
SET Program in Urology Determining Suitability to Attempt the Fellowship Exam

Trainees seeking approval to present for the Fellowship Examination must provide a letter of support from their current Training Supervisor. They are required to provide a letter of support before every attempt.

This document has been prepared to assist you in determining the suitability of a trainee to undertake the Fellowship Exam. The Board of Urology would like your opinion of the trainee's readiness to present to increase the prospect of a positive outcome in the Examination. As the person with the most direct interaction with the trainee, your opinion is valued and is sought in the best interest of the trainee.

Approval to undertake the Fellowship Examination is not granted lightly, and undertaking the exam is not necessarily based on time elapsed in training. Candidates must **display attributes and competencies** that are of a standard approaching that of a specialist colleague. These competencies include:

Non-Technical

- Integrity, reliability and ethical behaviour befitting a specialist colleague and fellow colleague in Urology.
- Communication style and manner which is fluent, clear and professional. Where relevant to the exam, it needs to be concise, appropriately focussed, and demonstrate thought process.
- Ability to interpret questions, and summarise the answer in an organised fashion communicating the rationale (verbal and written).

Academic (including)

- Basic sciences knowledge including Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Pharmacology, Embryology relevant to the scope of Urology. Knowledge demonstrated must be in-depth and of a post-graduate level.
- Clinical manifestations of Urological conditions, and their diagnosis including history, examination and application of tests.
- Knowledge of the scientific basis of testing methods, their appropriate application, and potential disadvantages or confounding issues.
- In-depth knowledge of historical and contemporary Urological scientific literature, and the ability to appraise their merits.
- The ability to tailor history, investigations and management in a justifiable way to a patient scenario with high order thinking. This may include the ability to formulate a plan and alternatives, and explain their relative merits. The competencies demonstrated should be complex and at a Fellowship standard.
- Management of complications including intraoperative, post-operative and long term in an individualised fashion to the patient.
- Depth of knowledge should facilitate patient safety and effective management. (i.e. anatomical knowledge must be sufficient to reflect relevant operative steps).
- Knowledge must be both of a theoretical nature, and also reflect real world experience.

Your endorsement of a trainee's application to undertake the Fellowship Exam, is confirmation of the trainee's competencies in the above areas.

Please also discuss the following with the trainee to obtain further information as to their readiness to present:

- Discuss if the trainee's study has included:
 - Personal study
 - Study group session
 - Formal tutorial / teaching session
 - Practice written papers marked by consultants
 - Practice clinical vivas with consultants
 - Practice vivas with consultants covering the areas of Surgical anatomy, Patho-physiology, critical care & clinical reasoning, and Operative surgery
- Has the duration of study been appropriate?
- Have all components of the exam been prepared for?
- Has feedback from consultants of study preparation and practice been positive?
- Has the trainee been practicing under timed/exam conditions?
- Do you consider that the trainee is ready to present to the Fellowship Examination?

Guidelines for Letters of Support

Please provide a letter (preferably on your letterhead) as per the template on the next page. The letter should be provided to the trainee who in turn will submit it with their exam application.

Your letter will be taken into consideration by the Sectional TA&E Chair and the Board of Urology Chair when finalising the approval of the trainee's application to present for the Fellowship examination. Should a trainee's application to present for the Fellowship Examination not be approved by the Board of Urology, a trainee's application fee will be refunded in full.

If you do not feel that the trainee is ready to present for the Fellowship Examination, please discuss your concerns with the trainee and advise them that you cannot provide a letter of support. Should you wish, you may also put this in writing to the Board Chair for consideration. Please note however that any communication received will also be required to be shared with the trainee.

