

Expression of Interest Rural Clinical School Allocation Guidelines



1. Definitions

Placement: The five (5) individual placements undertaken by students in Year 3 and the six (6) individual placements undertaken by Students in Year 4 of the MD Program.

Clinical School: A formal organisational unit within the Medical School, comprising of teaching hospitals and other relevant medical teaching sites within a geographical region (e.g. Greater Brisbane Clinical School, Rural Clinical School, Ochsner Clinical School).

Clinical Unit: A designated organisational sub-unit of the Rural Clinical School, or Greater Brisbane Clinical School, including a home hospital, as well as other relevant medical teaching sites:

RCS Clinical Units	Home Hospital
Bundaberg Regional Clinical Unit	Bundaberg Hospital
Hervey Bay Regional Clinical Unit	Hervey Bay Hospital
Toowoomba Regional Clinical Unit	Toowoomba Hospital
Rockhampton Regional Clinical Unit	Rockhampton Hospital

Domestic Students: A Student who is an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen, or a permanent resident, who is enrolled in the Doctor of Medicine Program (5578).

International Onshore Student: An international student who is enrolled in the Doctor of Medicine Program (5578).

UQ-Ochsner MD: Doctor of Medicine Program at The University of Queensland in which students are required to undertake Years 3 and 4 at the Ochsner Clinical School (OCS) operating in New Orleans, USA.

UQ-Onshore MD: Doctor of Medicine Program at The University of Queensland in which students are required to undertake Years 3 and 4 at the Greater Brisbane Clinical School or Rural Clinical School in Queensland, Australia.

OCS: Ochsner Clinical School.

RCS: Rural Clinical School.

2. Application Timeline

- 2.1 Applications will open in July, in the year prior to allocation (including the ability for students to 'opt out' of reallocation to a RCS Clinical Unit). Students will be advised of the dates and application process during the Years 3 and 4 Allocation presentations, as well as *via* the MD Community Blackboard site and Newsletters. Students will be advised of the outcome of their application prior to the main preferencing round.
- 2.2 Students whose expression of interest (EOI) is approved for a particular RCS Clinical Unit will still be required to preference their semester/block order.

3. UQ-Onshore MD Domestic Students

- 3.1 This section applies to UQ-Onshore domestic students only.
- 3.2 The RCS will seek EOIs from domestic students in Years 2 and 3 concerning their preference for allocation to one or more RCS Clinical Units in the following year. There will also be limited opportunities for a two-year allocation to a RCS Clinical Unit.

Application Process and Assessment Criteria

- 3.3 Students wishing to express interest to be allocated to a RCS Clinical Unit will be required to submit a written application. If a student has listed an under-subscribed RCS Clinical Unit as their first preference, they will be offered their placements at that Regional Clinical Unit.

Oversubscribed Sites

- 3.4 If a student has listed an oversubscribed RCS Clinical Unit as their first preference, they will be ranked and offered their placements based on the criteria outlined in Table 1 below. These criteria were developed in accordance with evidence-based indicators of a students' likelihood to practice rurally, as reported by the UQ Regional Training Hub Research Team.
- 3.5 If a student is not offered their first preference (i.e. at an oversubscribed RCS Clinical Unit), they will be offered their next available preference (i.e. at an undersubscribed RCS Clinical Unit). If a student has not expressed a preference for any other RCS Clinical Units, they will not receive an offer and will be required to preference with the rest of the cohort in the main allocation round.

Accepting or Declining an Offer

- 3.6 Students can accept or decline their offer and must do so by the deadline stated in their offer.
- 3.7 If a student declines or does not accept their offer by the stated deadline, they are still able to preference RCS Clinical Units in the main allocation round if placements remain available.
- 3.8 If a student declines or does not accept their offer by the stated deadline, their offer will be issued to the next most highly ranked student, based on the above-mentioned criteria (see

Table 1 below). Students who were offered a lower preference at a RCS Clinical Unit will also be reconsidered during this process.

Final Allocation and Swaps

- 3.9 When a student accepts their offer, the allocation is final, and they are no longer able to decline their offer. Students who accept an offer are, however, still able to participate in the standard swaps process.
- 3.10 Following finalisation of the EOI process, any remaining capacity at RCS Clinical Units will be allocated in the main allocation round.

Special Consideration

- 3.11 Students with approved Special Consideration will be given priority during the allocations process.

Table 1: Assessment Criteria for Ranking Students at Oversubscribed UQRCS Clinical Units

	Yr 3 & 4	Year 3	New Year 4	Return Year 4
Written Statement	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rural Origin/Background	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rural Scholarship*/Bonded Medical Place	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rural Optional Observership or Elective	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	✓	✓	✓	✓
Participation in Extended Placement Program			✓	
Clinical Unit Preferencing in Year 3			✓	✓

**The term "Rural Scholarship" relates to a formalised commitment between a benefactor or organisation, and a currently enrolled MD student, which requires the student to study, live or ultimately to practise in a rural environment. Examples of such are:*

- Department of Health – Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship
- National Rural Health Students Network (NRHSN) Scholarships
- Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Scholarships
- Health Workforce Queensland Grow Rural

NB. The above list is not exhaustive and may be further expanded.

4. Opting Out of UQRCS Allocation

- 4.1 This section applies to UQ-Onshore domestic students only.
- 4.2 Students who complete their third year at a RCS Clinical Unit will be able to 'opt-out' of returning to a RCS Clinical Unit for Year 4.
- 4.3 The undertaking of third-year placements at a RCS Clinical Unit does not automatically preclude students from being reallocated to a RCS Clinical Unit for Year 4 during the main allocation round. Students must 'opt out' of reallocation and will be able to do so during the RCS EOI application period.
- 4.4 Students will be advised of the dates by which they need to 'opt-out' during the Years 3 and 4 Allocation presentations, as well as *via* the MD Community Blackboard site and Newsletters.

5. UQ-Onshore MD International Student Placements (Rockhampton)

- 5.1 This section applies to UQ-Onshore international students only.
- 5.2 There may be limited availability for UQ-Onshore MD international students to be allocated to the Rockhampton Clinical Unit in Year 3 and/or Year 4.

Application Process and Assessment Criteria

- 5.3 Students wishing to apply for this opportunity will be required to submit a written application. Applicants will be short-listed based on the criteria outlined in Table 2 below. Short-listed applicants will be invited to participate in an interview.

Table 2: Assessment Criteria for Shortlisting Students for Interview

	Yr 3 & 4	Yr 3	Yr 4
Written Statement	✓	✓	✓
Rural Origin/Background	✓	✓	✓
Rural Optional Observership or Elective	✓	✓	✓
Submitted EOI for Rockhampton in Year 3			✓
Interview (shortlisted applicants only)	✓	✓	✓

Accepting or Declining an Offer

- 5.4 Students can accept or decline their offer and must do by the deadline stated in their offer.
- 5.5 If a student declines or does not accept their offer by the stated deadline, they will be unable to preference the Rockhampton Clinical Unit (or any other RCS Clinical Unit) in the main allocation round.
- 5.6 If a student declines or does not accept their offer by the stated deadline, their offer will be issued to the next student in the rank order.

Final Allocation and Swaps

- 5.7 When a student accepts their offer, the allocation is final, and they are no longer able to decline their offer. Students can swap their pathway (placement order) with another student within the Rockhampton Clinical Unit. They are, however, unable to participate in the Clinical Unit swap process.

Accommodation & Funding

- 5.8 Accommodation within RCS owned or leased facilities is dependent on availability. If there is space available, a service fee will apply as standard process.
- 5.9 If accommodation is not available in RCS facilities, students will be required to source, and pay for, their own accommodation (the RCS staff may be able to assist with local support). The RCS will provide details of accommodation availability by the end of September. Following this, students will be required to contact the Rockhampton Regional Clinical Unit Team Leader for details of how to finalise their accommodation (ugrcs.rockhampton@uq.edu.au).

6. Undertaking Year 3 at the Rockhampton Regional Clinical Unit

Enrolment

- 6.1 Students allocated to the Rockhampton Regional Clinical Unit are required to undertake MEDI7315 *Rural & Remote Medicine* (RRM) and not MEDI7321 *Medicine in Society* (MiS). Students are not eligible to undertake the Extended Placement Program; this is only available to UQ-Onshore domestic students.

Placement Opportunities at Other Locations

- 6.2 Students allocated to the Rockhampton Regional Clinical Unit may apply to complete one (1) placement block at another RCS Clinical Unit. This application will be considered by the Director of the Rural Clinical School and will be subject to operational requirements. The provision of accommodation for students undertaking placement at another RCS Clinical Unit will be subject to availability.

7. Undertaking Year 4 at the Rockhampton Regional Clinical Unit

Placement Opportunities at Other Locations

- 7.1 Students may still apply to undertake placements outside the Rockhampton Regional Clinical Unit in accordance with the current guidelines. Current opportunities are summarised below:
- Medical Specialties, Anaesthetics/Ophthalmology/ICU or Emergency Department / Orthopaedics placement at the UQ Ochsner Clinical School. Further details can be found [here](#) under 'Ochsner Clinical School Placements'
 - An elective placement at another UQ Clinical Unit or at a self-arranged location (further details can be found [here](#)).
- 7.2 Students allocated to the Rockhampton Regional Clinical Unit may also apply to complete one (1) placement block at another RCS Clinical Unit. This application will be considered by the Director of the Rural Clinical School and will be subject to operational requirements. The provision of accommodation for students undertaking placement at another RCS Clinical Unit will be subject to availability.
- 7.3 In addition to the above, students who are allocated to the Rockhampton Regional Clinical Unit for a second year (i.e. a returning RCS student) will have the opportunity to undertake their Medical Specialties placement at another UQ Clinical Unit (in either GBCS or RCS), subject to approval by the Course Co-ordinator and Head of both their current and requested Clinical Units.