

Advanced Specialised Training (AST)

AST SURGERY

This information sheet is designed to give a short summary of requirements for the AST in Surgery.

Full curriculum, competencies, assessments and requirements for training posts can be found in detail in the [AST Surgery Handbook](#) and the ACRRM [Handbook for Fellowship Assessment](#). These resources should be referenced prior to making an application to be an ACRRM accredited training post.

ACRRM has many supports available for both registrars and supervisors, including online learning resources, access to medical educators and mentorship.

If you have any enquiries please contact your allocated Training Program Advisor or [ACRRM Training Team in your state](#).

Training Post	Training must take place in an ACRRM AST accredited post, or combination of posts, that provide a balance of volume and scope of surgical practice in addition to preparing the Rural Generalist for work in a district hospital to meet the curriculum requirements of this AST. Refer to the AST Surgery Handbook for features of suitable training posts.
Supervision	A Specialist Principal supervisor – a doctor holding a Fellowship of RACS, FACRRM holding AST Surgery, (or other Fellowship with relevant qualifications and experience) must be nominated, who is overall responsible for the clinical and educational supervision of the registrar. The Supervisor and Training Post Standards has further details on supervisor requirements. Additional supervisors may be nominated to assist with supervision and leave coverage.
Trainee Eligibility	Satisfactory completion of 12 months of ACRRM Core Generalist Training (CGT) or be PGY3+ for those doctors not in Fellowship training.
Suggested Prerequisites	Registrar should have core generalist surgery knowledge and skills, as outlined in the Rural Generalist Curriculum before commencing this AST. It is expected that the candidate can perform a defined list of generic elementary surgical skills (as defined by Royal Australasian College of Surgeons – RACS)
Training Time	Minimum 24 months full time (FTE) or equivalent part time training at no less than 0.5 FTE
Education	Average minimum of four hours of protected teaching time per week should be spent engaged in educational activities related to the AST – see ACRRM Supervisor Guide . A record of education must be kept by the registrar and discussed with the Supervisor and ACRRM Medical Educator regularly throughout training. Registrars should participate in the RACS registrar education program and education sessions tailored to the AST curriculum
Required Courses	Registrars must successfully complete the following courses listed in the AST Surgery Handbook: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RACS Australian and New Zealand Surgical Skills Education and Training (ASSET) course or RANZCOG Basic Surgical Skills Workshop • Early Management of Severe Trauma (EMST) • Care of the Critically Ill Patient (CCrISP) • Candidates are required to complete Gastroscopy & Colonoscopy training that meets the requirements of the Conjoint Committee for Recognition of Training in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (CCRTGE).
Required Competencies	Advanced Specialised Training Surgery competencies as well as Knowledge, Skills and Attributes, are outlined in the AST Surgery Handbook
Onsite Assessments Refer to ACRRM Fellowship Assessment Handbook for further information	Registrars must submit to ACRRM the following: Four Supervisor reports Plan and Progress Report Advanced Specialised Training should be completed by the registrar and supervisor every three months. Ten (minimum) Mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercises (Mini-CEXs) conducted by supervisor. See MiniCEX Formative Scoring Form . Five MiniCEXs can be replaced by Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS). Five Case Based Discussions (CBD) are encouraged. See CBD forms for templates. A logbook of surgical procedures to be submitted to ACRRM
External Assessments	Registrars must gain a pass in an AST Surgery StAMPS examination. ACRRM AST Surgery Structured Assessment using Multiple Patient Scenarios (StAMPS), an OSCE/viva voce style case-based college examination in which the candidate is given a community profile on which to base their answers, please see AST Surgery Stampsville Profile and ACRRM provides Mock examinations prior to scheduled StAMPS exams Refer to ACRRM Fellowship Assessment Handbook for further information.