

Thinking of Orthopaedic Surgery?

Orthopaedic surgery is the diagnosis and treatment (operative and non-operative) of patients with disorders of the musculoskeletal system (bones, joints, ligaments, tendon and peripheral nerves). It includes the management of trauma to the musculoskeletal system and the management of congenital and acquired disorders.

For more information on Orthopaedic Surgery as a specialty in New Zealand [click here](#)

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) invites you to view interviews with experienced surgeons about their [study](#), practice and highlights.

Training in Orthopaedic Surgery is coordinated by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Board of Orthopaedic Surgery which is responsible for the selection, placement and monitoring of all Orthopaedic Trainees in New Zealand.

Overview of Orthopaedic Surgery

To help guide junior doctors' career development during the early pre-vocational years, the College has established JDocs, a competency framework (JDocs Framework) supported by a suite of learning and assessment resources.

JDocs is available to any doctor registered in Australia and New Zealand, from and including internship, where the level of engagement is determined by the junior doctor.

For further information visit the [competency-framework](#) and [RACS competencies](#)

When selecting doctors for Surgical Education and Training (SET) RACS focus is on their potential to achieve the 9 RACS competencies:

1. Professionalism
2. Scholar/Teacher
3. Health Advocacy
4. Management and Leadership
5. Collaboration
6. Communication
7. Medical Expertise
8. Judgement – Clinical Decision Making
9. Technical Expertise

Training

5 Years

- Surgical Education and Training (SET) 1 to 5
- Each set is 12 months in duration

Entry Requirements

- [Generic Selection Requirements](#)
- [Specialty Specific Requirements](#)

The number of doctors selected for SET in Orthopaedic Surgery is not based on entry requirements alone but also on scoring high enough in the selection process to be offered one of the limited number of training positions.

You will need to complete placements in multiple DHBs whilst completing vocational training

SET in Orthopaedic Surgery is separate in New Zealand and Australia.

Registration with the RACS as a Trainee in SET Orthopaedic Surgery is not transferable between New Zealand and Australia.

Registration is not training-site specific and lasts for the duration of the training programme, assuming satisfactory progression.

Specialty Training Programme Information

[Medical College](#)

[Royal Australasian College of Surgeons](#)

[Fellowship/Qualification](#)

Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS) in Orthopaedic Surgery

Application and Selection Process

Examination Requirement

RACS Examinations include the

- Clinical Examination,
- Generic Surgical Sciences Examination,
- Specialty Specific Examination and
- Fellowship Examination.

Information regarding RACS examinations can be found [here](#)

[Recognition of Prior Learning](#)

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Further information can be obtained on [Royal Australasian College of Surgeons](#)

Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Information

Demand for vocational Training Posts

Year	Number of applications for training year	Number of applicants for training year selected
2016	22	9
2015	19	9
2014	28	9
2013	30	10
2012	35	9
2011	34	10
2010	37	11
2009	33	13

RMO training registrar positions contracted

Northern	Midland	Central	South Island	Total
15	8	9	11	43

(September 2016 RMO census)

Regions

Northern:

Northland, Waitemata, Auckland, Counties Manukau DHBs

Midland:

Lakes, Tairāwhiti, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Taranaki DHBs

Central:

Hawke's Bay, Wanganui, MidCentral, Wairarapa, Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley DHBs

South Island:

Nelson Marlborough, Canterbury, South Canterbury, Southern, West Coast DHBs

Senior Medical Officer (SMO) Information

NZ New Fellows (Some SET Trainees work for a year or more overseas before returning to NZ and applying for the award of FRACS).

Year	Number of NZ New Fellows
2016	6
2015	14
2014	8
2013	15
2012	15
2011	17
2010	15
2009	13

Average Age of SMOs	Number of Orthopaedic Surgeons registered with the Medical Council	% of international medical graduates in the workforce
52	276	22

Number by Region (September 2016 SMO census)

Northern		Midland		Central		South Island		Total	
FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
64.6	78	34.1	44	34.1	43	39.2	57	171.9	222