

Registration for Surgeons

Surgery is a recognised specialty branch of medical practice in Australia. The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) is the specialist medical college responsible for assessment of overseas trained specialist qualifications. There are job opportunities at consultant level, registrar level and SHO (basic surgical trainee) level in Australia.

The recognised sub-specialty areas in surgery include:

- General Surgery
- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
- Paediatric Surgery
- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
- Urology
- Vascular Surgery

It is the responsibility of the individual states (or territories) to confer registration to doctors and each state has different regulations and legislations. There are two major categories of registration:

1. Registration without conditions (full registration)
 - a. Graduates from Australian and New Zealand Medical Schools, who have completed a period of intern training
 - b. Overseas Trained Doctors who have passed the AMC exam and have completed supervised training approved by the State or Territory
2. Conditional Registration
 - a. Doctors who are not eligible for full registration. These doctors may be eligible for the following categories: Postgraduate training, Supervised Training, Teaching and Research, AREAS OF NEED, Overseas Trained Specialists

It depends on your specific circumstances but most overseas trained doctors (OTDs) will seek conditional registration with the health boards of the state or territory.

Conditional Registration in Surgery

The following qualifications are recognised as equivalent (or substantially equivalent) to the Fellowship of The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS):

1. **United Kingdom** (FRCS, CCST): Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons usually in conjunction with either the Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training or the Certificate of accreditation from the joint committee on Higher Surgical Training (UK).
2. **Canada**: Fellowship in Surgery (General, Cardiothoracic, Neurosurgery, etc) of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.
3. **Republic of Ireland** (FRCS, CCST): Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons usually in conjunction with the Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training.

4. **South Africa:** Fellowship of the College of Surgeons of South Africa,
5. **United States of America:** Certificate of the American Board of Surgery
(General, Cardiothoracic, Neurological, Plastic, paediatric, Urological, etc)

If you hold any of these qualifications you are eligible for conditional registration in the field of surgery in Australia and New Zealand. You may also be eligible for Fellowship of The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons after passing the part II examinations.

Western Europe: The qualifications and training programs from each region are assessed individually.

Every candidate is assessed on an individual basis. Please contact Plexus to discuss your individual situation.