



ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)

To become an Orthopaedic Surgeon, you will need to apply for fellowship with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS). The responsibility of the administration of the Orthopaedic Surgery Surgical Education Training (SET) program of RACS has been delegated to the Australian Orthopaedic Association (AOA). AOA is responsible for the delivery of the AOA 21 Training Program in partnership with RACS. Fellowship is a minimum 5-year (full time) Surgical Education and Training pathway and consists of:

SET 1	Introduction to Orthopaedics (12 months)
SET 2-4	Core Orthopaedics (36 months)
SET 5	Transition to Practice (12 months)

Entry requirements/pre-requisites

- General Medical Registration with the Medical Board of Australia.
- Be a citizen of Australia or New Zealand or a permanent resident of Australia.
- Completion of PGY2 including a minimum of 26 weeks in General Surgery rotations and a minimum of 8 weeks in a critical care rotation. Each rotation must be a minimum of 8 continuous weeks.
- Completion of the RACS Hand Hygiene Learning Module and the RACS Operating with Respect eLearning module.
- Successful completion of the Generic Surgical Sciences exam.

In addition to the RACS entry requirements, there are also AOA Specific Eligibility Criteria which include:

- Completion of at least 26 weeks in an orthopaedic surgery rotation within the last two years, at PGY3 or higher.
- Successful completion of a state-licenced Radiation Safety Course.

Application and selection process – [how to apply](#)

Applicants must first register their intention to apply for SET Training with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

AOA collaborates with the RACS as an agent of the College, to administer the training program in Australia.. For further information on the Selection and Application process, please consult the AOA selection regulations: https://www.aoa.org.au/docs/default-source/aoa-21/aoa-21-regulations-and-policies/2022-intake-aoa-21-selection-regulations-v3.pdf?sfvrsn=4b8fd804_2.

Regional Training Hub Southern Queensland

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Useful contacts and links

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service:
Medical Education Unit - DDHHS_MEU@health.qld.gov.au

Medi-Nav: <https://medinav.health.qld.gov.au>

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons: <https://www.surgeons.org/>

Australian Orthopaedic Association: <https://www.aoa.org.au>

National Medical Workforce Factsheet: <https://hwd.health.gov.au/webapi/customer/documents/factsheets/2016/Surgeons.pdf>



AOA has a policy that allows prospective trainees a maximum of 3 applications to be accepted onto the training program.

Note: Queensland Health does not offer central allocations or preferencing for the Orthopaedic Surgery specialty; however Orthopaedic Surgery trainees must submit an application through the [RMO Campaign](#) for an employment contract to be issued by the allocated facility.

Program requirements

Training requirements summary: [Curriculum for Education and Training in Orthopaedic Surgery: Overview](#)

Regional training opportunities in Southern Queensland

There is currently 2 Orthopaedic Surgery registrar positions in Toowoomba*.

***Position data valid as at December 2020.**

The following table outlines the Orthopaedic training pathway and stages that the Toowoomba Hospital is accredited for:

COLLEGE	SUBSPECIALTY	Total Training Time (months)	TRAINING PROGRAM		
			Introduction to Orthopaedics (months) SET 1	Core Orthopaedics (months) SET 2-4	Transition to Practice (months) SET 5
RACS	Orthopaedic Surgery	60	12	36	12
	Toowoomba Hospital		✓ (Maximum 12 months)		

Map your Orthopaedic Surgery training pathway in Southern Queensland

The following table provides an example pathway from internship through to fellowship in the Southern Queensland region:

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY TRAINING PROGRAM - EXAMPLE PATHWAY										
PGY1	PGY2	PGY3	PGY4	PGY5	PGY6	PGY7	PGY8	PGY9	PGY10	PGY11
Intern	RMO	RMO	PHO	PHO	PHO	Introduction to Orthopaedics	Core Orthopaedics	Core Orthopaedics	Core Orthopaedics	Transition to Practice
Toowoomba Hospital	Toowoomba Hospital	Toowoomba Hospital	Toowoomba Hospital	Toowoomba Hospital	Toowoomba Hospital	Toowoomba Hospital	Ipswich Hospital	Princess Alexandra Hospital	Mater Hospital	Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Please note that whilst earliest entry is PGY4, this example pathway reflects that prospective trainees generally spend additional years as a PHO before being accepted onto the training program.

Disclaimer

The University of Queensland Regional Training Hubs have taken all reasonable steps to ensure that the information contained in this document is both accurate and current. Information in this Guide is accurate as at June 2021. Pathways provided are examples only and may be dependent on availability of positions, allocation processes and individual progression through the training program. While care has been taken to provide accurate information in this Guide, it is the responsibility of prospective candidates for training pathways and positions to check and confirm specific details with relevant Colleges and health authorities directly.