

Division:	Education Development & Assessment	Ref. No.	POL-2012
Department:	Examinations		
Title:	Appointments to the Court of Examiners		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To provide direction for appointments to the Court of Examiners (the Court).

Examiners are appointed to conduct the Fellowship Examination which primarily assesses professional judgement, clinical decision-making and medical expertise to ensure candidates are safe and competent to practice independently as surgeons.

2. KEY WORDS

Appointment, examiners, court, fellowship, specialty, clinical, examinations

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Specialty Courts

- 3.1.1. The Court is comprised of nine Specialty Courts made up of surgeons representing the surgical specialties in which RACS conducts the Fellowship Examination.
- 3.1.2. The number of Examiners in each Specialty Court will vary according to the number of trainees and examination candidates.
- 3.1.3. New Examiners are selected in consultation with the members of the relevant Speciality Court.
- 3.1.4. RACS recognises there are positive benefits from diverse membership. The Court will appoint members particularly in relation to gender, ethnicity, medical education qualifications and geography.

3.2. Notification of Vacancies

Vacancies on the Court are advertised in Surgical News, Fax Mentis and the RACS website each year from September to November.

3.3. Eligibility

- 3.3.1. To be eligible for appointment an applicant must fulfil the following criteria for nomination:
 - a. Is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons;
 - b. Have current compliance in Continuing Professional Development (CPD);
 - c. Have no RACS level 2 and 3 sanctions (including ongoing restrictions);
 - d. Be in active clinical practice.
 - e. Must have at least 5 years of independent practice post fellowship.
 - f. To be of good standing according to the Code of Conduct and financially compliant.
- 3.3.2. Applicants must be nominated and seconded by Fellows of the RACS.

3.4. Appointment

- 3.4.1. An Examiner must abide by the Examiner Charter. Failure to do so may result in termination or suspension of membership.
- 3.4.2. Current Examiners must maintain eligibility for continuing membership and reappointment as outlined in 3.3.1. Reappointment is subject to satisfactory performance.

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- 3.4.3. Applications are considered on their merits and take into account factors and attributes outlined in 3.5 and 3.6 of this policy.
- 3.4.4. A newly appointed Examiner must attend one Fellowship Examination in the capacity of observer and complete the Examiner Training course before examining for the first time.
- 3.4.5. Membership cannot be suspended or deferred, an Examiner who requires time away from the Court for any reason must resign from their position on the Court.
- 3.4.6. An Examiner who has not completed their nine-year term at the time of resignation, may apply for re-appointment. Tenure will take into consideration time already served on the Court.
- 3.4.7. All appointments are approved by the Education Board.

3.5. General Considerations

The following factors will be taken into account by the Specialty Court when selecting new Examiners:

- 3.5.1. Appropriate geographical representation, gender diversification including metropolitan and non- metropolitan hospitals.
- 3.5.2. Suitable mix of sub-specialty expertise within each discipline.
- 3.5.3. Appropriate representation of teaching hospitals.

3.6. Selection Criteria

The following attributes are considered for selection:

- 3.6.1. Integrity and good standing in the surgical community.
- 3.6.2. Demonstrated ability to adhere to the RACS Code of Conduct.
- 3.6.3. Experience as a Consultant Surgeon with active involvement in patient care, including emergency management.
- 3.6.4. A broad knowledge of and familiarity with the curriculum for specialist surgical training in the appropriate specialty.
- 3.6.5. Clinical maturity and recognised high standards of surgical competence.
- 3.6.6. Evidence of active interest and expertise in surgical education and assessment.
- 3.6.7. Active involvement with RACS or Specialist Society and /or Association activities.
- 3.6.8. Ability to be able to work as part of a team.
- 3.6.9. Intermediate computer skills for the preparation of examination materials and examination process.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

EDA-EXA-011 Court of Examiners Terms of Reference
 EDA-EXA-022 Position Description: Chair, Court of Examiners
 EDA-EXA-021 Position Description: Deputy Chairs, Court of Examiners
 EDA-EXA-020 Position Description: Deputy Senior Examiners, Court of Examiners
 EDA-EXA-019 Position Description: Senior Examiners, Court of Examiners
 EDA-EXA-040 Examiners Charter

Approver Education Board
Authoriser Council

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