



Surgical Education and Training Program in Neurosurgery Neurosurgery Anatomy Examination 2024

1 EXAMINATION OVERVIEW

The Neurosurgery Anatomy Examination (**Examination**) is part of the selection process for the Surgical Education and Training Program in Neurosurgery (**SET Program**).

The Examination was held in 7 locations in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand on 21 February 2024.

Commencing in 2024 (for the 2025 intake) applicants must have achieved the pass mark of 70% in the Examination at the time of application. As such, it is now an eligibility requirement to apply rather than being sat during the selection process. The Minimum Standard (70%), weighting in selection (30%) and use as a short-listing tool during the selection process will continue.

Those planning to apply during the 2024 selection process, and those who may wish to apply in the future but were not intending to apply for selection during 2024, were eligible to apply for the Examination. This change means that the candidate pool for the 2024 Examination, and the number of candidates presenting, differed significantly to previous years when the Examination was only sat by those who had applied for the SET Program.

A total of 99 candidates presented for the Examination. Of those, 64 had registered with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (**RACS**) their intention to apply for the SET Program in the 2024 selection process.

2 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

For the 64 candidates who registered with the RACS their intention to apply for the SET Program during the 2024 selection process, the following summary of performance is provided for self-assessment purposes.

	Number	%
Applicants	64	100.00
Number Passed	47	73.44
Number Failed	17	26.56
Highest Score (out of 232)	216	93.10
Lowest Score (out of 232)	93	40.09

For the 99 candidates combined, the following summary of performance is provided for self-assessment purposes.

	Number	%
Applicants	99	100
Number Passed	56	56.57
Number Failed	43	43.43
Highest Score (out of 232)	216	93.10
Lowest Score (out of 232)	82	35.34



Board of Neurosurgery Surgical Education & Training in Neurosurgery

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons & Neurosurgical Society of Australasia



Examination results will now be valid for 2 selection years commencing from the 2024 Examination. For the 2024 selection process (for the 2025 intake) only the 2024 Examination score will be used. For all subsequent years, applicants will have the choice whether they sit the current year Examination or rely on the previous year Examination score for selection purposes. If they choose to sit both years, their best score will be used.

3 EXAMINATION QUESTION REVIEW

Applicants were invited to submit details of questions if they believed there was a fault with the question within 24 hours of the Examination.

Identified questions were reviewed by the Examinations Committee prior to finalising the Examination results. Feedback on individual submission made for question review is not provided to candidates.

As general feedback, some candidates identified inconsistencies in the recommended reading, resulting in ambiguity in determining if an answer stem was correct in some questions as it depended on which section of the textbook candidates relied on. Where there were two possible answers because of ambiguity in the textbook, both answers were scored as correct. Where there was no correct answer or a manifest error in the question itself, the question was removed from the Examination scoring and the total marks for the Examination adjusted accordingly.

As a result of the review process, the total marks for the Examination were adjusted to be out of 232 marks (previously 240 marks).