



OSSANZ TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP SCHOLARSHIP 2016 GUIDELINES

1. Purpose & Scope

This policy governs the awarding of the OSSANZ Travelling Fellows Scholarship. It covers the application and selection criteria as well as the value, frequency and conditions of the Scholarship.

2. Key Direction Statement

2.1 History

OSSANZ started in 1980 with a meeting in South Australia of health professionals from New Zealand and Australia interested in the surgical treatment of severe obesity and has continued to meet since to discuss developments in the type of surgery. OSSANZ now also has members from Singapore and the Philippines. OSSANZ welcomes as members any Health Professionals working in the field of surgical treatment of obesity including physicians, dietitians and nurses.

OSSANZ is a foundation member of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity (www.ifso.com) that now has 31 member countries. IFSO meets each year for 3-4 days in different countries with up to 1200 in attendance discussing the latest developments in obesity surgery.

2.2 Objective

The objective of the Obesity Surgery Society of Australia & New Zealand (OSSANZ) shall be:

- To form a closer association of the obesity surgeons of Australia & New Zealand for the advancement of obesity surgery & management.
- It shall strive to maintain the character and standards of obesity surgery as outlined by The International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity.

3. Eligibility Criteria

The applicant must be a member of OSSANZ at the time of submitting their application.

All applicants are required to provide specific details of their planned visit to the ASM / Conference in question (1 page), including their proposed itinerary, explicit details of work and/or study to be undertaken and envisaged benefits of this activity. Details of any financial support or funding already secured (e.g. research grants, sponsorship and / or other grants) and the proposed use of the funds should also be included. Please note that additional funding from external bodies may affect selection.

4. Guidelines for Selection

The aim of the Scholarship is to financially assist younger fellows attend Conferences (relating to bariatric surgery) held overseas.

- 4.1 An important aspect relevant to selection will be the applicant's ability to demonstrate the benefits of his/her attendance at the Conference and share this with the bariatric surgical community in Australia & New Zealand.
- 4.2 Selection will be dependant upon the applicant's ability to provide a clear plan of their proposed trip, emphasizing the benefits to be gained.
- 4.3 Selection will be dependant on inclusion of a confirmation letter from the Society holding the Conference with regards to any funding provided.
- 4.4 Consideration will be given to those in their earlier post Fellowship years (ten years), and to those who have not secured alternative financial support.

5. Value of the Scholarship

There are two (2) OSSANZ / Medtronic Scholarships in total each valued at AUD \$7,500.

6. Frequency of the Scholarship

Two scholarships are to be awarded in 2015, subject to sponsorship and provided there are worthy applicants.

7. Financial Arrangements

- 7.1 The recipient must refer his/her financial taxation advisor to ascertain the taxability of the stipend
- 7.2 Payment of the award will be made in one instalment
- 7.3 The Scholarship will only be paid on receipt of a valid tax invoice

8. Reporting and Other Requirements

On completion of the Scholarship, the recipient is required to:

- Provide a written report on their experience for OSSANZ and be prepared to present a brief descriptive prepare at the OSSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting / Conference following their return
- Prepare a paper suitable for any OSSANZ publications and the OSSANZ website

9. Procedures

9.1 Application Timeline

All applications and relevant documentation will not be accepted after the closing date, 15th June 2016. Successfully applicants will be notified in late June 2016.

9.2 Selection Process

OSSANZ has a Selection Committee. A representative from Medtronic may be invited to act as an observer on the Selection Committee. The selection panel meeting precedes the OSSANZ ASM / Conference.

9.3 Administering Committee

The OSSANZ Committee administers the Scholarships. Administrative support for the coordination of the Scholarship is provided by the OSSANZ Executive Officer who is responsible for administering the application process, liaising with applicants and other related tasks.

For further information, view the OSSANZ Travelling Fellowship Grants' policy or contact Michaela Kelly-Nixon at info@ossanz.com.au

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