

Division:	Research Audit and Academic Surgery	Ref. No.	REA-RES-071
Department:	Research and Scholarships		
Title:	The Anwar and Myrtha Girgis IMG Scholarship		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the awarding of the Anwar and Myrtha Girgis IMG Scholarship. It covers the application and selection criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the Scholarship.

2. KEYWORDS

Surgery, Scholarship, Anwar Girgis, Refugee, asylum seeker, migrant, International Medical Graduate, IMG

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background

Dr Anwar Riad Girgis was an Orthopaedic surgeon in Whyalla and Adelaide, after migrating to Australia in 1969. He initially trained in medicine in Egypt, and then undertook postgraduate training in the UK. Dr Girgis appreciated the assistance given to him by generous colleagues in the UK and Australia, and he and his wife Myrtha Girgis later gave the same support to Trainees and International Medical Graduates who wished to settle in Australia. Upon his death, his children, Mona and Peter Girgis, pioneered the establishment of this Scholarship with the Foundation for Surgery.

This scholarship aims to support migrant, refugee and asylum seeker doctors who are experiencing financial hardship, to gain the professional development required to be able to practice surgery in Australia or New Zealand.

3.2. Eligibility Criteria

Applications for this Scholarship are open to doctors who are able to demonstrate financial hardship or disadvantage and who are of refugee OR asylum seeker background OR who are recent migrants (having arrived in Australia or New Zealand within the five years immediately prior to the closing date for applications for the scholarship); and

- a) Have been assessed by RACS as partially or substantially comparable to being Australian trained, and have commenced (or been approved to commence) or have completed, clinical assessment and whose assessment is valid for 12 months from the time of application; OR
- b) Have been assessed by the Medical Council of New Zealand as eligible for vocational registration in surgery or require assistance to meet the language criteria for their vocational registration application to proceed.
- c) Be eligible to work in Australia or New Zealand

3.3. Selection Criteria

3.3.1 Application assessment will be based upon a short letter outlining:

- a) Demonstrable financial hardship or disadvantage
- b) Information on but not limited to applicants:
 - length of time in Australia and/or New Zealand;
 - rural or regional location; and
- c) Value and details of the professional development opportunity in assisting the applicant gain registration.

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- 3.3.2 The letter of application must be accompanied by:
- a) Evidence of visa status, date of arrival in Australia and/or New Zealand
 - b) Evidence of financial need
 - c) Letter/s of support from a professional supervisor (preferred), colleague or community leader confirming financial hardship or disadvantage, and supporting the applicant's reason for requested eligible expenditure (as outlined in 3.4 below).

- 3.3.3 The Scholarship will be awarded on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, which will consist of the following members:
- Chair of the Australia and New Zealand Scholarship and Grant Committee (ANZSGC)
 - Deputy Chair of the Board of Surgical Education and Training (BSET) (who has responsibility for IMG governance),
 - New Zealand Censor (if there is a New Zealand applicant)

In attendance:

- Clinical Director, IMG Assessment and Support,
- Manager, Foundation for Surgery

- 3.3.4 Applicants will be advised of the outcome of the selection process in August in the year of application.

3.4. Eligible Expenditure under the Scholarship

The Scholarship may be used for but not limited to the following:

- a) registration fees for professional development and training course/s required to be able to practice in Australia or New Zealand
- b) attendance or presentation at a conference required to be able to practice in Australia or New Zealand
- c) reasonable travel and accommodation expenses related to the professional development opportunity (business class fares will not be accepted, accommodation is of reasonable standard, 3 or 4 star), it is expected the most economic travel options will be used
- d) costs for the professional care of young children or other dependants to enable participants who are primary carers to undertake this training and associated study.

3.5. Value of the Scholarship

The value of the Scholarship is in Australian dollars. For New Zealand applicants, this payment is subject to conversion, should the recipient's bank be in New Zealand.

Prospective applicants should refer to the RACS website www.surgeons.org for information on the current value of the Scholarship.

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3.6. Funding Source

The scholarship is funded from the income revenue derived from the Anwar and Myrtha Girgis IMG Scholarship corpus under the Foundation for Surgery and will continue to be funded as the corpus allows.

3.7. Duration of the Scholarship

The Scholarship is for 12 month's duration.

3.8. Frequency of the Scholarship

The Scholarship may be awarded annually, subject to availability of funding and providing there is a suitable applicant.

3.9. Conditions of the Scholarship

3.9.1. The following conditions are based on the assessed and approved information supplied at the point of application. Any changes from those originally approved by RACS will require prior consent. To obtain this consent, applicants are required to complete an amendment form available from RACS.

3.9.2. Financial Arrangements

- a) The recipient must refer to a financial or taxation advisor to ascertain the taxability of the Scholarship. General information about whether scholarships/fellowships/grants are exempt from income tax is available on the RACS website. Please go to www.surgeons.org/scholarships/ and proceed to the FAQ section.
- b) Payment of the Scholarship will be made in one instalment, prior to September in the year of application.
- c) Award funds will only be paid on receipt of a valid [tax invoice](#). If the applicant is in Australia and does not have an ABN, the tax invoice will need to be accompanied by a "statement by supplier" (an [ATO form](#)).
- d) Funds can be facilitated by Electronic Funds Transfer. Therefore, the recipient must provide an Australian or New Zealand nominated bank account to facilitate remittance of the awarded scholarship funds.

3.9.3. Additional Scholarships/Fellowships/Awards ("awards")

- a) The recipient may hold additional non-RACS awards simultaneously subject to the approval of the Board of Surgical Research. RACS does not allow duplication of funding for the same activity.
- b) The recipient must notify RACS immediately on receipt of non-RACS award.
- c) The recipient may not hold two RACS awards simultaneously.

3.9.4. Reporting

The award is conditional upon the recipient providing RACS with a suitable report, in the requested format, on the activities undertaken. Evidence that the proposed professional development activity was undertaken and that the funding provided was used for its specified purpose, must be included as an annex to this report (e.g.: a receipt, certificate or other appropriate evidence). If travel costs, child care or other costs are paid for by the scholarship, all invoices must be attached to the report. If a complete report is not received, the recipient may be ineligible for any further financial assistance from RACS.

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Copies of the report will be sent to ANZSGC, BSET, the New Zealand National Board (where the recipient is a New Zealand resident), and the benefactor.

3.9.5. Timing of Award

The commencement date for awards is 1 September in the year of application.

3.9.6. Reapplication for the Scholarship

Recipients are eligible to re-apply in subsequent years through the normal application channels and observing the advertised application deadlines and formats in competition with all applications. Successful re-application is dependent on provision of a complete report as noted in 3.10.4

3.9.7. Acknowledgements

RACS and the Foundation of Surgery must be acknowledged in any relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising, publications and presentations relating to the award, including those made at the ASC.

3.9.8. Publications

RACS must be notified of any publications as soon as practicable after acceptance by the journal.

3.9.9. Privacy

RACS takes reasonable steps to protect the information it holds from misuse or loss and from unauthorized access, modification or disclosure. The recipient has the right to access his or her personal information and to have it corrected if inaccurate, incomplete or out of date.

3.9.10. Termination of the Scholarship

RACS may, at its discretion, for what is considered grave cause, suspend the tenure of an award for such time as is thought fit, or deprive a recipient of his/her Award. From the date of either of these decisions, the entitlement to stipend and other allowances shall cease.

Upon termination, monies already paid, and not duly expended, shall be refunded to RACS.

3.9.11. Acceptance of Offer

Recipients must sign the Acceptance Form as acknowledgement of the above conditions and return it to RACS prior to commencement of the award.

3.10. Access

This policy may be accessed by the general public, RACS and staff.

3.11. Communication

Scholarship recipients will be notified of the policy or any changes to the policy that impact them by email. Other stakeholders are encouraged to check the RACS website on a regular basis to keep up to date with policy changes.

3.12. Administering Committee

The Australia and New Zealand Scholarship and Grant Committee administers the Scholarship.

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4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- 4.1 About Dr Anwar Girgis
- 4.2 Deed of Agreement between RACS and Dr Mona Girgis and Mr Peter Girgis (not a public document)

Approver ANZSGC

Authoriser Council

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