

Younger Fellows Leadership Exchange Travel Grant

Learning & Development Guideline GDL-4962

Review: January 2026

Governing Policy: POL-4914 Learning and Development Grant Policy

Eligibility summary RACS Younger Fellows (early-career, within 10 years of Fellowship)

Interest area Attendance at AAS Congress – USA

The Younger Fellows Leadership Exchange Travel Fellowship provides professional development opportunities with a focus on leadership. The Fellowship supports a Younger Fellow to participate in the exchange program established between RACS and the Association for Academic Surgery (AAS) and attend the AAS Congress, held in the United States every February.

The Fellowship supports the exchange of ideas and possible solutions in relation to common issues affecting Younger Fellows in both organisations. The exchange also offers the opportunity for RACS to identify, through the AAS, opportunities for RACS Younger Fellows to access international clinical Fellow positions in the United States.

As a reciprocal arrangement, an AAS member participates in the Younger Fellows Forum (YFF) at the RACS Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) and attends the Younger Fellows and Trainees dinner. The AAS recipient also participates in the Faculty of the Developing a Career in Academic Surgery course (DCAS).

Conditions

This guideline outlines information specific to the respective grant's purpose, duration, conditions and recipient eligibility. For all the conditions for this scholarship it is essential that you also read the Learning and Development Policy.

Applicant eligibility

Applications are open to RACS Fellows who have gained Fellowship within the past ten years.

Eligible activity

The grant enables the recipient to attend the annual Association for Academic Surgery (AAS) Congress. The AAS funds the recipient's airfares, accommodation, transfers and conference expenses.

Application criteria

The applicant is to demonstrate:

- an understanding and involvement in RACS governance functions
- an understanding of, and advocacy for, Younger Fellows' issues
- leadership skills and experience
- the benefits that will flow to one or more of the following – RACS, Younger Fellows, a specialty society, hospital and/or an academic institution.

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Selection

The selection panel is comprised of:

- Chair, Younger Fellows Committee
- Deputy Chair, Younger Fellows Committee x2

Recipient obligations

The recipient is required to attend and present a paper at the AAS Congress in the United States.

Funding source

The RACS recipient is fully funded by the AAS.

RACS will fund airfares, transfers, attendance and accommodation of the AAS representative at the YFF, the ASC and the Younger Fellows and Trainees Dinner. RACS funding for the AAS recipient is to be sourced from industry. Should funding not be forthcoming, other sources of funding may be investigated to cover the costs.

Partner committee

Younger Fellows Committee