

General information for clinical healthcare professionals seeking fellowships in simulation

Three different fellowships are available for clinical healthcare professionals:

- Emergency Medicine Fellowship
- Trauma Fellowship
- Defence Fellowship

These fellowships may be completed over six months (full time) or 12 months (half time).

Prerequisites

Prerequisites for the fellowship include completion of basic vocational training in a critical care medical speciality.

Optional fellowship in aeromedical retrieval medicine

The simulation fellowship can be completed in parallel with a half-time appointment with one of the NSW aeromedical retrieval services (the Ambulance Service of NSW and Careflight). The aeromedical retrieval medicine fellowship prepares trainees to undertake primary retrieval and interhospital retrieval of acutely unwell (mainly adult) patients via helicopter, fixed wing, and road transport. Trainees develop skills and experience managing critically sick patients, including trauma and conducting emergency retrievals. The latter includes pre-hospital and stabilisation involving abseiling, winching and extrication from accident sites.

This dual fellowship is beneficial as the experience and knowledge obtained in each compliments the other. In particular, both components of the fellowship aim to develop leadership, decision-making and management skills.

Each organisation participating in the dual fellowship observe the principles of equal opportunity in their respective recruitment and appointments processes thus doctors applying for these positions are required to submit separate applications and, if successful, have two separate employers. However, the two employing organisations work cooperatively in respect to visa arrangements, documentation for specialist training programs, the timing of commencement of the fellowship, rostering, flexible work practices and completion of academic projects associated with the fellowship.

Description of the Simulation Fellowship program

The Simulation fellowship is a structured program comprising graded workplace learning, supervised practice and academic project work relevant to the provision of simulation training for a multi-professional healthcare audience.

Outcomes:

If completed at a satisfactory level, by completion of the fellowship, the simulation fellow will have the relevant knowledge, skills, attitudes and workplace experience to independently manage the key components of training conducted within simulation laboratories.

These components comprise: Undertake a needs analysis; design a learning curriculum; manage a technical team; train, mentor and support faculty; team lead a course, instruct in relevant topics (Anaesthesia practice, critical care medicine, retrieval medicine, Human factors, teamwork and assessment) and conduct assessment and certification (for relevant courses). The abovementioned skills will have been applied to a range of multi-professional groups, especially those in critical care, resuscitation and aero-medical retrieval fields, with emphasis given to the discipline linked with the fellowship (Trauma, Emergency Medicine/Paediatrics and Defence Medicine)

Specific objectives

1. Simulation Education: Basic Principles

Develop competencies relevant to teaching and learning in a simulated environment.

- Understand and apply competencies of non-technical skills and systematic management of clinical emergencies.
- Acquire instructor skills relevant to these.
- Understand variations in these for different health professional groups and working environments.

2. Team-Leading and Independent Practice.

Develop competencies relevant to independent teaching

- Understand the specific principles and practices relevant to team leading in this environment including group dynamics, privacy, confidentiality, risk management.
- Consolidate practice on a variety of courses.
- Develop skills required to team-lead a course and its faculty

3. Designing Educational Programs.

Acquire skills relevant to designing and implementing simulated educational programs.

- Be able to undertake a needs analysis for a given target group.
- Develop a curriculum.
- Operationally manage a course.
- Develop an evaluation process.

4. Research in Simulation

Understand the principles of research relevant to simulation education

- Understand the basic principles educational program evaluation research
- Perform a literature search
- Understand the principles of audit
- Evaluate and present data using conventional scientific methodology