

<b>Division:</b>	<b>Fellowship Engagement</b>	<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>POL-3159</b>
<b>Department:</b>	<b>Global Health Scholarships</b>		
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Katherine Edyvane Scholarship in Humanitarian Surgery</b>		

## 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the awarding of the Katherine Edyvane Scholarship in Humanitarian Surgery. It covers the objectives and values of the Scholarship, the application criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the Scholarship.

## 2. KEYWORDS

International Scholarships, Global Health, International Development, Capacity Building, Surgery, Timor-Leste, East Timor, Developing Countries, Dr Katherine Edyvane

## 3. BODY OF POLICY

### 3.1. Background

The Scholarship was established in 2016 in memory of Dr Katherine Edyvane FRACS who passed away in late 2015.

Dr Edyvane was a passionate and life-long advocate for humanitarian surgical aid and development. She spent nearly half of her short post-Fellowship period of only 10 years in various surgical aid postings in developing countries around the world including Pakistan, Timor-Leste, Rwanda, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. Most notable was her role under the RACS Timor-Leste Program at the Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares in Dili, Timor-Leste, where she was deployed as the RACS surgeon five times between 2006 and 2014 (including a 2 year stint in 2007-2009).

Dr Edyvane maintained a strong relationship with the Timorese surgical and medical trainees. She had a key role in mentoring young Timorese doctors, nurses and trainees. She was highly regarded by the Timorese doctors and nurses she worked with because of her generous, caring and warm nature, and was loved by all the patients she helped.

Funding to establish the corpus for the Scholarship was from Dr Edyvane's estate and has been contributed to by Dr Edyvane's family and friends.

### 3.2. Objective

The objective of the Scholarship is to support doctors and health specialists from developing countries in the Asia Pacific region, particularly from Timor-Leste, to access professional development opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to the improvement of surgical and medical services in their home country.

### 3.3. Principles and Values

There is a shortage of trained and skilled local specialists in many developing countries. This shortage severely reduces the country's capacity to deliver surgical and medical care to their populations.

Recipients of the Scholarship must demonstrate a sense of responsibility for the needs of their country. The intention is that the scholars will share their new technical skills, clinical knowledge and expertise with their colleagues upon return to their home country, thereby increasing the local capacity to deliver improved care to the local community.

### 3.4. Eligibility

3.4.1. The Scholarship is open to qualified surgeons, medical specialists and doctors in specialist training who are citizens of Timor-Leste and other targeted developing countries in the Asia Pacific region. Prospective applicants should refer to the RACS website for a list of eligible countries. Preference will be given to eligible applicants from Timor-Leste.

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3.4.2. Applicants must be a citizen of, and permanently residing in the country from which the application is made.

3.4.3. Applicants must be working in a public/government institution as their primary appointment. Applicants working in private practice as their primary appointment are not eligible for the Scholarship.

### 3.5. Application

3.5.1. Applications for the Scholarship will be through an annual Expression of Interest (Eoi) and will apply only for training activities to be undertaken in the future. The Scholarship cannot be granted retroactively.

3.5.2. Applications must:

- be authored by the applicant;
- be accompanied by a letter of nomination from a health professional participating in the RACS Global Health Program or a RACS Fellow;
- be accompanied by a letter of support from the applicant's superior;
- include a separate page outlining total estimated costs of program and all related expenses such as airfares, accommodation, application fees, and living expenses;
- be supported by the identified host supervisor and host institution, if applicable; and
- be submitted directly to RACS.

### 3.6. Selection

Applications will be reviewed by a selection panel comprised of a minimum of two members of the Global Health Scholarships Panel (GHSP) including the Chair or his/her nominee and Karen Edyvane or a representative of the Edyvane family.

The selection panel assesses each application and makes a recommendation through the GHSP to the International Engagement Committee, which approves the recommendations as appropriate.

Assessment will be based upon the need for the training identified and the proposed activity's likely impact.

### 3.7. Value of the Scholarship

The Scholarship may cover training and course fees, reasonable travel and accommodation expenses related to the training activity, visa application fees, and living expenses.

The value of the Scholarship will depend on the requirements of the recipient's program and the funding available in any given year. Prospective applicants should refer to the College website at [www.surgeons.org](http://www.surgeons.org) for information on the current value of the Scholarship.

### 3.8. Funding Source

The Scholarships are funded from the income revenue derived from the Katherine Edyvane Scholarship in Humanitarian Surgery corpus under the Foundation for Surgery and will continue to be funded as the corpus allows.

### 3.9. Duration of the Scholarship

The Scholarship is normally awarded for a program of up to eight weeks duration, but may be awarded for a longer period at the discretion of the GHSP and Karen Edyvane or a representative of the Edyvane family.

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**3.10. Frequency of the Scholarship**

The Scholarship is to be offered annually, subject to the income available for the Scholarship in any given year being sufficient and providing there is at least one worthy applicant. More than one Scholarship can be awarded in any one year.

**3.11. Conditions of the Scholarship**

**3.11.1. Financial arrangements**

- a) The recipient should refer to a financial or taxation advisor to ascertain the taxability of the Scholarship.
- b) The Scholarship funds are normally paid by invoice from the training provider or vendor. In situations where invoices are unavailable, the recipient should provide bank account details to facilitate Electronic Funds Transfer remittance of the awarded scholarship funds.

**3.11.2. Additional Scholarships/Fellowships/Awards**

- a) The recipient must notify RACS immediately on receipt of a non-RACS scholarship/award for the same activity. RACS does not allow duplication of funding for the same activity.
- b) The recipient may not hold two RACS scholarships/awards simultaneously.

**3.11.3. Reporting Requirements & Obligations of a Scholarship recipient**

- a) The Scholarship is conditional upon the recipient providing RACS with a suitable report, in the requested format, on the activities undertaken during the scholarship period within four weeks of completing the activity.
- b) Recipients are expected to use the Scholarship responsibly and with dedication. RACS reserves the right to terminate the Scholarship if this condition is not fulfilled.

**3.11.4. Reporting Requirements & Obligations of a Nominator**

- a) Individuals who nominate worthy candidates with whom they have had contact must be willing to accept the responsibility for arranging a suitable program and acting as a personal host to the Scholarship recipient.
- b) The nominating individual is expected to provide a report on the outcomes of the activity to the GHSP within four weeks of the completion of the activity.

**3.11.5. Timing of Award**

The commencement date for the scholarship placement should be negotiated between the recipient and the nominator and/or supervisor for the activity as applicable, for a mutually convenient time. The Scholarship must commence within 12 months of the Scholarship being awarded.

**3.11.6. Reapplication for the Scholarship**

Recipients are eligible to re-apply in subsequent years through the normal application channels and observing the advertised application deadlines and formats in competition with all applications. Successful re-application is dependent on provision of a complete report as noted in 3.11.3

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#### 3.11.7. Acknowledgements

The 'Katherine Edyvane Scholarship in Humanitarian Surgery provided through the Foundation of Surgery, RACS' must be acknowledged in all relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising, publications and presentations relating to the Scholarship, including those made at the ASC.

#### 3.11.8. Privacy

RACS takes reasonable steps to protect the information it holds from misuse or loss and from unauthorized access, modification or disclosure. The recipient has the right to access his or her personal information and to have it corrected if inaccurate, incomplete or out of date.

#### 3.11.9. Termination of the Scholarship

RACS may, at its discretion, for what is considered grave cause, suspend the tenure of a Scholarship for such time as is thought fit, or deprive a recipient of his/her Scholarship. From the date of either of these decisions, the entitlement to stipend and other allowances shall cease.

Upon termination, monies already paid, and not duly expended, shall be refunded to RACS.

#### 3.11.10. Acceptance of Offer

Recipients must indicate their acceptance of the Scholarship and the above conditions in writing to RACS prior to commencement of the award.

### 3.12. Administering Committee

The RACS Global Health team administers the Travel Grant. The selection panel reports its recommendations through the GHSP to the International Engagement Committee, which approves the recommendations as appropriate.

### 3.13. Evaluation of the Scholarship

The Scholarship is monitored by an Evaluation Committee, whose role is to assess the benefits resulting from the Scholarship Program.

## 4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

International Scholarships Program Terms of Reference  
 Scholarships Evaluation and Monitoring Committee Terms of Reference International  
 Scholarships Committee Terms of Reference  
 Katherine Edyvane Scholarship in Humanitarian Surgery Procedure (under development)  
 Katherine Edyvane Scholarship in Humanitarian Surgery Application Form (under development)  
 Katherine Edyvane Scholarship in Humanitarian Surgery Appraisal Form (under development)  
 Katherine Edyvane Scholarship in Humanitarian Surgery – Scholar Evaluation Form (under development)  
 Katherine Edyvane Scholarship in Humanitarian Surgery – Supervisor Evaluation Form (under development)

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**Authoriser:** International Engagement Committee

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