

Thinking of Cardiothoracic Surgery?

Cardiothoracic surgery is the diagnosis and treatment (operative and non-operative) of patients with disorders of structures within the chest including: the heart and vascular system, the lungs and trachea, the oesophagus, the diaphragm and chest wall. It includes the management of trauma and congenital and acquired disorders of these structures.

For more information on cardiothoracic surgery as a specialty in New Zealand [click here](#)

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons invites you to view interviews with experienced surgeons about the study, practice and highlights of [practising surgery](#)

Training in Cardiothoracic Surgery is coordinated by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Board of Cardiothoracic Surgery which is responsible for the selection, placement and monitoring of all Cardiothoracic Trainees in Australia and New Zealand. [The Cardiothoracic Surgery Programme.](#)

Cardiothoracic Surgery Training

To help guide junior doctors' career development during the early pre-vocational years, the College has established JDocs, a competency framework (JDocs Framework) supported by a suite of learning and assessment resources.

JDocs is available to any doctor registered in Australia and New Zealand, from and including internship, where the level of engagement is determined by the junior doctor.

For further information visit [the competency-framework](#) and [RACS competencies](#)

When selecting doctors for Surgical Education and Training (SET) RACS focus is on their potential to achieve the 9 RACS competencies:

1. Professionalism
2. Scholar/Teacher
3. Health Advocacy
4. Management and Leadership
5. Collaboration
6. Communication
7. Medical Expertise
8. Judgement – Clinical Decision Making
9. Technical Expertise

Specialty Training

6 Years

- Surgical Education and Training (SET) 1 – 6;
- Each SET is 12 months in duration.

Entry Requirements

- [Generic Selection Requirements](#)
- [Specialty Specific Selection Requirements](#)

The number of doctors selected for SET in Cardiothoracic Surgery is not based on entry requirements alone but also on scoring high enough in the selection process to be offered one of the limited number of training positions.

The SET programme in Cardiothoracic Surgery is bi-national and Trainees **must be prepared** to be assigned to positions anywhere in New Zealand and Australia.

Registration with the RACS as a Trainee in SET Cardiothoracic Surgery is not training-site specific and lasts for the duration of the training programme, assuming satisfactory progression.

Specialty Training Programme Information

Medical College

[Royal Australasian College of Surgeons](#)

The College is the principal body for the training and education of surgeons in Australia and New Zealand. Accreditation is given by the Australian Medical Council, on behalf of the Medical Board of Australia, and the Medical Council of New Zealand to conduct training and education of surgeons in Cardiothoracic Surgery in Australia and New Zealand.

Fellowship/Qualification

Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS) in cardiothoracic surgery

Application and Selection Process

Examination Requirement

RACS Examinations include the

- Clinical Examination,
- Generic Surgical Sciences Examination,
- Specialty Specific Examination and
- Fellowship Examination.

Information regarding RACS examinations can be found [here](#)

Recognition of Prior Learning

Contact details: Cardiothoracic.Board@surgeons.org

Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Information

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons' Surgical Education and Training (SET) programme in Cardiothoracic Surgery is bi-national; the numbers in the table below include both New Zealand and Australia.

Year	Number of applications	Number of applicants selected
2014	45	7
2013	34	6
2012	42	12
2011	31	7
2010	31	11
2009	41	3

RMO training registrar positions

Northern	Midland	Central	South Island	Total
6	1	1	2	10

*Figures from September 2014 RMO census

The need for this speciality in New Zealand

This section is being further developed. Once it is updated a revised version will be published.

Information on Cardiothoracic Surgeons

NZ New Fellows (Some SET Trainees work for a year or more overseas before returning to NZ and applying for the award of FRACS).

Year	Number
2014	2
2013	0
2012	0
2011	0
2010	2
2009	1

Cardiothoracic surgeons registered with the Medical Council

TBA

Average Age of SMOs*	Number of IMGs**
53	48%

*Source: Medical Council, 24 March 2014

**International Medical Graduate (IMG)

Number of Cardiothoracic Surgeons by Region (TBA)

Northern		Midland		Central		South Island		Total	
FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Regions

Northern:

Northland, Waitemata, Auckland, Counties Manukau DHBs

Midland:

Lakes, Tairāwhiti, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Taranaki DHBs

Central:

Hawke's Bay, Wanganui, MidCentral, Wairarapa, Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley DHBs

South Island:

Nelson Marlborough, Canterbury, South Canterbury, Southern, West Coast DHBs