



# Guideline

## Neurosurgical Society of Australasia

ABN 50 283 605 657, ACN 167 861 805

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**Guideline Name:** Research Recognition of Prior Learning

**Version Approval Date:** December 2023

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### 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This guideline is designed to inform trainees in the Surgical Education and Training (SET) Program in Neurosurgery of the standard applied to the assessment of recognition of prior learning (RPL) for their SET research requirements.

### 2.0 SET PROGRAM REGULATION

- 2.1 Trainees who have satisfactorily completed a research project relevant to neurosurgery resulting in a presentation and publication which satisfies the research requirements as determined by the NSA Research Committee in their discretion may be eligible for RPL for:
- the Research Project Requirement
  - the Research Presentation Requirement
  - the Research Publication Requirement
- 2.2 Applications for recognition of prior learning can only be made after the trainee has been selected for commencement on the SET Program.

### 3.0 GUIDANCE – RESEARCH PROJECT REQUIREMENT

- 3.1 The research project must be a substantive project relevant to neurosurgery resulting in a meaningful outcome. The research must have addressed a specific question, present the findings according to a standard structure and may suggest questions for further research and investigation. The research must be able to make a meaningful contribution to neurosurgery. A literature review alone will not be considered a substantive project.
- 3.2 The role of the trainee in the project must have been significant. The trainee must have been substantially or wholly involved in the continuum of activities associated with research (e.g., concept, design, and planning; the experimental, analytic and dissemination phase). Trainees are not required to have performed all of the work themselves (e.g., laboratory work; statistical analysis).
- 3.3 The research project must have been supervised by an appropriately qualified consultant or researcher. Supervision includes regular, ongoing contact and oversight (review of study concept, design, results, analysis and communications, performance and progress meetings/feedback etc.). The supervisor does not need to be a neurosurgeon.

### 4.0 GUIDANCE – RESEARCH PRESENTATION REQUIREMENT

- 4.1 The presentation must be directly related to the findings from the supervised research project.
- 4.2 The presentation must have been delivered by the trainee personally as an oral (podium) presentation which was allocated a minimum time of five minutes in the program. Poster presentations, or poster side presentations are not included.
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- 4.3 The meeting at which the presentation was given must be a national or international scientific meeting of 50 or more delegates where abstracts are subject to competitive selection. The term “national” means the whole of a country, rather than a part of it such as a state or territory. The term “international” means two or more countries.
- 4.4 The trainee must provide pdf evidence in their application from the meeting organiser. The evidence must include the title of the accepted abstract, the mode of presentation, the name of the meeting and the date of the meeting.

## 5.0 GUIDANCE – PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT

- 5.1 The publication must be directly related to the findings from the supervised research project.
- 5.2 The publication must be a journal article. Published case reports, abstracts, literature reviews, book chapters, letters to the editor, book reviews and media releases are not considered.
- 5.3 The trainee must be the primary author. The authorship must determine from the publication only.
- 5.4 The publication must be in a journal with a SCImago Journal Rank in quartiles 1 to 3 in the subject area of Medicine or Neuroscience (<https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php>) unless otherwise approved by the Research Committee. The quartile ranking is at the time of acceptance for publication or application to the Research Committee.
- 5.5 The trainee must provide a pdf copy of the published article showing full bibliographic details in their application. For those which are accepted for publication, but not yet published, the trainee must provide a pdf containing the publisher’s proof of acceptance and the publisher’s correspondence confirming acceptance.

## 6.0 PROCESS

- 6.1 Applications for RPL must be submitted for review by the NSA Research Committee using the **Recognition of Prior Learning Application** form available on the NSA website.
- 6.2 The following documentation must be submitted with the application form:
  - 6.2.1 The pdf evidence for the presentation requirement.
  - 6.2.2 The pdf evidence for the publication requirement.
- 6.3 Once the application form has been completed by the trainee and before submission, the research supervisor (any one if there are multiple) is required to sign the form to confirm that they were the supervisor of the research project and that the information provided within the form by the trainee is an accurate reflection of the project, and the trainee involvement.
- 6.4 The trainee will be required to present via Zoom at a scheduled Research Committee meeting to discuss their application and provide further information if requested by the Research Committee.
- 6.5 Approval is at the discretion of the Research Committee.