1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the awarding of the Murray and Unity Pheils Travel Scholarship. It covers the application and selection criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the Scholarship.

2. KEYWORDS

Murray, Unity, Pheils, Travel, Scholarship.

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background

The Murray and Unity Pheils Travel Scholarship was established following a donation made by the late Professor Murray Pheils. The purpose of the Scholarship is to assist a surgical Trainee or Fellow of the College to travel overseas to obtain further training and experience in the field of colorectal surgery, or an overseas surgeon wishing to come to Australia or New Zealand to undertake colorectal surgery training.

3.2. Eligibility Criteria

Applications for the Scholarship are open to Australian and New Zealand surgical Trainees or Fellows, who wish to obtain further training and experience at a specialist colorectal unit overseas. These applicants must be a permanent resident or citizen of Australia or New Zealand, or an international medical graduate accepted into the College as a Trainee.

Overseas graduates wishing to obtain further training and experience in a specialist colorectal unit in Australia and New Zealand are also eligible; however preference will be given to Australian and New Zealand graduates. Applicants must not have commenced their travels prior to the closing date for applications.

3.3. Selection Criteria

Selection of travel grant recipients will be made based upon the abilities and experience of the candidate, the merit of the proposed travel plan and the potential benefits to the individual and/or other surgeons from the travel. This will be evaluated from the candidate’s application and supporting references.

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 of twelve months duration.

3.6. Frequency of the Scholarship

The scholarship is to be awarded annually, subject to income being sufficient and providing there is a worthy applicant.

3.7. Conditions of the Scholarship

3.7.1. Travel Program
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 by the College will require the College’s prior consent. To obtain this consent, scholars are required to complete an amendment form available from the College.

a) Scholars must undertake the travel program as approved by the College for the award. The travel must have commenced before the end of the scholarship program year for which the award was offered.

b) Trainees must get the support of their training board.

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/fellowships 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 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.

3.7.3. Additional Scholarships/Fellowships/Awards

Scholars may not hold two College awards simultaneously.

3.7.4. Reporting

a) The payment of the award is conditional upon receipt by the College of a report, in the requested format, on the research/travel undertaken. This report must be received within one month of completing the travel, or prior to 1 December in the given year, whichever is sooner. If this report is not received, the recipient will be ineligible for any further financial assistance from the College and may be required to reimburse the College for the award paid. A copy of the report will be forwarded to Mrs Pheils.

b) Scholars must prepare and publish an article in Surgical News on the completion of their award.

3.7.5. Timing of Scholarship

The commencement date for the awards must be after the closing date for applications in the year of application. The commencement date must be as stipulated in the application.

3.7.6. Renewal of the Scholarship

Awards are for twelve months duration.

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

3.7.8. 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.

3.7.9. Termination of a Scholarship
The College 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.

3.7.10. Acceptance of Offer
Scholars must sign the Acceptance of Offer as acknowledgement of the above conditions and approved research and return it to the College prior to commencement of the award.

3.8. Access
This policy may be accessed by the general public, College and staff.

3.9. Communication
Fellowship 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 the Scholarship.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS
PRC: Research Scholarships - General
Scholarship Process map
FRM: College Travel Scholarships, Fellowships and Grants Application

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Approved By: Director, Research, Audit and Academic Surgery
Document Owner: Scholarship Program Co-ordinator

Original Issue: February 2008
Version: 4
Approval Date: October 2014
Review Date: October 2017