

Thinking of Neurosurgery?

Neurosurgery is the diagnosis and treatment (operative and non operative) of patients with disorders of the central, peripheral and autonomic nervous system including their supportive structures and blood supply. This includes the skull, brain, meninges, spinal cord, spine and pituitary gland. It also includes the management of traumatic, neoplastic, infective, congenital and degenerative conditions of these structures and surgical pain management. For more information on **neurosurgery** as a specialty [click here](#)

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

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

[Click here](#) for programme overview and [here](#) for sub specialty training.

Neurosurgery 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

Specialty Training

5 Years

- Basic training – 12 months
- Intermediate training – 36 months
- Advanced training – 12 months

Entry Requirements

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

The number of doctors selected for SET in Neurosurgery 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 Neurosurgery is a bi-national training programme and Trainees must be prepared to be assigned to a position anywhere in New Zealand and Australia.

Registration with the RACS as a Trainee in SET Neurosurgery 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 Neurosurgery in Australia and New Zealand.

Fellowship/Qualification

Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS) in neurosurgery

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

Contact details: set.neurosurgery@surgeons.org

Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Information

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Surgical Education and Training (SET) programme in Neurosurgery is bi-national and the numbers in the table below cover both New Zealand and Australia.

Year	Number of applications for training year	Number of applicants for training year selected
2014	60	10
2013	54	7
2012	48	9
2011	58	9
2010	68	13
2009	66	15

RMO training registrar positions

Northern	Midland	Central	South Island	Total
2	0	1	1	4

*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 Neurosurgeons

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	0
2013	0
2012	1
2011	0
2010	0
2009	0

Neurosurgeons registered with the Medical Council

TBA

Average Age of SMOs*

Number of IMGs**

52

65%

*Source: Medical Council, 24 March 2014

**International Medical Graduate (IMG)

Number of Neurosurgeons 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