

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**
 - Clinical Rotations: General Surgery and Critical Care
 - Procedural Skills and Professional Capabilities
 - 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 Referee 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

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

for selection with General Surgery Australia (GSA) - online

Interview

(successful)

Offer

and allocation to accredited training post

Surgical Registrar
(RACS Trainee)

Minimum 4 years

SET Training
48 months

Fellowship Exam

Consultant/Staff Specialist
FRACS

CPD

RACS CPD is an annual program

1 January to 31 December

The **GSA Selection Process** is based on a ranking system comprising 3 components:

- Structured Curriculum Vitae (25%)
- Structured Referee Reports (35%)
- 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 months or 3pts for twelve months 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
Specialty 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

*the **JDocs** framework jdocs.surgeons.org and the [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)

SET Training in Western Victoria

There is accredited SET 2+ general surgical training posts rotating through the following hospitals:

- Barwon Health**
- Ballarat Health Service**
- Colac Area Health**
- South West Healthcare**
- Western District Health (Hamilton)**

Each rotation is 6 months in duration. There are unaccredited pre SET positions available.

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.