



GENERAL SURGERY  
SURGICAL EDUCATION &  
TRAINING PROGRAM

# Guidelines for Selection Application

2026 SELECTION FOR  
**2027 Intake**



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# Important Dates

<b>6 January 2026</b>	Registrations to SET open through RACS website
<b>30 January 2026</b>	Registrations to SET close through RACS website (if you do not register first with RACS you will not be able to apply through GSA for selection)
<b>16 February 2026</b>	Log in details for General Surgery Application sent to candidates via email
<b>18 February 2026</b>	Applications to General Surgery Education & Training (GSET) Program opens at 12:00pm noon AEDT
<b>19 March 2026</b>	Selection Applications close at 5:00pm AEDT. Please be aware that you must complete your application, including payment for your application, prior to this time. The system will automatically log you out and your application cannot be submitted after this date and time under any circumstances.
<b>20 March 2026</b>	Interview dates are available on the GSA website.  Please advise before 23 April 2026 to <a href="mailto:selection@generalsurgeons.com.au">selection@generalsurgeons.com.au</a> of any prior commitments affecting your availability, including possible interviews with other specialties. Once interview dates and times are finalised they cannot be altered.
<b>15 April 2026</b>	Applicants will be informed via email if they have not met minimum eligibility
<b>From 22 April to 6 May 2026</b>	Referee report collection.
<b>23 April 2026</b>	Last day to email <a href="mailto:selection@generalsurgeons.com.au">selection@generalsurgeons.com.au</a> with interview preferences. Preferences will be taken into consideration but not guaranteed. Requests made after this date will not be taken into consideration.
<b>13 May 2026</b>	Interview offers notified by email.
<b>From 18 May 2026</b>	Interview dates and times confirmed to candidates.
<b>May/June 2026</b>	Interviews take place. Exact dates will be available on the GSA website.

# Important Dates

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<b>24 July 2026</b>	First Round Offers are made via email prior to 12.00pm AEST. Applicants in the last quartile and wait-list applicants will be advised by email.
<b>14 August 2026</b>	Second Round Offers are made via email prior to 12.00pm AEST. Applicants who do not receive an offer will remain on the wait-list unless written withdrawal of application is received. Applicants who do not receive an offer will be emailed advising that they remain on the wait-list.
<b>18 September 2026</b>	Third Round Offers are made via email prior to 12.00pm AEST. Applicants who do not receive an offer will remain on the wait-list unless written withdrawal of application is received. Applicants who do not receive an offer will be emailed advising that they remain on the wait-list.
<b>2 October 2026</b>	Fourth Round Offers are made via email prior to 12.00pm AEST. Applicants who do not receive an offer will remain on the wait-list unless written withdrawal of application is received. Applicants who do not receive an offer will be emailed advising that they remain on the wait-list.
<b>23 October 2026</b>	Fifth Round Offers are made via email prior to 12.00pm AEST. Applicants who do not receive an offer will remain on the wait-list unless written withdrawal of application is received. Applicants who do not receive an offer will be emailed advising that they remain on the wait-list.
<b>6 November 2026</b>	Final date for offers via email if positions are available. Deferral is not permitted
<b>25 November 2026</b>	Unsuccessful applicants on the wait-list are advised via email together with their feedback report.

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# Online Application

## OVERVIEW

**PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE GENERAL SURGEONS AUSTRALIA.**

All queries must be sent via [selection@generalsurgeons.com.au](mailto:selection@generalsurgeons.com.au) and will be answered within three working days.

Please add this email address to your safe list.

## Regulations

Please print the 2026 Australian Selection to Surgical Education and Training in General Surgery for 2027 Intake Regulations and refer to the relevant Sections as you proceed, ensuring that all information is applicable and related to the Regulations. The Regulations are available at <https://generalsurgeons.com.au/home/become-a-general-surgeon/selection-regulations/>.

**This document serves as a guide and answers many of the common questions. Candidates must always refer to the Regulations for specific details.**

## Seeking Advice

Most questions can be answered by referring to the 2026 Selection Regulations for 2027 intake. GSA staff are unable to advise on scoring or specific entries. If after reading the Selection Regulations, you consider that your activity meets the criteria, include this in the application and upload your supporting documentation.

## Online Application

When first logging in, you will be advised if you are running an unsupported browser such as Safari. In other browsers you will need to be running the latest version and you will receive an error message if you are not.

**LOG IN DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL ON 16 FEBRUARY 2026.**

Once you begin your online application you will be directed to the Demographic and Information Section, which must be completed before you are able to proceed. **Please ensure that you list your home address details and not a PO Box, Hospital or other mailing address.**

There is a question regarding your intention to defer. Your answer has no bearing on your application and is only used as an indication for planning. If you receive an offer in Rounds One (1) to Three (3) you will then need to formally advise if you wish to defer. Once this section is complete you can then proceed to any tab and complete or partially complete any section.

There is a question regarding flexible training. This is where you can indicate whether you would like to be considered for a flexible training post if you are made an offer. Your answer has no bearing on your application, is not binding and is only used as an indication for planning. Flexible training posts are highly sought after and there is no guarantee of availability.

# Online Application

## OVERVIEW (CONT.)

Providing you have not submitted the application, you can enter and exit your application at any time prior to applications closing. During each section, you can check that you have completed each field and that no information is missing. **This is done by clicking the Check button.** If there are fields or data missing the system will advise you of this. You cannot submit the application until all errors are corrected.

## Acceptable Types of Documentation

The system allows the following type of files to be loaded:

- For your photo: jpg, png, gif, bmp
- For documentary evidence: pdf

A box will advise you of any errors in the type of document that you have uploaded.

Do not use long file names or special characters, or upload any Word documents.

If you need to submit more than one document, PDF all documents into one file and then upload.

**It is your responsibility to ensure all the appropriate and required documentation has been uploaded. Neither GSA staff or the Board scorers will search the internet or other sources to confirm your entry. Further documentation following submission of your application will not be accepted.**

## When To Start Your Application

**Please be aware that the completion of the application is time consuming and that the application website will automatically log you out at 5pm AEDT on Thursday 19 March 2026.**

Your application must be completed and the application fee paid **prior** to the deadline of applications closing. Payment of the application fee finalises your application.

**Once you are satisfied with your application and you have entered all the data and documentation you wish to provide, please submit it as this will help us process applications in a timely manner.**

Once submitted you are unable to make any amendments or additions.

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE FINALISING YOUR APPLICATION TO THE LAST MINUTE.**

# Online Application

## OVERVIEW (CONT.)

### Review Your Application

It is recommended that you preview your application prior to payment.

**Once your application has been submitted and payment made it is final and your application cannot be changed or added to.**

We will not accept documentation after applications close or following submission.

You will not be contacted to clarify entries of your Curriculum Vitae, or to request further documentation to support your application.

**THE ONUS IS ON YOU TO SUPPLY THE CORRECT AND NECESSARY INFORMATION.**

### Receipt of Application

You will receive an automated response advising you that your 2026 Selection Application to the General Surgery Education and Training (GSET) Program has been submitted and received by GSA.

Should you not receive a confirmation email within one hour of submitting your application please contact us by email at [selection@generalsurgeons.com.au](mailto:selection@generalsurgeons.com.au).

### General Information

Please keep your log in details as you will need them again if you receive an offer. You can use the forgotten password/ username function on the website if you have forgotten your details.

Your application will be updated when offers are made so that you can view your status online.

# Eligibility Requirement - Clinical Rotations

In this Section you must include:

- General Surgery rotations
- Critical Care rotations

The level you were employed at is not considered however the rotation must adhere to the time-frame and units specified in the Regulations.

General Surgery undertaken from **1 December 2022** to **19 March 2026** will be counted for the purposes of minimum eligibility, unless you have been in active full-time research or on Parental Leave as per clause 6.3.5 or 6.3.6 applies.

If you were in full-time research during **both** 2024 and 2025 for 24 months, your rotations in 2022 and 2023 would be acceptable.

Part-time research or being in research for less than two years (ie: 18 months) does not extend the validity period of rotations.

Where the applicant has been on parental leave for a minimum of three (3) months between 1 December 2022 and 19 March 2026, the validity period will be extended backwards by the number of months of parental leave taken. Supporting documentation of parental leave must be provided.

Critical Care terms have no validity period and must be completed before 19 March 2026 to meet the minimum eligibility requirement. There is no requirement for this rotation to be at a particular PYG level.

General Surgery Rotations must be for a minimum period of eight (8) continuous weeks and completed prior to the application closing date (not the date you lodge your application). Rotations are to be in a full-time capacity, with part-time hours to be calculated on a pro-rata basis.

- The 26 weeks may include up to a maximum of three (3) weeks leave. Documentation confirming the leave was taken during a General Surgery rotation must be provided.
- Leave will be deducted from the rotation. The remaining balance of the rotation must be at least eight (8) weeks to be considered eligible.
- The 26 weeks must be completed by 19 March 2026 as well as be in line with validity period specified in the Regulations.

Ensure rotations are entered using the dates listed on the supporting documentation.

Your supporting documentation with rotation dates will be cross-checked.

When entering your dates into the Selection Application, the system will automatically calculate 56 days to equal eight (8) weeks.

If you have taken leave during a General Surgery rotation, and therefore have physically worked less than eight weeks, this rotation cannot be used. For example, an 11 week rotation with four (4) weeks leave, indicates you have only worked seven (7) weeks which would make the rotation ineligible.

# Eligibility Requirement - Clinical Rotations (cont.)

## DO NOT SUBMIT:

- Rotations listed as 'Surgery' are not eligible to be considered as General Surgery- the specialty must be stipulated on the supporting documentation
- Relieving terms cannot be included in a night rotation and vice versa - if they are included this term will be invalid. Please refer to Selection Regulations clause 6.3.7n and 6.3.7o
- Rotations where you have worked less than eight weeks
- A contract roster as documentation
- Excel worksheets as documentation
- All rotation dates must be entered as per the supporting documentation
- Do not combine rotations and enter as one. The rotations must be entered exactly as detailed in your supporting documentation

## Documentation

Rotation documentation must include:

- Rotation type, (e.g. General Surgery, ED, Colorectal)
- Rotations noted as Reliever, Surgical cover, Surgical relief, Registrar, PHO deem the rotation ineligible.
- Dates of rotation terms on signed letterhead from the hospital. It is your responsibility to ensure that the rotation dates are correct and any errors in the documentation is corrected prior to uploading to your application.
- General Surgery rotations that are combined with another specialty listed in clause 6.3.7e will only be considered General Surgery where documentation states that 80% of the rotation was in General Surgery, working for a General Surgeon and on the General Surgery on call roster.
- Vascular, thoracic, head and neck or paediatrics rotations being used as General Surgery rotations - the documentation must state you were working for a General Surgeon and on the General Surgery on call roster. Otherwise they will not count as a General Surgery rotation and this may affect your minimum eligibility.
- Night rotations being used as a General Surgery rotation - the documentation must state that 80% of the term was undertaken covering General Surgery units as specified in clause 6.3.7n of the Regulations.
- Relieving rotations being used as a General Surgery rotation - the documentation must state that 80% of the term was undertaken covering General Surgery units as specified in 6.3.7o of the Regulations.

**If your documentation does not include the correct information as per the above and Regulations, the rotation will be invalid and you risk that rotation not meeting minimum eligibility.**

# Eligibility Requirement - Procedural Skills and Professional Capabilities

Applicants must submit the completed Australian Board in General Surgery Procedural Skills and Professional Capabilities Form available on the GSA website.

The rotations in which the skills and capabilities are verified in must have been completed between 1 December 2022 and 19 March 2026.

Each Procedural Skill and Professional Capability listed must be verified by the Consultant surgeon supervising the rotation(s). Refer to Regulations and Referee section in this guide on what constitutes a Consultant.

## DO NOT SUBMIT:

- More than one Procedural and Professional Capabilities form.
- Forms where skills and capabilities are verified outside of the validity period - this will deem your application ineligible.
- Incomplete form - this will deem your application ineligible.

## PLEASE DO:

Each Procedural Skill and Professional Capability listed must be verified by the Consultant surgeon supervising the rotation(s).

## Documentation

- Only the Australian Board in General Surgery form available on the GSA website is to be used.
- A Consultant in any surgical field can verify the procedural skill/capabilities form as per the Selection Regulations.
- More than one Consultant surgeon can sign the form.
- Each skill must CLEARLY specify the rotation, dates, Consultant surgeon's name and signature.
- Each individual row must be completed by a Consultant surgeon, signed and dated.
- Any changes to dates are to be initialed by the Consultant.
- Future rotations are not to be used. A form which lists a future rotation will be deemed ineligible and you will not proceed further in the selection process.
- Ensure rotations are verified within the validity period of 1 December 2022 to 19 March 2026.

# Eligibility Requirement - Generic Surgical Science Examination

The successful completion of the Generic Surgical Science Examination is a minimum eligibility criteria and needs to be successfully completed by the application closing date 19 March 2026.

# Eligibility Requirement - Support from Four Surgeons

Applicants must obtain support from four (4) Consultant surgeons including at least one General Surgeon.

A Consultant is defined as one of the following:

a) Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons employed as a specialist surgeon;

or

b) A vocationally trained surgeon employed as a specialist surgeon.

Applicants are required to upload a separate form for each Consultant. Each form must be completed thoroughly or it will not be valid.

# Curriculum Vitae

## OVERVIEW

The structured Curriculum Vitae (CV) Section of the application process accounts for 20% of your overall score. Each of the scored components is detailed in clause 9 of the Regulations. The Australian Board in General Surgery has released the scoring guide for Structured Curriculum Vitae, please refer to Appendix 1 of the 2026 Selection Regulations for 2027 Intake.

The Regulations are very clear on what will and what will not be scored - please save time by not including items that will clearly not be scored.

### DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Documentation that does not verify your entry - this will make your entry invalid
- Documentation that is not asked for

### PLEASE DO:

- Have your documents ready when completing your application
- PDF your documents
- Ensure that your photograph is clear and passport size if available

## Documentation

Entries where your documentation does not verify your activity **WILL NOT** be scored. It is important that you ensure you upload the correct documentation and ensure you meet the criteria of the Regulations.

# Curriculum Vitae

## QUALIFICATIONS

### DO NOT SUBMIT:

- Medical Degree, including MBBS, MBChB or MD
- Honours
- Graduate Certificates or Certificates
- RACS Basic Science Examination
- MRCS
- SSE Specific Examination
- Clinical Examination
- Masters or PhD that has not been completed or marked
- Bachelor's Degree
- Courses

### THE ABOVE LIST WILL NOT ATTRACT ANY POINTS

- Do not submit a course that is titled a diploma as it will not be scored.

### DO SUBMIT:

- PhD in a medically related field
- Masters in a medically related field
- Diplomas or Graduate Diplomas in a medically related field

Higher Degrees, Diplomas or Graduate Diplomas must be complete and marked prior to applications closing on 19 March 2026.

If you consider that your Masters, PhD, Diploma or Graduate Diploma meets the criteria of being medically related as per clause 9.3.2 please include it in your application for consideration of scoring. There is no list of recognised institutions available and will be determined by the ABiGS.

RACS Accreditation of qualifications has no impact as to whether they score points. RACS Accreditation is simply a partnering with the university and is not linked with the validity of the qualification or whether it is scored at selection.

A Graduate Diploma/Diploma is one that meets the Australian Qualifications Framework definition.

## Documentation

- Proof of completion and final mark
- Include transcript if available
- Documentation that clearly states the field in which the degree was undertaken. Documentation where this information is not clearly articulated will deem the entry invalid.

# Curriculum Vitae

## PRESENTATIONS

Presentations that relate to the following surgical specialties will not be scored:

- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
- Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Urology
- Paediatrics Surgery
- Surgical History
- Maxillofacial Surgery
- Ophthalmology

The following criteria will be assessed when determining whether a presentation is General Surgery or related to one of the above specialties:

- Majority involvement of Specialist General Surgeons as co-authors
- Nature and specialty of conference or meeting
- Sub-specialty section the presentation is classified in the conference program, if applicable
- Whether the presentation relates to core General Surgery topic that is typically only managed by General Surgeons
- For topics that overlap between General Surgery and other specialties, whether General Surgeons commonly lead the care of such patients

The final determination is made by the Chair.

### **Presentations that do not relate to General Surgery, Basic Surgical Sciences or Surgical Education will not be scored.**

The applicant must demonstrate in their own words how the presentation is relevant to General Surgery, Basic Surgical Sciences or Surgical Education. Citing that the topic is in General Surgery curriculum or that rural surgeons needs to be aware of this condition, is not a valid reason for being relevant to General Surgery.

Surgical Education refers to curriculum, assessment, teaching methods, or learning theories to support the education of surgeons.

When the same body of research has been published in a peer reviewed journal and presented, both the publication and the presentation will each be scored individually in accordance with the Regulations. Presentations of similar topics will only be scored once.

# Curriculum Vitae

## PRESENTATIONS (CONT.)

Ensure that the required supporting documentation is provided as per the Selection Regulations.

Acceptable evidence does not include a letter from the supervisor or acceptance of presentation for a meeting.

### DO NOT SUBMIT:

- An acceptance email/letter of your presentation as proof of documentation - this will deem the entry invalid
- A letter from the supervisor or acceptance of presentation for a meeting
- Presentation of Masters or PhD dissertation
- Prospective presentations
- Presentations where you were not the named presenter
- Presentations not relevant to General Surgery or basic surgical science or surgical education
- Hospital/Network based presentations
- Presentations undertaken at a meeting that is not peer reviewed, chaired or subject to abstract selection.
- Scoring does not include presentations made through predatory online websites - for example but not limited to World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology (WASET) presentations, International Institute for Research in Science and Technology or any conferences organised by MEDDOCS, Euroscience or affiliated organisations. The final determination is made by the Chair.
- Do not submit word documents

### DO SUBMIT:

- Presentations undertaken within the past five (5) years
- Presentations undertaken prior to the application closing date on 20 March 2026

## Documentation

- Letter from convener/conference organiser stating applicant undertook the presentation, type (oral or poster) and title of presentation and copy of abstract submitted for presentation
- Certificate of presentation clearly stating the title, type (oral or poster) and applicant's name and copy of abstract submitted for presentation
- Documentation that the meeting complies with the Regulations including
  - Abstract Selection, Peer reviewed and Chaired

# Curriculum Vitae

## PUBLICATIONS

A maximum of one (1) **non** General Surgery publication will be scored. The candidate must demonstrate how the publication is relevant to General Surgery, Basic Surgical Sciences or Surgical Education. For example, if you submit two (2) General Surgery publications, and five (5) urology publications, you will score points for the General Surgery publications if valid, but only score for one (1) of the urology publications (the publication that would attract the most points).

A maximum of one (1) publication that falls within the following surgical areas will be scored (the publication that attracts the higher number of points will be scored):

- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
- Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Urology
- Paediatrics Surgery

The following criteria will be assessed when determining whether a publication is General Surgery or related to one of the above specialties:

- Majority involvement of Specialist General Surgeons as co-authors
- Nature and specialty of publication

The final determination is made by the Chair.

Surgical Education refers to curriculum, assessment, teaching methods, or learning theories to support the education of surgeons.

Publications are scored depending on level of authorship to a maximum totalling five (5) points.

When the same body of research has been published in a peer reviewed journal and presented, both the publication and the presentation will each be scored individually in accordance with the Regulations.

“How I Do it”, “Commentary” and “Perspective” articles in peer reviewed journals as first author will be scored as a case report.

Articles published but awaiting peer review are not scored (this includes F1000 articles).

Images for Surgeons published after 1 July 2022 will not be scored.

**A maximum of three (3) Case Reports will be scored. This will be inclusive of any Collaborative research publications.**

# Curriculum Vitae

## PUBLICATIONS (CONT.)

**If you are submitting a collaborative research paper, please ensure you include the list of authors with your name highlighted. A link to the list of contributors will not be accepted**

### DO NOT SUBMIT:

- Letters to editors or media releases
- An acceptance email/letter of your publication as proof of documentation - this will deem the entry invalid
- Scoring does not include World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology (WASET) publications
- Images for Surgeons published after 1 July 2022
- A manuscript will deem the entry invalid
- Publications relating to Surgical History, General medicine or health publications as these will not be scored.
- A link to the list of collaborators for a collaborated research publication.

### DO SUBMIT:

- Publications undertaken within the past five (5) years
- Publications published prior to the application closing date on 19 March 2026
- A publication on an internet journal will be awarded if it is a peer reviewed journal
- Points can be awarded for publications where you are the first or subsequent author

## Documentation

- The only documentary evidence of a publication that will be accepted is a copy of the published journal article, book chapter or published case report. Entries where adequate documentation is not provided will not be scored.
- Publications from collaboratives must include the addendum of authors with the applicant's name highlighted for ease of identification.

# Curriculum Vitae

## SCHOLARSHIP & TEACHING

The Australian Board in General Surgery is looking for applicants who show a genuine and ongoing commitment to continued teaching.

‘Academic year’ refers to the two teaching periods (semesters) determined by universities. During the academic year, teaching will involve a break where no students are allocated.

‘Clinical year’ is aligned with the relevant JMO term dates and teaching continued uninterrupted for the entire year.

### DO NOT SUBMIT:

- Bedside teaching, even if you advise that it is outside of your normal employment (except in relation to clause 9.6.6 of the Selection Regulations)
- Commitments less than six (6) months duration prior to 19 March 2026
- Commitments that are a part of your employment obligations
- Non-medical related teaching
- Evidence of mentorship as a teaching commitment

### DO SUBMIT:

- The required template provided
- Evidence of Teaching that has been for a minimum of six (6) months prior to 19 March 2026 of continued teaching and a minimum commitment of two (2) hours per week
- Medically related Teaching
- Teaching that meets requirements under clause 9 in the Selection to General Surgical Training Regulations.

## Documentation

Applicants must use the template provided for teaching experience. This will be the only evidence accepted for scoring. You may include additional documentation to support the information on the template however you must always submit the completed template form. Please be aware that if your additional supporting document is contrary to the template completed, your entry will not be scored.

Where the template is not completed correctly, the entry will not be scored. Each section must be completed properly.

# Rurality

The structured Rurality Section of the application process accounts for 10% of your overall score.

The ABiGS relies on the Modified Monash Model (MM) to define rurality. The Modified Monash Model (MM 2019) is made up of 7 categories:

- MM 1 Metropolitan areas
- MM 2 Regional centres
- MM 3 Large rural towns
- MM 4 Medium rural towns
- MM 5 Small rural towns
- MM 6 Remote communities
- MM 7 Very remote communities

The Health Workforce Locator available on the Department of Health website can be used to determine rural or remote classification by selecting the filter for 'Modified Monash Model'.

For the purposes of these Regulations,

- hospitals in areas classified MM2 - 5 will be considered **rural**.
- hospitals in areas classified MM6 - 7 will be considered **remote**.

## **RURAL EDUCATION:**

Please refer to the regulations clause 8.2 for information.

## **RURAL ORIGIN:**

Please refer to the regulations clause 8.3 for information.

## **RURAL AND REMOTE EXPERIENCE:**

If you have completed Surgical rotations in a rural or remote hospital, you must ensure you enter the information into the section called "Rural and Remote Experience".

Regardless of whether you have entered the experience for Minimum eligibility, if you wish to receive points for Rural and Remote Experience, you must enter the experience under this section.

If you do not enter the experience into this section, you will not be considered for Rural and Remote points.

- Applicants must have spent a minimum of six (6) continuous months at any one individual hospital. Scoring will not include any experience less than six (6) continuous months at one individual hospital. E.g. Two (2) three month rotations undertaken at two different rural/remote hospitals cannot be combined.
- Experience must be within the validity period between 1 December 2022 and the closing date of applications.

## Documentation

- Rotation type, (e.g. General Surgery, Colorectal, Vascular)
- Position
- Dates of rotation terms on signed letterhead from the hospital. It is your responsibility to ensure that the rotation dates are correct and any errors in the documentation is corrected prior to uploading to your application.

# Professionalism Referee Reports

The Professionalism Referee Report Section of the application process accounts for 20% of your overall score.

The purpose of the structured Professionalism Referee Reports is to gather information on the areas of Communication, Teamwork and Collaboration, and Professionalism.

## Checklist

Below is a checklist to assist you with selecting appropriate referees:

1. The Applicant must only nominate referees who they have had significant interaction with during an active clinical rotation on a regular basis i.e., daily or weekly, for the duration of the term.
2. Compile a list of all referee names and contact email addresses and phone numbers.
3. Ensure there are at least two referees from each of the categories listed under clause 10.2.1.
4. Each referee must be from valid Surgical Rotations that are a minimum of eight (8) weeks completed since 1 December 2022 and by the closing date of application.
5. If the applicant has been in a continuous rotation for a continuous period of 26 weeks they may nominate all fifteen (15) referees from that one rotation ensuring that a minimum of at least two (2) referees from each category.
6. Where an applicant has been in a rotation for less than 26 weeks, they may nominate a maximum of five (5) referees from the rotation.
7. There is a [document](#) on the GSA website providing examples of who may be accepted under each category. This is not an exhaustive list – there are job title variances between hospitals and states. Applicants are required to assess suitability based on the information provided.
8. Choose referees who can make substantial comment about you on the following:
  - Communication
  - Teamwork and Collaboration
  - Professionalism
9. Confirm with the nominated referee that they agree and can complete your report during the period 22 April 2026 - 6 May 2026.

**NO REPORTS WILL BE ACCEPTED OUTSIDE OF THIS TIME PERIOD.**

## What is a Valid Surgical Rotation?

Surgical Rotations to be used for Professionalism Referee Reports must be for a minimum period of eight (8) continuous weeks and completed prior to the application closing date (not the date you lodge your application). Rotations are to be in a full-time capacity, with part-time hours to be calculated on a pro-rata basis.

# Professionalism Referee Reports

The following also applies:

- The 26 weeks may include up to a maximum of three (3) weeks leave.

Your supporting documentation with rotation dates will be cross-checked.

When entering your dates into the Selection Application, the system will automatically calculate 56 days to equal eight weeks.

## DO NOT SUBMIT:

- Referees from rotations where you have worked less than eight weeks

## Documentation

Rotation documentation must include:

- Rotation type, (e.g. General Surgery, Colorectal)
- Rotations must be Surgical Rotations.
- Dates of rotation terms on signed letterhead from the hospital. It is your responsibility to ensure that the rotation dates are correct and any errors in the documentation is corrected prior to uploading to your application.

## Process

The Australian Board in General Surgery will select five (5) primary referees and the remaining name/s will be used as alternate referees.

The names of the referees and their scores will not be released under any circumstance. This agreement forms part of your online application.

You must have nominated fifteen (15) referees.

### **PLEASE ADVISE ALL NOMINATED REFEREES THAT THEY**

- Will be contacted by email only
- Will be required to complete reports online only
- Can only submit reports during 22 April 2026 to 6 May 2026

Please note that referees who have not completed a report are sent several email reminders and text message reminders during the referee report collection time-frame.

**GSA staff will not advise you if your referees have not completed the form.**

# Interviews

**The Interview Section of the application process accounts for 50% of your overall score.**

## Eligibility

To proceed to interview you must satisfy the following two criteria:

- Have five (5) valid referee reports at the end of the referee collection period
- Applicants' combined scores from the following tools - rurality, CV and Professionalism Referee Reports - must be within the first two quartiles, that is, the first 50% of applicants, in order to proceed to interview.

## Notification

Please advise by email by 23 April 2026 of any prior commitments, conflicts or work schedule including if you have applied to other specialties and interview dates may clash. Every effort will be made to accommodate you, however once interviews are organised no changes can be made. Logistically the organisation of interviews is extremely complex, with over 100 Fellows volunteering their time.

On 15 April 2026 you will be notified:

- Whether you were deemed ineligible to proceed

On 13 May 2026 you will be notified of one of the following:

- Whether you have been granted an interview and the region where your interview will take place

The relevant Regional Executive Officer will send each eligible applicant the details of the interview including date, time and location approximately ten (10) days prior to the interview.

**PLEASE ENSURE YOU READ THIS LETTER CAREFULLY AND CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE WITH THE REGIONAL OFFICE.**

The State supplied in your mailing address will be used to determine where your interview will take place. If your mailing state is ACT, TAS, NT or you are from overseas, your interview State will be the Region you select as your first preference.

For candidates in ACT, TAS, NT or overseas, if you wish to be interviewed in a different State to your first preference please advise via email to [selection@generalsurgeons.com.au](mailto:selection@generalsurgeons.com.au) before 23 April 2026.

## On The Day Of The Interview

- Be early
- Be appropriately presented for an interview
- Be prepared

Should you not present at your scheduled interview, your application will be withdrawn.

There are five (5) interview stations each of which will be a maximum of ten (10) minutes in duration with approximately two (2) minutes between panels. The interview time will be a maximum of sixty (60) minutes.

# Offers

## Receiving Offers

Should you be offered a place on the General Surgery Education and Training (GSET) Program your offer will be emailed to you with details on how to respond. Please do not email your response to this offer as you must complete the application offer online.

If your offer is not in your state of first preference, but you wish to be considered for your first preference in subsequent rounds, please ensure that you select the appropriate option **as your response is binding and cannot be changed**.

If you do not respond by the deadline, the system automatically records a “decline” response and your offer will be withdrawn and you will not proceed further in the application process.

You cannot change your preferences once your application has been submitted.

Should you accept an offer from another surgical specialty, please advise via email to [selection@generalsurgeons.com.au](mailto:selection@generalsurgeons.com.au) so that you are removed from the waiting list.

## Feedback

As per the Regulations you will not be advised of your ranking, however you will be informed which quartile you were ranked in.

Applicants in the last quartile, those not interviewed and those who have not been successful in obtaining an offer will be provided with feedback after 25 November 2026.

You will receive feedback on your score for:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Rurality
- Professionalism Referee Reports score
- Interview if applicable

### DO NOT:

- Email requesting your ranking
- Request details of the referee names and their scores
- Email requesting feedback earlier than 25 November 2026.

### PLEASE DO:

- Seek constructive feedback from your mentors, referees and peers.