of Physical Scientists & Engineers in Medicine (ACPSEM) is committed to admitting registrars based on clear and fair criteria and to maintaining the integrity of its Training, Education and Assessment Program.

2. Application

This Policy applies to prospective registrars, experienced professionals, ACPSEM staff and volunteers (including Board, Committee, and Panel members).

3. Context

The ACPSEM administers a Training, Education and Assessment Program (TEAP) in three disciplines:

- Radiation Oncology Medical Physics (ROMP);
- Diagnostic Imaging Medical Physics (DIMP), specialising in Nuclear Medicine Physics or Radiology Medical Physics or both; and
- Radiopharmaceutical Science (RPS).

Admission to the TEAP and exemptions to entry requirements are based on published criteria and granted by the Professional Standards Board (PSB).

4. Definitions

Accredited Postgraduate Degree: recognition that graduates are educated to a postgraduate level suitable for the entry into clinical training in Medical Physics or Radiopharmaceutical Science.

Accredited Training Institution: a clinical department authorised by ACPSEM to provide training to registrars as part of a TEAP.

Registrar: trainee or person registered in the Training, Education and Assessment Program administered by ACPSEM.

5. Requirements

5.1. TEAP entry requirements

Admission to a TEAP will be granted to candidates who:

- have obtained an ACPSEM approved undergraduate degree or have an approved equivalence from the ACPSEM for such a requirement – see Appendix A for details on the undergraduate degree requirement by discipline; and
- are accepted into an ACPSEM accredited postgraduate degree program in medical physics or to have completed an ACPSEM accredited postgraduate degree program in medical physics; and
- are accepted into a registrar training position at an ACPSEM accredited clinical training institution.

For more information on accreditation, refer to the ACPSEM's *Accreditation Policy*.

5.2. Exemptions

While recent graduates are required to meet all general entry requirements, the ACPSEM may exempt a candidate from any of these requirements and/or approve admission but require additional coursework under special circumstances.

Professionals certified in other countries are exempt from these general entry requirements; however, they must be employed in a clinical department accredited for training, have the support of their Chief Physicist to enter TEAP and have access to suitable and ACPSEM-approved supervision.

For other experienced professionals, the relevant Certification Panel will advise the PSB what exemptions, if any, apply, e.g. a candidate deemed an experienced professional may not have to meet the undergraduate and postgraduate degree requirements.

Appendix B provides a list of exemptions to the TEAP entry requirements by discipline.

6. Accountability

The ACPSEM Board has delegated accountability and responsibility for determining and evaluating TEAP admissions policy to the PSB.

As a consequence of the 2018 “Refreshing Professional Standards” Project the ACPSEM Board also requires that sufficient detail is included in procedures and rules to enable decisions to be made by ACPSEM expert staff with reference to precedents, with referral to certification panels for individual cases by exception only.

Additionally, it is recommended that the PSB review degree entry requirements and the conventional specification of additional coursework in parallel with enrolment, before June 2020.

7. Appeals

If a registrar is not satisfied with a decision made in relation to admission, they may submit an appeal in accordance with ACPSEM’s *Grievance Handling and Appeal Policy*.

8. References

8.1. Legislation and Regulation

- *Standards for Assessment and Accreditation of Specialist Medical Programs and Professional Development Programs by the Australian Medical Council 2015*

8.2. Related Documentation

- TEAP Admission Procedure
- Program Enrolment Policy
- Program Enrolment Procedure
- Grievance Handling and Appeal Policy
- Certification Policy
- Recognition of Prior Learning Policy

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1.0	22/03/2019	Alan Bowen-James	First draft
1.1	10/05/2019	CEO	Addition of section 6
1.2	23/06/2019	Alan Bowen-James	Inclusion of Appendix B
1.3	22/08/2019	CEO	Incorporation of links and corrections

Appendix A – Undergraduate Degree Entry Requirement

Radiation Oncology Medical Physics	Diagnostic Imaging Medical Physics	Radiopharmaceutical Science
Undergraduate degree majoring in physics A BSc degree majoring in physics from an Australian or New Zealand university will generally meet this requirement. Acceptable degrees will have a strong mathematics and physics component and meet criteria for an accredited degree program by the Australian Institute of Physics (AIP) or IAEA recommendations for accreditation of medical physics academic programs.	**undergraduate degree majoring in physics** A BSc degree majoring in physics from an Australian or New Zealand university will generally meet this requirement. A BE degree majoring in electronic, electrical, mechanical or biomedical engineering from an Australian or New Zealand university will generally meet this requirement. Acceptable degrees will have a strong mathematics and physics component.	**Undergraduate degree majoring in chemistry, medicinal chemistry, pharmacy, pharmacology or other relevant specialty** The undergraduate degree should contain a chemistry, pharmacy or pharmacology major, or be proved to have a sufficient chemistry content to satisfy the Certification Panel of the applicant's background knowledge in these areas of study.
Equivalence For example, having an equivalent physics and maths content in a relevant physical science or engineering degree or an appropriate overseas degree which has been assessed by NOOSR or NZQA, and ACPSEM as being an equivalent qualification to the above criteria.	**Equivalence** For example, having an equivalent degree in a relevant physical science or an appropriate overseas degree which has been assessed as being an equivalent qualification.	-

Appendix B – TEAP Requirement Exemptions

This table is also included in the Recognition of Prior Learning Policy

Radiation Oncology Medical Physics	Diagnostic Imaging Medical Physics	Radiopharmaceutical Science
Undergraduate degree majoring in Physics Candidates who do not have an undergraduate degree with strong physics and maths components as described in Appendix A may need to complete a series of individual courses or a diploma of science or full BSc, in order to demonstrate meeting the undergraduate degree requirements. Refer to Table 1 for more specific information.	**Undergraduate degree majoring in Physics** Candidates who do not have an undergraduate degree with strong physics and maths components as described in Appendix A may need to complete a series of individual courses or a diploma of science or full BSc, in order to demonstrate meeting the undergraduate degree requirements. Refer to Table 1 for more specific information.	
Postgraduate degree in Medical Physics (Coursework) Candidates who have completed an MSc or PhD program that is not accredited by the ACPSEM may be exempted from the coursework component of an ACPSEM accredited MSc program if they can demonstrate completion of coursework or professional experience equivalent to that described in the ACPSEM University Accreditation Sample Syllabus.	**Postgraduate degree in Medical Physics (Coursework)** Candidates who have completed an MSc or PhD program that is not accredited by the ACPSEM may be exempted from the coursework component of an ACPSEM accredited MSc program if they can demonstrate completion of coursework or professional experience equivalent to that described in the ACPSEM University Accreditation Sample Syllabus.	There is no 'advanced standing' offered for the RPS program as it relies on a process of progressive assessment which includes the submission of evidence that is assessed and graded, with feedback given to the applicant. Work undertaken prior to entry into TEAP, as part of a program of education or a research project, may be submitted as evidence to satisfy the requirements of a Competency. It will be assessed and graded in the same way other submissions are managed. This minimises unnecessary repetition of experience, but satisfies the requirement for documented evidence. This approach to Recognition of Prior Learning policies supports trainees to transition between programs as per the Australian Medical Council's Accreditation Standard 3.3.2 for Assessment and Accreditation of Specialist Medical Programs and Professional Development Programs by the Australian Medical Council 2015.
Postgraduate degree in Medical Physics (Research) Candidates who have completed an MSc or PhD program that is not accredited by the ACPSEM may be exempted from the research component of an ACPSEM accredited MSc program if they can demonstrate completion of a postgraduate physics research degree at least equivalent to that undertaken in an ACPSEM accredited university program. If the postgraduate degree is not in the field of physics, a high standard of research completion must be evident.	**Postgraduate degree in Medical Physics (Research)** Candidates who have completed an MSc or PhD program that is not accredited by the ACPSEM may be exempted from the research component of an ACPSEM accredited MSc program if they can demonstrate completion of a postgraduate physics research degree at least equivalent to that undertaken in an ACPSEM accredited university program. If the postgraduate degree is not in the field of physics, a high standard of research completion must be evident.	
Publication requirement Candidates who have completed a peer-reviewed publication in a reputable journal indexed in the standard scientific databases such as PubMed, Web of Science or Scopus (as part of postgraduate study or otherwise) in the discipline of physics or engineering may be exempted from the publication requirement of TEAP. If the publication is from a discipline outside of physics or engineering an exemption will not be given and an additional publication in the field of medical physics must be completed during TEAP.	**Publication requirement** Candidates who have completed a peer-reviewed publication in a reputable journal indexed in the standard scientific databases such as PubMed, Web of Science or Scopus (as part of postgraduate study or otherwise) in the discipline of physics or engineering may be exempted from the publication requirement of TEAP. If the publication is from a discipline outside of physics or engineering an exemption will not be given and an additional publication in the field of medical physics must be completed during TEAP.	
Presentation requirement Candidates who have given a presentation at a recognised national or international conference (as part of	**Presentation requirement** Candidates who have given a presentation at a recognised national or international conference (as part of	

postgraduate study or otherwise) in the discipline of physics or engineering may be exempted from the presentation requirement of TEAP. If the presentation is from a discipline outside of physics or engineering an exemption will not be given and an additional presentation in the field of medical physics must be completed during TEAP.	postgraduate study or otherwise) in the discipline of physics or engineering may be exempted from the presentation requirement of TEAP. If the presentation is from a discipline outside of physics or engineering an exemption will not be given and an additional presentation in the field of medical physics must be completed during TEAP.	

Table 1 – Undergraduate coursework requirements for TEAP entry

Radiation Oncology Medical Physics	**Diagnostic Imaging Medical Physics**	**Radiopharmaceutical Science**
Candidates who do not have an undergraduate degree with strong physics and maths components as described in Appendix A, may complete a series of individual courses or a diploma of science or full BSc, in order to meet the undergraduate degree requirements. The following mathematics topics m be covered, with at least 2 of these covered to 2nd year level: • Linear Algebra • Calculus • Complex Variables • Differential Equations • Numerical methods The following physics topics MUST be covered, with at least 2 of these covered to 3rd year level: • Electromagnetism • Atomic/Nuclear Physics • Quantum Physics • Classical Mechanics • Optics • Relativity • Thermodynamics • Solid State and/or Condensed Matter Physics	Candidates who do not have an undergraduate degree with strong physics and maths components as described in Appendix A, may complete a series of individual courses or a diploma of science or full BSc, in order to meet the undergraduate degree requirements. The following mathematics topics m be covered, with at least 2 of these covered to 2nd year level: • Linear Algebra • Calculus • Complex Variables • Differential Equations • Numerical methods The following physics topics MUST be covered, with at least 2 of these covered to 3rd year level: • Electromagnetism • Atomic/Nuclear Physics • Quantum Physics • Classical Mechanics • Optics • Relativity • Thermodynamics • Solid State and/or Condensed Matter Physics	-