

<b>Division</b>	<b>Fellowship Engagement</b>	<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>POL-3175</b>
<b>Department</b>	<b>Global Health Grants &amp; Partnerships</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>ASC International Travel Grant</b>		

**1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This policy governs the awarding of the ASC International Travel Grant. It covers the objectives of the Grant, the application and selection criteria, as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the Grant.

**2. KEYWORDS**

Scholarships, Travel Grants, Annual Scientific Congress, ASC, Global Health, International Development Program

**3. BODY OF POLICY**

The ASC International Travel Grant is provided to enable surgeons from the Pacific region to participate in the College’s ASC and make hospital visits in the host city.

**3.1. Goals and Objectives**

The ASC International Travel Grant for Pacific surgeons supports recipients to participate in the College’s Annual Scientific Congress (ASC).

The objective of the Grant is to provide opportunities for surgeons from developing countries in the region to broaden their professional networks and develop their leadership skills through presentation of their research papers, as well as attend workshops, talks and meetings with peers from around the world.

The ASC Travel Grant aims to establish and nurture linkages, increase interactions between Australian, New Zealand and -Pacific health personnel, and promote regional collaboration at the levels of leadership, health structure, administration, surgical practice and research.

**3.2. Application Criteria**

Applications for the Travel Grant will be through an annual Expression of Interest (Eoi) and must be submitted directly to RACS. Eois will be launched at least six months from the next ASC to allow for selection by the GHSP, notification to the ASC coordination team, plus enough lead time for any visa and/or travel arrangements.

Applications are open to surgeons from the Pacific region. Applicants cannot be Fellows of the College. Surgeons practicing in all specialties are eligible to apply.

**3.3. Selection Criteria**

Preference will be given to:

- surgeons who are contributing to the ASC via presenting at talks, sessions, panels, and/or papers;
- applicants whose specialty is represented in the ASC surgical program and to those surgeons from the Pacific regions; and
- surgeons providing an essential service in remote areas, without opportunities for institutional support or educational facilities.

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### 3.4. Administering Committee

The Global Health team administers the ASC grant program. The Global Health Scholarships Panel (GHSP) convenes to select the applicants and reports its recommendations to the Global Health Program Steering Group (GHPSG) to the International Engagement Committee (IEC), which approves the recommendations as appropriate.

### 3.5. Value of the Travel Grant

A Travel Grant may consist of up to and no more than \$10,000 AUD per scholar to be put towards travel expenses, accommodation and registration for the ASC.

### 3.6. Application

3.6.1 Applications for the travel grant will be through an annual Expression of Interest (Eoi) and award cannot be granted retroactively.

3.6.2 Applications must include:

- personal and professional information concerning the nominee;
- objectives of the proposed visit;
- anticipated benefits to the nominee and their home country;
- an abstract; and
- letters of recommendation from the nominee's hospital and/or health department with an indication of the local importance of any upskilling resulting from the award.

### 3.7. Funding Source

There is currently no funding available for the ASC travel grant. Each year the Global Health team will apply for funding, and if successful, the grant will be implemented for that year.

### 3.8. Duration of the Travel Grant

A Travel Grant subsists for the duration of the ASC in the year of the Grant.

### 3.9. Frequency of the Travel Grant

Grants are to be awarded annually, providing there are worthy applicants and appropriate funding.

### 3.10. Number of Travel Grants

There will be two Grants offered and awarded each year will be determined by the GHSP on an annual basis and may vary in accordance with the budget and acceptance rate.

### 3.11. Reporting Requirements

The successful grantees will be required to provide a report on their experience to the GHSP within two weeks of the conclusion of the Congress.

**POLICY****ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS**

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**3.12. Code of Conduct**

The successful grantees are recommended to review and sign the RACS Workforce Conduct and Child Safeguarding policies prior to arrival.

**4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

ASC International Travel Grant Procedure (to be updated by Global Health Scholarship Coordinator)  
RACS Code of Conduct, Workforce Conduct, Child Safeguarding policies

**Approver** International Engagement Committee  
**Authoriser** Council