

Review January 2026

Governing Policy: POL-4914 Learning and Development Grant Policy

Eligibility summary: Doctors who are recent migrants or of refugee or asylum seeker background

Area of interest: Specialist International Medical Graduate (SIMG)

The Anwar and Myrtha Girgis SIMG Grant supports migrant, refugee and asylum seeker doctors who are experiencing financial hardship to gain the professional development required to practice surgery in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand.

Dr Anwar Riad Girgis was an Orthopaedic surgeon who practised in Whyalla and Adelaide after migrating to Australia in 1969. Dr Girgis trained in medicine in Egypt and then undertook postgraduate training in the United Kingdom. In appreciation of the assistance given to him by generous colleagues in the UK and Australia, he and his wife Myrtha later supported Trainees and Specialist International Medical Graduates who wished to settle in Australia. Dr Girgis' children, Mona and Peter Girgis, established this grant with the Foundation for Surgery in their late father's honour.

Conditions

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

Applicant eligibility

Open to doctors who are experiencing financial disadvantage and who are of refugee OR asylum seeker background OR who are recent migrants (having arrived in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand within the five years immediately prior to the closing date for applications for the scholarship); AND

- 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
- have been assessed by the Medical Council of Aotearoa New Zealand as eligible for vocational registration in surgery or require assistance to meet the language criteria for their vocational registration application to proceed
- are eligible to work in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand.

Application criteria

Applications must include:

- evidence of visa status and date of arrival in Australia and/or Aotearoa New Zealand
- rural or regional location (if applicable)
- value and details of what the grant will be spent on and how it will assist the applicant in gaining registration

Anwar and Myrtha Girgis SIMG Grant GDL-4882

Eligible activity

The grant may be used for (but is not limited to) the following:

- Registration fees for exams, professional development and training course/s required to be able to practice in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Costs for the professional care of young children or other dependants to enable participants who are primary carers to undertake this professional development, training, assessment and associated study.
- Attendance or presentation at a conference that is required to be able to practice in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Reasonable travel and accommodation expenses related to the professional development opportunity (business class fares will not be accepted; accommodation is of reasonable standard ie. 3 or 4 star). The expectation is the most economical travel options will be used.
- Costs associated with supervision.

Selection process

The selection panel is comprised of:

- Chair, ANZSGC
- Deputy Chair, Board of Surgical Education and Training (responsible for SIMG governance)
- Aotearoa New Zealand Censor (when applicant/s are Aotearoa New Zealand based)
- Clinical Director, SIMG Assessment and Support

Funding Source

The grant is funded through the Anwar and Myrtha Girgis IMG Scholarship corpus under the Foundation for Surgeons