

UQ Faculty of Medicine

OHS Phase 1 - Observership

The Observership is designed to expose you to wonderful new experiences, however the local systems for managing your safety and those of patients in your placement will be new to you and may not always be consistent with what you've learnt so far.

Your placement provider is required to give you an induction to the Facility, but a bit of prior preparation is necessary;

Start by;

- carefully reading and understanding some basic Risk Assessments before you commence your Observership Program. These aren't definitive but outline many of the hazards you may be exposed to during your Observership and will detail the ways in which risks can be eliminated or minimised (e.g. [#10327 FoM MD Observership](#), [# 914 FoM Template for Local editing -Travel to Urban Centers \(including Overseas Travel\)](#))
- asking the placement provider about any specific and unusual hazards in the particular workplace, and how these are managed properly - feel free to copy and edit the risk assessments above to include these for your placement location.
- reviewing the necessary travel arrangements
- ensuring your vaccinations are current
- checking if you need HIV prophylactic medication to take with you
- checking if you need a respiratory mask fit test

Working and Travelling

Domestically

- Driving to placements is a necessity for many students. Distances travelled can often be significant especially in rural placements. The FoM [Fatigue Management and Road Safety Guideline](#) is intended to raise awareness of the issues and highlight strategies which could reduce the risk of a serious accident while travelling by vehicle.
- If you need to drive, please read this risk assessment before you start the program ([2928 FoM Template for Local editing driving in rural and remote areas of Australia on sealed roads](#))

Internationally

Select your placement carefully and consult widely...

- the FoM Observership and Placement team, OHS team
- DFAT website
- International SOS offers UQ travellers 24/7 medical, safety and security information and advice.
- Any local contact you may have on site or nearby

UQ Safe - Incident Reporting System

All work-related injuries, illnesses, potential hazards, accidents, near misses and incidents must be reported through the [UQ Safe - Incident Reporting System](#) once medical attention has been given and the situation stabilised. If you're at a non-UQ site you will be required to notify the local supervisor and complete the relevant local reports as well.

Safety on Location

The Observership Program is predominantly an observational experience, but students may be expected to participate in adequately supervised activities such as interview and examination of patients, and assisting in minor medical procedures.

Students during their Observership Placement must, at all times:

- Be familiar with OH&S requirements and local emergency procedures, and comply with all occupational health and safety instructions and procedures
- Avoid, eliminate, or minimise hazards and report any OHS issues
- Avoid placing at risk the health and safety of themselves or any other person
- Wear the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) for the task (e.g. appropriate clothing, eyewear, mask, gloves and enclosed footwear)
- Work exclusively within their scope of practice and within their competency and ability
- Take good care of your personal wellness, and get enough sleep!

Overseas Placements Safety Advice

HIV, hepatitis and other blood borne viruses:

- If you're undertaking an Observership in a location where there is no reliable or immediate access to emergency anti-viral prophylactic drug therapy, you **must** travel with your own anti-viral drugs (e.g. Truvada).
- To access these materials, students will require a referral from Student Health Services or a GP which should include consideration of the duration of the treatment course as it relates to time in-country before evacuation can be implemented or supplies delivered.

Further information can be located

<https://medicine-program.uq.edu.au/current-students/student-ohs> - Your safety while travelling

Respiratory Mask Fit Testing

- Students may be required by their placement manager to verify that they have been fit tested for respiratory masks before arrival at their placement.
- The Faculty of Medicine OHS team carry out respiratory equipment fit testing using a qualitative method as stipulated in AS1715 to verify correct fitment and seal of disposable respiratory masks rated for P2 (Australia) or N95 (other national jurisdictions)). Users will be shown how to correctly and consistently fit a disposable mask to ensure maximum protection.

- To apply for a fit test, send your contact details to med.ohs@uq.edu.au, stipulating which country you'll be working in. Testing is carried out at Oral Health Centre, Herston or by prior arrangement at limited other location.

Personal Security

- Make sure you get that local site induction when you arrive (make sure it's recorded) and know how to respond in an emergency
- Be aware of your surroundings & know what to do (and who to call) in the event of an emergency.
- Get local information prior to commencement about general security.
- If travelling overseas, consult the DFAT website and the iSOS website for updates.

International SOS (ISOS)

The University of Queensland partners with International SOS, a medical assistance, international Healthcare and Security Assistance Company. ISOS has a 24/7 resource on call, online and on the ground to help with any medical, security, logistical questions, concerns or situations that may arise. [ISOS Travel](#)

The FoM OHS team at med.ohs@uq.edu.au wishes you all the best for your Observership experience.

We're sure you will find it a memorable and valuable experience.

For more OHS information please email med.ohs@uq.edu.au

Observership info site [UQ HSW Website](#).

Student OHS <https://medicine-program.uq.edu.au/current-students/student-ohs>

Travel Safe Be Safe Stay Safe