POLICY

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

| Division: Research, Audit and Academic Surgery | Ref. No. REA-RES-066 |
| Department: Research and Scholarships | |
| Title: John Loewenthal Project Grant | |

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the awarding of the John Loewenthal Project Grant. It covers the application and selection criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the Grant.

2. KEYWORDS

Surgery, Grant, Loewenthal, Research, Foundation, Project

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background

Originally the Foundation for Surgery John Loewenthal Research Scholarship was established in honour of Sir John Loewenthal who served as President of RACS from 1971-1974.

In 2015 it was decided to change the conditions of the scholarship to broaden its appeal, raise its profile and increase applications. As a result, it was rescoped and relaunched as the John Loewenthal Project Grant.

3.2. Objective

The objective of this Grant is to promote surgical research.

3.3. Eligibility Criteria

Applications for this Grant are open to RACS Fellows and SET Trainees, either from individuals or groups, wishing to undertake clinical or research projects. This Grant offers funding over two years for surgical initiatives. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- A surgical research project with definite aims and outcomes
- Funding of innovative service/s or piece of equipment. Expected outcomes will need to be clearly documented.

3.4. Selection Criteria

The successful project will be chosen for this Grant on the basis of a written application, from either an individual or the Lead Researcher of a Project Team, which would include the brief Curriculum Vitae(s) of involved project teams (as appropriate), written support from the administering institution, two supporting independent written references and subsequent interview, if required.

Applications will be reviewed by Members of the Australia and New Zealand Scholarship and Grant Committee (ANZSGC). Assessment will be based upon the project’s likely impact in the appropriate areas and the expertise of the applicant/project team.

Preference will be given to applicants early in their careers.

3.5. Value of the Grant

The value of the Grant is in Australian dollars. Prospective applicants should refer to RACS website www.surgeons.org/scholarships for information on the current value of the Grant.
3.6. **Funding Source**

The Grant is funded from income derived from the RACS Scholarship Corpus under the Foundation for Surgery.

3.7. **Duration of the Grant**

The grant is of two years’ duration.

3.8. **Frequency of the Grant**

The grant may be awarded bi-annually, subject to availability of funding and providing there is a worthy applicant.

3.9. **Conditions of the Grant**

The following conditions are based on the assessed and approved information supplied at the point of application. Any changes from those originally approved by RACS will require prior consent. To obtain this consent, applicants are required to complete an amendment form available from RACS.

3.9.1. **Project**

   a) Applicants must undertake the project as approved by RACS for the duration of the Grant.

   b) Applications submitted for projects undertaken at an approved institute in Australia or New Zealand will be given first choice. However, consideration will also be given to applicants who wish to undertake all or a proportion of the project in an overseas institution. In these cases applicants must submit a strong justification in their application and supply the names of two supervisors. Written approval from the intended Head of Department where the project is planned to be conducted overseas is also required.

3.9.2. **Financial Arrangements**

   a) It is recommended that the recipient/s refer to a financial or taxation advisor to ascertain the taxability of the Grant. General information about whether scholarships/fellowships/grants are exempt from income tax is available on the RACS website. Please go to [www.surgeons.org/scholarships/](http://www.surgeons.org/scholarships/) and proceed to the FAQ section.

   b) The Grant will be paid to an administering institution on behalf of the recipient.

   c) The Grant will be paid on receipt of a valid tax invoice provided by the administering institution.

   d) Payment of the annual value of the Grant will be prior to 1 March in the given year.

   e) The control of the expenditure will be governed by the normal policies and procedures of the administering institution.

   f) Payment will only be made if all the requirements outlined in the conditions of this policy are satisfied.

3.9.3. **Additional Scholarships/Fellowships/Awards**
a) The recipient, whether they be an individual recipient or a project team, may hold additional non-RACS awards simultaneously for the same project.

b) The recipient must notify RACS immediately on receipt of an award other than the RACS award

c) Individual members of a research group in receipt of this Grant may also receive an individual concurrent RACS Scholarship or Fellowship

d) An individual recipient of this Grant may not hold two RACS awards simultaneously.

3.9.4. Reporting

a) The payment of the award is conditional upon the recipient providing RACS with two reports annually, in the requested format, on the project undertaken. The first will be requested in June for submission by a specified date in July and will determine the continuation of the Grant in the following year. Recipients must demonstrate satisfactory progress during each year. The second report will be requested during December for submission by a specified date in January.

b) If these reports are not received the recipient will be ineligible for any further financial assistance from RACS and may be required at the discretion of RACS to refund the award.

c) Copies of the reports will be sent to ANZSGC. ANZSGC reports recommendations, findings and outcomes to the Scholarship Monitoring and Evaluation Committee which oversees the evaluation of the ANZ Scholarship and Grant Program.

d) Recipients should submit the results of their research whenever possible to a peer reviewed journal such as the ANZ Journal of Surgery.

e) Upon request, recipients must make themselves available to prepare an article for publishing in Surgical News on the completion of the Grant.

f) Recipients are required to present their research, if appropriate, at the annual meeting of the Surgical Research Society of Australasia (SRS) at least once during the grant period or within 12 months after the end of the grant period.

g) Recipients are required to complete two Scholarship Evaluation Surveys. The first will be requested upon completion of the award. The second will be requested five years after completion of the award.

3.9.5. Ethics Approval

RACS must receive documentary evidence where applicable of ethical approval from the Ethics Committee of the Institution concerned to approve that the project conforms to the general principles set out in the NH&MRC “Statement on Human Experimentation” and/or the “Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes”.

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3.9.6. Timing of Grant
The commencement date for the Grant is 1 January each year.

3.9.7. Reapplication for the Grant
Applicants can only receive the John Loewenthal Project Grant once, except in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of RACS.

3.9.8. Renewal of the Grant
This Grant is renewable for two years. Renewal each year is subject to satisfactory progress as approved by ANZSGC. This will be determined upon assessment of the mid year scholarship report (see Reporting).

3.9.9. Acknowledgements
   a) RACS, the Foundation for Surgery and the named Grant are to be acknowledged in any relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising, publication, other material and all presentations relating to the award.
   b) The Foundation for Surgery logo must be included in all presentations relating to the award including those made at the ASC.
   c) Recipients are required to speak at Foundation dinners if/when invited.

3.9.10. Publications and Patents
RACS must be notified of any publications as soon as practicable after acceptance by the journal, or patents arising from the award together with the results of any research that is to be commercially developed.

3.9.11. Acceptance of Offer
The recipient, their Head of Department and a representative of the Administering Institution must sign the Acceptance Form as acknowledgement of the above conditions and approved research and return it to RACS prior to commencement of the award. Where the recipient is a Project Team, the Chief Investigator must complete any appropriate documentation when required.

3.10. Privacy
Recipients should refer to the RACS Privacy Policy for information on how RACS may collect, store and disclose personal information.

3.11. Termination of the Grant
RACS may, at its discretion, for what is considered grave cause, suspend the tenure of an award for such time as is thought fit, or deprive a recipient of his/her award. From the date of either of these decisions, the entitlement to funding and other allowances shall cease.

Upon termination monies already paid and not duly expended shall be refunded to RACS.

3.12. Administering Committee
ANZSGC administers the grant.
4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- PRC: Scholarship Program Overview
- FRM: Scholarship Program Amendment Form
- DOC: Important General Conditions

**Approver**
ANZ Scholarship and Grant Committee

**Authoriser**
Council