

# Fellowship of the Australian Institute of Radiography



## What is a Fellow?

Fellowship is considered the highest grade of membership for most professional societies. The path to Fellowship is varied, however it typically involves evidence of continued formal training post-qualification and evidence of substantial achievement in, or contribution to, the profession.

## What is Fellowship of the AIR?

For the AIR, a Fellow is a member who is resident in Australia, has been a member of the AIR for not less than five years, and who has undertaken a structured programme of additional professional activities. These activities are independently assessed and represent knowledge of and work to the highest standard in medical radiations. Fellowship of the AIR is a professional qualification and is the highest category of membership of the AIR Fellowship.

## How do I become a Fellow?

To attain Fellowship of the Australian Institute of Radiography, a member must complete the requirements approved by the Board of Directors of the AIR. A member can satisfy these requirements in one of three paths:

- 1 Undertake examinations. These are written examinations, divided into two parts (Part 1 and 2) that are undertaken and assessed separately.
- 2 Write a thesis. This must be substantive, relevant to the fields of medical radiations and of post-graduate standard.
- 3 Points accrual. This method includes a variety of activities that are assessed separately, with each activity attracting points. A total of 100 points is required to achieve Fellowship.

Combination of pathways is possible. For example, a member may sit Part 1 of the examinations and complete a thesis

instead of sitting Part 2 of the examination. And yes, if it sounds like hard work, it is, but well worth it, so read on...

## Why would I want to become a Fellow?

While in some states there is a salary advantage in having this professional qualification the main reason for pursuing fellowship is *not* financial. There is immense personal satisfaction in achieving the goal of becoming a Fellow (just ask one). While becoming a Fellow is not gaining an academic qualification, personal learning is guaranteed with the advantage that it can nearly always be applied to the practical work situation.

Undertaking the process of Fellowship ensures new knowledge will be gained as well as professional skills developed that are recognised by yourself and your professional colleagues. A fellow of the AIR can therefore be recognised by their peers as someone who has extra to contribute and is operating at the peak of the medical radiations profession.

So you can't lose... you benefit, and so do your work associates and patients.

## When should I get started?

You must have been a member of the AIR for a minimum of five years before you are eligible to become a Fellow, however you can start the process before then. For example, you can commence working on a research project for a thesis, write a paper or present a poster etc.

## How do I get started?

Contact the Warden of the Fellowship Panel for more information and to obtain a copy of the Fellowship guidelines. The next important step is to choose your method and a mentor, start preparing your activities then get working!

## Interested but still not sure if Fellowship is for you?

We recommend that you talk to a Fellow. The Fellowship Panel members (both diagnostic and therapy) are listed on the AIR website. The Warden of the Fellowship panels contact details are also listed in the *Radiographer* and *Spectrum* in the list of office bearers.

## Some examples of Fellowship in other professional societies

### Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR)

The College is the leading professional organisation for the promotion of the science and practice of the medical specialties of Radiology and Medical Imaging (Diagnostic and Interventional) and Radiation Oncology in Australia and New Zealand. The College has members in Australia and New Zealand and throughout the world

### Fellowship of the RANZCR

A person may be admitted to Fellowship of the College if the person:

- (a) is a medical practitioner registered by an authority recognised by the Council;
- (b) has spent at least two years in general clinical work at an approved hospital; and
- (c) has undertaken such training and passed such examination as may be conducted for this purpose under the by-laws determined from time to time by the Council and/or holds a qualification recognised by the Council.

More information can be found at [www.ranzcr.edu.au](http://www.ranzcr.edu.au)



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### **The Royal Society**

The Royal Society is the world's oldest scientific academy in continuous existence, and has been at the forefront of enquiry and discovery since its foundation in 1660. The backbone of the society is its Fellowship of the most eminent scientists of the day, elected by peer review for life and entitled to use FRS after their name. There are currently more than 60 Nobel Laureates among the Society's approximately 1400 Fellows and Foreign Members.

Throughout its history, the Society has promoted excellence in science through its Fellowship and Foreign Membership, which has included Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Ernest Rutherford, Albert Einstein, Dorothy Hodgkin, Francis Crick, James Watson and Stephen Hawking. The Society is independent of government, as it has been throughout its existence, by virtue of its Royal Charters. In 1663, The Royal Society of London for the Improvement of Natural Knowledge was granted its Arms and adopted the motto "Nullius in verba", an expression of its enduring commitment to empirical evidence as the basis of knowledge about the natural world.

### **Fellowship and Foreign Membership of the Royal Society**

The Fellowship of the Royal Society is composed of 1289 of the most distinguished scientists from the United Kingdom, other Commonwealth countries and the Republic of Ireland.

In 2006, 44 new Fellows were elected through a peer review process that culminated in a vote by existing Fellows. The main criterion for election as a Fellow is scientific excellence. There are currently 21 Nobel prize winners among the Fellows and many other holders of other equally prestigious awards.

In addition, the Royal Society has 130 Foreign Members who are eminent for their scientific discoveries and attainments. Foreign members are also elected for life and designate themselves through the use of the letters ForMemRS after their names. There are currently 49 Nobel prize winners among the Foreign Members (including one Peace prize winner).

More information can be found at [www.royalsoc.ac.uk](http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk)

### **The Australian Academy of Science**

Australian Fellows of the Royal Society of London founded the Academy in 1954 with the distinguished physicist Sir Mark Oliphant as founding president. It was granted a Royal Charter, establishing the Academy as an independent body but with government endorsement. The academy's constitution was modelled on that of the Royal Society of London. It receives government grants towards its activities but has no statutory obligation to government.

### **Fellowship**

The Fellowship of the Academy is made up of about 380 of Australia's top scientists, distinguished in the physical and biological sciences and their applications. Each year sixteen scientists, judged by their peers to have made an exceptional contribution to knowledge in their field, are elected to Fellowship of the Academy. Election is subject to a searching appraisal of the candidate's published works, including reference to leading scientific researchers around the world. Universities, CSIRO, government and private research organisations employ Fellows. They contribute to the Academy in an honorary capacity by serving on council committees and as advisers. No more than two Fellows may be elected every three years on the basis of distinguished contributions to science by means other than personal research. A small number of distinguished foreign scientists with substantial connections to Australian science are elected as corresponding members.

More information can be found at [www.science.org.au](http://www.science.org.au)