

Portfolio:	Fellowship Engagement	Ref. No.	POL-3140
Department:	International Scholarships		
Title:	Simon Siu International Travel Grant		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the awarding of the Simon Siu International Travel Grant. It covers the objectives of the grant, the application and selection criteria, as well as the duration, value, frequency, and conditions of the Grant.

2. KEYWORDS

Simon Siu, Grant, Annual Scientific Congress, ASC, Global Health, International Development

3. BODY OF POLICY

The Simon Siu International Travel Grant is provided to enable general surgeons from China to participate in the College's Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) and make hospital visits in the host city.

3.1. Goals and Objectives

The Simon Siu International Travel Grant is for Chinese nationals to participate in the College's ASC and occasionally other relevant conferences, where appropriate.

The objective of the Grant is to provide opportunities for Chinese general surgeons to broaden their professional networks and develop their leadership skills through presentation of their research papers, as well as attend workshops, talks and meetings with peers from around the world. The Grant aims to establish and nurture linkages, and increase interactions between Australian, New Zealand and Asia-Pacific health personnel, to promote regional collaboration at the levels of leadership, health structure, administration, surgical practice and research.

3.2. Eligibility

- The Travel Grant is open to practicing general surgeons from China. General surgeons practicing in all specialties are eligible to apply.
- The Travel Grant is open to all ages. The preference of a younger demographic and their ability to participate in the ASC will be determined by the selection committee.
- Applicants cannot be Fellows of RACS.
- The applicant will be selected for participation starting from the ASC 2024 event and will continue on an annual basis.

3.3. Application Criteria

Applications for the Travel Grant will be through an annual Expression of Interest (EoI) and must be submitted directly to RACS.

Applications must include an English cover letter and CV, to be authored by the applicant, to vet English comprehension. The successful recipient will be expected to present a paper and answer questions with English proficiency.

Nominations can be made by RACS Fellows on behalf of eligible surgeons from China. However, the nominee must submit their application separately.

3.4. Selection Criteria

- Only one surgeon will be selected annually.
- Applicants will be selected by the RACS Global Health Scholarships Panel (GHSP) with participation of Professor Yik Hong Ho using established selection criteria.

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- The selection panel assesses each application and thereafter the selection is forwarded to the appropriate governing bodies for approval.
- Favourable consideration will be given to the Chinese general surgeons who are contributing to the conference and who are involved in discussions focused on international relations and development (such as a speaker or panel member).
- Preference will be given to applicants whose specialty is represented in the ASC surgical program and to those who have been formally invited to participate in the ASC Global Health section.

3.5. Administering Committee

The RACS Global Health team administers the Travel Grant. The selection panel reports its recommendations through the GHSP to the International Engagement Committee, which approves the recommendations as appropriate.

3.6. Value of the Travel Grant

- The total cost of the Travel Grant will be up to and no more than AUD\$10,000 per person per visit.
- Successful applicant will receive a maximum lump sum of AUD\$4,000 to be used towards airfare after securing an Australian visa.
- The remainder (maximum AUD\$6,000) will go towards ASC registration, host city accommodation, per diem (including incidentals) and other associated expenses, such as taxis or public transport, but will not receive any additional allowance.

3.7. Funding Source

The Travel Grants will be funded from the Simon Siu International Travel Grant fund, under the Foundation for Surgery.

3.8. Duration of the Travel Grant

A Travel Grant subsists for the duration of the ASC or relevant conference in the year the grant was awarded.

3.9. Frequency of the Travel Grant

The Travel Grant will be awarded annually, providing there is a worthy applicant and appropriate funding from the Simon Siu International Travel Grant fund.

3.10. Reporting Requirements

The successful recipient will be required to provide a report on their experience to Professor Yik Hong Ho, Dr Simon Siu, Professor Christopher Pyke (if no conflict of interest is present), and the GHSP within two weeks of the conclusion of the Congress.

3.11. Code of Conduct

The successful grantees are recommended to review and sign the RACS Workforce Conduct and Child Safeguarding policies prior to arrival.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

RACS Code of Conduct, Workforce Conduct, Child Safeguarding policies

Approver: International Engagement Committee
Authoriser: Council

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