



Frequently Asked Questions – ACI Internship Pathway

About the ACI Pathway

The ACAud Clinical Internship (ACI) Pathway has been developed to support both domestic and overseas-qualified applicants progressing toward independent clinical practice within Australia's hearing care workforce.

The pathway combines structured supervision, staged competency development, professional support, and clinical assessment to ensure Interns are appropriately prepared for contemporary hearing healthcare practice.

Depending on an applicant's qualifications, experience, and pathway eligibility, Interns may complete the pathway under either audiologist or audiometrist status while working toward their Certificate of Clinical Practice.

Applicants should refer to the pathway flowcharts and supporting documentation for detailed visual guidance regarding each available pathway option.

The new pathway is similar to others in the industry. Why would a candidate choose to complete their internship with ACAud inc. HAASA (ACAud)?

While the structure of the ACI pathway aligns with broader industry standards, many candidates choose to complete their internship with ACAud because of the distinctive support, accessibility, and professional engagement offered throughout the internship journey.

Our member services are widely recognised for being responsive, knowledgeable, and supportive. Interns benefit from timely communication, practical guidance, and access to an experienced support team throughout the internship process.

ACAud's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program provides flexible, high-quality learning opportunities across webinars, endorsed events, self-directed learning, and professional education activities. This enables Interns to continue building clinical knowledge while meeting ongoing professional development requirements.

As a combined professional body representing both audiologists and audiometrists, ACAud provides a uniquely inclusive perspective of the hearing care workforce. This model encourages greater cross-disciplinary understanding and reflects the collaborative nature of contemporary hearing healthcare delivery across Australia.

In addition, ACAud's biennial Congress is recognised for its strong educational program, practical content, and supportive professional community, providing valuable opportunities for clinical networking, learning, and professional connection.

Together, these elements help ensure candidates not only meet pathway requirements, but also feel professionally supported, connected, and engaged throughout their internship experience.

What qualifies as '5 years of experience' for the Accelerated Internship pathway?

Experience will be assessed holistically and may include consideration of:

- clinical practice hours
- scope of practice
- recency of experience
- workplace setting
- supervision history
- evidence of continuing professional development

Each applicant's qualifications and professional experience will be reviewed individually in accordance with ACAud's policies.

Can certification occur prior to completion of the full internship term?

Yes. While the internship pathways ordinarily operate over a 12-month period, ACAud recognises that some applicants across both domestic and overseas-qualified pathways may demonstrate the required competencies, Fitness to Practice standards, and professional readiness earlier than anticipated.

Early certification may be considered on a case-by-case basis following review by ACAud. Consideration may include:

- approved supervisor support regarding the applicant's readiness for certification
- demonstrated competency against the relevant scope of practice
- satisfactory completion of required education and webinar components
- submission and review of required portfolio documentation
- overall professional conduct, clinical capability and Fitness to Practice requirements

Early certification considerations may apply across Audiometrist, Hearing Rehabilitation Audiologist (HR Audiologist), and Audiologist internship pathways where the relevant competency and certification requirements have been met.

Final certification decisions remain at the discretion of ACAud in accordance with ACAud policies and certification requirements.

Is a Master of Audiology (or similar qualification) still considered the minimum qualification for an audiologist?

A Master of Audiology (or equivalent qualification recognised by ACAud) remains the standard qualification pathway for full Audiologist recognition within ACAud.

ACAud also recognises that the hearing workforce includes practitioners with alternative qualifications, extensive rehabilitation experience, overseas qualifications, and defined-scope clinical roles.

In response, ACAud has developed additional professional certification and workforce progression pathways, including the Hearing Rehabilitation Audiologist (HR Audiologist) category, which may be assessed in accordance with ACAud policies and competency requirements.

Are overseas-qualified Interns still required to submit an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) result on application?

Yes, unless the applicant obtained their qualification in:

- New Zealand
- Canada
- Ireland
- South Africa
- the United Kingdom
- the United States of America

Applicants must provide an Academic IELTS result obtained within the previous two years with:

- an overall score of at least 7.0
- no individual band score below 6.5

An Academic Pearson Test of English (PTE) result obtained within the previous two years is also accepted, provided it meets one of the following conditions:

- Tests taken before 7 August 2025: A minimum score of 65 in each communicative skill (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking); or
- Tests taken from 7 August 2025 onward: Achievement of the Proficient English standard, with minimum scores of Listening 58, Reading 59, Writing 69, and Speaking 76.

What are the new examinations for the ACI pathway?

The Clinical Application Performance Exam (CAPE) is a simulation-based practical assessment designed to evaluate clinical judgement, practical application, patient-centred care, and decision-making within simulated clinical scenarios.

The Knowledge Interview Test (KIT) is a structured professional reasoning assessment focused on interpretation, rehabilitation planning, communication of clinical rationale, and case-based discussion.

How often does the DRS exam run?

The Diagnostic Rehabilitation Specialist (DRS) examination is currently offered twice per year:

- April
- October

When do overseas-qualified audiologists need to complete the DRS?

After meeting membership eligibility requirements, overseas-qualified audiologists may complete the internship pathway through one of two available options. Applicants should also refer to the pathway flowcharts for visual guidance.

Option 1

Applicants may choose to complete and pass both the CAPE and KIT examinations prior to commencing the internship pathway. Alternatively, applicants may undertake the CAPE and KIT examinations **after commencing their internship** in Australia, in alignment with the domestic internship pathway requirements.

Applicants who successfully complete the CAPE and KIT examinations may be eligible for certification under Hearing Rehabilitation Audiologist (HR Audiologist) status during the internship pathway.

Eligibility is subject to the applicant being signed off by their approved supervisor as meeting the Fitness to Practice and competency requirements at the HR Audiologist level. Applicants must also have satisfactorily completed the required internship education components, including all mandatory webinars and submission of the required portfolio assessments.

Certification prior to completion of the full internship term may be considered by ACAud, following review of the applicant's progression and supporting documentation, where the approved supervisor supports that the applicant has demonstrated readiness for certification and ACAud is satisfied that all applicable pathway, competency, Fitness to Practice, education, portfolio and assessment requirements have been met.

During the internship, the Intern **may then sit the DRS** examination, which is currently offered twice annually.

- If the Intern successfully completes the DRS examination and all internship requirements, they will be eligible for the Certificate of Clinical Practice under audiologist status.
- If the DRS is not successfully completed, the Intern may still remain eligible for a Certificate of Clinical Practice under HR Audiologist status, subject to successful completion of all internship requirements, including the full 12-month internship program.
- Audiologist status may be obtained at a later date upon successful completion of the DRS.

Option 2

Overseas-qualified audiologists may elect to enter the internship pathway as a Provisional Audiologist **without first undertaking the CAPE and KIT** examinations.

Under this pathway, applicants proceed directly to the DRS examination while completing the internship requirements.

- The Intern must successfully complete the DRS examination and satisfy the internship requirements to be eligible for a Certificate of Clinical Practice under Audiologist status.
- If the Intern successfully completes the DRS examination and all internship requirements, they will be eligible for the Certificate of Clinical Practice under audiologist status.
- Early certification may be considered by ACAud where the approved supervisor supports that the Intern has demonstrated the required Fitness to Practice and competency standards, the Intern has satisfactorily completed the required education and portfolio components, and all applicable examination requirements for Audiologist certification have been met.
- Applicants who do not successfully complete the DRS examination may continue within the internship pathway and undertake further DRS attempts in accordance with ACAud policies.

This information is provided as a general overview only and does not constitute migration, employment, or legal advice. Individuals remain responsible for ensuring compliance with all relevant visa, employment, registration, and insurance obligations.

What are the fees for the CAPE, KIT, and DRS?

ACAud reviews examination and pathway fees periodically as part of ongoing program development and implementation.

Current fees applicable to the CAPE, KIT, DRS, Hearing Rehabilitation Specialist (HRS) examinations, and associated internship and certification pathways are available on the ACAud website or by contacting the ACAud Secretariat directly.

Do overseas-qualified candidates require an offer of employment before sitting the examinations?

Candidates do not require an offer of employment to sit the CAPE, KIT, or DRS examinations.

However, candidates must have appropriate employment and supervision arrangements in place to commence and complete the internship pathway.

Internship supervision cannot commence until employment and supervision arrangements have been approved.

If an Intern's employment status changes at any time during the internship, ACAud must be notified.

What is required to obtain a Certificate of Clinical Practice under audiologist status?

To obtain a Certificate of Clinical Practice under audiologist status, an Intern must:

- successfully complete all examinations applicable to their pathway, including the DRS examination
- demonstrate the required Fitness to Practice and competency standards for Audiologist recognition
- satisfactorily complete the required internship education and portfolio components
- satisfy the internship requirements applicable to their pathway

The internship pathway ordinarily operates over a 12-month period. However, ACAud may consider early certification on a case-by-case basis where the approved supervisor supports that the Intern has demonstrated readiness for certification and ACAud is satisfied that all relevant competency, Fitness to Practice and pathway requirements have been met.

Applicants who have not successfully completed the DRS examination may still be eligible for certification under Hearing Rehabilitation Audiologist (HR Audiologist) status or Audiometrist status, depending on the pathway undertaken and competency requirements achieved. Audiologist status may subsequently be obtained upon successful completion of the DRS examination and any additional ACAud requirements applicable at the time.

When can the CAPE and KIT be booked?

Once membership eligibility requirements have been met, candidates may proceed with booking the ACI examinations and payment of the applicable membership and examination fees.

Interns commencing the internship pathway without prior completion of the CAPE and KIT must book these examinations within the first four weeks of commencing their internship.

Interns will also receive access to an online preparation platform containing practice case studies and familiarisation material to assist with preparation for the CAPE examination and platform navigation.

Applicants are expected to complete the KIT examination within 10 business days of sitting the CAPE examination, unless an alternative timeframe has been approved by ACAud

Is there an examiner present during the online audiometry simulation examination?

Yes. An examiner will be present throughout the examination process.

How long is the online CAPE?

The CAPE examination is approximately one hour in duration.

Will there be flexibility with Case Study Interview times?

Examinations and Case Study Interviews are ordinarily conducted during ACAud business hours, Monday to Friday, Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST).

Applicants undertaking examinations from overseas are ordinarily required to attend within Australian business hours and College operating times. Alternative arrangements may be considered by ACAud where significant time zone differences apply.

What are the supervision requirements?

Both Domestic and Overseas Interns follow the ACI pathway supervision framework.

Stage 1 (Weeks 1–4)

Interns undertake 'Elbow Supervision', meaning direct and immediately available supervision within the clinical environment.

Stages 2–4 (Weeks 5–52)

Interns transition to 'General Supervision', where the supervisor must remain reasonably available via:

- phone
- video or conference call
- in-person support where required

Further details are outlined within the Intern Handbook.

Are there any additional requirements besides the CAPE and KIT?

Yes.

Following successful completion of the CAPE and KIT, Interns must continue to meet specific requirements throughout each stage of the internship pathway. At the completion of each stage, documentation must be completed and submitted before progression to the next stage. This may include:

- Daily Logbooks
- Supervisor Reports
- Portfolio Activities
- Clinical Competency Journals
- webinar attendance evidence
- additional supporting documentation where required

Full details regarding pathway progression requirements are outlined within the Intern Handbook.