

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery – Combined PhD/FRACS program

1. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

BACKGROUND

The combined PhD/ FRACS qualification has been set up to promote and fast track future research leaders in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. By making this combined qualification available we hope to attract candidates with both strong academic and clinical capabilities to our specialty. By doing this we aim to:

- Enhance the academic and research base of our specialty;
- Advance the capacity and reputation of our specialty as leading innovators in surgery;
- Foster innovation across disciplines, including disciplines outside medicine and surgery, to be at the forefront of the major changes in patient and community health.

Plastic Surgery is a specialty with a strong history of innovation and research. To continue this tradition the specialty must replenish and strengthen its research base and leadership. A strong research and innovation culture requires wide participation across the specialty, but it also needs a small number of truly outstanding individuals who commit to a career pathway that is focused on being international leaders in PRS research.

APPLICATION PROCESS OUTLINE

STEP 1: EOI

Submit **Expression of Interest (EOI)** to ASPS (this form)

- 1.1. EOI reviewed by a Selection Panel
- 1.2. Successful applicants are invited to submit a formal application
- 1.3. Non-successful EOIs notified of outcome

STEP 2: Formal application

Invited applicants can submit a **Formal Application** to ASPS

- 2.1. Application reviewed by selection panel
- 2.2. Successful applicants advised of outcome and next steps
- 2.3. Non-successful applications are notified of outcome

STEP 3: Enrolment

Candidate enrolls with host University

The application process for the Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery (PRS) combined PhD/FRACS program requires that an expression of interest (EOI) process be followed, which may take two to five weeks to complete. This process is key to ensuring that you are ready for University-level research and will assist you in finding a suitable supervisor. Finding the right supervisor is crucial to the success of your Higher Degree Research and is also a key step in developing your research project and formal application for admission. Once and if the EOI process has been successful you will be invited to submit a **formal application** for the program. Only applicants whose EOI is successful will be invited to submit a formal application.

Things to note:

- The **EOI process is a prerequisite step only**. Formal application is by invitation after an EOI has been accepted by the Selection Panel. You must complete and be successful in both processes in order to proceed to University enrolment. A successful EOI and subsequent invitation to apply is not a guarantee of being approved to enrol in the program.
- On the basis of this EOI and information provided, you may be invited to submit a formal application for admission for the combined PhD/FRACS program. All applicants are required to have the agreement of a suitable supervisor for their project at the time of the formal application.
- The requested information in this form will assist the selection panel in assessing your academic and surgical ability as well as your research potential.

WHO CAN SUBMIT AN EOI:

- This program is **open only to candidates** who are already accepted into the Australian Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery SET Program.
- Selection criteria** are provided below. This criteria provide the minimum expectations/requirements only. Satisfying all criteria does not guarantee admission into the program. Admission remains at the discretion of the Leadership Group and relevant Dean of the host University.

In order to submit an EOI, applicants must demonstrate the following:

1. Prior academic research experience which will usually be demonstrated through successful completion of a research component in a medical qualification, and/or a postgraduate Masters Degree (or equivalent) or publication record. Work must be of a high standard; and
2. Proven high standard in SET assessments (material provided in your SET application will be relevant for this);

HOW TO SUBMIT AN EOI:

- To commence the EOI process, you will first need to **identify a supervisor** whose academic focus aligns with your own research area of interest. Finding the right supervisor is vital to the success of a PhD as they will be working with you throughout your research degree. Bear in mind there may be prearranged research topics through the University so make sure you research these whilst looking into a potential supervisor.
- It is expected that applicants will formulate their preliminary research question with a person with experience in research for the EOI. If your EOI is successful and you are invited to submit a formal

application, you will *then* be required to make contact with the nominated supervisor/s to consolidate your research project and supervisor support.

- You may nominate up to two supervisors in the EOI form field below.** Include the name of the supervisor and the University and Faculty with which they are affiliated.
- Please **email the completed EOI form to the Office of ASPS** at: MBS@plasticsurgery.org.au

1. Personal details

All fields marked with * are required. The EOI form will not be processed without completion of these fields.	
Title	Choose an item.
First name*	
Family name*	
Citizenship Type	Choose an item.
Country of Citizenship	

2. Contact details

Please provide contact details that are valid for at least two months after submission of this form. All fields marked with * are required.	
Contact phone number*	
Email address*	

3. SET program status

What is your current stage of the SET program?	
When do you propose to commence the combined PhD/FRACS program?	Click or tap to enter a date.

4. Prospective supervisor

Please nominate up to two prospective supervisors:		
	Supervisor Name	University and Faculty
Name of prospective supervisor 1		
Name of prospective supervisor 2		
Applicant contact with Supervisor(s):		Comments
Have you made contact with any of the supervisors listed above?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, does the supervisor support your application? (please attach email)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

5. Research project

Provide brief information about your proposed research project. You may provide a more detailed project proposal by uploading supplementary files at the end of this form, though this is not a requirement.	
Provisional title	Click or tap here to enter text.
Keywords	Click or tap here to enter text.
Hypothesis and list of aims <i>What do you anticipate to be your findings and what questions do you hope to answer through your research project?</i> 100 words maximum	Click or tap here to enter text.
Brief overview of the research topic and its significance <i>Why are you undertaking this research? Why is this topic/work important for PRS?</i> 200 words maximum	Click or tap here to enter text.
Proposed methods and outline of how you plan to address this research project <i>Approach or methodology to be used in relation to your stated aims to prove your hypothesis. Statistical analysis to be used etc</i> 200 words maximum	Click or tap here to enter text.
Is there any potential for your project to incorporate industry engagement <i>E.g. through an industry-based sponsorship.</i> 100 words maximum	Click or tap here to enter text.

<p>Details of any previous publications and/or research undertaken in your area of interest.</p> <p>100 words maximum</p>	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p>Description of how your proposed research aligns with your nominated supervisor/s areas of expertise.</p> <p>100 words maximum</p>	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>

6. Academic Qualifications

Which of the following degrees or qualifications have you completed? *(select any applicable)*

It is assumed you have successfully completed a Doctor of Medicine (MD), a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) or overseas equivalent).

<input type="checkbox"/>	Masters Degree (by Research)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Masters Degree (by Coursework)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bachelor's degree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bachelor's degree with honours
<input type="checkbox"/>	Masters by Research or overseas qualification comparable to an Australian Masters Degree (by Research)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have not completed any of these degrees, or I am unsure whether my degree meets the above requirements.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional qualifications relevant to this application (please provide details in a separate document)
Please provide details of any previous academic experience relevant to the combined PhD/FRACS program	
Click or tap here to enter text.	

7. Clinical competencies

Please provide evidence of clinical criteria being met: skills being of a high standard. Attach reference/documentation if applicable

Click or tap here to enter text.

8. Personal commitment

Please provide evidence of commitment to both clinical and academic pursuits in a professional environment.

Click or tap here to enter text.

9. Your Scholarship Requirements and Funding

Please indicate your interest in applying for a scholarship by selecting one of the boxes below.

Will you need to apply for a Scholarship?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, I wish to be considered for Scholarship opportunities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, I have sponsorship from a government body or other organisation <i>Provide details:</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Click or tap here to enter text.</div>
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, I already have a Scholarship / or have applied for a Scholarship / or will bring one with me. <i>Provide name and details of the Scholarship (provide a separate attachment outlining the scholarship amount and duration):</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Click or tap here to enter text.</div>
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, I will be self-funded <i>Provide a separate attachment outlining self-funding details.</i> Note: You must be able to demonstrate that you can financially support yourself (and any dependants) for the duration of your studies. Full cost includes study costs, and living expenses (including dependents). Please refer to the PhD/FRACS program information sheet for a proposed program pathway, noting that there will be periods of time it is anticipated that you will be focusing on the PhD in a full-time capacity which will make part-time employment difficult to undertake.

Statement by Applicant:

I ACKNOWLEDGE:

- That this Expression of Interest does not constitute a formal application or offer of a place in the combined PhD/FRACS program.

I HAVE:

- Answered all the questions on this form truthfully

I AGREE TO:

- ✓ Notify the relevant institutions and organisations of any changes to the information I have given in this Expression of Interest.
- ✓ Permit the University, ASPS and/or RACS to conduct a pre-assessment of my academic results when considering my expression of interest.

SUPPLEMENTARY FILES

Please include in your email the following **MANDATORY** attachments:

1. Copy of your CV
2. Academic Transcripts (does not need to be a certified copy)
3. Scholarship details or self-funded evidence of your capacity to fund all living costs, fees and other associated costs.
4. Copy of supervisor email of support (if supplied)

Please ensure file names begin with Family name, and indicate contents. (For example, Smith_CV).