

## REG-1153

# Membership Recognition for Trainees, SIMGs, Junior Doctors and Medical Students

**Purpose.** This Regulation establishes that RACS Trainees, Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs), Junior Doctors, and Medical Students are recognised as Members of the College and sets out their membership categories, rights and obligations, and transitional arrangements.

### 1. Authority and Application

- 1.1. This Regulation is made under the Constitution of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (the *College*).
- 1.2. Where this Regulation is inconsistent with the Constitution, the Constitution prevails.
- 1.3. This Regulation applies across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand and to all College activities and programs.

### 2. Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation:

- **Member** means a person admitted to a membership class under this Regulation and the Constitution.
- **Trainee** means a person formally accepted into, and currently enrolled in, a College Surgical Education and Training (SET) program.
- **SIMG** means a Specialist International Medical Graduate engaged with the College through an assessment, evaluation, supervision, bridging, or oversight pathway administered by the College.
- **Junior Doctor** means a medical practitioner in the prevocational or early vocational years (e.g., intern, resident medical officer, house officer, senior house officer) who is not yet appointed as a Trainee in a College SET program.
- **Medical Student** means a person enrolled in an accredited primary medical degree program (or approved equivalent) who has expressed interest in surgery and has been accepted into the College's student membership pathway.
- **Fellow** means a person admitted to Fellowship of the College in accordance with the Constitution.
- **Good Standing** means a Member who has complied with applicable fees, continuing professional development (if applicable to their class), professional conduct requirements, and College policies.

### 3. Membership Classes Covered by this Regulation

- 3.1. The College recognises the following membership classes in addition to Fellows and other existing classes established by the Constitution:

- a) Trainee Members
- b) SIMG Members
- c) Junior Doctor Members
- d) Medical Student Members

3.2. Admission to each class is determined by the criteria in section 4 and relevant College policies.

## **4. Eligibility and Admission**

### **4.1. Trainee Members**

- a) Eligibility: Formal acceptance into a College SET program and continued enrolment.
- b) Admission: Automatic upon confirmation of SET entry; continues for the duration of training and any approved interruptions.

### **4.2. SIMG Members**

- a) Eligibility: Acceptance by the College into an SIMG pathway involving assessment, supervision, or bridging requirements.
- b) Admission: Automatic upon confirmation of pathway commencement; continues until completion, cessation, or withdrawal from the SIMG process.

### **4.3. Junior Doctor Members**

- a) Eligibility: Current medical registration and employment/appointment consistent with prevocational/early vocational status; not currently a Trainee in a College SET program.
- b) Admission: By application to the College and acceptance in accordance with policy.

### **4.4. Medical Student Members**

- a) Eligibility: Enrolment in an accredited medical degree (or approved equivalent) and agreement to abide by College policies.
- b) Admission: By application to the College and acceptance in accordance with policy.

4.5. The College may require evidence of eligibility, including proof of enrolment, registration, or appointment, and may decline or revoke admission where eligibility is not met or maintained.

## **5. Rights and Privileges**

### **5.1. General Rights for All Classes (subject to Good Standing):**

- a) Access to College communications, resources, educational activities, and events appropriate to their class.
- b) Eligibility to serve on committees, working groups, advisory panels, or networks where permitted by policy.
- c) Use of class-specific membership designation approved by the College (see section 9).

- d) Access to pastoral support, mentorship programs, and wellbeing initiatives offered by the College.

#### 5.2. Voting and Governance

- a) Unless otherwise provided in the Constitution, voting rights at general meetings and eligibility for election to the College Council are reserved to Fellows.
- b) The College may confer limited voting rights on these classes for advisory committees, representative bodies, or class-specific councils by policy or by-law, provided such rights are not inconsistent with the Constitution.

#### 5.3. Education and Development

Members in these classes may access College curricula-aligned activities, simulation, skills courses, conferences, scholarships, and awards subject to eligibility criteria and places available.

#### 5.4. Complaints and Appeals

Members have access to the College complaints and appeals processes as set out in College policies and the Constitution, limited to matters within the College's jurisdiction.

### 6. Obligations and Conduct

- 6.1. Members must comply with the Constitution, this Regulation, and College policies, including codes of conduct, cultural safety and professionalism standards, equity and inclusion commitments, and health and safety requirements.
- 6.2. Members must maintain Good Standing, including timely payment of fees and adherence to assessment, supervision, or training conditions applicable to their class.
- 6.3. Members must not represent themselves as Fellows or as having completed College Fellowship requirements unless and until admitted to Fellowship.

### 7. Fees

- 7.1. The College may set and annually review fees for each class, including application, admission, annual subscription, course, and event fees.
- 7.2. The College may grant concessions, waivers, or deferrals in accordance with policy (e.g., hardship, parental leave, illness, or approved interruptions).

### 8. Duration, Suspension, and Cessation

#### 8.1. Duration

- a) Trainee Membership continues while the individual remains enrolled in a SET program (including approved interruptions).
- b) SIMG Membership continues while the individual remains engaged in the College's SIMG processes.

- c) Junior Doctor and Medical Student Membership continues subject to annual renewal and ongoing eligibility.

## 8.2. Suspension/Cessation

Membership may be suspended or cease where:

- a) Eligibility is no longer met (e.g., training or SIMG pathway ends; student status lapses).
- b) Fees remain unpaid beyond the prescribed period.
- c) There is a substantiated breach of College policies leading to disciplinary action.
- d) The Member resigns by written notice.

- 8.3. The College will notify affected Members of suspension or cessation and any review or appeal rights available under policy.

## 9. Designations and Branding

- 9.1. The College may authorise designations for these classes for appropriate professional use (e.g., “RACS Trainee Member”, “RACS SIMG Member”, “RACS Junior Doctor Member”, “RACS Medical Student Member”) and will publish guidance on permitted contexts.

- 9.2. No designation may imply Fellowship or specialist qualification.

## 10. Data, Privacy, and Confidentiality

- 10.1. The College will collect, store, and use Member information in accordance with applicable privacy laws and College privacy policies.
- 10.2. Members must respect confidentiality obligations in College programs, committees, and assessments.

## 11. Equity, Cultural Safety, and Wellbeing

- 11.1. The College is committed to safe, respectful, inclusive environments that uphold cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Māori, and for all communities the College serves.
- 11.2. Members must participate in required training or initiatives supporting these commitments where relevant to their College activities.

## 12. Transitional and Savings Provisions

- 12.1. Individuals who, at the commencement of this Regulation, are:
  - a) enrolled in SET;
  - b) engaged in an SIMG pathway;
  - c) participating in College-affiliated junior doctor programs; or

- d) participating in College-affiliated medical student programs;

are deemed to be admitted to the corresponding membership class, subject to confirmation of eligibility and Good Standing.

- 12.2. Existing terms, benefits, and obligations for these individuals continue unless varied by the College following reasonable notice.

### 13. Delegations and Implementation

- 13.1. The Council (or delegated committee) may issue policies, procedures, and guidelines necessary to implement this Regulation, including detailed eligibility, fees, benefits, and governance arrangements.
- 13.2. The CEO (or delegate) may make operational determinations consistent with this Regulation and College policies.

### 14. Commencement

- 14.1. This Regulation commences on **26 February 2026**.
- 14.2. From the Commencement Date, Trainees, SIMGs, Junior Doctors and Medical Students are Members of the College within the meaning of the Constitution and this Regulation.

### Information

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