

Thinking of General Surgery?

General surgery is a broad based specialty which includes the diagnosis and treatment (operative and non-operative) of patients with disorders of the colon and rectum, upper gastro-intestinal organs, breasts, endocrine organs, skin and subcutaneous structures, blood vessels (including varicose veins) and the head and neck region. It also includes the early and ongoing management of trauma.

For more information on general surgery as a specialty in New Zealand [click here](#)

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons invites you to view interviews with experienced surgeons about the study, practice and highlights of [practising surgery](#)

Training in General Surgery is coordinated by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Board of General Surgery which is responsible for the selection, placement and monitoring of all General Surgery Trainees in New Zealand.

[The General Surgery Programme](#)

General Surgery Training

To help guide junior doctors' career development during the early pre-vocational years, the College has established JDocs, a competency framework (JDocs Framework) supported by a suite of learning and assessment resources.

JDocs is available to any doctor registered in Australia and New Zealand, from and including internship, where the level of engagement is determined by the junior doctor.

For further information visit [the competency-framework](#) and [RACS competencies](#)

When selecting doctors for Surgical Education and Training (SET) RACS focus is on their potential to achieve the 9 RACS competencies:

1. Professionalism
2. Scholar/Teacher
3. Health Advocacy
4. Management and Leadership
5. Collaboration
6. Communication
7. Medical Expertise
8. Judgement – Clinical Decision Making
9. Technical Expertise

Specialty Training

4 Years

- Surgical Education and Training (SET) 1 – 4;
- Each SET is 12 months in duration.

Entry Requirements

- [Generic Selection Requirements](#)
- [Specialty Specific Requirements](#)

The number of doctors selected for SET in General Surgery is not based on entry requirements alone but also on scoring high enough in the selection process to be offered one of the limited number of training positions.

You will need to complete placements in multiple DHBs whilst undertaking vocational training

SET in General Surgery is separate in New Zealand and Australia. Registration with the RACS as a Trainee in SET General Surgery is not transferable between New Zealand and Australia. Registration is not training-site specific and lasts for the duration of the training programme, assuming satisfactory progression.

Specialty Training Programme Information

Medical College

[Royal Australasian College of Surgeons](#)

The College is the principal body for the training and education of surgeons in Australia and New Zealand. Accreditation is given by the Australian Medical Council, on behalf of the Medical Board of Australia, and the Medical Council of New Zealand to conduct training and education of surgeons in General Surgery in Australia and New Zealand.

Fellowship/Qualification

[Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons \(FRACS\) in general surgery](#)

Application and Selection Process

Examination Requirement

RACS Examinations include the

- Clinical Examination,
- Generic Surgical Sciences Examination,
- Specialty Specific Examination and
- Fellowship Examination.

Information regarding RACS examinations can be found [here](#)

Recognition of Prior Learning

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Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Information

Year	Number of applications	Number of applicants selected
2014	51	9
2013	55	14
2012	46	13
2011	53	20
2010	53	21
2009	46	24

RMO training registrar positions

Northern	Midland	Central	South Island	Total
32	14	14	14	74

*Figures from September 2014 RMO census

The need for this speciality in New Zealand

This section is being further developed. Once it is updated a revised version will be published.

Information on General Surgeons

NZ New Fellows (Some SET Trainees work for a year or more overseas before returning to NZ and applying for the award of FRACS).

Year	Number
2014	8
2013	14
2012	14
2011	11
2010	13
2009	15

General Surgeons registered with the Medical Council
TBA

Average Age of SMOs*	Number of IMGs**
51	34%

*Source: Medical Council, 24 March 2014

**International Medical Graduate (IMG)

Number of General Surgeons by Region (TBA)

Northern		Midland		Central		South Island		Total	
FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Regions

Northern:

Northland, Waitemata, Auckland, Counties Manukau DHBs

Midland:

Lakes, Tairāwhiti, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Taranaki DHBs

Central:

Hawke's Bay, Wanganui, MidCentral, Wairarapa, Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley DHBs

South Island:

Nelson Marlborough, Canterbury, South Canterbury, Southern, West Coast DHBs