

Specialist Training Program

2022 New Post Process Fact Sheet

Introduction

The Specialist Training Program (STP) seeks to extend vocational training for specialist trainees into settings outside traditional metropolitan teaching hospitals, including regional, rural and remote and private facilities. In line with the [STP Operational Framework](#).

The New Post Process is the only mechanism through which new posts can be approved for funding under the STP.

- The New Post Process is held over a 16-week period, commencing in April 2022 and consisting of a 4-week application period and a 12-week assessment period.
- Applications will only be accepted through the Department of Health (the Department) Portal during the 4-week application period in April 2022 (*dates and times TBC*).
- Applications that are not submitted via the Portal, are incomplete or received after the closure date will not be accepted.
- During the 12-week assessment period, The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) works collaboratively with the Department, the State and Territory Governments and Specialty Training Boards to determine suitable training settings.
- New posts are granted by the Department and are added to the College's Reserve List.
- Funding is not activated until a formal letter of offer is issued to the applicant.
- The Department manages 'the Process' and is the final approving authority to determine an application's suitability with no avenue to appeal.

New Post Process Timeline

Timeline	Date
Application Period (4-weeks)	April 2022
Assessment Process (12-weeks)	From May 2022
Outcomes released	From August 2022

STP Funding

Amount*	Funding Description
\$105,000	Annual Trainee Salary Support of up to \$105,000 (per 1 FTE) per annum per training post.
\$25,000	A Rural Loading allowance of up to \$25,000 (per 1 FTE) per annum per training post to support additional costs in hosting a trainee in regional, rural, and remote (MMM 2 – 7) settings.
\$30,000	A Private Infrastructure and Clinical Supervision (PICS) allowance of up to \$30,000 (per 1 FTE) per annum per training post to support the delivery of STP in Private facilities.

*Amounts listed are full funding for 1 FTE per year per post/position

RACS STP Team

RACS STP administers the Program and the funding of eligible training positions on behalf of the Commonwealth. Please contact the RACS STP team for any questions or to discuss how we can assist you.

Email	stp.admin@surgeons.org
Phone	03 9249 1283
Mail	Specialist Training Program (STP) Office Royal Australasian College of Surgeons 250 - 290 Spring Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002, Australia
Website	www.surgeons.org/Education/specialist-training-program

Department of Health

For more information on STP, please refer to the [STP Operational Framework](#) available on the [Department of Health website](#).

STP Funding Eligibility

Expanded Setting	<p>Rural: The training position must be located in an MMM 2 - 7 location (Minimum 0.5 FTE per year)</p> <p><i>and /or</i></p> <p>Private: The training is to take place in a private setting or rotate through a private setting (Minimum 0.5 FTE per year)</p>
Expansion of Training	Must be a new position representing a genuine expansion of training and has not been previously filled or funded.
RACS Training Post Accreditation	<p>To be eligible for STP funding, training positions must be newly accredited or on the pathway to being accredited by the relevant RACS Specialty Training Board.</p> <p>We strongly encourage you to contact your relevant Specialty Training Board prior to starting the funding application, to discuss your eligibility and/or if the post can be filled by a Trainee. Failure to instigate accreditation will render the hospital ineligible to be considered for funding.</p> <p>For more information regarding Training Post Accreditation at RACS, visit the RACS Training Post Accreditation website.</p>
Eligible Specialties	<p>Must be a post in an eligible specialty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cardiothoracic Surgery• General Surgery• Neurosurgery• Orthopaedic Surgery• Paediatric Surgery• Urology• Vascular Surgery
Support	<p>The new post must be supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RACS,• your Specialty Training Board, and• the State Health Jurisdiction

Ineligibility Criteria

Ineligible Specialties	<p>The following specialties are currently ineligible; however, consideration may be given in individualised circumstances, please contact your Specialty Training Board to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery• Otolaryngology Head, Neck and Shoulder Surgery
Ineligibility Criteria	<p>Please note that the following are <u>NOT</u> eligible for funding under the STP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public settings located in MMM1 locations• Post-fellowship training• General Practice training• Direct costs associated with accreditation of training posts• Training posts funded under the STP may not be occupied by overseas trainees employed by hospitals in other countries seeking a rotation through expanded settings within Australia• Training posts which are not considered to be new posts

Apply

To apply for STP funding visit www.surgeons.org/Education/specialist-training-program and follow the prompts.