

Fellowships at RMH: FAQs

How many Fellowships do you offer?

17

When is your intake?

Either at the beginning of February or August.

Can I work part-time?

Yes we are able to offer part-time positions.

Can I have either a 6 or 12 month Fellowship?

Yes we offer both. Some Fellows also extend their time to 18-24 months.

Do you consider overseas applicants?

You are eligible to apply if you are residing overseas. While we take a number of international Fellows each year, we do give preference to applicants who are Australian citizens or permanent residents. Overseas applicants must have finished or be within a year or so of finishing training in their home countries.

What type of Fellowships do you offer ?

We offer 3 cardiothoracic and 12 general Fellowships- the latter can be tailored to your interests (eg. neuro, trauma, head & neck/maxillofacial, regional, vascular etc.) We do not have obstetrics or paediatrics. For general Fellowships about 50% of your time will be spent doing lists you've requested, and the remainder will be spent doing other lists or covering out-of-hours. You are not rotated to Intensive Care or any external hospitals while undertaking a Fellowship with us.

I am interested in research and teaching...do you offer any experience ?

We are very active in both across a number of sub-specialty areas...there is ample opportunity for you to get involved. All Fellows receive 5 hours of non-clinical time per week to develop these interests or to pursue other educational activities (eg. echo certification, higher degrees)

What are the hours and supervision like?

The working week is 43 hours. During weekday hours you are frequently rostered with a consultant on a 1:1 basis, or if you are working on your own there is an in-charge consultant available to help you. There is no on-call as such...when you are rostered for a night shift (Mon-Fri) you start at 1730 and finish at 0730 hrs. There are 2 consultants on-call: 1 for general and 1 for cardiac. The primary consultant is often present in the evenings or on weekends due to the volume of work. You are rostered with 2 junior trainees in the evenings, one of whom starts at 1200 and finishes at 2230, the other starts and finishes when you do. Saturday and Sunday nights and days are rostered to be done by the same Fellows concurrently (unlike the Mon-Fri nights which are one-offs) but they have been split into two 12-hour shifts. The primary consultant is exclusively available to you by telephone once they leave the hospital and they are readily able to return if required.

What about the Cardiac Fellowship?

We have one of the busiest cardiac surgical units in Australia. In the past year we have performed 310 CABGs, 225 Valve cases, 70 major aortic operations, 30 adult congenital, 15 Ross procedures and 200 thoracic cases. We are a referral centre for the Royal Women's and Royal Children's hospital, so we also treat paediatric cardiac patients who are transitioning to adult care and we have the occasional parturient with cardiac disease. We also have cath labs which are busy with electrophysiological investigations and treatment and we provide anaesthesia services to them. We do not do heart and lung transplantation. We have a TAVI service which treats 8 or so patients monthly, and we have started a program of percutaneous pulmonary valve implantation and mitral valve procedures. We provide anaesthesia support for a cardiology lead extraction service.

Over 2 days a week of cardiac you could expect to do 2-4 pump cases, so about 70-100 cases in a year. Cardiac Fellows are expected to have, or plan to be working towards, an echocardiography qualification during their time with us...there is one offered through the University of Melbourne. We have at least 2 thoracic lists per week and are the thoracic surgical service for the co-located Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. The cardiac Fellows are also on-call from Friday-Sun evening (when they are not on the main roster) to enable them to gain experience in any emergencies which arise.

What if English is not my primary language?

You may be required to demonstrate competency in English by providing evidence of satisfactory completion of the IELTS or OET examinations. Further information regarding the requirements can be found here:

<https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Standards/English-language-skills.aspx>

How do I apply ?

The positions are advertised on the hospital website in mid March/April, and are open until early June. You can find them here:

<https://melbournehealth.mercury.com.au/>

You need to complete the online application form, attach a CV and supply 3 references using the standardised reference form which is on the website. We are happy to conduct telephone or Skype interviews for interstate or overseas applicants.