1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the awarding of the Foundation for Surgery Ian and Ruth Gough Surgical Education Scholarship. It covers the application and selection criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the Scholarship.

2. KEYWORDS

Foundation, Surgery, Foundation for Surgery, Research, Scholarship, Gough, Surgical, Education, Award, Surgical Education, Gough Scholarship, Education Scholarship, Ian Gough Scholarship, surgical education award, Trainee

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background

The Ian and Ruth Gough Surgical Education Scholarship has been established to encourage surgeons to become expert surgical educators.

This Scholarship is governed under the auspices of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons’ Professional Development and Standards Board (PDSB) through the Research, Audit and Academic Surgery (RAAS) division. The Ian and Ruth Gough Surgical Education Scholarship Selection Committee (Selection Committee) has been convened to oversight the implementation of the Scholarship.

3.2. Eligibility Criteria

Applications for the Scholarship are open to Fellows and Surgical Trainees of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

All Scholarships, Fellowships and Grants are conditional upon the applicant being a permanent resident or citizen of Australia or New Zealand.

The benefactors of the Ian and Ruth Gough Surgical Education Scholarship may, from time to time, review the eligibility criteria and selection process of the Scholarship in collaboration with the Board of Surgical Research and recommend amendments to this policy.

3.3. Selection Criteria

The Scholarship will be awarded on the basis of the applicant’s expected contribution to surgical education in Australia and/or New Zealand and their capacity to become an expert surgical educator.

Applicants must provide and will be assessed on the following:

- A curriculum vitae and one referee’s report
- An outline of a program proposal that includes documentation of their acceptance of visits to specialist centres or into courses that will enhance their ability to become expert surgical educators. The Dean of Education is available to advise on suitable activities.
• Details of the approximate cost of their proposed program in order to establish that the Ian and Ruth Gough Surgical Education Scholarship will be appropriately expended.

• A statement that summarises their personal experience in obtaining and delivering surgical education programs and the anticipated future contribution they will make to surgical education in Australia and/or New Zealand.

• The Selection Committee will consist of three members comprising the Chair of the Board of Surgical Research, the College Dean of Education and Professor Ian Gough or his nominee.

3.4. Value of the Scholarship
Prospective applicants should refer to the College website www.surgeons.org for information on the current value of the Scholarship.

3.5. Duration of the Scholarship
The Scholarship is for a period of twelve months.

3.6. Frequency of the Scholarship
The Scholarship is to be awarded annually, subject to availability of funding and providing there is a worthy applicant.

3.7. Conditions of the Scholarship
3.7.1. Travel/Research Program
The travel program as approved must have commenced before the end of the scholarship program year for which the award was offered.

3.7.2. 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 College website. Please go to www.surgeons.org/scholarships/ and proceed to the FAQ section.

b) Payment of the Scholarship will be made in one instalment.

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

3.7.3. Additional Scholarship/Fellowships/Awards
Scholars may not hold two College Scholarships simultaneously.

3.7.4. Reporting
The payment of the Scholarship is conditional upon the recipient providing the College with a written report and an article for publication in Surgical News. The reports will be due one month after completing the proposed course or visits. If the above mentioned reports are not received the recipient will be ineligible for any further financial assistance from the College.
College and may be required, at the discretion of the College, to refund the stipend. A copy of the report will be forwarded to the benefactors.

3.7.5. Reaplication for the Scholarship

Applicants can only receive the Foundation for Surgery Ian and Ruth Gough Surgical Education Scholarship once. Applicants can reapply in subsequent years while eligible, until they are successful.

3.7.6. Acknowledgements

The RACS Foundation for Surgery Ian and Ruth Gough Surgical Education Scholarship is to be acknowledged in any relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising or other material relating to the Scholarship. The Foundation logo must be included in all presentations relating to the award, including those made at the ASC.

3.7.7. Privacy

The College 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.

3.7.8. Termination of the Scholarship

The College may, at its discretion, for what is considered grave cause, suspend the tenure of the Scholarship for such time as is thought fit, or deprive a scholar of his/her Scholarship. 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 the corpus of the Foundation for Surgery Ian and Ruth Gough Surgical Education Scholarship.

3.7.9. Acceptance of Offer

Fellows and Trainees must sign the Acceptance Form as acknowledgement of the above conditions and approved surgical education proposal and return it to the College prior to commencement of the Scholarship.

3.8. Access

This policy may be accessed by the general public, College Fellows and Trainees and staff.

3.9. 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 College website on a regular basis to keep up to date with policy changes.

3.10. Administering Committee

The Board of Surgical Research administers this Scholarship.
4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

PRC: Research Scholarships - General
Scholarship Process map
FRM: College Research Scholarships, Fellowships and Grants Application

Approver: CEO
Authoriser: Council