

Rural and Remote Medicine

Rural Placement Student Support Program – 2022

Purpose

The *Rural Placement Student Support program* is an initiative of the Rural Clinical School and provides financial support to assist 3rd year students to attend Introductory Week and complete placements in rural and remote communities throughout Queensland during the Comprehensive Clinical Practice Semester. The Discipline of Rural and Remote Medicine (RRM) staff administer this program funded by the Rural Clinical School and the types of support available are detailed below.

1. Accommodation Support

Accommodation for **Introductory Week** is booked by the RRM staff and provided for students at no cost. Check-in is available from the Monday of Introductory week and check-out is by 10am the following Friday. This can be extended in some circumstance to meet travel arrangements. Please contact the RRM staff to discuss.

Accommodation for the **6-week Rural and Remote Placement** is booked by the RRM staff and provided for students at no cost. Check-in is available from the Sunday prior to the placement block start date. Checkout is by 10am on the Saturday following the placement block end date.

1.1 Types of Accommodation

Introductory week accommodation varies across the sites and includes a mix of motel style accommodation, student housing and Queensland Health staff quarters. Kitchenette facilities will be available.

Placement block accommodation varies in type and availability and includes Queensland Health (QH) staff quarters, shared houses, designated student accommodation and homestays. These types of accommodation may give students the opportunity to mix with other health professionals, other students and/or local community members. Within the staff quarters, shared houses & homestays, students typically have their own lockable room with a bed, desk and storage, and utilise shared cooking facilities, TV room and laundry facilities.

The quality of accommodation does vary across sites. Students should consider placement accommodation the same as accommodation when travelling or backpacking – an adventure and an experience. For many rural sites there is a shortage of accommodation, even for staff – so QH accommodation is to be considered a privilege rather than an expectation.

If students have any issues with their accommodation, they are encouraged to discuss this with the RRM student coordinator as soon as possible. Any urgent issues are resolved in a timely manner. All students are asked to provide feedback on accommodation following their placement. This feedback is reviewed and acted on.

1.2 Guidelines

- Students may choose to make their own accommodation arrangements at their own expense. Students must notify their RRM Student Coordinator a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the arrival date.
- Students who are approved to complete a non-UQ placement will be required to seek and fund their own placement accommodation.
- No additional accommodation will be available to Rural Clinical School (RCS) students attending Introductory Week at their allocated RCS. Students will be expected to occupy the accommodation organised for the year-long clinical unit allocation.
- Accommodation is intended as single occupancy for the student on placement only. Visitors are not permitted to stay overnight.
- Payment of the subsidy or part thereof may be withheld in the event that the Rural Clinical School incurs any expense to remedy a student's breach of conditions governing the use and occupation of Rural Placement Accommodation.
- On vacating placement accommodation, students are responsible for ensuring the accommodation is left in a clean and tidy manner, as presented at the start of the stay.

2. Introductory Week Travel Subsidy

Students are eligible for a travel subsidy to offset the cost of travel to Introductory Week sites. For students undertaking their rural placement in Block 2, 3, 5 & 6 this should contribute towards a return trip from Brisbane Clinical Unit or RCS to the allocated site. Students undertaking RRM in placement Blocks 1 or 4 are eligible for a subsidy for a one-way trip to Intro Week site, and subsequent RRM site (refer 3.2).

2.1 Intro Week with RRM Placement in BLOCK 1 & 4

The below subsidy amounts are available to students with their RRM Placement in **BLOCK 1 & 4** (calculated from your Clinical Unit to Introductory Week site).

Introductory Week Site	Clinical Unit				
	Brisbane Metro	Toowoomba RCS	Hervey Bay RCS	Bundaberg RCS	Rockhampton RCS
Emerald	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 140	\$ 110	\$ 60
Rockhampton	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 75	\$ 60	-
Theodore	\$ 110	\$ 100	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 40
Roma	\$ 100	\$ 75	\$ 110	\$ 110	\$ 110
Bundaberg	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 20	-	\$ 60
Goondiwindi	\$ 75	\$ 40	\$ 110	\$ 110	\$ 140
Hervey Bay	\$ 60	\$ 75	-	\$ 20	\$ 75
Kingaroy	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 60	\$ 110
Toowoomba	\$ 30	-	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 140
Laidley	\$ 30	\$ 15	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 140

2.2 Intro Week with RRM Placement in BLOCKS 2 & 3, 5 & 6

The below Intro Week subsidy amounts are available to students with their RRM Placement in **BLOCKS 2 & 3, 5 & 6 (calculated from your Clinical Unit to Introductory Week site and return to Clinical Unit)**.

Clinical Unit					
Introductory Week Site	Brisbane Metro	Toowoomba RCS	Hervey Bay RCS	Bundaberg RCS	Rockhampton RCS
Emerald	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 280	\$ 220	\$ 120
Rockhampton	\$ 280	\$ 280	\$ 150	\$ 120	-
Theodore	\$ 220	\$ 200	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 80
Roma	\$ 200	\$ 150	\$ 220	\$ 220	\$ 220
Bundaberg	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 40	-	\$ 120
Goondiwindi	\$ 150	\$ 80	\$ 220	\$ 220	\$ 280
Hervey Bay	\$ 120	\$ 150	-	\$ 40	\$ 150
Kingaroy	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 120	\$ 220
Toowoomba	\$ 60	-	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 280
Laidley	\$ 60	\$ 30	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 280

2.3 Guidelines

- Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to Introductory Week and are required to be present for the first timetabled session. N.B. *If you are interested in car-pooling or sharing the cost of a hire car with other students travelling to the same Introductory Week location please email med.rrmstudents@uq.edu.au for assistance.*
- The subsidy amount has been based on the estimated cost of a return flight to Emerald or Rockhampton from Brisbane or the cost of travelling by bus or car to each of the rural sites (as at the time of writing guidelines). Any additional costs for travel to Introductory Week will not be covered. We are aware of some fluctuation in costs, but any review of subsidies needs to undergo a formal process and budget approval.
- Students who are driving to the rural Introductory Week site are to review UQ Travel Safe guidelines, available in the RRM Student Handbook.

3. RRM Placement Travel Subsidy

Students are eligible for a rural placement travel subsidy to offset the cost of travel to the rural placement site. For students undertaking their rural placement in Blocks 2, 3, 5 & 6 the travel distance will be calculated as the distance from their clinical unit (Brisbane CBD or RCS unit) to rural placement site and return to their clinical unit (Brisbane CBD or RCS unit). For students in placement Block 1 and 4 the subsidy will be calculated on travel from the Introductory Week site to the Placement site and return to the clinical unit.

3.1 Schedule of RRM Placement Travel Subsidy

Schedule of RRM Placement Travel Subsidy	
Less than 100km	\$ 0
100 – 200km	\$ 50
201 – 400km	\$ 100
401 – 600km	\$ 150
601 – 800km	\$ 200
801 – 1000km	\$ 300
1001 - 1500km	\$ 450
➤ 1501km	\$ 600

3.2 Guidelines

- For students who are based at non-RCS Clinical Units, the travel distance calculations are from the closest CBD (Brisbane).
- Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to their rural placement.
- Students are eligible for RRM Placement Travel Subsidy as per the Schedule in 3.1.
- For students completing the rural placement in Block 1 or Block 4 the travel distance will be calculated as the distance from:
 - Introductory Week site > rural placement site > back to their clinical unit (Brisbane or RCS unit).
- For students completing the rural placement in Block 2,3, 5 or 6 the travel distance will be calculated as the distance from:
 - Clinical unit (Brisbane or RCS unit) > rural placement site > return to their clinical unit (Brisbane or RCS unit).
- Students who are approved to complete a non-UQ placement are not eligible to receive a placement travel subsidy.

4. Internet Access Subsidy

Some of the accommodation provided for students during the RRM placement have internet access, while others do not. Access to the internet is considered essential for students on placement in meeting Discipline requirements including completing assessments, online modules, attending Zoom tutorials remotely, staying in contact with support networks and independent study.

4.1 Schedule of Internet Access Subsidy

Students assigned to accommodation where internet is not available will be eligible for an Internet Access Subsidy of \$80 to assist students in adjusting personal internet plans.

4.2 Guidelines

- The Internet Access Subsidy is \$80, this is based on the average cost of a 2-month, sim-only plan.

- Students will be informed as to the availability of Internet connectivity at the placement accommodation by the RRM staff prior to the placement.
- Students eligible to claim the Internet Access Subsidy need to decide if their current plan is sufficient or they need to move to another plan.
- Students need to review provider coverage maps to ensure that the plan/coverage is appropriate for the placement site before purchasing– see [Telstra coverage](#), [Optus coverage](#)
- Students need to read the details of the plan and be aware of the costs for exceeding the monthly data subsidy. No further support for internet access is available to cover the cost of exceeding plan limits.
- Students should review the following site for data usage reduction tips: - <https://www.telechoice.com.au/how-much-data-do-you-really-use>
- Students who are approved to complete a non-UQ placement are not eligible to receive an Internet Access Subsidy.
- Students who choose to arrange their own accommodation are not eligible to receive an Internet Access Subsidy.

5. RCS student QAS Travel Subsidy

Students are required to complete a 1-day Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) trauma session at Port Lytton, Brisbane (subject to UQ travel advice). Sessions will be scheduled for the weekend (sessions are held on a Saturday and Sunday) at the end of week 3 of the students' Mental health placement block. RCS students are eligible for support to attend this session in Brisbane.

5.1 Schedule of RCS student QAS Travel Subsidy

Schedule of RCS student QAS Travel Subsidy	
Rockhampton to Brisbane	\$ 280
Bundaberg to Brisbane	\$ 150
Hervey Bay to Brisbane	\$ 120
Toowoomba to Brisbane	\$ 60

5.2 Guidelines

- RCS students are only eligible for 1 QAS Travel Subsidy as per the schedule above.

6. RCS student QAS Accommodation

RCS students are able to request accommodation over the weekend of their scheduled QAS Session.

6.1 Guidelines

- RCS Rockhampton and RCS Toowoomba students are scheduled to the Sunday session and are able to request accommodation the night BEFORE the session (1 night maximum)
- RCS Bundaberg and RCS Hervey Bay students are scheduled to the Saturday session and are able to request accommodation the night BEFORE and the night AFTER the session (2 nights maximum)

7. Procedures to Claim Subsidy

Students will receive an email to their UQ student account detailing eligibility. Eligible students will be required to complete the RRM Placement Subsidy online claim form. Once the claim form has been submitted, no further action is required as eligible students will automatically be paid their subsidies directly into their nominated bank account in accordance with the payment timeline below.

7.1 To submit subsidy claim

Information to process subsidies claims is collected through an online form. [Click here](#) to complete your details and submit your information.

7.2 Timeline for subsidy payments

Form Completion By	Subsidy	Payment By
	Introductory Week Subsidy	Semester 1: Week 2 of Block 1 Semester 2: Week 2 of Block 4
Semester 1: 7 January 2022 Semester 2: 17 June 2022	RRM Placement Subsidy	Week 3 of the RRM placement
	Internet Access Subsidy	Week 3 of the RRM placement
	QAS Travel Subsidy	2 weeks post attendance