1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the awarding of the Royal College of Surgeons (RACS) Māori SET Trainee One Year Scholarship. It covers the application and selection criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the Scholarship.

2. KEYWORDS

Scholarship, Indigenous, Māori, Surgical Education and Training (SET), Trainee

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background

The Māori SET Trainee One Year Scholarship for has been established by the Indigenous Health Committee to support Trainees who are Māori.

3.2. Eligibility criteria

Applications for the Scholarships are open to SET Trainees who identify as Māori.

To be eligible for the Scholarship an applicant needs to fulfil the eligibility requirements for membership of Te Ohu Rata o Aotearoa (Te ORA).

Details can be found on http://www.teora.maori.nz/membership.

All scholarships are conditional upon the applicant being a permanent resident or citizen of Australia or New Zealand.

3.3. Activities covered by the Scholarship

This scholarship could cover one or more of the following:

3.3.1. Research projects
3.3.2. Mentoring programs
3.3.3. Travel, accommodation and registration fees to attend conferences
3.3.4. Other relevant professional development activities

3.4. Selection criteria

The selection criteria includes:

1. Academic record
2. Strength of referees’ reports
3. Contribution to Māori communities
4. Other criteria as determined by the Indigenous Health Committee

The Scholarship will be awarded on the recommendation of the Selection Committee based on a written application, a current Curriculum Vitae, academic record and two letters of reference supporting the application.

In the awarding of the Scholarship, the Selection Panel will where possible ensure gender balance in recipients.

The application is to include a submission of up to 500 words describing the Trainee’s aspirations, purpose in studying surgery, what the scholarship funding will be used for and current and future commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activities.
The Selection Committee will consist of the following:

- Chair (or nominee) of Board of Surgical Research;
- Chair (or nominee), Indigenous Health Committee;
- Chair (or nominee) of the Board of Surgical Education and Training
- President (or nominee), Te ORA.

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of the selection process in August of the year of application.

3.1. Value of the Scholarship

The value of the Scholarship is in New Zealand dollars. Prospective applicants should refer to the RACS website at www.surgeons.org for information on the current value of the Scholarship.

3.2. Duration of the Scholarship

One year scholarship for Trainees in any year of SET.

3.3. Frequency of the Scholarship

The Scholarships are to be made available every year dependent on funding. They will only be awarded if there are worthy applicants.

3.4. Conditions of the Scholarship

The following conditions are based on information supplied at the point of application on which scholars’ applications were assessed and approved. Any changes from those originally approved will require RACS prior consent. To obtain this consent, scholars are required to notify RACS in writing.

3.4.1. Māori status

a. Provide a letter confirming membership from Te ORA.

3.4.2. Financial arrangements

a. The scholar must refer to his/her financial or taxation advisor to ascertain the taxability of the stipend. General information about whether scholarships are exempt from income tax is available on the RACS website. Please go to www.surgeons.org/scholarships/ and proceed to the FAQ section.

b. Payment of the award will be made in one instalment, prior to 1 March in the given year.

c. Award funds will only be paid on receipt of a valid tax invoice.

3.4.3. Additional scholarships /awards

a. A RACS scholar may hold additional external awards simultaneously with the RACS Māori award.

b. A scholar must notify RACS immediately on receipt of an award other than the RACS Māori award.

c. The scholar may not hold two RACS awards simultaneously.
d. In the event that an additional external (other than RACS) award is received, RACS may review and amend its financial contribution to the scholarship holder.

3.4.4. Reporting

a. The payment of the award is conditional upon the recipient providing a final report in the requested format to RACS. If the report is 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. A copy of the report will be sent to the Indigenous Health Committee and the Board of Surgical Research.

b. Scholars must be prepared to have an article published in Surgical News on the completion of their award if requested.

3.4.5. Timing of Scholarship

The commencement date for awards is 1 February each year.

3.4.6. Reapplication for the Scholarship

Scholars are eligible to re-apply in subsequent years through the normal application channels and observing the advertised application deadlines and formats in competition with all applications. Scholars are encouraged to apply for similar scholarships awarded by external bodies.

3.4.7. Acknowledgements

RACS is to be acknowledged in any relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising, publication or other material relating to the award.

Recipients may be required to speak at a RACS event.

3.4.8. 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.

3.4.9. Privacy

RACS takes reasonable steps to protect the information it holds from misuse or loss and from unauthorized access, modification or disclosure. The scholar has the right to access his or her personal information and to have it corrected if inaccurate, incomplete or out of date.

3.4.10. Termination of the Scholarship

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 scholar of his/her Award. From the date of either of these decisions, the entitlement to stipend and other allowances shall cease.

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

3.4.11. Acceptance of offer
Scholars must sign the Acceptance Form as acknowledgment of the above conditions and return it to the RACS prior to commencement of the award.

3.5. Access
This policy may be accessed by the general public, RACS and staff.

3.6. Communication
Scholarship recipients will be notified of the policy or any changes to the policy that impact them by email. Other stakeholders are encouraged to check the RACS website on a regular basis to keep up to date with policy changes.

3.7. Administering Committee
The Board of Surgical Research administers the Scholarship.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS
RACS Māori SET Trainee One Year Scholarship procedure
RACS Māori SET Trainee One Year Scholarship application form

Approver  Board of Surgical Research
Authoriser  Council