

James Ramsay Project Grant

Research Guideline GDL-4859

Review: January 2026

Governing Policy: POL-4832 Research Scholarship Policy

Eligibility summary	RACS Fellows, SET Trainees
Duration	Multi-year – up to 2 years
Interest area	Innovation – project or equipment (South Australia)

The James Ramsay Project Grant supports surgeons and Trainees to undertake an innovative project or purchase state-of-the-art equipment.

Sir John Ramsay was Surgeon Superintendent of the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) between 1896 and 1912, and as a RACS co-founder was an original signatory in 1927 on its formation.

His advances in surgical technique, medical firsts and hospital administration were second to none. He had the credit for taking the first clinical X-ray at the LGH in 1897. He was a pioneer in intravenous fluid replacement and surgery of the prostate. One of Sir John's most noted surgical achievements was in 1906 with the resuscitation of an apparently dead patient by internal cardiac massage through an incision, he was one of the first surgeons in the world to achieve this. He was also possibly the first to attempt the transplant of pancreatic tissue, ten years before the discovery of insulin and two generations before transplant surgery became possible.

Sir John's son, James Ramsay AO, had a long association with RACS, and donated \$60,000 upon the 60th anniversary of RACS in 1987. The money was used to establish a fund within RACS to establish the James Ramsay Fellowship for Provincial Surgeons. When James died in 1996, his wife Mrs Diana Ramsay AO, continued to provide funds towards the Fellowship. In 2014 it was agreed with the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation to change the conditions of the Fellowship to broaden its appeal, raise its profile and increase applications. As a result, it was rescoped and relaunched as the James Ramsay Project Grant.

Conditions

This guideline outlines information specific to the respective scholarship's purpose, value, duration, conditions and recipient eligibility. For all the conditions for this scholarship it is essential that you also read the Research Policy.

Applicant eligibility

Applications are open to RACS Fellows, Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) and SET Trainees who:

- are applying as an individual or the lead researcher in a group
- wish to undertake clinical or research projects.

SET applicants are ineligible for this grant.

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Eligible activity

An innovation activity with defined goals and outcomes, supported by an approved research institute.

Activity examples include, but are not limited to:

- an innovative surgical research project
- funding of an innovative clinical project or piece of equipment.

Should the funding be used to purchase a piece of equipment, this equipment to remain the property of the institution upon the completion of the project.

Application

Applicants who move to the interview round and are a Lead Researcher of a research group are required to provide a document detailing the other members of the research group and their intended contribution to the project. A two-page biosketch of each member is also to be provided

Frequency

This grant may be offered every two years, subject to funding and the availability of a suitable candidate.

Selection process

Selection is via assessment of the written application with shortlisted applicants invited to interview.

The selection panel is comprised of the chairs (or their nominees) of the ANZ Scholarship and Grant Committee, the Research and Academic Surgery Committee (RASC), the SA Regional Committee and a representative of the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation Board.

Reapplication

Recipients can receive this grant more than once.

Recipient obligations

Recipients are encouraged to submit an abstract, and if successful, to present their findings and/or learnings at the annual meeting of the Surgical Research Society of Australasia and elsewhere.

Acknowledgements

RACS, the Foundation of Surgery and the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation must be acknowledged in any relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising, publication, presentation or other material relating to the grant.

Financial arrangements

The grant will be paid to the administering institution upon receipt of a valid tax invoice as requested by the Scholarships and Grants department. Payment will be made in one instalment prior to 1 March in the scholarship year.

Should the grant include the purchase of specific equipment, grant funding will be allocated for that portion of the grant as departmental maintenance. Otherwise, grant funding consists of stipend only.

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Funding Source

This grant is funded from income derived from the James Ramsay Research Grant corpus under the Foundation for Surgery.