



Information for Participants
First Course: 8 – 26 May 2023
Second Course: 7 – 26 August 2023

POSTGRADUATE COURSE IN BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES FOR FRACS

Organised by the Dunedin Basic Medical Sciences Course Trust

A charitable trust dedicated to the advancement of surgical education and research

Venue

The course venue is the **Dunedin Leisure Lodge, 30 Duke St, Dunedin.**

The official welcome is at 8am, Monday 8 May and for the second course: 8am, Monday 7 August.

A light morning and afternoon tea will be provided on week days. **Please advise any food allergies by emailing bse.course@otago.ac.nz**

Anatomy practical sessions (9am-11am) will be held on:

Saturday 13th May Limbs

Saturday 20th May Thorax & Abdomen

Sunday 21st May Head & Neck

August course – Anatomy labs are on

Saturday 12 August - Limbs

Saturday 19 August - Thorax & Abdomen

Saturday 26 August - Head & Neck

If we have a large number of applicants, a second stream will be offered 11am to 1pm.

Course material is on Moodle, sometimes lectures are hidden until after the presentation. You will be given access to Moodle and to the exam site when appropriate.

Location for Saturday Anatomy Sessions

Dissection Room, Department of Anatomy, 2nd floor, Lindo Ferguson Building, (D2 130 on the Campus Map on page 5). Doors will be opened by security shortly before 9am to allow access. Please arrive by 9am to avoid being locked out.

Library Hours

Bring as many textbooks as possible as books are unable to be taken out of the Medical Library.

Medical Library Hours

(opposite Dunedin Hospital)

Mon-Thurs 8.30am - 11pm

Friday: 8.30am - 9pm

Sat: 9am - 5pm

Sun: 10am - 11pm, except on public holidays

University Central Library

(65 Albany Street)

7am – 11.00pm x 7 days

Candidates do not have access to University library databases. Course candidates are unable to have library books on loan (because course candidates will have no official University Photo ID).

Mock Exams

Access to the site will be given at the conclusion of the course and can be done when you return home.

Three, 3-hour mock exams, in MCQ format, will be offered online. The link will be sent at the conclusion of the course and remain open until Sunday 4 June at 11pm. Results will be sent by Thursday 8 June.

In August, the exams will be open from 27 August until 5 September at 11pm. Results will be sent by 11 September.

Marks will be collated and sent out, with histograms, showing how individuals fare against their peers.

Mobile phones

Vodafone, Spark & 2Degrees digital networks operate in New Zealand, plus several smaller providers. It is possible to switch 'overseas' mobiles to our networks - contact your provider before leaving home or New Zealand mobile providers - but ensure you have full global roaming facilities to access our networks and your phone is unlocked. You can purchase a local SIM card to provide you with a NZ mobile number.

Address

The RACS may require a Dunedin contact address. This is: c/o 73 B Cannington Road, Dunedin.

Internet/Email Access

This is available at Leisure Lodge. You must bring your own laptop.

Examination entries

Are the responsibility of individual candidates. The GSSE and clinical examinations are not held in Dunedin.

Email: examinations@surgeons.org

Late withdrawals

May Course

After 1 April 2023 an administrative fee of \$500 will apply for late course cancellations.

August Course

After 7 July 2023 an administrative fee of \$500 will apply for late course cancellations.

Syllabus and Textbooks

Please ensure you are familiar with the most recent syllabus for RACS Examinations and the Recommended Reading List and ensure that you bring with you the relevant textbooks.

Recommended to also bring the following:

Blood Transfusion and Component Therapy: National Blood Transfusion Committee, Australian Red Cross, January 1994 Downloadable from www.transfusion.com.au - Circular of Information. Alternative suitable references can be found via the websites of ARCBS and NZ Blood Service for relevant current guidelines, especially the new 'Patient Blood Management Guidelines'.

Pharmacology – to gain maximum benefit from these tutorials candidates should bring the following two chapters from 'Integrated Basic Sciences' (James Toouli).

Chapter 37.1 Applied Clinical Pharmacology for Surgeons and Chapter 37.2 Antimicrobial Agents (co-written in Dunedin, by the late Professor Sandy Smith, ex RACS Examining Board)

The MCQ books published by the RACS (yellow, green & buff coloured) contain **whole real Part 1 FRACS examinations**, with comments. They are well worth reading. Yellow (Type C format) Green (Type C format) and Buff (Type X format) The questions in the Green & Buff books are exactly the same. Type C questions can still be answered as Type X (true/false).

COVID

If you test positive for COVID while at the course, or just prior to the course commencing, we will provide presentations by Zoom.

Travel Visas

A valid passport is required for travel between Australia and New Zealand.

For those travelling on a foreign passport, please check if you require a temporary visa to visit NZ. Go to: www.immigration.govt.nz, then click 'Visa waiver Countries' (right hand side menu bar).

Luggage

Please check weight of your luggage and keep within international/NZ domestic allowances.

Air New Zealand Luggage Allowance: Each checked-in bag can weigh up to 23kg (50lb) before incurring fees. Need more? Pay an **excess baggage charge** at the airport and get up to 32kg (70lb) if there's space on the aircraft.

For those arriving by air - Dunedin Airport is about 29km from the centre of town. Airport shuttles run from the airport to the city at a cost of approximately \$35-\$37 per person, and these will take you to your destination if it is within city limits. A taxi can be hired directly from the airport - it will be up to approximately \$120 (more during weekends/holidays). Two persons could share cost of taxi.

Accommodation

ALL accommodation accounts must be settled before leaving Dunedin.

Distinction Leisure Lodge, 30 Duke St, North Dunedin, is the course venue and offers a reduced bed and breakfast rate to candidates. Please contact Leisure Lodge:

Main: +64 3 477 5360

E-mail: reservations@dunedinleisurelodge.nz

More information regarding other accommodation options can be found here:

www.dunedincourse.ac.nz/accommodation

and other information on restaurants and Dunedin in general is here:

www.dunedincourse.ac.nz/dunedin

Weather in Dunedin

Weather during May-June is unpredictable. Come prepared for temperatures in single figures and the low teens. Buildings are adequately heated. For those travelling from north of New South Wales, be prepared for a **drop in temperature of around 20°**. Suitable woollen apparel is essential to cope with the wind chill factor. It is possible that Dunedin will experience bitterly cold southerly winds, heavy frosts and snow over the course period and temperatures will plummet.

Banks & Currency in New Zealand

Banks/Branches in Dunedin

Those listed below are the banks operating in Dunedin.

Banks locally are:

ANZ Banking Group(NZ) Ltd (incorporating National Bank);
Bank of New Zealand (incorporating National Australia Banking Group);
WestpacTrust; (Westpac NZ and Westpac Australia run on different systems);
Auckland Savings Bank (incorporating Commonwealth Bank);
Southland Savings Bank; Kiwi Bank; Co-operative bank

CHECK WITH YOUR BANK THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN CASH WHILST IN DUNEDIN

It has come to our notice during previous courses that candidates who are Commonwealth Bank of Australia customers have experienced problems accessing their accounts in Dunedin. There have been instances where candidates have been unable to withdraw any funds using their cards or transfer funds on line. Please ensure before you travel to Dunedin that you have made arrangements with your bank for you to access funds. Auckland Savings Bank (in Dunedin) is the 'sister' bank to Commonwealth Bank (Aust) but they are unable to fix any problems

Note: There is NO American Express office in Dunedin nor are there 'Advance' or 'Access' banks in Dunedin (or New Zealand)

You will be unable to obtain CASH by using your Australian automatic teller cash card in New Zealand machines, unless you have the appropriate 'international' ATM card and pin number. If your VISA account is 'under your credit limit' you will be able to obtain cash from either an ATM or counter assistance. Again ensure you have the appropriate 'international pin number'.

ATM banking symbols include:

ANZ (Night & Day); Postbank (Night & Day); ASB Cashflow; National Cashpoint; WestpacTrust; Easibank (Countrywide); BNZ; Activator (Mastercard). International banking transaction symbols: Visa, Cirrus, Maestro, Plus, Mastercard; Diners Club International, are all accessible in Dunedin.

Currency used in New Zealand is the \$NZ

Course Contacts

Convenor: Mr Dick Bunton

Course Coordinator: Jan Brosnahan

Dunedin Basic Medical Sciences Course

PHONE: 027 2230 646 or +64 27 2230 646

MOBILE: 021 395 599 (within NZ) or +64 21 395 599

EMAIL: bse.course@otago.ac.nz

www.facebook.com/DunedinCourse

www.dunedincourse.ac.nz

International Time Difference during course

New Zealand is

2 hours AHEAD of Brisbane, Melbourne, Cairns,
Canberra, Sydney, Hobart

2 1/2 hours AHEAD of Adelaide, Darwin

4 hours AHEAD of Perth

D2 130 Anatomy Lab

