This booklet provides a general overview of the AOA 21 Training Program. The best source of comprehensive and up to date information including entry requirements can be found on the AOA website at www.aoa.org.au
Orthopaedic surgery is the medical specialty that focuses on the diagnosis, care and treatment of patients with disorders of the bones, joints, muscles, ligaments and tendons. These elements make up the musculoskeletal system. Orthopaedic surgeons use medical, physical and rehabilitative methods as well as surgery in caring for their patients.

The Australian Orthopaedic Association (AOA) is the peak professional body in Australia for advancing excellence in orthopaedic practice in the interests of patients and the community, and in the training of surgeons to world-class standards.

AOA has over 1700 members working as orthopaedic consultants and trainees (registrars) in Australian hospitals, spanning all orthopaedic subspecialties.

AOA is a not-for-profit organisation. It seeks to be world recognised for the advancement of orthopaedic surgery through education, professional standards and advocacy.
Becoming an AOA Trainee:

Beginning your career in Orthopaedic Surgery

The AOA 21 Training Program in Orthopaedic Surgery provides trainees with education in foundation skills, clinical assessment and training in operative techniques related to the discipline.

The program is competency-based and consists of work-place based learning and assessment.

There are three Stages of Training:
- Introduction to Orthopaedics
- Core Orthopaedics
- Transition to Practice

Completion of the AOA 21 Training Program qualifies trainees for independent specialty orthopaedic practice.
During the AOA 21 Training Program, trainees rotate to accredited hospital training posts every six months to gain a broad experience of orthopaedic surgery. Every individual trainee is assigned a Trainee Supervisor for each rotation. Introductory Trainees are usually assigned to a post which offers trauma experience, for 12 months.

Applicants for selection to orthopaedic training must hold a general medical registration in Australia and have some relevant post-graduate medical experience; specific requirements can be found on the AOA website. The application requirements can change annually. It is imperative that applicants carefully read the Selection Regulations and their supporting documentation.

Please go to: www.aoa.org.au/orthopaedic-training/becoming-an-aoa-trainee
The AOA 21 Training Program & Areas of Study

The AOA 21 Training Program is designed to develop the surgical trainee in orthopaedic surgery to achieve competency in:

Foundation Competencies
- Communication
- Teamwork and Conflict Management
- Professionalism
- Leadership & Organisational Skills
- Advocacy
- Education & Research

Medical & Surgical Expertise
- Orthopaedic Principles & Basic Sciences
- Medical Expertise
- Surgical Expertise

Applied Medical & Surgical Expertise in Orthopaedics
- Trauma & Injury
- Shoulder
- Elbow
- Hand & Wrist
- Hip
- Knee
- Foot and Ankle
- Spine
- Tumour & Tumour-like Conditions
- Paediatrics
- Systemic Medical Conditions
Trainees are assessed using a suite of purpose-built Workplace-Based Assessments (WBAs), including:

- Surgical Skills Assessments
- Patient Consultation Assessments
- Management Plan Assessments
- Case-based Discussion Assessments

Feedback Entries submitted via the AOA Training App, or online, also provide regular feedback to trainees on their performance.

Examinations are completed during both the Introduction to Orthopaedics and the Core stages.

Performance Appraisals are completed with the Trainee Supervisor every 3 months to review performance, provide feedback and identify any areas where additional support may be required.

Progress Reviews with the Director of Training every 6 months confirm progression towards the completion of the requirements for each stage of training.
AOA offers a national opportunity for outstanding final year medical students to apply to attend a week-long undergraduate workshop in December each year.

AOA invites all university medical schools to nominate a scholar, typically with a particular interest in orthopaedics, to represent their university at the workshop.

All travel and accommodation costs for this workshop are covered by AOA.
Contact Information

www.aoa.org.au

AOA Head Office
Australian Orthopaedic Association Limited
Level 12
45 Clarence St
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

T  +61 2 8071 8000
F  +61 2 8071 8002
E  training@aoa.org.au