

Division:	Research, Audit and Academic Surgery	Ref. No.	REA-RES-069
Department:	Research and Scholarships		
Title:	Pickard Robotic Training Scholarship		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the awarding of the Foundation for Surgery Pickard Robotic Training Scholarship. It covers the application and selection criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the Scholarship.

2. KEYWORDS

Pickard, Scholarship, training, robotic, Foundation

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background

Mr Gordon Pickard has been a strong supporter of robotic surgery in South Australia and now wishes to provide training opportunities to South Australian surgeons and non-surgeons to expand their expertise in innovative robotic techniques.

3.2. Eligibility Criteria

Applications for the scholarship are open to surgeons and non-surgeons.

The applicant will need to be resident in South Australia or have a clear contractual commitment to the South Australian public hospital system for the period of two years immediately following the conclusion of the Scholarship.

All scholarships, fellowships and grants are conditional upon the applicant being a permanent resident or citizen of Australia or New Zealand.

3.3. Selection Criteria

The Scholarship recipient will be chosen on the basis of his/her written application, Curriculum Vitae, supporting references and possible subsequent interview. The award will only be made for prospective training.

Applicants may be short-listed for interview based upon their academic record, postgraduate training, research experience, publication history, the experience and demonstrated plan of training that is being envisaged to be supported by the award. These criteria will be assessed from information provided in the application, supporting references and accompanying Curriculum Vitae.

Short-listed applicants will be interviewed by a panel of four comprised of:

- The Chair (or nominee) of the Australia and New Zealand Scholarship & Grant Committee (ANZSGC)
- The University of Adelaide R P Jepson Professor of Surgery
- The Chair of the RACS SA Regional Committee
- One additional ANZSGC representative.

Assessment will be based upon the candidate's understanding of the proposed training as evidenced by their explanation of the training program and the ability to address questions from the panel. The candidate will also be assessed on their initiative in attempting to source other funding to support this training opportunity.

3.4. Value of the Scholarship

The value of the award is in Australian dollars. Prospective applicants should refer to the RACS website www.surgeons.org/scholarships for information on the current value

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of the Scholarship. The total sum offered can be awarded to more than one applicant provided the total sum does not exceed the advertised amount.

3.5. Funding Source

The award is funded from sponsorship funding

3.6. Duration of the Scholarship

The Scholarship will usually be awarded for not more than twelve months and can be awarded for a lesser period of time if the training program demonstrates this is sufficient.

3.7. Frequency of the Scholarship

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

3.8. Conditions of the Scholarship

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

3.8.1. Training Program

- a) Recipients must undertake a defined research and/or training program in robotic surgery as approved by RACS for the duration of the award.
- b) Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they either come from a period of long-standing residency within South Australia or have a clear contractual plan to return to South Australia once the Scholarship is completed. Training can occur within Australasia or overseas in order to gain the necessary robotic experience outlined by the candidate.

3.8.2. Financial Arrangements

- a) In Australia and New Zealand, recipients may obtain additional support for their training in robotic surgery in conjunction with the Scholarship but this must be declared at the time of application.
- b) The Scholarship will be paid to the recipient on receipt of a valid tax invoice provided by the recipient upon request.
- c) Award funds may be used for support of overseas travel, overseas accommodation, course fees, living expenses, but cannot be applied towards spousal or dependent travel.

3.8.3. Additional Scholarships/Fellowships/Awards

- a) A RACS award recipient may hold additional awards simultaneously. The RACS award may be adjusted to cover the short fall required by the scholar to achieve the research and training program.
- b) The recipient must notify RACS immediately on receipt of an award other than the RACS award.
- c) Recipients may not hold two RACS awards simultaneously.

3.8.4. Reporting Requirements

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- a) The payment of the award is conditional upon the recipient providing RACS with two reports, in the requested format, on the training undertaken. The first will be requested in June for submission by a specified date in July, and the second report will be requested during December for submission by a specified date in January.
- b) If these reports are not received the recipient will be ineligible for any further financial assistance from RACS and may be required at the discretion of RACS to refund the award.
- c) Where applicable, the supervisor of the recipient will also be requested to report on the progress of the recipient at these times.
- d) Copies of the reports will be forwarded to ANZSGC and Mr Gordon Pickard.
- e) ANZSGC reports recommendations, findings and outcomes to the Scholarship Monitoring and Evaluation Committee which oversees the evaluation of the ANZ Scholarship and Grant Program.
- f) Recipients should submit the results of their research whenever possible to a peer reviewed journal such as the ANZ Journal of Surgery.
- g) Recipients of applicable research awards are required to present their research at the annual meeting of the Surgical Research Society of Australasia (SRS) at least once during the award period or within 12 months after the end of the award period. Other award recipients are encouraged to also present at this meeting.
- h) Upon request recipients must make themselves available to prepare an article for publishing in Surgical News on the completion of their award.
- i) Recipients are required to complete two Scholarship Evaluation Surveys upon request. The first will be requested upon completion of the award. The second will be requested about five years after completion of their award.

3.8.5. Ethics Approval

RACS must receive documentary evidence where applicable of ethical approval from the Ethics Committee of the Institution concerned to approve that the project conforms to the general principles set out in the NH&MRC "Statement on Human Experimentation" and/or the "Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes".

3.8.6. Timing of Award

The commencement date for the award is 1 January each year unless otherwise specified.

3.8.7. Reapplication for the Award

Previous 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.

Recipients who seek support beyond one year are also encouraged to apply for similar scholarships awarded by external bodies.

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Unsuccessful applicants can reapply in subsequent years while eligible, until they are successful.

3.8.8. Acknowledgements

- a) RACS and the Foundation for Surgery are to be acknowledged in any relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising, publication, presentation or other material relating to the award.
- b) The Foundation logo must be included in all presentations relating to the award.
- c) Recipients are required to speak at Foundation dinners when invited.

3.8.9. Publications and Patents

RACS must be notified of any publications as soon as practicable after acceptance by the journal, or patents arising from the award together with the results of any research that is to be commercially developed.

3.8.10. Acceptance of Offer

The successful recipient must sign the Acceptance Form as acknowledgement of the above conditions as well as, where applicable, their Head of Department and a representative of the Administering Institution, and return it to RACS prior to commencement of the award.

3.9. Privacy

Recipients should refer to the RACS Privacy Policy for information on how RACS may collect, store and disclose personal information

3.10. Termination of the award

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.

3.11. Administering Committee

ANZSGC administers the award.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

FRM: Scholarship Program Amendment Form

DOC: Important General Conditions

Approver ANZSGC
Authoriser Council

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