



1. Purpose & Scope

The purpose of this policy is to outline Trainee registration for the Post Fellowship Education & Training (PFET) Program in Transplantation Surgery and the mechanisms by which Trainees may apply for variations to their registration status to undertake periods of interruption.

All Trainees undertaking the PFET Program in Transplantation Surgery must be appropriately registered with GSA. It is recognised that some Trainees may have a need to take interruption at some point during the PFET Program in Transplantation Surgery. This policy governs the mechanisms by which Trainees may apply for variations to their registration status to undertake period interruption to training.

The Trainee registration status also determines the fees charged of Trainees, which are calculated in accordance with the *PFET Transplant Training Fees Policy*.

2. Definitions

Listed here are all key terms and acronyms used in the policy, and their definitions.

Acronym – Key Word	Definition
GSA	General Surgeons Australia
PFET	Post-Fellowship Education & Training
TTC	Transplant Training Committee
Board	GSA Board of Directors

3. Policy

3.1 Registration for Training

- 3.1.1 Prior to the commencement of each training year, Trainees are required to register with GSA as a Trainee in the PFET Program in Transplantation Surgery by paying the applicable training fee and any additional requirements as specified at the time of invoicing.
- 3.1.2 Unless otherwise approved in accordance with this policy, Trainees will be registered as full time Trainees and are required to participate in the PFET Program in Transplantation Surgery.
- 3.1.3 Trainees who wish to alter their registration status must apply for a variation in accordance with this policy. If approved, the registration status of the Trainee will be amended accordingly.
- 3.1.4 The maximum term for completion of the PFET Program in Transplantation Surgery is four (4) years. Trainees who have had a period of clinical experience recognised as prior learning will have the maximum period for completion reduced by that period.

- 3.1.5 Approved family, carers, or sick leave shall not be included in the calculation of the maximum period of training.
- 3.1.6 Payment of the applicable training fee must be made in accordance with the *PFET Transplant Training Fees Policy*. Different fees apply for Trainees in full time clinical training and Trainees on interruption.

3.2 Interruption to Training

- 3.2.1 Interruption is a period of approved absence by a Trainee from the PFET Program in Transplantation Surgery.
- 3.2.2 GSA is not an employer and approval of a period of interruption does not compel an employer to grant leave. Trainees must apply for appropriate leave from their employer.
- 3.2.3 With the exception of leave for medical or family reasons, Trainees cannot apply for leave in the first six months of their training program.
- 3.2.4 Trainees in the PFET Program in Transplantation Surgery who wish to interrupt their training must apply to the TTC at least six (6) months prior to the proposed commencement of the training year in which the interruption will occur. Trainees applying for interruption due to medical reasons (illness, family leave) may do so at any time if supported by medical evidence.
- 3.2.5 Applications for interruption must be for periods in multiples of six months.
- 3.2.6 The TTC will make the determination on the approval or otherwise, taking into consideration the reasons for the request, the Trainee's progress to date and logistical considerations. In order to minimise vacancies on the PFET Program in Transplantation Surgery and to not disadvantage other Trainees and applicants, the TTC may require the period of interruption to be greater than that applied for.
- 3.2.7 Trainees will not be permitted to apply for retrospective accreditation of clinical or research work undertaken during any period of interruption.
- 3.2.8 Trainees approved for interruption will be registered with GSA as interrupted and will be required to pay an applicable fee. Payment of the applicable fee must be in accordance with the *PFET Transplant Training Fees Policy*.
- 3.2.9 The TTC may set conditions that require Trainees to demonstrate currency of skills before returning to active training. This may include the satisfactory completion of an assessment process that has been approved by the TTC.

3.3 Appeal

- 3.3.1 Decisions relating to request for interruption training may be reviewed or appealed in accordance with the *PFET Transplant Appeals Process Policy*.

4. Implementation

The policy will be available on the GSA website.