

Recipe for a specialist surgeon



1. Take one freshly minted doctor plucked from five years of medical school



2. Intern (1 year)

- Get them to work in different areas of the hospital learning how to look after different medical conditions.
- Make sure they get good at putting in IV lines.
- Teach them to work with a team to manage after care of surgery patients and learn about the medical problems that make surgery risky.



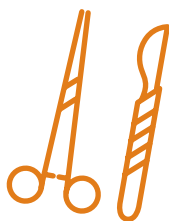
3. Resident Doctor (2 – 3 years)

- Show them how to save lives in the emergency department. Teach them to stitch wounds. Develop their skills in listening to and communicating with patients. Understanding when it is safe to do surgery. Supervise them to do minor surgery.
- Exams on anatomy, pathology and how the body works.
- A bit more time being supervised in operating theatres, clinics and wards.
- Pass another exam – this time in all the practical stuff.



4. Service Registrar (1 – 3 years)

- Show them how to assess trauma patients and patients planned for surgery.
- Get them doing informed consents for patients.
- Supervise them doing some of the simpler parts of an operation and smaller operations.
- Make sure they know everything about what can go wrong in an operation and how to fix it. Teach them it is okay to seek expert help if they need it.



5. Surgical Education Trainee (5 – 6 years)

- Put them in the Australian Medical Council RACS surgical education training program for five to six years.
- Learn about the 10 RACS competencies (collaboration and teamwork; communication; cultural competence and cultural safety; health advocacy; judgement and clinical decision making; leadership and management; medical expertise; professionalism; scholarship and teaching, and technical expertise).
- Teach them more about clinical practice and the physiological, ethical, psychological, pharmacological, surgical and medical expertise to safely diagnose, treat and manage surgical patients.
- Gradually do more and more practice.
- More exams, competency-based assessment and ongoing feedback in their area of practice.
- Deal with complications from surgery – clots, wound infections, sepsis, etc.
- Learn how to work collaboratively with anaesthetists, GPs, ICU doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers.
- 300-600 operations a year under supervision.



6. Pass the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Fellowship Exam

- Become a surgeon and a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.
- Ongoing education through continuing professional development and surgical audits.



Fellow of the Royal Australasian
College of Surgeons