

<b>Division:</b>	<b>Education Development and Assessment</b>	<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>EDA_EXA_016</b>
<b>Department:</b>	<b>Examinations</b>		
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Appointments to the Court of Examiners</b>		

## 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To provide direction for the Appointment to the Court of Examiners.

The Court is appointed by the Council of the College. Its purpose is to conduct the Fellowship Examination. As a true 'exit' examination, it primarily assesses professional judgement, clinical decision-making and medical expertise to ensure that candidates are safe and competent to practice as surgeons.

The Court is comprised of surgeons representing the nine specialties in which the College conducts the Examination. The number of Examiners varies in each specialty in line with the number of trainees and Examination candidates.

## 2. KEY WORDS

Appointment, examiners, court, fellowship, specialty, clinical, examinations

## 3. BODY OF POLICY

The Specialty Court is responsible for recommending appointments to the Court of Examiners.

### 3.1. Notification of Vacancies

Vacancies on the Court are advertised in Surgical News each year in October, or at other times if the needs of a specialty court so require.

The Specialty Court will consider the merits of each nomination taking into account the desirable attributes for new examiners as outlined in 3.4.

The Senior Examiner, representing the specialty court, after consideration of all the relevant information, makes a recommendation to the Chair of the Court, who submits a recommendation for consideration by the Education Board (EB) and confirmation by Council.

### 3.2. Requirements

To be eligible for appointment and re-appointment to the Court of Examiners, an applicant must be:

- a) A Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons,
- b) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) compliant or certified
- c) A member of the surgical staff of his/her hospital, and be in active clinical practice
- d) Nominated and seconded by Fellows of the College

### 3.3. General Considerations

The following factors will be taken into account by the Specialty Court in the selection of new Examiners into each Specialty Court:

- a) An appropriate geographical representation, including metropolitan and non-metropolitan hospitals
- b) A suitable mix of sub-specialty expertise within each discipline, and
- c) Appropriate representation of teaching hospitals

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### 3.4. Selection Guidelines

The following are considered attributes desirable of nominees for selection of new Examiners to the Court:

- a) Integrity and good standing in the surgical community
- b) Demonstrated ability to adhere to the College Code of Conduct
- c) Experience as a Consultant Surgeon with active involvement in patient care, including emergency management
- d) A broad knowledge of and familiarity with the curriculum for specialist surgical training in the appropriate specialty
- e) Clinical maturity and recognized high standards of surgical competence
- f) Evidence of interest and expertise in surgical education and management
- g) Active involvement with College and/or Specialist Society and Association activities
- h) Ability to be able to work as part of a team
- i) Basic computer skills for the preparation of examination materials and examination process

### 3.5. Period of Appointment

Tenure on the Court of Examiners commences from the time the new appointee is approved by Council.

Examiners are eligible for a term of re-appointment every three years for a maximum term of nine years.

An Examiner who becomes a Senior Examiner may have the total tenure extended by a further one year on the recommendation of the specialty court and at the discretion of the Chairman of the Court.

## 4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Court of Examiners Terms of Reference  
 Chair, Court of Examiners Position Description  
 Deputy Chairs, Court of Examiners Position Description  
 Deputy Senior Examiners, Court of Examiners Position Description  
 Senior Examiners, Court of Examiners Position Description

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