

Portfolio:	Fellowship Engagement	Ref. No.	POL-3165
Department:	Global Health		
Title:	Surgeons International Award		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the awarding of the Surgeons International Award. It covers the objectives and values of the award, the application criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the award.

2. KEYWORDS

Global Health Scholarships and Grants, International Scholarships and Grants, International Development, Global Health Program, Capacity Building

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background

Professor Richard Bennett and his wife Enid established the Surgeons International Award in 1989. The Award provides support for worthy individuals to undertake short- term visits to one or more Australasian institutions.

3.2. Goals and Objectives

The objective of the award is to provide support to doctors, nurses and other health professionals identified by teams participating in the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons' (RACS) Global Health Program (the Program), for the purpose of acquiring specific knowledge, skills and contacts needed for the promotion of improved health services in their own country.

3.3. Principles and Values

The College recognises that there is a shortage of trained and skilled local specialists in many developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. This shortage severely reduces the country's capacity to deliver surgical and medical care to their populations.

Recipients of the Award must demonstrate a sense of responsibility for the needs of their country. The intention is that the scholars will share their new technical skills, clinical knowledge and expertise with their colleagues upon return to their home countries, thereby increasing the local capacity to deliver improved surgical and medical care to the local communities.

3.4. Nomination Criteria

Candidates for the award must be nominated in writing by a RACS Fellow, or health professional participating in the RACS Global Health Program.

Nominations submitted by a non-Fellow or an individual who is not involved in the official RACS Global Health Program will only be considered if the nomination is endorsed by a Fellow who has worked with the nominator and/or the nominee in the developing country environment.

3.5. Application

3.5.1 Applications for the Scholarship will be through an annual Expression of Interest (EoI) and will apply only for training activities to be undertaken in the future. The Award cannot be granted retroactively.

3.5.2 Applications must include:

- personal and professional information concerning the nominee;
- objectives of the proposed visit;
- anticipated benefits to the nominee and their home country;
- names of the Global Health Program team members responsible for organising the visit (including accommodation, training program and travel)

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within Australia);

- an outline of the proposed training program and activities; and
- letters of recommendation from the nominee's hospital and/or health department with an indication of the local importance of any upskilling resulting from the award.

3.6. Selection

Applications will be reviewed by the Global Health Scholarships Panel. The selection panel assesses each application and makes a recommendation through the GHSP to the International Engagement Committee, which approves the recommendations as appropriate.

Assessment will be based upon the need for the training identified. The Award will be given on the basis of the need for the training identified, and endorsement of the applicant's head of department and the supervisor and host institution in Australasia.

3.7. Value of the Award

The value of the award may vary and may cover costs of an "economy" class return airfare, reasonable accommodation and living expenses. The value of the award varies up to a total amount of A\$12,000, depending on the requirements of the candidate's program.

3.8. Funding Source

The Awards are normally funded from the income of the Surgeons International Award corpus and will continue to be funded as the corpus allows.

3.9. Duration of the Award

The Award is usually of four to six weeks duration, but can be awarded for a shorter or longer period at the discretion of the Global Health Scholarships Panel.

3.10. Frequency of the Award

The Award is to be offered annually. Subject to the Surgeons International Awards corpus budget in any given year being sufficient, more than one award can be made in any one year.

3.11. Obligations of a Nominator

3.11.1 Individuals who nominate worthy candidates with whom they have had contact must be willing to accept the responsibility for arranging a suitable program and acting as a personal host to the award recipient.

3.11.2 The nominating individual is expected provide a report on the outcomes of the activity to the Global Health Scholarships Panel within four weeks of the completion of the activity.

3.12. Obligations of an Award recipient

Award recipients are expected to provide a comprehensive report on their training visit to the Global Health Scholarships Panel within four weeks of completing the activity.

3.13. Evaluation of the Award

The Award is monitored and outcome of the activity assessed by an Evaluation Committee.

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3.14. Code of Conduct

All Award recipients are required to sign all RACS workforce, conduct, and safeguarding policies, plus complete related RACS workforce, conduct, and safeguarding online modules, prior to arrival into Australia.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Global Health Scholarships Program Terms of Reference
 Global Health Scholarships Evaluation and Monitoring Committee Terms of Reference
 Global Health Scholarships Panel Terms of Reference
 Global Health Committee Terms of Reference Surgeons International
 Award Candidate Questionnaire Surgeons International Award Procedure
 Surgeons International Award Evaluation Form

Approver Global Health Programs Steering Group
Authoriser International Engagement Committee & Council