

2018

Extended Placement Program

Information

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Introduction

Students who have participated in the Extended Placement Program say the experience strengthens their desire to practice in a rural area. It allows them to build confidence in their clinical skills through hands-on learning and it enhances their knowledge of rural medicine through providing continuity of care. They speak particularly highly of the one-on-one teaching they receive from the rural Preceptors who enjoy teaching and are good at it. They also consistently mention how much they appreciate being valued members of the community.

The Extended Placement Program involves Year 3 medical students undertaking the Medicine in Society (Stream A Rural & Remote Medicine) and the General Practice rotations back to back in the same rural location.

Detailed below is further information about the Extended Placement Program.

1. Extended Placement Program

The Extended Placement Program focuses on continuity of practice in a rural community, thus for students enhancing patient and learner-centeredness.

The Extended Placement Program involves identifying students from rural backgrounds or students with a keen interest in rural practice and providing for them repeated rural exposure. The aim is to have Year 3 medical students see and experience medicine for the and Medicine in Society (Stream A Rural & Remote Medicine) and the General Practice rotations, as medicine is practiced rurally with integration of the community.

It is known that rural primary care is an excellent setting for high quality clinical and educational experiences (Worley, Stasser & Prideaux, 2009).¹ The chosen rural sites would provide an integrated learning environment with extensive clinical exposure. The disciplines of General Practice and Rural Medicine will be taught by the rural generalists and visiting specialists on site. There will be extra learning opportunities organized for medical students in the Extended Placement Program to ensure that the curriculum is covered. The Extended Placement Program will be enriched by having a Medical Educator take a role in supporting and assisting medical students to meet all the curriculum requirements.

2. Student selection

Students will self select to be part of the program. Students must be in good academic standing, be from a rural background, or with a demonstrated keen interest in rural and primary care.

¹ Worley, P. S., Stasser, R. & Prideaux, D. Can medical students learn specialists disciplines based in rural practice: lessons from students' self reported experience and competence Rural and Remote Health 4:338. (online), 2004.

Students will be asked to submit an application focused on providing responses to the following criteria:

- Any previous experience living/working in a rural/remote area
- Whether you have membership and active involvement with TROHPIQ
- Any attendance/presentations at events or conferences of rural significance
- If you have undertaken electives in other years of the MBBS program in a rural/remote area
- If you are a current rural scholarship holder eg. MRBSS, RAMUS, John Flynn
- What you can contribute and what you hope to gain from undertaking a rural/remote extended placement
- Any other information which would demonstrate an interest, in and commitment to, health in rural/remote communities

Following submission of the application by the 1 May 2017 the student will be assessed as to their suitability to participate in the program.

3. Number of students

Student numbers will be dictated by the number of Preceptors who are keen to participate in the Extended Placement Program.

4. Course Structure

The **duration** of the Extended Placement Program will be 16 weeks to include the two rotations in the MBBS Year 3. The option is to participate in semester 1, Rotation 1 and Rotation 2 or semester 2, Rotation 3 and Rotation 4. The undertaking of both of these rotations by an Extended Placement Program student will be accomplished by following the schedule of the existing discipline requirements associated with learning skills, gaining knowledge and assessments.

However, the Extended Placement Program will be enriched by having a Medical Educator take a role in supporting and assisting the medical students to meet all the curriculum requirements.

5. Curriculum

Curriculum for each of the rotations will be determined by the individual disciplines. For the Extended Placement Program student the curriculum content will be the same and the clinical experience will be comparable to other MBBS Year 3 students but the context will be different. There will be a strong emphasis on the use of appropriate IT / technology medium when needed.

6. Assessment

Student examinations / assessments will be able to be undertaken as per the disciplines requirements.

Formative assessments developed and administered by the Medical Educators can be undertaken by students to reduce any anxiety in relation to sitting for examinations / assessments at the end of the rotation.

7. Student support

A Medical Educator will be employed to support and assist the Extended Placement Program students meet all curriculum requirements.

Internet facilities will be made available and quality accommodation will be provided free of charge to students.

Students are paid a placement allowance for both of the rotations which will assist to defray the costs associated with travel to commence at and return from the placement location.

8. Locations

The rural sites chosen will provide an integrated learning environment with extensive clinical exposure. **Potential** locations in 2018 include: Beaudesert, Blackbutt, Charleville, Kilcoy, Mt Tamborine, Roma, St George, Tara, Theodore, Thursday Island, Wondai.

9. Community Engagement

Being part of the community is important for the social aspect of students. The intention is to work in collaboration with the Rural Division of General Practice whereby relevant Local Coordinators will be asked to provide orientation for the student to the community and the division as well as provide support socially. Local Coordinators will ensure that medical students are invited to any CPD events and are introduced to the division Website.

10. Program Evaluation

Aspects of the program will be evaluated such as:

- students expectations at the commencement and compare to end of the program
- the performance on examinations and / or assessments
- Students assess and evaluate the site, Preceptor and course.

11. Contact

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Appendix 1 Frequently Asked Questions about the Extended Rural Placement Program

I am considering applying for the **Extended Rural Placement Program** but have a couple of questions:

1. Is the Extended Rural Placement Program available to international students?

No, the program is not available to international students.

2. Given that a specific rotation order is clearly required, has this already been arranged or is it the student's responsibility to make this happen?

It is planned for students to undertake Medicine in Society (Stream A Rural & Remote Medicine) rotation prior to the General Practice rotation. Students participating in this program will need to nominate this rotation order in 2017. SOM will ensure this rotation order.

3. Can I also enquire about the accommodation - it is mentioned in the application form that this would be provided. Does that imply rent free accommodation for both rotations?

Yes, rent free accommodation will be provided for the duration of both rotations.

4. To my knowledge, the GP rotation in third year consists of mandatory sessions that students are required to attend. If my GP rotation is at a rural/remote location, then how would this be organised?

The GP format of mandatory sessions will be delivered over the two consecutive rotations and this will be led by a Medical Educator. This will be supplemented by two half-day face-to-face sessions where students practice role-playing clinical case examinations.

5. Will only one student be allocated per location from the list provided? Or will this depend on the number of applications?

This will depend on the number of applications and the ability of the placement location to cater for two students.

6. Will I be able to choose my location?

The students selected into the program will be able to preference as to which location they would prefer. However, applications will be ranked accordingly to assist with the selection process.

Appendix 2 Application form



School of Medicine - Medicine in Society

Application for Extended Rural Placement 2018

This is an opportunity to spend more time in a rural location by undertaking back to back rotations involving the Medicine in Society Stream Rural & Remote Medicine General Practice rotations. You will be living in a vibrant rural community for the two rotations ... you will become a part of it. Accommodation will be provided.

Student Name		Student Number		
Student Contact Number		UQ Email Address		
Nominate your preferred rotation in 2018	<input type="checkbox"/> Rotation 1 and <input type="checkbox"/> Rotation 2 or <input type="checkbox"/> Rotation 4 and <input type="checkbox"/> Rotation 5			
Application process	Please provide a detailed statement (maximum one page) addressing the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any previous experience living/working in a rural/remote area ▪ Whether you have membership and active involvement with TROHPIC ▪ Any attendance/presentations at events or conferences of rural significance ▪ If you have undertaken electives in other years of the MBBS program in a rural/remote area ▪ If you are a current rural scholarship holder eg. MRBSS, RAMUS, John Flynn ▪ What you can contribute and what you hope to gain from undertaking an extended rural placement ▪ Any other information which would demonstrate an interest, in and commitment to, health in rural/remote communities 			
	Please rank your preference for <u>potential</u> 2017 placement sites:			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Beaudesert – Hospital & Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Blackbutt – Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Charleville – Hospital & Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Kilcoy - Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Mt Tamborine - Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Roma – Hospital & Practice	<input type="checkbox"/> St George - Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Tars - Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Theodore – Hospital & Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Island - Hospital & Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Wondal – Practice		
	Student Signature:	Date:		
PLEASE ATTACH YOUR WRITTEN STATEMENT TO THIS FORM AND SIGN THIS FORM.				
For Office Use Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved Head of Discipline General Practice Signature: _____ Date: _____			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved Head of Discipline Rural & Remote Medicine or nominee Signature: _____ Date: _____			

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BY 1 May 2017

Email: ruralmedicine@uq.edu.au