



**GENERAL SURGERY
SURGICAL EDUCATION &
TRAINING PROGRAM**

**SA-NT
Regional Guide**

2025



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Introduction

Welcome to the General Surgery Education and Training (GSET) Program in the South Australian - Northern Territory (SA-NT) Region.

There are various requirements to training that Trainees need to be aware of. Please use this regional guide along with the Training Regulations to familiarise yourself with these requirements to ensure a smooth journey during your time on the training program.

This guide is to assist you to understand how the SA-NT region works, with important dates and information.

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) is the principal body for the training and education of surgeons in Australia and New Zealand. General Surgeons Australia (GSA) collaborates with the RACS as an agent of the College, to administer the training program in Australia and manage the Australian Board in General Surgery (ABiGS). ABiGS is the overseer of the GSET Program and reports directly to the Board of Surgical Education and Training (BSET) and the RACS Council.

The General Surgery GSET Program is designed to ensure that the graduating General Surgery Trainee has the competencies and skills required to undertake core General Surgery procedures, is able to participate independently in an acute on call general surgical roster and is competent across the RACS Core Competencies.

General Surgery covers many surgical conditions. The curriculum provides an indication of the breadth of knowledge required. The curriculum should only be taken as a guide as to what you will be expected to cover during your training, as you will not necessarily be limited to the areas and conditions listed.

To assist you during your time on the GSET Program, please refer to the relevant Board in General Surgery Training Regulations.

The GSET Regulations can be found [here](#) - or go to the GSA Website, under For Trainees - Training Programs - GSET Program - GSET Regulations.

SA-NT REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS

For further information on the General Surgery Training Program, or information provided in this Regional Guide, please contact the SA-NT Regional Office:

Liz Pedersen

SA-NT Regional Executive Officer

Phone: +61 8 8229 6210

Email: liz.pedersen@generalsurgeons.com.au

SA/NT Training Committee

The Australian Board in General Surgery (ABiGS) of RACS oversees the conduct of the RACS Surgical Education and Training GSET program in General Surgery, reporting to the Board of Surgical Education and Training.

The current Chair of the Australian Board in General Surgery is Dr Robert Whitfield FRACS.

Each region has a state-based Training Committee that reports directly to the BiGS. The South Australian - Northern Territory (SA-NT) Training Committee of the Australian Board in General Surgery is responsible for providing recommendations to the Board on regional issues including trainee requests, selection, hospital inspections, and educational courses. The Committee also discusses and reviews the progress of trainees that have been placed on Probation or Performance Management Plan/Learning & Development Plan.

The SA-NT Training Committee consists of the Chair, Dr Harsh Kanhere FRACS, the Deputy Chair, Dr Chris Liyanage FRACS, and a nominated Hospital Supervisor from each hospital with a General Surgery accredited post.

All correspondence to the Chair of the Training Committee is to come via the SA-NT Regional Executive Officer.

The Training Committee meets four (4) times per year and reports to the Australian Board in General Surgery after each meeting. In most instances the Board will provide final approval to Trainee Requests.

The 2025 SA-NT Training Committee meeting dates are listed below. Trainees wishing to submit a request or agenda item for discussion must submit their request by the due dates also listed below.

2025 SA-NT TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Tue, 25 February 2025	Trainee request/agenda items due: Mon, 3 February 2025
Tue, 27 May 2025*	Trainee request/agenda items due: Mon, 5 May 2025*
Tue, 26 August 2025	Trainee request/agenda items due: Mon, 4 August 2025
Tue, 25 November 2025	Trainee request/agenda items due: Mon, 3 November 2025

PLEASE NOTE: As per the Australian Board in General Surgery Training Regulations (www.generalsurgeons.com.au), all trainee requests for interruption must be approved prior to 31 July by both the SA-NT Training Committee and Australian Board in General Surgery so that requests can be reviewed and processed in time for the assignment of allocations and rotations in the following year. Requests submitted after this date will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Term Dates & Assessments

TERM 1 2025

Term 1 Start Date:	Monday 3 February 2025
Term 1 End Date:	Tuesday 5 August 2025
Mid Term Assessment due:	Tuesday 6 May 2025, 5pm
End of Term Assessment + Logbook due:	Tuesday 5 August 2025, 5pm

TERM 2 2025

Term 2 Start Date:	Wednesday 6 August 2025
Term 2 End Date:	Sunday 1 February 2026
Midterm Assessment due:	Tuesday 4 November 2025, 5pm
End of Term Assessment + Logbook due:	Sunday 1 February 2026, 5pm

GSET MID TERM AND END OF TERM ASSESSMENTS:

Assessments are conducted at Mid-Term and End-of-Term via the Trainee Information Management System (TIMS). Please refer to the guides available on the GSA website and the GSET Training Program Regulations for further information.

PLEASE NOTE: Regular reminders will be sent prior to the assessment due dates; it is the Trainee's responsibility to be aware of the above dates. Failure to submit an assessment by the due date is a breach of the Australian Board in General Surgery Training Regulations. The period of training may not be accredited resulting in the Trainee automatically commencing Probationary Training in the subsequent term pending a review by the SA-NT Training Committee.

SA-NT Rotations & Hospital Overview

ALICE SPRINGS HOSPITAL

Gap Road, ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870

SURGICAL SUPERVISOR: Dr Damien Harris

NUMBER OF TRAINING POSTS: 2 x GSET. This is a 6-month rotation.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

The Alice Springs hospital is a 189-bed specialist teaching hospital situated in the Red Centre of Australia. The population in this area is dispersed over 1.6 million square kilometers, and this dispersion provides unique and rewarding challenges in the delivery of a range of comprehensive health services.

Alice Springs hospital is a Level 2 trauma center, and the nearest tertiary center is 1500 kilometers away in Adelaide. There are 41000 presentations to Emergency department every year and the common surgical admissions are trauma, infections, and acute pancreatitis. Surgical department must deal with major traumas including major vascular and neurosurgical emergencies. Alice Springs hospital has the largest single standing dialysis unit in the southern hemisphere with 260 patients on haemo dialysis. Vascular access is provided mainly by a vascular surgeon from Darwin together with general surgeons in Alice Springs hospital. There is a regular urology service provided by VMOs from Darwin and Adelaide. Sixty percent (60%) of the surgical admissions are indigenous patients and working in Alice Springs will give surgical trainees the unique experience of delivery of surgical services to indigenous people across the barriers of distance and culture.

FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

Flinders Drive, BEDFORD PARK SA 5042

SURGICAL SUPERVISOR: Dr Chris Liyanage

NUMBER OF TRAINING POSTS: 5 x GSET. This is a 6-month rotation. Additional flexible training position (12-month rotation).

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

UPPER GI - This rotation involves extensive exposure to endoscopy, general surgical operating, and specialty Upper GI cases.

HPB - This rotation offers exposure to endoscopy, general surgical operating, and specialty hepatobiliary and liver transplantation cases.

COLORECTAL - This term offers extensive exposure to colonoscopy, general surgical operating, and specialty colorectal cases.

BREAST/ENDOCRINE - This attachment offers significant exposure to large volume breast and endocrine surgery cases.

SA-NT Rotations & Hospital Overview

FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE (CONT)

GGIS UNIT - This is a rotation with the General GastroIntestinal Surgical Unit at FMC and offers exposure to endoscopy and colonoscopy and wide range of general surgical operating. They are currently developing a complex hernia unit within this.

UGI (FLEXIBLE TRAINING) - This is a part-time post (0.5FTE) that includes sessions at FMC and Noarlunga Hospital, offering extensive exposure to endoscopy, general surgical operating, and specialty Upper GI cases.

LYELL McEWIN HOSPITAL

Haydown Road, ELIZABETH VALE SA 5112

SURGICAL SUPERVISOR: Dr Devinder Raju

NUMBER OF TRAINING POSTS: 3 x GSET posts. This is a 6-month rotation.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Colorectal Unit - 2 x SET Training post Open and laparoscopic and robotic colorectal resections, pelvic floor surgery, Inflammatory bowel surgery, colonoscopy lists, plethora of general surgery operations. Supported by Fellow, second registrar, - two RMOs and two interns. Regular OPDs, - Colorectal MDT participation, Monthly audit, Pelvic floor MDT, IBD MDT. Opportunity for research projects.

Breast/Endocrine Unit - 1 x SET trainee post General breast surgery (benign & malignant), thyroid and adrenal surgery and other general surgery operations. Supported by Fellow, RMO and interns. Regular OPDs, Breast MDT and monthly audit participation.

Upper GI Unit - 1 x SET trainee post. Laparoscopic and open HPB resections, gastric resections and benign upper GI surgery. Broad exposure to complex acute UGI and HPB presentations. Acute and elective General Surgery operating and endoscopy/colonoscopy. Regular, supervised UGI and general surgery outpatient clinics. Regular (x2/week min) consultant ward rounds. Weekly surgical forums, weekly UGI cancer MDT, monthly HPB MDT and radiology meeting. Monthly audit, research opportunities. Supported by 4 consultants, 1 Fellow, 1-2 RMO and interns.

MODBURY HOSPITAL

Smart Road, MODBURY SA 5092

SURGICAL SUPERVISOR: Dr James Roberts

NUMBER OF TRAINING POSTS: 1 x GSET. This is a 6-month rotation.

SA-NT Rotations & Hospital Overview

MODBURY HOSPITAL (CONT)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

In 2025 there will be 1 SET rotations of 6 months each attached to the General Surgical Unit. The unit has 5 consultants and there are visiting consultants from LMHS who have operating lists at Modbury. The rotations expose the trainee to a broad range of General Surgery within a short stay elective surgery unit. Gastroscopy/ colonoscopy is also performed.

In 2025 there will be one senior trainee, one SET trainee and 4 service trainees. SET Trainees are given responsibility according to their level of experience and assist in the supervision of junior trainees and Resident Medical Officers.

There will be a 1 in 5 on call general surgery roster for Modbury Hospital Emergency Department. As Modbury Hospital no longer admits emergency surgical cases, the on-call trainees will liaise with LMHS for all general surgery emergency admissions. On call includes remote call overnight and varies in workload but is not usually onerous. To meet training requirements, the SET trainee will also participate in the LMHS on call roster to provide exposure to acute surgical conditions.

Each Consultant has 1-2 outpatient sessions per week and one full day operating/scope list per week. Trainees are expected to participate in the intern and medical student teaching (including an ongoing tutorial programme). Trainees are encouraged to undertake a relevant research project suitable for state meeting presentation and/or publication during their 12-month term.

The rotation at Modbury has previously rated very highly in trainee's satisfaction rating. Logbook numbers have always been very good, and it is usually a good opportunity to work very closely with a team of committed and enthusiastic Consultants in the friendly atmosphere of a medium sized training hospital.

MOUNT GAMBIER & DISTRICTS HEALTH SERVICE

North Wehl Street, MT GAMBIER SA 5290

SURGICAL SUPERVISOR: Dr Timothy McCullough

NUMBER OF TRAINING POSTS: 1 x GSET. This is a 6-month rotation.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Mt Gambier is a rotation best suited for (G)SET 2-3 trainees. It is a 100-bed hospital with a high dependency unit. There are 4 operating theatres with either a scope or general surgical list every day.

It's relatively busy as there is no fellow or senior trainee. Your team consists of 3 general surgical consultants, a pre-SET trainee, an RMO, an intern and several FMC and Adelaide university students.

SA-NT Rotations & Hospital Overview

MOUNT GAMBIER & DISTRICTS HEALTH SERVICE (CONT)

There is a large variety to the cases seen here. There is 24-hour emergency operating capability and patients can have perioperative care in HDU if required. Cases range from minor and major general surgical cases to specialised major cases with a colorectal interest including diverticular and laparoscopic colorectal cancer operations. Alongside this, there is copious scoping opportunity which will allow numbers and refining of skills with frequent and extensive exposure to upper and lower GI endoscopy.

This post has recently been re-accredited for training by the RACS, and assessed as an "excellent training site, providing a good number of operative cases and the opportunity to participate in high quality research."

PORT LINCOLN HOSPITAL

Oxford Terrace, PORT LINCOLN SA 5606

SURGICAL SUPERVISOR: Dr Anoj Dharmawardhane

CONSULTANTS ON UNIT: 2

NUMBER OF TRAINING POSTS: 1 x GSET. This is a 6-month rotation.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Port Lincoln is a 50-bed hospital with two operating theatres and an endoscopy suite. The rotation offers exposure to a broad range of laparoscopic and open general surgical procedures in a rural setting. Trainees will be involved in management of patients on the ward, in outpatients, theatre and the emergency department. The rotation offers close supervision and teaching by the resident surgeons with excellent exposure to theatre and endoscopy lists. The full range of general surgical conditions are seen and managed with referral to tertiary centers as required.

Trainees provide on-call General Surgical cover to the emergency department and take calls from GP's from 0800- 1700 weekdays. There is an RMO to assist with clerking patients and ward work. There is a requirement to do remote call-in conjunction with the covering consultant 1 night per week, usually Wednesdays. Ward round on every 2nd Saturday morning.

The unit has placement of 4th year medical students doing their surgical rotation. The registrar will be assist in supervision and teaching.

Fortnightly Multidisciplinary meetings are held via teleconference with input from oncology, radiology, pathology, radiation oncology and the General Surgical team in Whyalla. It is the trainee's responsibility to prepare the lists and present the Port Lincoln patients.

SA-NT Rotations & Hospital Overview

ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

Port Road, ADELAIDE SA 5000

SURGICAL SUPERVISOR: Dr Michelle Thomas

NUMBER OF TRAINING POSTS: 6 x GSET, which are 6-month rotations. 1 xGSET Part Time post, which is a 12-month rotation.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Oesophagogastric Unit. 1 x SET

- UGI surgery (benign and malignant conditions of stomach and oesophagus, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease)
- Obesity Surgery
- Endoscopy (diagnostic and therapeutic)
- Elective general surgery
- Emergency general surgery: Unit on-call approx. 1in 4 for Acute Surgical Unit
- UGI multi-disciplinary meetings
- General Surgery and UGI outpatients

Hepatobiliary Unit. 1 x SET

- Hepatobiliary surgery (e.g. benign and malignant conditions of liver, biliary system and pancreas)
- ERCP
- Elective general surgery
- Emergency general surgery: Unit on-call approx. 1 in 4 for Acute Surgical Unit
- Hepatobiliary multi-disciplinary meetings
- General Surgery / Hepatobiliary surgery outpatients

Breast Endocrine. 1 x SET and 1 x SET p/time 0.67FTE (25.46hrs per week).

- Breast surgery (benign and malignant breast disease)
- Breast reconstruction / oncoplastic breast surgery
- Endocrine surgery (thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal conditions)
- Surgical Oncology (soft tissue tumours, lymph node/sentinel node biopsies, splenectomies, melanoma)
- Emergency general surgery: regular scheduled participation in Acute Surgical Unit for both trainees
- Breast, Endocrine Outpatient clinics
- High-risk BRCA1/2 Outpatient clinics
- Breast cancer and Endocrine / Endocrine surgery multidisciplinary meetings

SA-NT Rotations & Hospital Overview

ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL (CONT)

Colorectal Surgery Unit. 1 x SET

- Colorectal surgery (e.g benign and malignant colorectal conditions, laparoscopic and open surgery)
- Colonoscopy + stenting
- Elective general surgery
- Emergency general surgery: Unit on-call approx. 1 in 4 for Acute Surgical Unit
- General Surgery and colorectal surgery outpatient clinics
- Colorectal multi-disciplinary meetings

Trauma Surgery and Surgical Oncology Unit. 1 x SET

- Trauma surgery and management of complex multi-trauma patients
- Minimum twice weekly participation in Acute Surgical Unit
- Elective general surgery and surgical oncology (sarcoma and melanoma)
- General surgery and surgical oncology outpatient clinics
- Trauma multi-disciplinary meetings and educational sessions
- Sarcoma and Melanoma multi-disciplinary meetings fortnightly
- Weekly Trauma Surgery teaching sessions

Vascular. 1 x SET

- Elective Vascular surgery (open and endovascular)
- Vascular Outpatients
- Emergency surgery: regular participation in Vascular on-call roster

All Trainees are required to attend the weekly 'long-course' tutorial program on Wednesday evenings.

ROYAL DARWIN HOSPITAL

105 Rocklands Dr, TIWI NT 0810

SURGICAL SUPERVISOR: Mr Philip Toonson

NUMBER OF TRAINING POSTS: 6 x GSET. This is a 6-month rotation.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Our General Surgical Department provides a unique training opportunity, covering a wide range of subspecialties that includes: thoracics, breast, endocrine, HPB, upper GI, colorectal, paediatrics, urology, acute neurosurgery, burns, plastics/hand surgery and vascular surgery. General Surgery is also responsible for therapeutic endoscopy and ERCP. It can be intimidating and a steep learning curve, but the challenges are rewarding.

SA-NT Rotations & Hospital Overview

ROYAL DARWIN HOSPITAL (CONT)

There are three General Surgery Units and a Surgical Acute Care Unit (SACU). SET trainees are attached to each General Surgical Unit or Vascular if requested. There is excellent operating opportunity that should easily fulfil logbook requirements. Significant opportunity exists to complete GESA endoscopy requirements. In addition, experience is gained from private assisting in Darwin Private Hospital.

SACU is mostly staffed by unaccredited trainees; however, each SET trainee will be rostered on SACU during a six-month rotation. SACU trainee jobs include ward rounds, emergency operating, emergency referrals/admissions, and night shift.

Trainees will travel to either Katherine or Gove for three days to provide outreach services, which includes elective and emergency theatre, as well as clinic. There is excellent opportunity for research. Accredited RACS training courses in burns and trauma are available in Darwin.

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

28 Woodville Road, WOODVILLE SOUTH SA 5011

SURGICAL SUPERVISOR: Dr Markus Trochsler

NUMBER OF TRAINING POSTS: 3 x GSET. This is a 6-month rotation.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Colorectal - On this unit the trainee will predominantly do colorectal surgery, with some general surgery. Elective operating, endoscopy and colonoscopy lists, day surgery lists. There is some private assisting may be available for added experience. Consultant ward rounds are Monday and Friday, multidisciplinary meetings, & OPD. The trainees will participate in the TQEH on-call roster for general surgery.

Upper GI - On this unit the trainee will do Upper GI, hepatobiliary, bariatric and general surgery. The trainee will have exposure to a wide range of general surgery and day surgery, and some endoscopy experience may be available. There are also OPD clinics, consultant ward rounds, multidisciplinary meetings. Participation will be required in the TQEH on-call roster for general surgery.

Colorectal/Private - This rotation is split between the Colorectal Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and private hospitals (Calvary North Adelaide Hospital, Calvary Adelaide Hospital and Ashford Hospital). The Trainee will be supervised by three surgeons who work across private and the public unit. They will have exposure to a large volume of cases through the private component of the job and meet most of the other training requirements through the public component.

SA-NT Rotations & Hospital Overview

SW THAMES (UK) – FRIMLEY PARK HOSPITAL

Portsmouth Road, Camberley, SURREY GU167UJ

SURGICAL SUPERVISOR: Lt Col Anna Sharrock

NUMBER OF TRAINING POSTS: 1 x GSET. This is a 12-month rotation.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

There are 25 surgical consultants (6 colorectal, 7 vascular, 4 breast, 4 upper GI, and 4 emergency surgeons) and the department is divided into 4 teams based on the specialities. There is also an Emergency surgical team which all consultants and juniors rotate through. There are 3 Fellows, 10 trainee grade doctors, 13 Senior House Officers and 11 house officer grade doctors.

A trainee at Frimley would typically spend 6 months in 2 of the acute specialities, whilst also playing a full role in the on-call emergency rota. We always try to accommodate requests to be with a specific firm, this can't be guaranteed, but trainees always get plenty of operative experience. There is an excellent endoscopy unit with "JAG" recognised endoscopic trainers, and the surgical directorate is supported by superb anaesthetic, ICU, and radiological departments with whom we have close working relationships.

We encourage trainees to participate in audit & research projects, and there are regional surgical trainees teaching which all trainees are expected to attend. Also, local/departmental compulsory educational activities: radiology meeting and a fortnightly journal club.

SPECIAL SPECIALTIES:

Colorectal - 300 laparoscopic resections per year, robotic surgery, TEM surgery, colonoscopy, colonoscopic screening, advanced polypectomy techniques, pelvic floor service IBD and all minor colorectal surgical conditions.

Vascular - Regional vascular service with all endovascular and open surgical / radiological techniques

Upper GI - All benign O-G and HPB procedures performed at Frimley, cancer resections performed in Guildford, ERCP, endoscopy, stenting, etc.

Breast - 300 breast cancers per year, all cases assessed within 2 weeks in "one-stop" clinic. Oncoplastic and reconstructive breast service.

SUMMARY:

Frimley is a busy acute district general hospital. All surgical specialities are represented apart from cardiothoracics and neurosurgery. It is a Level II trauma centre with a helipad and new state-of-the-art emergency department. Frimley prides itself on being a busy, friendly, and supportive hospital, where training is always a priority.

TIMS Overview

The Trainee Information Management System (TIMS) provides all Trainees with the ability to view accurate and current information relating to their training.

TIMS allows trainees to view their training profile and to action the following activities:

- Submit/complete assessments and logbooks
- Submit trainee requests
- View hospital rotations
- View complete and outstanding requirements
- View training start date, expected end date and maximum training date

TIMS is accessible through the GSA website (www.generalsurgeons.com.au) via the member login option, enter your RACS ID and password.

PLEASE NOTE: Only access TIMS in Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge for optimal functionality - DO NOT access TIMS through Safari.

If your contact details have changed for any reason, please update TIMS immediately or contact the SA-NT Regional Office to advise.

Trainee Requests

Trainee requests are reviewed by the SA-NT Training Committee. Requests can be submitted at any time during your time on the General Surgery Training Program to communicate your needs, movements, and completion of specific requirements.

Trainee requests need to be submitted to the SA-NT Training Committee using the Trainee Information Management System (TIMS) and all leave requests must be submitted no later than 30 June.

There are several reasons for submitting a Trainee Request:

- Interruption to Training: Parental Leave, Medical Leave or Personal.
- Interruption to Training: Research
- Other: Used for 'other matters' such as a small exemption of a requirement due to valid reasons.
- Overseas Training
- Flexible Training - Part Time or Split Rotation
- RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning): Skills Courses
- Accelerated Learning
- Additional Clinical Training
- Transfer Region
- Extension to Training
- Withdrawal from General Surgery

Requests must be submitted by the trainee request deadline (two weeks prior to each Committee meeting). Failure to do so may delay the request until the next meeting.

It is important to discuss requests with your supervisor as they need to be aware of the circumstances surrounding your request. Additionally, some requests require you to include a letter of support from your supervisor.

All requests will be reviewed and discussed by the SA-NT Training Committee, who will then make a recommendation to ABiGS. ABiGS provide final approval/non-approval and will communicate the outcome directly to trainees.

A NOTE ON TAKING LEAVE:

Please consider taking annual leave as it accrues in conjunction with your unit's relieving availability/requirements, as everyone wants the Christmas period off and all hospitals need to continue functioning. Training regulations limit leave in any surgical term to 6 weeks.

GSET Logbooks

GSET Trainees will use the Australian Board in General Surgery Logbook. The General Surgery Logbook is based on a pre-defined list of procedures, each of which is assigned a number of points. Points are then awarded based on the supervision level when procedures are approved.

Colonoscopy and Endoscopy procedures will also be entered into the General Surgery Logbook and will be counted as per the Regulations.

ACCESS TO GENERAL SURGERY LOGBOOK

The General Surgery Logbook can be accessed via TIMS. Your current rotation will automatically be allocated. Once your rotation is rated, your next rotation will also be automatically allocated, however if you have procedures that need to be entered for your previous term, you will still have the ability to enter that information.

WHEN ARE POINTS AND SCOPE NUMBERS UPDATED TO YOUR PROGRESS BAR

Your points and scope number will be shown in the progress bar once your rotation is marked as Meeting Performance Expectation.

Surgical Education & Assessment Module

Trainees who commence on the General Surgical Education and Training (SET or GSET) Program in General Surgery will be required to complete the Surgical Education and Assessment Modules (SEAM).

SEAM is an online e-learning program comprising eight (8) modules, which have been developed by the Australian Board in General Surgery. Trainees must successfully complete the following modules during the first two (2) clinical years of SET in General Surgery:

1. Acute Abdomen
2. Anatomy
3. Haematology
4. Nutrition
5. The Operating Theatre
6. Peri-operative Care
7. Post-Operative Care (including Rehabilitation and Palliative Care)
8. Trauma & Critical Care

Successful completion of each module is defined as achieving the minimum pass mark in the summative assessment for each module.

Further information regarding the regulations governing SEAM is outlined in the Training Regulations which can be accessed on the [GSA website](#) via For Trainees - Training Program - GSET Program - GSET Regulations.

Instructions on accessing SEAM are outlined in the procedures manual on the [GSA website](#): via Trainees - Training Program - GSET Program - SEAM.

TO ACCESS SEAM MODULES

1. Go to www.generalsurgeons.com.au
2. Select the 'Login' button
3. Enter your RACS ID and password
4. Click on the app launcher in the top left corner, select SEAM

It is recommended that you use your personal computer (not a public or hospital computer) and only one browser (preferably Firefox) when completing modules. This will ensure that your answers are saved and only accessible by you over multiple sessions. There have been compatibility issues with Internet Explorer 9, Safari and Moodle. We recommend installing Firefox to avoid progression issues.

Please Note: Trainees who do not satisfactorily complete all eight (8) modules by mid-term in the second term of their second clinical year will be recommended for dismissal from the Training Program.

SA-NT Educational Sessions & Courses

LONG COURSE PROGRAMME

The Long Course Programme is a series of weekly tutorials for General Surgery Trainees. They are held on Wednesday evenings at Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (24 King William Street, Kent Town) from 6:30pm - 8:00pm. The Convenors of the program are Dr Gayatri Asokan and Dr Matthew Besley. Each week two (2) trainees will be asked to present on a given topic and a General Surgeon will facilitate the tutorial.

Rural trainees are required to link into the tutorials via GSA Online and a reliable internet connection is required.

ATTENDANCE A minimum attendance rate of 70% per term has been set by the SA Regional Training Committee and supported by the Australian Board in General Surgery and this is applicable to both metro and rural trainees. Trainees are required to attend all sessions face to face at RACS except those allocated in the rural hospitals. If the minimum rate is not met, it may result in the term not being accredited. Attendance is recorded. Trainees may also be required to attend other training sessions organised by their hospital.

WEBCASTS The educational webcast program provides recordings of educational sessions that are undertaken in each of the regions including the long course tutorials. These are available in the member's area of the GSA website and are usually uploaded within 24-48 hours after a session. These webcasts provide a valuable educational and exam preparation resource.

SHORT COURSE – PREPARATION FOR FELLOWSHIP EXAMINATION

The Short Course is compulsory for SET5 Trainees who are planning to sit the Fellowship Examination. The course is held on Saturday mornings from 8:30am - 11:30am, held at RACS Office, 24 King William Street, Kent Town.

For further information on either the Long or Short educational courses provided above, please contact Erin Purcell on email: gsa.online@generalsurgeons.com.au

SA-NT TRAINING COMMITTEE REGISTRARS PAPER DAY

This annual event provides a platform for General Surgery Trainees and Senior Trainees with an opportunity to present their accredited research in a peer re-viewed group forum.

The scientific papers will have relevance to the board discipline of general surgery and its related subspecialties; colorectal, hepatobiliary, upper gastrointestinal, breast/endocrine, rural surgery, trauma, transplantation, and surgical oncology. This event is an approved regional meeting to present the SET research requirement as per the training regulations.

For further information on the SA-NT Training Committee Registrars Paper Day, please contact: Fiona Bull on email: fiona.bull@generalsurgeons.com.au

National Educational Program

TRAINEES' DAY REQUIREMENT

The GSA Trainees' Day is a National educational activity, held twice each year as follows:

MAY

- Virtual program, delivered via GSA Online
- held on the Monday of the RACS Annual Scientific Conference week

OCTOBER

- face-to-face
- held the day before the GSA Annual Scientific Meeting
- location rotates around Australia

The program aims to cover the breadth of the General Surgery Curriculum, over a five-year cycle. GSA Trainees' Day programs are recorded, and where presenter consent is provided, published as part of the GSA Webcast program for access by all Trainees.

Trainees must attend at least four (4) Trainees' Days over the course of their training. GSET Trainees are required to attend a minimum of two (2) face-to-face Trainees' Days, or their equivalent, to meet the Training Requirement.

GSA EQUIVALENT PROGRAMS

The following GSA programs may also count towards one (1) of the four (4) compulsory Trainees' Days:

GSA MANAGEMENT OF SURGICAL EMERGENCIES (MOSES) COURSE

- open to GSET 4 and above
- face-to-face
- held twice a year in April/May and October

GSA (VICTORIAN) TRAINEES' WEEKEND

Minimum of two (2) days attendance at the GSA (Victorian) Trainees' Weekend

- open to all Trainees, regardless of region
- face-to-face
- usually held in late November / early December

OTHER EQUIVALENT PROGRAMS

There are other courses that may contribute to the Trainees' Day Requirement. Please refer to the Regulations for further details.

Who to contact?

Although the SA-NT Regional Office is here to help, it may save you time to go directly to the people that can make a difference.

If your query relates to:

- **Hospital Training issues** - contact first the Unit Supervisor, then your Hospital Supervisor
- **Employment/Human Resources** - contact the Hospital Administration or Alma Mater Hospital Administration.
- **Training experience** - contact your Unit or Hospital Supervisor
- **Term Allocations** - contact your Hospital Supervisor
- **SEAM** - email admin@generalsurgeons.com.au

For any other issues e.g. TMS or TIMS Issues, Trainee Requirements, Training Regulations, Trainee Requests please contact the GSA SA-NT Regional Office.

RACS SUPPORT PROGRAM

Coping with the demands of a busy profession, maintaining/developing skills and knowledge whilst also balancing family/personal commitments can be difficult and challenging. RACS recognises that Trainees may face demanding situations on a daily basis and therefore offer a confidential Support Program.

RACS is committed to providing support to surgeons to assist them appropriately through difficult situations. Information about the RACS Support Program can be found on the RACS Website: <http://www.surgeons.org/member-services/college-resources/racs-support-program/>

DEALING WITH DISCRIMINATION, BULLYING AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons has a zero tolerance policy concerning unreasonable behaviour from its Trainees, Fellows and Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs). RACS is committed to building a culture of respect in surgery and improving patient safety through identifying and addressing unacceptable behaviours. Behaviours considered unacceptable are detailed in the Unacceptable Behaviours fact sheet available on the RACS website.

RACS has a formal process for lodgement of complaints relating to discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment. More information can be found on the RACS website: <http://www.surgeons.org/about/racs-complaints-hotline/> or by calling the RACS Complaints Hotline: 1800 892 491.

Important Contacts

GSA STAFF

Sarah Benson	Executive General Manager
Monica Carrarini	Director - Education & Training
Fiona Bull	Manager - Education & Training
Sally Erickson	Events Manager & Communications Officer
Liz Pedersen	SA-NT Regional Executive Officer

ABIGS AND SA-NT TRAINING COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Dr Harsh Kanhere	Chair, WA Training Committee
Dr Robert Whitfield	Chair, Australian Board in General Surgery
Dr Alicia Lim	Trainee Representative

SA-NT Trainee Representative

DR ALICIA LIM

The role as the SA-NT Trainee Representative is to ensure that all SA-NT trainees in General Surgery are adequately represented with the issues that are of concern to them and/or their training. Specific, or local interests will be advocated for at the SA-NT Training Committee meetings and more general training issues will be discussed at the Training Representative Subcommittee meetings. Trainees are encouraged to contact the SA-NT Trainee Representative should you require any advice or support.

Alicia Lim

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Important Contacts

SA-NT HOSPITAL SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISOR NAME	HOSPITAL NAME
Dr Damian Harris	Alice Springs Hospital
Dr Markus Trochsler	The Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Dr Chris Liyanage	Flinders Medical Centre
Dr Devinder Raju	Lyell McEwin Hospital
Dr James Roberts	Modbury Hospital
Dr Timothy McCullough	Mount Gambier Hospital
Dr Anoj Dharmawardhane	Port Lincoln Hospital
Dr Michelle Thomas	Royal Adelaide Hospital
Dr Philip Toonson	Royal Darwin Hospital
Lt Col Anna Sharrock	SW Thames, UK (Frimley Park Hospital)