GENERAL SURGERY TRAINING PATHWAY

ENTRY & SELECTION

Generic Requirements
To be eligible to apply applicants must:
 Be a permanent resident or citizen of Australia or New Zealand
 Hold current general (unconditional) medical registration
 Have satisfactorily completed at least PGY2
 Complete the RACS Hand Hygiene Learning Module from Hand Hygiene Australia and
 Complete the RACS Let’s Operate with Respect Module

Meet the minimum eligibility criteria
a. Clinical Rotations: General Surgery and Critical Care
b. Procedural Skills and Professional Capabilities
c. RACS Surgical Science Generic Examination

Selection into Surgical Education & Training (SET) is a competitive process that occurs annually in stages:
Stage 1 Registration Jan/Feb
Stage 2 Application Feb/Mar
Stage 3 Referees Reports Collected Apr/May
Stage 4 Semi-Structured Interviews Jun/Jul
Stage 5 Announcement of Offers Jul-Nov

Registration
• ALL applicants must meet the minimum generic eligibility requirements (above) and pay the registration fee at the time of registration.

Application & Selection
• General Surgeons Australia (GSA) manages the SET program for General Surgery as it relates to training in Australia. Both the SET and GSA applications are online and no extensions are granted

Complete PGY2+ and satisfy all generic eligibility criteria

REGISTRATION

Registration
for selection into the SET training program for General Surgery - online

Confirmed
as satisfying generic eligibility requirements

GSA prerequisites are met and documentation is adequate/complete

APPLICATION

Application
for selection with General Surgery Australia (GSA) - online

INTERVIEW

Interview (successful)

OFFER

Offer
and allocation to accredited training post

The GSA Selection Process is based on a ranking system comprising 3 components:
1. Structured Curriculum Vitae (25%)
2. Structured Referee Reports (35%)
3. Semi-Structured General Surgery Panel Interview (40%)

Candidates who demonstrate a commitment to working in the rural sector will be awarded points on their CV. 1pt for Six mths or 3pts for twelve mths continuous work in a Surgical Position at PGY 3+ in a Board specified rural hospital.

Candidates are required to indicate their regional preferences (up to 4) for traineeship placement: NSW/ACT, QLD, SA, VIC/TAS, WA

Successful candidates are offered positions based on their national ranking and regional placement preferences.

FEES

Selection Registration Fee (Stage 1) $570
Selection Processing Fee (Stage 2) $880
SET Training Fee $3,545
Speciality SET Fee (GSA) $3,670
Generic Surgical Sciences Exam $4,010

For a full list of fees go to https://www.surgeons.org and search fees

A Guide to Essential Surgical Skills recommends the surgical skills to achieve by the end of PGY2 that will assist in applying for admission to the College.

ASSESSMENT

Work based assessments: Mid Term & End of Term Reports, Direct Observation, Mini Clinical Examination (Mini CEX) reports & logbooks.

SEAM modules.

Research Requirement - must be completed prior to sitting the Fellowship Examination

Fellowship Examination (written and Clinical/viva component)

Board specified ‘rural hospitals’ in North West Victoria

SET Training in NW Vic

• Bendigo Health - is accredited for SET 2+ general surgical training and have registrars on rotation from Eastern and Western Health. Bendigo Health also has accredited Urology and Orthopedic Surgery training positions as well as unaccredited pre SET positions.

Some flexible training options available subject to negotiation and training regulations. Trainees may also apply for variations to their registration status to undertake periods of deferment, interruption or part time training.

TRAINING PROGRAM

General Surgery SET program is structured over a 4 year curriculum:
 8 x 6 month accredited surgical rotations
 Assessment (see right)
 8 x online Surgical Education and Assessment Modules (SEAM)
 Examinations
 Short skills courses (see below)
 Educational Sessions (at least one Trainee Day per year)

All surgical trainees must complete the following short skills courses:
 ASSET: Australian and New Zealand Surgical Skills Education and Training
 CCrISP+: Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient
 EMST: Early Management of Severe Trauma
 CLEAR: Critical Literature Evaluation and Research (mandatory for General Surgery but not all surgical specialties)
 TIPS: Training in Professional Skills (not mandatory for General Surgery)

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Trainees’ Association (RACSTA) represents Trainees’ interests There is also a Younger Fellows Mentoring Program. The Rural Surgery Section membership is free and open to Fellows of RACS, surgical trainees, rural junior doctors and medical students with an interest in rural practice.

CPD

Trainees are eligible to apply for Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS) following successful completion of the RACS SET Program in General Surgery.

CPD

RACS CPD is an annual program
1 January to 31 December

Fellowship Exam

Consultant/Staff Specialist
FRACS

Surgical Registrar
(RACS Trainee)

Minimum 4 years

SET Training
48 months

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