

## POLICY

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Fellowship Engagement</b>	<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>POL-3135</b>
<b>Department</b>	<b>Professional Standards</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Enrolment in the RACS CPD Program</b>		

### 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy outlines the eligibility requirements and process for enrolling into the RACS Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the [Specialist Assessment of Specialist International Medical Graduates in Australia policy](#)

### 2. KEY WORDS

CPD Program, enrolment, Fellow, SIMG, PGY3+, vocational registration

### 3. BODY OF POLICY

#### 3.1. Aims of the RACS CPD Program

The RACS CPD Program has been developed to closely align with the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) CPD registration standard and recertification requirements set by the Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa - Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ).

The aims of the RACS CPD Program are to:

- Advance the individual surgeon's knowledge, skills, competence, and behavioural awareness for the benefit of patients
- Encourage a culture of life-long learning that promotes collaboration, peer review and reflective practice
- Ensure compliance with regulatory authority standards

#### 3.2. Eligibility to enrol in the RACS CPD Program

RACS provides a CPD Program for the following medical practitioner:

- Fellows of RACS (Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand)
- Specialist International Medical Graduates on a pathway to Fellowship of RACS (Australia)
- Medical practitioners who hold vocational registration in Aotearoa New Zealand in scope/s of practice of surgery
- Non-specialist PGY3+ medical practitioners who practice in a surgically affiliated scope (i.e., surgical assistants, those aspiring to become surgical trainees)

To enrol in the program, the medical practitioner must hold active registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) or the MCNZ.

Australian medical practitioners who hold specialist registration other than 'surgery' are ineligible to enrol in the CPD Program due to RACS limitations around oversight of non-surgery high-level specialist requirements.

All participants enrolled in the RACS CPD Program have access to the RACS online CPD portal and App and receive the same level of service to support successful compliance with the program requirements.

Medical practitioners who are required to participate in the RACS CPD Program at the direction of a regulatory authority are encouraged to contact RACS before enrolling to ensure appropriate advice and support is provided.

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**3.3. Enrolment Process**

The process to enrol into the RACS CPD Program is determined in accordance with a participant's status with the College:

**3.1 Fellows of RACS**

Fellows of RACS are automatically enrolled in the RACS CPD Program.

**3.2 SIMGs on a pathway to Fellowship with RACS**

SIMG's on a pathway to Fellowship with RACS are automatically enrolled in the RACS CPD Program at the commencement of their supervision period.

SIMG's who complete their supervision period but do not achieve admission to Fellowship before the next CPD period is due to commence can enrol into the program by paying the SIMG Administration Fee.

**3.3 Medical practitioners who hold vocational registration in Aotearoa New Zealand in scope/s of practice of surgery**

Medical practitioners with vocational registration in Aotearoa New Zealand can enrol via the RACS website - [CPD Program Enrolment](#) – and clicking on the subscription link. A valid medical registration ID is required, and payment must be made at the time of enrolment.

**3.4 Non-specialist PGY3+ medical practitioners who practice in a surgically affiliated scope (i.e., surgical assistants)**

Non-specialist PGY3+ medical practitioners can enrol via the RACS website – [CPD Program Enrolment PGY3+](#) - and clicking on the subscription link. A valid medical registration ID is required, and payment must be made at the time of enrolment.

Subscription to the RACS CPD Program is available via [surgeons.org](http://surgeons.org).

All newly enrolled participants receive a welcome pack with information about the program, how to access the online portal and app, and who to contact for support.

A list of fees can be found on the RACS Website – [College Fees](#)

**3.4. Cancellation of Enrolment**

Enrolment in the RACS CPD Program for RACS Fellows and SIMG's on a pathway to Fellowship with RACS is via an annual subscription fee or SIMG Clinical assessment fee. These are governed by specific policy relating to subscription payments and SIMG Clinical assessment fees/administration fees.

RACS provides a 7-day cancellation without penalty period for medical practitioners who hold vocational registration in Aotearoa New Zealand of PGY3+ medical practitioners. Participants who elect to cancel their subscription within this period must notify RACS in writing at [cpd.college@surgeons.org](mailto:cpd.college@surgeons.org)

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In the event that a participant wishes to withdraw from the RACS CPD Program after the 7-day period, the following refund criteria apply:

- Before 31 January – 95% refund
- Before 28 February – 50% refund
- On or after 1 March – no refund

### 3.5. Participation in Other Programs

RACS Fellows can elect to participate in another recognised CPD Program. RACS currently recognises the following CPD programs:

- Australian Orthopaedic Association
- New Zealand Orthopaedic Association
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists

Fellows participating in these programs must notify RACS of their participation in an alternative program in writing or by logging into the CPD Online portal and selecting 'Participant in an Other Program'.

Non-FRACS participants are not eligible to elect to participate in an alternative program.

## 4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Continuing Professional Development Program (Regulation)

Continuing Professional Development Program – Exemptions (Policy)

Privacy Policy

Specialist Assessment of Specialist International Medical Graduates in Australia

**Approver:** Professional Standards and Fellowship Services Committee  
**Authoriser:** Council