

SAGES ASERNIPS Evidence Guidance Research Scholarship

Research Scholarship Guideline GDL-4857

Review: March 2026

Governing Policy: POL-4832 Research Scholarship Policy

This guideline provides details regarding the purpose, eligibility and requirements that are additional to, or exemptions from, the Research Scholarship Policy. Information contained in both the policy and this guideline is available to applicants on the RACS website.

Eligibility summary	RACS Fellows, all SAGES members, SIMGs, SET Trainees, junior doctors.
Number offered	1
Duration	Multi-year – 2 years
Interest area	Evidence Guidance to support Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) and Health Technology Assessment (HTA) research

The SAGES ASERNIPS Evidence Guidance Research Scholarship is a collaboration between RACS ASERNIPS and the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) to support an applicant who wishes to take time away from clinical positions to participate in systematic review research (secondary research) and development of clinical practice guidelines (CPGs).

The primary roles of this position are to:

- appraise the literature and conduct systematic reviews on high yield surgical topics, under the supervision of experts
- use systematic review research to support the development of a health technology assessment
- engage in the development of clinical practice guidelines for surgeons
- effectively guide working groups in the development of guidelines
- participate in publications of developed guidelines.

Conditions

Applicant eligibility

Applications are open to RACS Fellows, all SAGES members (including candidate and student members, and including those currently residing outside of Australia), Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs), SET Trainees and junior doctors registered to practise in Australia. All applicants will receive equal weighting during the selection process, irrespective of location.

The recipient must be a SAGES member or agree to become a member in order to accept the scholarship.

The applicant would ideally reside in Adelaide, Australia, for the duration for the scholarship. The minimum time in Adelaide would be for 1 year, but 2 years if the scholar was doing a higher degree.

Scholarship activity

The recipient will work on projects both for RACS ASERNIPS and for SAGES, dividing their time equally between both organisations. Some of these projects will be joint endeavours by the two organisations.

This is a full-time position and there must be a full-time commitment to the Scholarship. Part-time is not permissible. Clinical work may be possible in line with the RACS Research policy and with the approval of the supervisory team and credentialing bodies. If a foreign applicant is successful and they wish to undertake clinical work, it is their responsibility to obtain approval from AHPRA.

Health Technology Assessment duties and responsibilities

The recipient will:

- study HTA under supervision and guidance of a RACS Fellow and a member of RACS ASERNIPS
- produce at least one systematic review and related peer-reviewed publications on a topic approved by RACS
- have the opportunity to undertake further work supporting ASERNIPS HTAs and evidence reviews relating to surgical practice
- present their research at the annual meeting of the Surgical Research Society of Australasia, at least once, during the scholarship period or within 12 months following the scholarship period

Clinical Practice Guidelines duties and responsibilities

The recipient will:

- study guideline development methodology under the supervisors' and methodologist's guidance
- produce high-quality guidelines and related publications that have significant impact in the field, and make a significant contribution to SAGES reputation at a national and international level
- define key questions for guidelines, perform literature searches, develop evidence map and extraction tables, and formulate evidence-based recommendations
- work closely and communicate effectively with SAGES staff assigned to the guidelines committee and the SAGES and institutional librarian
- lead and assist guideline development working groups; provide guidance to guideline committee members new to the development process
- become efficient with guideline development software (Abstrackr, Covidence, GRADEPRO, Bitrix 24) and identify other software that could make the process more efficient
- participate in guideline development workshops at SAGES and elsewhere, conducted remotely where required
- once experienced in guideline development, have responsibility to direct SAGES guidelines working groups and guide them through the development process of a variety of guidelines
- participate in regularly scheduled meetings with supervisor
- participate in regularly scheduled conference calls with SAGES guideline committee members and methodologists
- make presentations at national or international conferences and identify ways to disseminate guidelines via the internet, the media and other forms of public engagement
- participate in and lead research/guideline development meetings
- coordinate work with guideline working group members and other research staff and collaborators

Selection

Selection is via a written application. All shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview. The interview panel will assess the applicant on their ability to show a thorough understanding of systematic reviews and CPGs, as well as any previous experience in conducting them. Prior experience with systematic reviews is beneficial but not required.

Additionally, applicants will need to show a high level of time management and attention to detail as they will be working on several different projects at any one time. They will need to have superior communication skills and work well in a team.

The selection panel must include

- One Australian or Aotearoa New Zealand based SAGES representative
- Surgical Director of Research and Evaluation, incorporating ASERNIP-S (or nominee)

And at least one other of the following (or their nominees):

- The Chair of the ANZSGC
- One other member of the ANZSGC
- The Chair or Co-Chair of the SAGES Guidelines Committee

The decision on the successful applicant must be unanimous by all panel participants for the candidate to be successful.

Financial arrangements

For scholars conducting their work within Australia/Aotearoa New Zealand, the administering institution will be RACS ASERNIPS.

The RACS portion of the scholarship will be paid by the Scholarships and Grants department directly to the administering institution (ASERNIPS) upon receipt of a valid tax invoice or equivalent as requested by the Scholarships and Grants department.

The SAGES portion of the scholarship will be paid directly to the administering institution as per agreed with the administering institution.

The recipient will be paid the full amount by the administering institution as per their internal processes. Payment of this amount will be made to the recipient quarterly by the administering institution during the scholarship year.

This scholarship is made up of a stipend component only.

Funding Source

This Scholarship is funded from income derived from the RACS corpus under the Foundation for Surgery and co-funded by SAGES

Frequency of the scholarship

This scholarship will be advertised, subject to funding, for two years in a row, with the third year not advertised.

Partnering Organisations

RACS ASERNIPS

Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)