

Organising an OOPT

Start thinking about it about 18 months to 2 years before. Decide what you want to do and how this will be educational for you.

- 1. Discuss with your programme director so he/she is aware you are interested in doing an OOPT and when**
- 2. Find an OOPT**

Check with other trainees

There are some advertised on OAA website (mainly UK though)

See the list of approved institutions on the WSOA website and contact them directly.

Each country has different VISA requirements.

The other option is to find a hospital and email the clinical director with your CV. However you must make sure that there is an agreement about what you will be doing for the year as it needs to be educationally approved for it to count towards training.

- 3. Australian paperwork**
VISA

In Australia the way it normally works is that the hospital sponsors your VISA. For this to happen the post has to be recognised by the Australian Royal College of Anaesthetists and has to be a training post. The hospital will ask for lots of paperwork from you (certified copies of certificates, CV, police certificate, 2 references, proof of English, certified copies of ID etc) and they will also ask for a job description and training plan from the Clinical director to be sent to the college for approval.

Once they have applied for the VISA you will then be sent a VISA form to complete.

They will also at this stage outline the medical you need including Xrays and a list of certified Doctors who can do this. We found one in Birmingham who did our bloods, examination and Xray in one sitting.

Australian Medical Council Verification

This is an online process of getting your UK qualifications verified. Unfortunately you need everything certified by a public notary first. Make sure you follow the correct pathway or they may ask you to sit an exam. Also make sure you send the correct ID as they are very particular. It may be worth phoning them first to check all of this. This took ages for me as I kept having to get more ID certified (when they said drivers licence they meant an international one or an Australian one etc).

Medical Board registration

Before starting work in Australia you need to make an appointment with the relevant medical board. They will go through your paperwork and ask for some money to register you. You cannot start work without this.

4. U.K Paperwork

To get educational approval for your year you need to contact RCOA, the deanery and PMETB in the order below:

Royal college

The royal college have a form that can be downloaded from their website. You have to outline the fellowship and your training aims for that year. You also need to give a copy of your job description and training plan and a named educational supervisor with contact telephone. It then needs to be signed by the programme director and the regional adviser. After the fellowship you need to write a report to the RCOA about it.

Deanery

The deanery has another form. It covers similar information to the college one. You also need to send them a copy of the Royal college approval. The deanery form also needs to be signed by your programme director and by the chair of training at the deanery.

PMETB

Institutions listed on the approved register are already PMETB approved. If not the process is as follows:

Once the deanery has approved the year they will send the details on to PMETB who will then give the final stamp of approval. It is this step that takes time. The RCOA are very quick to approve but the application seems to take a few months to get to PMETB from the deanery and another couple of months to approve. However I was told by the deanery that if the RCOA and the deanery approve then it would be very unlikely that PMETB would not.

Overall tips

- Organise as far in advance as possible
- Be up front with your Foreign Clinical Director for the OOPT about your training needs and get a job description and training plan early so you can start the UK educational approval ASAP.
- If you are going to Australia apply for AMC verification early but check you are sending the correct information first and for the correct pathway