

Division:	Research, Audit and Academic Surgery	Ref. No.	REA-RES-044
Department:	Research and Scholarships		
Title:	Morgan-Opie Travelling Fellowship		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the awarding of the Morgan-Opie Travelling Fellowship. It covers the application and selection criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the Fellowship.

2. KEYWORDS

Fellowship, Morgan-Opie, Travelling

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background

The Morgan-Opie Travelling Fellowship was established following a bequest from the estate of the late Dr Richard Opie, a General Surgeon. The purpose of the Fellowship is to fund a Fellow of the College to travel overseas to gain clinical experience or to conduct research.

3.2. Eligibility Criteria

Applications for the Fellowship are open to Australian and New Zealand Fellows who have gained their Fellowship in the past five years. Applicants must not have commenced their travels prior to the closing date for applications.

All scholarships, fellowships and grants are conditional upon the applicant being a permanent resident or citizen of Australia or New Zealand, or an international medical graduate accepted into the College as a trainee.

3.3. Selection Criteria

Selection of travel grant recipients will be made based upon the abilities and experience of the candidate, the merit of the proposed travel plan and the potential benefits to the individual and/or other surgeons from the travel. This will be evaluated from the candidate's application and supporting references.

3.4. Value of Fellowship

Prospective applicants should refer to the College website www.surgeons.org for information on the current value of the Fellowship.

3.5. Duration of Fellowship

The Fellowship is of twelve (12) months duration.

3.6. Frequency of Fellowship

The Fellowship is to be awarded annually in 2016, 2017 and 2018, subject to income being sufficient and providing there is a worthy applicant.

3.7. Conditions of Fellowship

3.7.1. Travel/Research Program

The following conditions are based on information supplied at the point of application on which scholars' applications were assessed and approved. Scholars must undertake the travel/research program as approved by the College for the award. Any changes from those originally approved by the College will require the College's prior consent. To obtain this consent,

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scholars are required to complete an amendment form available from the College.

3.7.2. Financial Arrangements

- a) The scholar must refer to his/her financial or taxation advisor to ascertain the taxability of the stipend. General information about whether scholarships/fellowships are exempt from income tax is available on the College website. Please follow this link www.surgeons.org/scholarships.htm and then proceed to the FAQ section.
- b) Payment of the award will be made in one instalment, prior to 1 March in the given year.
- c) Award funds will only be paid on receipt of a valid tax invoice.

3.7.3. Additional Scholarships/Fellowships/Awards

Scholars may not hold two College awards simultaneously.

3.7.4. Reporting

The payment of the award is conditional upon receipt by the College of a report, in the requested format, on the research/clinical training undertaken. This report must be received within one month of completing the travel, or prior to 1 December in the given year, whichever is sooner. A copy of the report will be forwarded to Mr Morgan.

If this report is not received, the recipient will be ineligible for any further financial assistance from the College and may be required to reimburse the College for the award paid.

3.7.5. Timing of Fellowship

The commencement date for the awards must be after the closing date for applications in the year of application. The commencement date must be as stipulated in the application.

3.7.6. Renewal of the Fellowship

Awards are for 12 months duration. Scholars are eligible to re-apply in subsequent years through the normal application channels and observing the advertised application deadlines and formats in competition with all applications.

3.7.7. Acknowledgements

The fellowship is to be acknowledged in any relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising, publication or other material relating to the award. The RACS coat of arms must be included in all presentations relating to the award, including those made at the ASC.

3.7.8. Privacy

The College takes reasonable steps to protect the information it holds from misuse or loss and from unauthorized access, modification or disclosure. The scholar has the right to access his or her personal information and to have it corrected if inaccurate, incomplete or out of date.

3.7.9. Termination of a Fellowship

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The College may, at its discretion, for what is considered grave cause, suspend the tenure of an award for such time as is thought fit, or deprive a scholar of his/her Award. From the date of either of these decisions, the entitlement to stipend and other allowances shall cease.

3.7.10. Acceptance of Offer

Scholars must sign the Acceptance Form as acknowledgement of the above conditions and approved research and return it to the College prior to commencement of the award.

3.8. Access

This policy may be accessed by the general public, College and staff.

3.9. Communication

Fellowship recipients will be notified of the policy or any changes to the policy that impact them by email. Other stakeholders are encouraged to check the College website on a regular basis to keep up to date with policy changes.

3.10. Administering Committee

The Board of Surgical Research administers the fellowship.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Approver CEO
Authoriser Council