



# Regulations for Selection to the Surgical Education and Training Programme Orthopaedic Surgery 2022 Intake

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Definition of terms and acronyms for the purpose of these Regulations:

Term	Definition		
Applicant	A person who has submitted an application		
ASM	Annual Scientific Meeting		
ASSET	Australian and New Zealand Surgical Skills Education and		
	Training Course		
BSET	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Board of Surgical		
	Education and Training		
CCrISP	Care of the Critically III Surgical Patient Course		
CLEAR	Critical Literature Evaluation and Research		
Composite Reference	Orthopaedic Department reference coordinated by the		
	Education Committee Representative		
College or RACS	The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons		
CV or Curriculum Vitae	The scored components of the Application for Selection		
Education Committee	The NZOA Education Committee		
EMST	Early Management of Severe Trauma Course		
GSSE	Generic Surgical Sciences Exam		
Interview	The panel interview conducted as part of the Selection process		
Medal/prize/award	Refers only to those at an academic, tertiary level		
NZOA	The New Zealand Orthopaedic Association		
Referee	A person who evaluates the Applicant's workplace performance		
Referee Report	The in-depth Referee Report conducted as part of the		
	Selection process		
Regulations	These Regulations		
Selection	The process of being selected		
SET Programme	The Surgical Education and Training (SET) Programme		
	in Orthopaedic Surgery		
SOTB	Specialty Orthopaedic Training Board		
Term or Rotation	An employment period within a hospital unit/department at		
	post-graduate level. This terminology is interchangeable		
Trainee	Orthopaedic Surgical Trainee		

### 1.1 Purpose of these Regulations

The purpose of these Regulations is to set forth and establish the principles, terms and conditions of the selection process for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Surgical Education and Training (SET) Programme in Orthopaedic Surgery for the 2021 intake. This is a public document.

### 1.2 Administration and Ownership

The College is the principal body accredited and authorised to conduct surgical education and training in Australia and New Zealand. Each SET Programme conducted under the auspices of the College has an appointed Specialty Board that are responsible for advising the College on training and education via the relevant governance structures. These functions are performed by the New Zealand Orthopaedic Association.

### 1.3 Objective of the SET Programme

The overall objective of the SET Programme is to produce competent independent specialist Orthopaedic Surgeons with the experience, knowledge, skills, cultural competence and attributes necessary to provide the communities, health systems and professions they serve with the highest standard of safe, ethical and comprehensive care and leadership.

The NZOA SET Training Programme is structured to ensure Trainees achieve the RACS surgical competencies of:

Collaboration and Teamwork Communication Health advocacy Judgement and clinical decision making

Management and Leadership

Medical expertise

Professionalism

Scholarship and Teaching Technical expertise

**Cultural Competence and Cultural Safety** 

### 2. PRINCIPLES OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

- 2.1 The aim of the selection process is to select the highest caliber trainees for the SET Programme on the basis of merit through a fair, open, and accountable process.
- **2.2** The selection process will be conducted without prejudice.
- **2.3** The selection process will be well documented and objective with applicants having access to eligibility criteria, information on the selection process, general selection criteria and an appropriate appeals process.
- **2.4** The selection process will be subject to continuous review to ensure its continued validity and objectiveness.
- **2.5** The SET Programme will be widely advertised to eligible applicants.
- 2.6 The selection process will conform to the requirements agreed by the College Board of Surgical Education and Training (BSET) and will meet the College's generic eligibility requirements.
- 2.7 The number of trainees selected in any year will be determined by the New Zealand Specialty Orthopaedic Training Board (SOTB).
- **2.8** Applicants who have obtained the minimum standard for the Structured Curriculum Vitae and Structured Referee Reports will be considered for an interview.
- **2.9** The Selection Regulations change on an annual basis.
- **2.10** Incomplete or incorrect applications may result in ineligibility or failure to progress through the Selection process.
- **2.11** All evidence must be provided at the time of application.
- **2.12** Achievements that are not listed in the correct section of the application will not be awarded points.

# 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR APPLICATION TO THE SET PROGRAMME: ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

### 3.1 Registration and Generic Eligibility Criteria:

To apply to the SET Programme, applicants must:

- 3.1.1 Register with the College to apply for SET Selection. Registration opens Wednesday 6 January 2021 and closes Wednesday 3 February 2021. Applicants must register in accordance with the directions provided by the College.
- 3.1.2 Have general (unconditional) registration in Australia or general scope or restricted general scope registration in the relevant specialty in New Zealand.
- 3.1.3 Have permanent residency or citizenship of Australia or New Zealand at the time of registration.
- 3.1.4 Have completed the RACS Hand Hygiene module available at http://www.hha.org.au

### 3.2 Orthopaedic Surgery Specialty Specific Eligibility Criteria:

In addition to the generic eligibility requirements, applicants to the SET Programme in Orthopaedic Surgery must also meet the following specific eligibility requirements:

- 3.2.1 Are currently working in a New Zealand hospital and have completed a minimum of 52 weeks of Orthopaedics at Registrar level or above in a New Zealand Orthopaedic Department prior to the closing date for applications.
- 3.2.2 In addition, applicants who have been in full time study/research in a medically related discipline within the past two years are eligible to apply if they have since completed 26 weeks of Orthopaedics at Registrar level prior to 24 March 2021.
- 3.2.3 Have completed a minimum of 12 weeks in an Emergency Department as a house surgeon or registrar. The Emergency run requirement needs to be in a hospital level emergency department.

### 3.3 Examinations:

- 3.3.1 Must have successfully completed the Generic Surgical Sciences Examination (GSSE) at the time of application.
- 3.1.2 Successfully completed the Clinical Exam (CE) at the time of application from the 2023 application year.

### 3.4 Police Vetting:

Applicants may be asked to consent to a full criminal history check during this process. Applicants that do not consent to this check will be deemed ineligible for Selection and will not be considered further in the Selection process.

### 4. SELECTION PROCESS OVERVIEW

- 4.1 Applications can be made via the NZOA online application system at www.nzoa.org.nz. Applications open on 24 February 2021 and close on 24 March 2021. No extensions will be granted on advertised dates.
- 4.2 In the event of any discrepancy or inconsistency between these Regulations and other information from any source, written, verbal or otherwise, these Regulations shall prevail.
- **4.3** The NZOA or the Education Committee may verify the information provided within the application with external institutions or individuals, and by submitting an application the Applicant is consenting to the collection, use, disclosure and storage of the information by the NZOA or its agent.
- **4.4** By submitting their application, Applicants certify that the information provided is correct and in accordance with these Regulations. If it is discovered that the applicant has provided incorrect or misleading information either intentionally or by mistake the applicant may be withdrawn from the selection process and their application will not be considered further in the selection process. This may occur at any point during the selection process.
- 4.5 Applicants who do not meet the generic eligibility requirements as set out in Regulation 3.1 and the specific Orthopaedic Surgery eligibility requirements as set out in Regulation 3.2 will not progress to the next stage of selection and will be advised accordingly.
- **4.6** Applicants who satisfy the eligibility and application requirements outlined in section 3 and 4, of these Regulations will be considered in open competition for selection to the SET Programme.
- 4.7 To receive an interview, applicants must achieve a combined score of 60/100 on the Curriculum Vitae and Referee Report. Applicants who achieve this minimum standard may receive an interview. Applicants who do not satisfy these minimum standards will not be eligible for an interview and will be advised accordingly.
  - 4.7.1 The score of 100 is proportioned:
    - 4.7.1.1 CV 35%
    - 4.7.1.2 Referee Reports 65%
  - 4.7.2 The number of applicants interviewed will be determined by their ranking and by the number of positions available.
  - 4.7.3 Applicants who are not invited to an interview will be advised accordingly.
- **4.8** Applicants who attend the interview will be deemed suitable for selection and will be ranked. The ranking will be determined by applying the following weightings to receive a score out of 100 obtained for each of the two selection tools, providing an overall percentage score:

- 4.8.1 Interview 60%
- 4.8.2 Composite Reference 40%
- **4.9** On completion of the relevant components of the selection process eligible applicants will be classified as one of the following:
  - 4.9.1 <u>Successful</u> being an eligible applicant who satisfied the minimum standards for selection deeming them suitable and who did rank high enough to be made an offer of a position.
  - 4.9.2 <u>Unsuccessful</u> being an applicant who satisfied the minimum standards suitable for interview but who did not rank high to be made an offer of a position.
- **4.10** Successful applicants for the SET 1 intake will be deemed successful and offered a position in a training unit.
- **4.11** Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing as outlined in section 9 of these Regulations.
- **4.12** The Selection process may change on an annual basis and no data is carried over from one year's Selection process to the next. Evidence that was accepted in the past will not be accepted on the basis that it has been accepted previously. All evidence must comply with the Regulations for the current Selection process.
- **4.13** Each application will be assessed and marked as submitted. No active follow up will take place in instances where the application (or verification) is incorrect or absent.

### 4.14 Situational Judgement Test

To improve the quality and efficacy of selection into surgical training, RACS conducts research and evaluates the performance of selection instruments and processes. The selection process for entry to SET in 2022 includes a mandated pilot of a Situational Judgement Test.

All registrants who are eligible to apply for the SET program will be required to take a mandated Situational Judgment Test in April 2021. The test will be administered online using remote proctoring under secure test conditions and applicants will be able to sit the test from a location of their choice.

Applicants that do not sit the mandated Situational Judgement Test will not be eligible to proceed further in the 2021 selection process. Exemptions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, and at the discretion of the Specialty Training Board.

As a pilot, the results will be analysed to inform RACS of the tool's validity and utility in the selection context. Data from the pilot SJT will not contribute to selection scores and will not be used to determine selection outcome during the 2021 selection process. The scores and rank for the Situational Judgment Test will not be provided to candidates.

### 5. STRUCTURED CURRICULUM VITAE

- **5.1** The Structured Curriculum Vitae (included in the online application form) captures information and evidence on an applicant's surgical experience, other qualifications, publications, presentations, skills courses and medical achievements, and leadership exposure.
- **5.2** Each Structured Curriculum Vitae will be independently scored by 2 NZOA staff members. Where any discrepancy occurs provided by the two scorers, the Education Committee Chair will review discrepancies and provide a final score.
- **5.3** The Structured Curriculum Vitae is scored out of a potential 14 points. The components scored are:

5.3.1	Surgical and Medical Experience	2 points
5.3.2	Skills Courses	2 points
5.3.3	Anatomy	2 points
5.3.4	Scholar and Teacher - Qualifications	2 points
5.3.5	Research, Presentations and Publications	4 points
5.3.6	Leadership or Community Contributions	2 point

Requirement	Notes	Maximum Points	Documentary evidence			
5.3.1 Surgical and Medical Experience						
Orthopaedic Registrar Surgical Term: This experience must have been completed within the last two years.  Add the last 2 years' experience ONLY i.e. 24 March 2019 to 24 March 2021.	Points scored at 1 per full year completed at time of application. Part points will be awarded pro rata. Terms which are not undertaken on a full-time basis will be adjusted pro rata. This experience can be in Orthopaedics, or any other Surgical Specialty at Registrar level, including ICU.	2 points	Documentary evidence must be supplied for those Orthopaedic rotations considered eligible to be awarded marks and must detail work history and must include start and end dates, position held and hospital.  Attach letter from medical administration detailing work history: Date commenced: Date completed: Position: Hospital: Months worked:			

Requirement	Notes	Maximum	Documentary Evidence	
		Points		
5.3.3 Anatomy				
Max 1 Point can be scored for either course delivered by Universities listed or equivalent (please provide details of alternative course(s).  A maximum of 2 points can be scored for confirmed experience as an anatomy demonstrator/prosector.	Successful completion of Post Graduate Diploma of Anatomy is scored at 1 point.  University of Otago Postgraduate Clinical Anatomy Workshops are scored half a point on completion.  Documented experience as anatomy demonstrator/ prosector is scored 1 point per year, pro rata to a maximum of 2 points.  Either of the following courses only: -  Postgraduate Diploma in Anatomy, Otago University (1-point, pro rata)  University of Otago Postgraduate Clinical Anatomy Workshops (½ point- on completion)  University of Otago Surgical Approaches for Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery (½ point- on completion)	2 points	Attach University transcript or enrolment confirmation, certificate of attendance or letter from University stating hours worked and time period as demonstrator.  Course Dates: And/or  Documented experience as anatomy demonstrator /prosector (1 point per year, pro rata, max 2) Dates:	

Requirement	Notes	Maximum Points	Documentary Evidence	
5.3.4 Scholar and Teacher – Qualifications				
Note. Qualifications in addition to MBChB  Master's degree (non-Medical) (1 point)  Master's degree (Medical) (1 point)	A Master's degree is scored at 1 point for a surgical qualification or nonmedical.  A PhD is scored as 2 points for a medical qualification or 1 point for non-medical.	2 points	This must be either an academic transcript or certificate of completion from the institution.  Attach university transcript(s)  All transcripts must include:	
PhD (non-Medical) (1 point) PhD (Medical) (2 points)	Documentary evidence must also be supplied for qualifications other than your primary medical qualification.		Qualification name: University: Date awarded:	
(meanear) (2 pomes)	Terms that are mandatory eligibility requirements are not scored.			
	Qualifications must be complete by the close of applications.			
	Scoring does not include primary medical qualifications (MBChB or equivalent) or bachelor's degrees with or without honors.			

5.3.5 Research				
Undertaken in the last <u>five</u>	Scoring only includes	4 points	Documentary evidence of	
years.	research completed 5 years immediately prior to		the research project must be provided.	
List completed research only.	the close of applications.			
(1 point per project)	In the application list the supervisor's name, title of research, your responsibilities on the project, start and finish dates and whether the project received ethics committee approval or not.		Include Supervisor's name: Title of research: List <b>your</b> responsibilities on project: Start and completion dates: Ethics Committee number & approval date:	

Requirement	Notes	Maximum Points	Documentary Evidence	
		Points		
5.3.5 Presentations				
Undertaken within the last five years. List only presentations given by time of application, and those personally delivered.  Points scored for Orthopaedic meetings only.  NZOA or International Orthopaedic Meeting – personally delivered (1 point per paper)	Presentations are defined as poster or oral presentations based on refereed abstracts.  Scoring only includes presentations in the 5 years immediately prior to the close of applications.  In the case of oral presentations, scoring only includes those personally given by the applicant.	4 Points	Documentary evidence includes a letter of acceptance of the abstract from the meeting organisers, a copy of the published abstract or a copy of the applicable Programme page from the meeting.  Documentary evidence for presentations personally given online due to Covid19 restrictions must	
NZOA Registrar Paper Day (½ point per paper)  NZOA Registrar Paper Day	Presentations (including posters) which have been presented at more than one scientific meeting or		include a written reference from an Orthopaedic Consultant attendee with the date,	
Winner (1 point)	conference will only be scored once.		delivery method, topic, its relevance, and standard of presentation.	
NZOA Registrar Paper Day Highly Commended (½ point per paper)	Presentations listed in the Publications section will only be scored once. The higher scoring entry will		The documentary evidence must clearly identify the applicant as the presenter.  Name of meeting and/or	
Presentation prizes Highly Commended (½ point each)  Presentation prizes	regardless of type of meeting (international or, national) will only be		name of Paper: Venue: Date:	
Best or Runner up Paper (1 point each)	awarded half a point each.  Presentations at NZOA  Paper Day will be scored half a point per paper.  The best paper at NZOA  Paper Day will be scored one point and Highly commended papers will be scored half a point.			

### 5.3.5 Publications

Book chapter / Major Journal (e.g. JBJS, Spine, JPO)

(1<sup>st</sup> author 2 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> author 1 point)

Lesser Journal (e.g. ANZS)

(½ point per paper)

Scoring only includes medical publications in the 5 years immediately prior to the close of application.

Scoring includes publications accepted for publication prior to close of application in indexed and non-indexed publications and excludes published abstracts.

Each publication can only be scored once.

Scoring includes articles and book chapters with extra weighting on articles and book chapters where the Applicant is first author.

Undertaken in the last <u>five</u> years only. Points **are** awarded for publications accepted but not yet published **only if** validation from publisher is provided. List full papers only – 0 points for abstracts, posters or letters.

4 points

Documentary evidence must be a letter of acceptance from the publishing body (not the supervisor) or the first page of the publication which clearly shows the publication reference.

A copy of the entire publication need not be attached.

Attach copy of paper/chapter.
Accepted work not yet published must be accompanied by status validation from the publisher.

Book/Journal & chapter /paper title: Year of publication: Volume/issue/pages:

Author's name:

Journal & paper title:

Year of publication:

Volume/issue/pages:

Note: Total points of Research, Publications and Presentations can only score a maximum of 4 points combined

### 5.3.6 Leadership and Community Contribution

Leadership at a National Representative level only.

Voluntary, community service and national level representation or individual/ad hoc team must be ongoing and benefit the wider community at a leadership level, not individual pursuits or memberships.

Fluency or extended knowledge in Te Reo Māori and Te Ao Māori.

To receive points all Leadership and Community Contribution must be no longer than 5 years prior to the closing date of applications and ongoing for a minimum of 12 months or more prior to the application date.

Must be regular and voluntary – no points for commercial enterprise, less than 12 months involvement sporting participation such as member of a sports team, charity matches, fun runs, marathons etc.

Active involvement only (not passive such as charitable donations)

2 points 1 point per activity to a maximum of 2 points

A personal statement of no more than 100 words must be provided outlining any significant leadership.

Evidence must be included of any voluntary, community work, national level representation, language level, or leadership role including name of the organisation, the role title, when started and expected completion date, as appropriate.

Attach letter specifically stating nature of achievement/s, positions held and dates of involvement from official of the organisation on official letter head. N.B. Email endorsements are not acceptable.

No points will be scored if validating letter does not clearly state the dates and detail of involvement, and an indication of time commitment weekly/monthly.

Total /14

- **5.4** Applications must be accompanied by appropriate documentary evidence, as advised for each of the CV components above. Points will not be awarded for achievements claimed on the CV where the required evidence is not provided.
- **5.5** Where a signature is required, that signature must be either a physical, handwritten signature or an electronic scanned version. Address blocks typed signatures and email signatures are not acceptable.
- **5.6** All Letters of evidence must be dated.
- **5.7** All documentary evidence must be in English or Te Reo Māori. If any documentary evidence is in a language other than English, a certified translation must be provided.
- 5.8 The full name on documentary evidence must match the full name of the applicant as specified on the online application. If any documentary evidence bears a different name, proof of name change (e.g. marriage certificate) must also be provided.

### 6. REFEREE REPORTS

- **6.1** Confidential references are collected to obtain information about the clinical aptitude, workplace behaviour and personal attributes of the applicant.
  - 6.1.2 The maximum score for Structured Referee Reports is 100.
- **6.2** The applicant must seek permission and provide contact details, including a valid email address, for (4) Consultants:
  - 6.2.1 Referees must have acted in a supervisory capacity for the applicant within a rotation from the last two years (1st January 2019 24 March 2021) of clinical work. At least one (1) Consultant must be from the current rotation.
- **6.3** A maximum of four (4) Consultants can be nominated per rotation.
- 6.4 If an applicant elects not to provide the details for supervising consultants in accordance with these Regulations, or it is subsequently discovered that the applicant has provided incorrect or misleading information, either intentionally or by mistake, the applicant may be withdrawn from the selection process and their application will not be considered further in the selection process.
- 6.5 NZOA will randomly select a further 3 referees from the last two years where possible. If there are not enough referees available NZOA may go back to the last four years. The names of the randomly selected referees selected to submit reports will not be released to applicants.
- **6.6** The nominated referees will be contacted requesting them to complete the referee report.
- **6.7** The referee must have a valid email address and be available to complete the reference during the allocated period. The referee report can be completed online or as a paper copy.
- 6.8 A minimum of six (6) valid referee reports must be returned in order for the applicant to progress through the selection process. A valid referee report has 17 out of 19 questions answered.
- **6.9** Applicants are advised to nominate people who are most likely to be able to give a complete report.
- **6.10** A Composite Reference will be carried out by a member of the Education Committee with those in the current department of the applicant.
  - 6.10.1 The local Education Committee Representative is responsible for compiling a Composite Reference.
  - 6.10.2 The Composite Reference can draw on information from individual referee reports.
  - 6.10.3 The Composite Reference also draws from data obtained from additional sources.
- **6.11** Harassment of any kind of any individual involved in the completion or collection of

the reports is a serious matter and may result in the applicant's immediate removal from the selection process. Harassment includes repeated requests by the applicant to any supervising consultant for a copy of the report submitted.

- **6.12** The top and bottom scored references will be discarded and the median total of the remaining 5 will be used to determine the score of this selection tool.
- **6.13** It is preferable that applicants do not use members of the NZOA Education Committee as referees.
- **6.14** By applying for SET selection applicants give approval for phone interviews to be carried out at the discretion of the Education Committee.

### 7. INTERVIEW

- 7.1 Orthopaedic Selection Interviews will be held in Wellington on Friday 18 June 2021. It is the applicant's responsibility to make the appropriate travel arrangements and to meet any costs incurred in attending the interview. The Committee accepts no responsibility for any costs incurred by applicants in attending the interview or applicants who fail to satisfy the minimum standards or eligibility who are not permitted to attend an interview.
- **7.2** Applicants must make themselves available in person at the scheduled interview time. Applicants who do not present for the interview at the scheduled time, will not be considered further in the selection process and their application will be withdrawn.
- 7.3 The interview will be conducted by six (6) interview panels, each consisting of three (3) interviewers plus there will be an independent observer in some of the interviews.
- **7.4** Each interview panel will be eight (8) minutes in duration.
- **7.5** The interviews may consist of the following topics:
  - 7.5.1 Interest in Orthopaedic Surgery
  - 7.5.2 Technical Expertise
  - 7.5.3 Collaboration and Teamwork
  - 7.5.4 Communication
  - 7.5.5 Health Advocacy
  - 7.5.6 Judgement- clinical decision making
  - 7.5.7 Management and Leadership
  - 7.5.8 Medical Expertise
  - 7.5.9 Professionalism and Ethics
  - 7.5.10 Scholarship and Teaching
  - 7.5.11 Cultural Competency
- **7.6** Each interview panel member will score independently.

### 8. FINAL SELECTION PROCESS

- **8.1** Applicants who attend the interview will be deemed suitable for selection and will be ranked. The ranking will be determined by applying the following weightings to receive a score out of 100 obtained for each of the two selection tools, providing an overall percentage score:
  - 8.1.1. Interview 60%
  - 8.1.2. Composite Reference 40%
- **8.2** The ranked candidate's raw data then undergoes statistical analysis and is stratified into three bands. Candidates in the top band are selected. Candidates in the bottom band are not selected and candidates in the middle band may be selected.

### 9. FEEDBACK TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

- **9.1** Applicants who are deemed successful in the selection process will be notified in writing of the following:
  - 9.1.1 That they have been successful in the selection process and are being offered a position on the SET Programme, including conditions associated with the offer, the position details to which the offer is subject to, contact details for the position supervisor and hospital.
  - 9.1.2 Information on any training conditions which form part of the offer.
  - 9.1.3 A list of the conditions identified in item 8.2 of these Regulations.
- **9.2** Acceptance of the offer to the SET Programme will be conditional on the following:
  - 9.2.1 Acceptance to take up the training position identified in the letter of offer. Applicants must be prepared to be assigned to a designated training position anywhere in New Zealand throughout their SET training. Given that NZOA is not the employing body, applicants must also satisfy the employment requirements of the allocated institution.
  - 9.2.2 Agreement to abide by the Orthopaedic SET Regulations and College Policies, these form part of the contract and acceptance of the conditions.
  - 9.2.3 Submission of the signed SET Training Agreement, in accordance with instructions given, prior to the communicated offer expiry due date.
- **9.3** Applicants who do not satisfy any of the conditions outlined in item 8.2 of these Regulations, or who decline the offer, will automatically forfeit their offer.

### 10 FEEDBACK TO UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

- **10.1** Applicants who are unsuccessful in the selection process will be notified in writing of the following:
  - 10.1.1 That their application was unsuccessful.
  - 10.1.2 That they will be offered feedback on the selection interview.
  - 10.1.3 That feedback will be given by the local Education Committee Representative within 10 days of receiving written confirmation of being unsuccessful.

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