

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

PMCV 2026-2027 Match Rules

Rheumatology New and Continuing
Advanced Trainees Match



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Introduction

Rheumatology Advanced Training in Victoria is a highly regarded and competitive program coordinated across multiple major health services in both Victoria and Tasmania. Training is undertaken through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and provides comprehensive exposure to a broad range of rheumatological conditions, clinical settings, and multidisciplinary care models.

The Victorian and Tasmanian training network offers trainees the opportunity to rotate through a diverse range of metropolitan hospitals, ensuring the development of strong clinical, academic, and research skills. Selection on to the rheumatology advanced training program is via the 9 heads of unit and a representative from the Australian Rheumatology Association through CV and referee ranking and then a standardised interview. Once selected for the program, the hospital allocation is completed via the centralised matching process, administered by the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria. The entire process is designed to ensure a fair, transparent, and merit-based allocation of training positions.

General Rules

There is a central appointment process for Rheumatology Trainees in Victoria and Tasmania.

In 2026, for 2027 positions, the Victorian and Tasmanian head of unit committee will review CVs and referee reports, and short list candidates for an interview. After the interview process the successful candidates and the existing trainees in the rheumatology advanced training program will preference the hospitals available in Victoria and Tasmania for training and the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria will conduct the Rheumatology Advanced Training Match for Victorian positions on behalf of the Coordinator of Rheumatology VIC/TAS Advanced Training and rheumatology head of unit group.

Applications for Victoria/Tasmania positions are lodged via the PMCV website and close at **5:00 PM Thursday 30th July 2026**.

Applicants wishing to be considered for positions outside Victoria or Tasmania must submit separate applications to the relevant State or Territory.

All new applicants appointed to positions in Victoria/Tasmania through the Central Appointments Process will be accepted as Rheumatology Advanced Trainees for two core years, subject to satisfactory progress reports.

Contact

To ensure a fair and transparent selection process, applicants must not contact or meet with members of the selection committee (Heads of Rheumatology Departments or their delegates) prior to the interview. Do not email committee members directly or forward CVs to them.

Enquiries regarding the application process should be directed to PMCV or the Advanced Training Coordinator. Applicants are encouraged to read this document carefully before making enquiries.

The Rheumatology Advanced Trainee Coordinator for 2026 is Dr Andrew Foote, who can be contacted at andrew.foote@nh.org.au. The PMCV Allocation & Placement Service can be contacted at allocations@pmcv.com.au.

How to apply

Applications for all Rheumatology Advanced Training positions must be submitted via the PMCV computer matching website. Direct applications to individual hospitals are not required.

Positions are advertised on the Royal Australasian College of Physicians website and the PMCV Allocation and Placement Service.

Applications open at **9:00 AM Monday 6th July 2026** and close at **5:00 PM Thursday 30th July 2026**.

Referee reports must also be received by the closing time. Early application and nomination of referees is strongly advised. Applicants should monitor submission of referee reports and send reminders if required. Members of the selection committee cannot act as referees.

In 2027, approximately **3 advanced training positions** are expected to be available for first-year applicants (subject to change). Applications will be independently reviewed and ranked by Heads of Unit across participating institutions. The top-ranked applicants will be invited for interview, from which final selections will be made.

Following selection, all trainees (first and second year) must submit hospital preferences by **5:00 PM Friday 21st August 2026**. No additional preferences can be added after this deadline.

All candidates must be willing to accept a placement in Tasmania if matched to this training site.

1. Rheumatology Advanced Training Institutions

All participating Health Services must utilise the PMCV match process and cannot appoint trainees outside this system. Each service has a predetermined number of positions and is responsible for delivering training aligned with current RACP curriculum requirements.

Approximately three first-year positions are anticipated for 2027 (subject to change). The RACP requires completion of core adult rheumatology training across at least two different sites.

Participating institutions include:

- Alfred Health
- Austin Health
- Eastern Health
- Monash Health
- Northern Health
- Royal Hobart Hospital
- Royal Melbourne Hospital
- St Vincent's Hospital
- Western Health

In Victoria, trainees are typically employed directly by individual institutions rather than a central health department.

Applicants must rank all available positions. Participation in the program requires agreement to be matched to any listed site, including Tasmania. Candidates matched to Tasmania must relocate for the training year.

If a matched applicant declines their allocated position, they will be removed from the match and the position will be offered to the next eligible candidate.

The selection process is competitive and merit-based. Both candidates and Health Services submit ranked preferences, which are used in the matching algorithm.

Disclosure of preferences or rankings between candidates and Health Services is strictly prohibited.

2. Candidates Eligibility

Applicants must meet eligibility requirements set by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

RACP Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be registered with the RACP
- Have successfully completed all Basic Physician Training examination requirements (unless otherwise specified)

Residential Status

While the RACP does not impose residency requirements, employing Health Services may. Overseas-trained applicants must:

- Be residing in Australia
- Hold a valid working visa

Australian and New Zealand citizens and permanent residents will be prioritised over applicants on temporary visas.

Applicants meeting eligibility criteria may enter the match.

3. Match Process 2026

All participating Health Services are required to use the centralised match. The selection committee includes Heads of Rheumatology Departments (or delegates) and a representative from the Australian Rheumatology Association.

Selection Criteria

Applicants must demonstrate:

1. Academic achievement and interest in rheumatology
2. Clinical competence and diagnostic reasoning
3. Strong interpersonal and teamwork skills
4. Clear communication skills (written and verbal)
5. Engagement in teaching and research
6. Understanding of patient-centred care and quality improvement

Shortlisting is based on:

- CV assessment
- Referee reports

Ranking of Applicants

Applicants are independently ranked by selection committee members, generating an aggregate score used to determine interview shortlists.

Application and Curriculum Vitae

CVs are assessed across:

- Educational achievements
 - Rheumatology experience
 - Publications and presentations
 - Quality improvement activities
 - Teaching experience
 - Extracurricular achievements
 - Clarity and presentation
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Referee Reports

Structured reports assess:

- Clinical ability
- Professional behaviour
- Communication skills
- Teaching
- Leadership

At least one referee must be a current supervisor, and two must be from within the past two years.

Interview

Interviews will be held via Microsoft Teams on **Thursday 13th August 2026 (13:30 PM – 5:00 PM)**.

Shortlisted candidates will participate in a 15–20 minute semi-structured interview with the selection panel.

Final rankings are determined based on CV, referee reports, and interview performance.

Candidate Preference List (CPL)

- Add preferences by **5:00pm Thursday 30th July 2026**
- Reorder preferences until **5:00am Friday 21st August**

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

4. Match Results

Successful applicants will be contacted by Dr Andrew Foote after match validation.

Results will be available via the PMCV system from **10:00 AM Thursday 3rd September 2026**.

Only one offer will be made per candidate. Declining an offer results in removal from the match.

Formal employment offers are issued by the relevant Health Service.

Unsuccessful applicants may be contacted for future vacancies if deemed appointable.

Feedback may be requested from Dr Sabina Ciciriello.

5. Unmatched Candidates

There will be no unmatched applicants. If a candidate declines a position it will be offered to the next applicant on the list.

Some positions arising during the year (e.g. due to leave or resignation) may be filled outside the match process.

6. Application of Match Rules

These rules apply only to the **2026 Rheumatology Match**.

7. Privacy and Confidentiality

All application materials (CVs, referee reports, and supervisor reports) are treated as confidential.

By applying, candidates consent to their information being shared with:

- Nominated Health Services
- Selection committee members

This information is used solely for the Central Appointments Process.

SUMMARY OF TIMELINE

Below is a summary of the selection timeline for adult rheumatology:

6th July 2026 (Monday) at 9am

PMCV Application opening date for candidates

30th July 2026 (Thursday) at 5pm

PMCV Application closing date for candidates

3rd August 2026 (Monday) at 10am

PMCV to provide list of approved trainees in match to Specialty Group Coordinator

10th August 2026 (Monday)

Candidates notified if made it to interview

13th August 2026 (Thursday) - Online

Rheumatology Virtual interview 13:30pm – 5pm

14th August 2026 (Friday)

Successful candidates notified by phone by Dr Andrew Foote

Unsuccessful candidates notified by e-mail

21st August 2026 (Friday 9am)

Closing date / match closes for candidates

21st August 2026 (Friday 5pm) – 28th August 2026 (Friday 5pm)

Health Service Ranking

31st August/1st September

PMCV Match occurs

2nd September 2026 (Wednesday)

PMCV to provide match results to specialty group co-ordinators