

This is a reminder that, back in June, the College revised the rules about the overall deadlines by which time you need to have:

- a) completed the various stages of training,
- b) completed the main assessments.

There's a pdf summarising it here: <https://www.ranzcp.org/Files/PreFellowship/2012-Fellowship-Program/Trainee-Progress-Trajectory-in-CBFP-v2-1.aspx>

(although they're loading up a prettier coloured version soon – the content is the same, though)

***The Guts of All This, and Some Tips To Understand It, Are As Follows:***

- College training still in theory takes 5 years (read FTE years wherever you see years, unless I say it's calendar years). But an extra "Targeted Learning" 6th year is OK and not hard to arrange (couple of forms, a meeting, a TL plan written with me.)
- We have to call it TL as apparently remediation's now a politically incorrect term, but that's what TL means.
- For every deadline, there's a 'soft deadline' after which TL is needed, and a 'hard deadline' after which you have to ask the Committee for Training (CFT) for a case-by-case decision (ask them for more time, or more attempts). This final process is called Showing Cause (SC).
- There's a time deadline to complete each stage's EPAs. For ST1 it's 12 months. For ST2 it's 3 years from the start of ST2. And if you take a few breaks in training &/or work a lot part-time, the overall max. time allowed to get fellowship is 13 calendar years. If you've taken a while due to parental breaks-in-training and part-time, rest assured that that's an excellent mitigating reason if it gets to the Show Cause point, as the last thing the college wants is to be accused of indirect discrimination.
- Regarding time completed, the college only knows how much you've done when they enter your latest Final ITA in their database. If a deadline's due, they won't send you scary letters until after they get that Final ITA. You can't delay that too long though, as after 60 days they send you a warning letter, and after 90 days you automatically fail that run. But talk to me about it as we might sometimes need to be a little tactical about exactly when you send in an ITA.
- Official emails/letters from the college about the TL and SC deadlines will be written in scarily formal language. They have to be as there's bound to be litigation about this stuff eventually if a trainee objects to the process. Also, let's face it, casual, user-friendly language isn't a strength of college communications. Don't freak out. Contact me and we'll figure out what to do. Anyway it shouldn't be a surprise – we ought to be expecting and pre-planning for TL and SC, if you're affected. Note that not getting a formal letter/email isn't an excuse to avoid TL or an SC process. You're supposed to keep a viable email address current with the college, and they c.c. that stuff to me.
- The other deadline that applies to all summative college assessments is the "3 goes then SC" rule. So if you miss anything 3 times, you have to do an SC process to have any more cracks at it. This applies to: Final ITAs (failing 3 non-consecutive runs triggers SC), MCQ exam, Essay exam, OSCE, Scholarly Project (SP), Psychotherapy Written Case (PWC).

- The past system of needing formal remediation after missing a major assessment twice has been incorporated into this new process. So after two fails with the MCQ, Essay exam or OSCE, you need to do a TL process, before the college will let you sit again. The TL process is a form, a meeting with me and your Training Facilitator, supervisor etc. which produces a written remediation/TL plan, and another form confirming satisfactory progress with TL which you need to re-enrol, or a form about TL being complete, to submit with your revised PWC or SP. TL is also required after any failed Final ITA.
- The MCQ is seen as a more basic assessment to be done first. You get 36 months of training time to pass it – to the end of 3rd year. Then TL kicks in for another year so the SC deadline is at 48 months. The other "big 4" assessments are the Essay exam, OSCE, SP and PWC. For all of them, the deadlines are the same. You get 5 years before TL kicks in, then a final 6th year before SC is needed.
- Note that the TL and SC deadlines are based on **passing** each assessment, not just submitting or sitting it. You need to get the results by the deadline. Or at least by when the college officially notices the deadline's been exceeded after submission of a Final ITA.
- Oh, and there's a deadline for finishing a Certificate Program as well: six calendar years from when you start it. That applies to everyone, whether registrar or SMO, from 1st Jan 2017, no matter how much prior Certificate time you've done.
- Finally, a reminder that for local Transitioned trainees, all deadlines and the counting up of 3 attempts at an exam started from Transition on 14th December 2015. Except for the 6 year Certificate deadline, which doesn't start until 1st Jan 2017.
- Having to do a Show Cause process isn't the end of the world. The CFT wants to hear your side of it, to understand what's delayed you. They're focused on supportive case-by-case decisions and remediation, not punishment. But the college as a whole decided that training shouldn't be allowed to drag on indefinitely despite lack of progress, so now we have the deadlines, and the Targeted Learning and Show Cause system.

Email me any time if you have questions about how this might apply to you.

Cheers, Felicity

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