REGULATIONS FOR THE VASCULAR SURGICAL TRAINING PROGRAM

The purpose of these Regulations is to set forth and establish the terms and conditions of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Surgical Education and Training (SET) Program in Vascular Surgery.

These regulations should be read in conjunction with the College’s Surgical Education and Training (SET) Policies and the Board’s regulations in relation to Assessment of Clinical Training and Dismissal from Clinical Training, available at www.surgeons.org.

Administration and Ownership Overall responsibility for the administration, regulation and assessment of the Surgical Education and Training Program in Vascular Surgery rests with the Board of Vascular Surgery. Responsibility for the Examinations is in conjunction with the College Court of Examiners.

Document should be read in conjunction with the following College policies and Board Regulations:
- Trainee Registration and Variation Policy
- Conduct of the Surgical Science Examination – Generic Component
- Conduct of the Surgical Science Examination – Specialty Specific Component
- Conduct of the Surgical Science Examination – SET Clinical Exam
- Conduct of Fellowship Examination
- Regulations: Assessment of Clinical Training in Vascular Surgery
- Regulations: Dismissal from the Vascular Surgical Training Program

1 Definition of terms for the purpose of these Regulations

1.1 Trainee is a Surgical Education and Training Trainee in Vascular Surgery of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

1.2 College is the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

1.3 Board is the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Board of Vascular Surgery.

1.4 SET Program is the Surgical Education and Training (SET) Program in Vascular Surgery.

1.5 Supervisor is a surgical supervisor approved by the Board of Vascular Surgery.

2 The SET Program

2.1 The purpose of the SET Program in Vascular Surgery is to achieve proficiency and competency in the nine Surgical Competencies outlined by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. The SET Program in Vascular Surgery is designed to provide trainees with clinical and operative experience to enable them to manage patients with conditions that relate to the specialty, including becoming familiar with the techniques related to the discipline. At the conclusion of the SET Program it is expected that trainees will have a detailed knowledge of the surgery conditions recognised as belonging to the specialty of Vascular surgery and a less detailed knowledge of the surgery of those conditions recognised as belonging to super-specialist areas within Vascular
The SET Program is normally for a period of five years.

The Board may, in consultation with the trainee, extend the duration of a trainee’s SET Program at any time if there is evidence of unsatisfactory or Borderline performance in one or more sections of the Trainee Assessment, if there is any incident of sufficient concern, loss of training time due to sickness or other problems or failure to satisfactorily complete any of the requirements in Section 3 of these Regulations. The Board may grant an extension to the duration of training upon request from the trainee.

The Board has the discretion to shorten training on the basis of a review of prior learning and experience, demonstration of attainment of the required competencies and exemplary performance.

Appointment to the SET program is not for the entire training period, but is made on a yearly basis and renewed annually provided that performance is considered to be satisfactory.

Trainees must pay the applicable training fee prior by the due date, for each year of the SET Program.

Requirements of Surgical Education and Training (SET) Program in Vascular Surgery
Trainees are expected to meet the following requirements during the course of the SET Program:

Complete five years of Vascular Surgical Training (SET 1-5) in posts accredited by the Board of Vascular Surgery.

Complete the Early Management of Severe Trauma (EMST) Course by the end of SET2.

Complete the Australian and New Zealand Surgical Skills Education and Training (ASSET) Course by the end of SET1.

Complete the Care of the Critically ill Surgical Patient (CCrISP) Course by the end of SET2.

Submit satisfactory In Training Assessment Forms, Mini-CEX, DOPS, and logbooks on the following dates each year:
- 30 April (mid term)
- 31 July and (end of term)
- 31 January. (end of term)

Satisfactorily completion of the online modules. Evidence of continuing progress and completion of these are discussed at the annual Trainee Skills Course.

Satisfactorily complete the Board of Vascular Surgery research requirement.
3.8 Satisfactorily complete the Clinical Examination, Generic Examination, Speciality Specific Examination and Fellowship Examination in Vascular Surgery in accordance with the College policies:

- Conduct of the Surgical Science Examination – Generic Component
- Conduct of the Surgical Science Examination – Specialty Specific Component
- Conduct of the Surgical Science Examination – SET Clinical Exam
- Conduct of Fellowship Examination

3.9 Attend the Trainee Skills Course held each year.

3.10 The training requirements of SET Program in Vascular Surgery may be refined from time to time. Trainees will be notified at an early stage of any changes to the training program which may affect them.

4 Vascular Surgery Training Positions

4.1 It is the aim of the Board to ensure that any training deficiencies are corrected for individual trainees by directing placement at appropriate accredited hospitals. Hospitals are accredited to the standards set by the College.

4.2 Rotation of trainees between units is essential and trainees may be assigned to a unit anywhere in Australia or New Zealand. The training program is a bi-national program and trainees are expected to spend at least one year in an interstate or overseas post.

There is an exchange program with hospitals in the United Kingdom and trainees are encouraged to take up an overseas post to experience different health care systems.

4.3 The Board of Vascular Surgery recognises that diversity of training experience is acquired by spending a limited time in a number of training centres. The purpose of this policy is to provide exposure to the full scope and breadth of Vascular surgery practice, competencies and training experiences. In consultation with the trainee the Board of Vascular Surgery will devise a training rotation plan.

4.4 Trainees may spend a maximum of one (1) year at any one institution from SET 2 – 5.

4.5 Each Trainee is posted to one hospital per year, unless otherwise specified by the Board.

4.6 Each year consists of two rotations and three assessments for Trainees, with the April assessment being an interim assessment.

4.7 These guidelines may be modified by the Board in accordance with trainees’ experience and individual requirements.

4.8 The process for appointment to training positions is as follows:
4.8.1 The Board reviews the trainee’s progress within the SET program, specifically any deficiencies to be addressed and in relation to the training regulations. If particular deficiencies must be addressed by training at a certain accredited hospital, this will be identified by the Board and communicated to the trainees during their interview with Board member/s during the Trainee Skills Course.

4.8.2 Trainees may advise the Board of their training preferences for the remaining years of their SET program during their interview with Board at the Trainee Skills Course.

4.8.3 It is at the Board’s discretion to allocate trainees and amend such allocations prior to the commencement of the training year; consideration may be made for training requirements, trainee’s performance and available positions.

4.8.4 The trainee and surgical supervisor will be notified of placement for the following year by September each year.

4.8.5 Every endeavour will be made to accommodate preferences for allocation to posts; however this may not always be possible due to limitations in the number of posts available.

4.8.6 It is understood that trainees’ individual preferences may alter during their progression through the SET program. The Board will endeavour to accommodate trainees’ preferences as they are advised but cannot guarantee that all requests will be fulfilled.

4.8.7 Upon allocations being made, hospitals are notified of which trainees are placed in that hospital for the training year, while posted at the hospital, the trainee becomes an employee of the hospital and must adhere to the hospitals rules and regulations.

It is the trainee’s responsibility to contact the relevant hospital supervisor and medical administration department to arrange employment documents and employment start dates.

4.8.8 The trainee portfolio, which consists of all previous assessment forms, logbooks and performance management plans will be provided to their supervisor of training each year.

5 Research

5.1 Trainees must complete at least five (5) points of the Research Requirements prior to being approved by the Board Chair to sit for the Fellowship Examination in Vascular Surgery.

5.2 The breakdown of points is:
- Presentation at state registrar meeting (1 point)
- Presentation at ANZSVS meeting or RACS ASC 2 points (Max. 4 points)
- Poster presentation at ANZSVS meeting or RACS ASC 1 point (Max. 2 points)
- Publication in refereed medical journal 2 points (Max. 4 points)
- Higher Degree: MS 2 points
- Higher Degree PhD MD 3 points
- Publication in non-refereed journal/online article (1 point)

One presentation or publication must be completed during the course of current surgical training.

5.3 Trainees who are deferred or on interruption to complete research may be required to be submit a progress report while on interruption.
5.4 Trainees are expected to provide documentary evidence of completion of the research requirement.

6 Ultrasound

6.1 Trainees must complete at least 100 hours of ultrasound scanning which should cover a wide variety of ultrasound examinations prior to being approved by the Board Chair to sit the Fellowship Examination in Vascular Surgery.

6.2 No more than 20 ultrasound hours can be procedure based ultrasound. eg. Ultrasound guided puncture, endovenous procedures, ultrasound guided sclerotherapy.

6.3 Before being approved to sit the Fellowship examination, candidates shall provide evidence of ultrasound hours in the form of a logbook and a casebook containing ten cases.

7 Trainee Skills Course

7.1 The Trainee Skills Course is held each year, usually for three consecutive days and is compulsory for all active trainees with the exception of trainee allocated to overseas positions.

8 Curriculum

8.1 Trainees must satisfactorily complete each section of the curriculum for the SET program. The Board may extend a trainee’s training program duration if insufficient progression is evident.

8.2 The aim of the Board in developing the curriculum has primarily been to provide trainees and supervisors with a guide as to the scope and competency levels that should be achieved at the end of each year of the SET program.

8.3 The curriculum modules for the SET program are listed on the College website www.surgeons.org.

9 Fellowship Examination in Vascular Surgery

9.1 Candidates must have satisfactorily completed the EMST, ASSET, and CCrISP course, the Generic Exam, Clinical Exam, Speciality Specific Exam, online modules and the research requirement prior to being signed off by the Board to sit the Fellowship Examination. Trainees must also have submitted all training documentation, including evidence of completion of the on-line modules, the ultrasound requirement and be considered to have satisfactorily completed each period of training. Trainees will not be signed off to sit the Fellowship exam if their previous assessment was deemed Borderline.

10 Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Surgery (ANZSVS)

10.1 Trainees are considered provisional members of the Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Surgery (ANZSVS) and are afforded relevant membership rights as set out by the ANZSVS constitution.
11 Contact details

11.1 Contact details for the Board of Vascular Surgery are:
Abby Richardson
General Manager
Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Surgery
Board of Vascular Surgery
250 – 290 Spring Street
Melbourne VIC 3002
AUSTRALIA
Ph: +61 3 9276 7414
Email: vascular.board@surgeons.org