

Bariatric Fellowship in Australia

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General Surgical Training in Australia requires a six year undergraduate or 4 year post graduate medical degree and two years of post graduate experience before commencement. General surgical training is undertaken over a minimum of 5 years and requires successful completion of a two part clinical examination. Further post fellowship training is at the discretion of the individual surgeon though non compulsory two year programs in upper gastrointestinal, colorectal and hepatobiliary surgery have been established. There is no centrally administered training program in bariatric surgery though a number of individual institutions offer one year fellowship programmes.

The authors experience is of a one year programme undertaken at St George Private Hospital in Sydney in Upper Gastrointestinal and Bariatric Surgery. During the fellowship there were 275 bariatric operations including 52 laparoscopic adjustable bands, 158 laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomies, 29 laparoscopic gastric bypasses and 61 revisional operations. There were 433 non bariatric operations. International candidates from Singapore, New Zealand and the United Kingdom have previously completed the programme. Future international candidates are welcome to apply for the St George Fellowship program and other bariatric training programmes throughout Australia.