

Rural and Remote Medicine

Rural Placement Student Support Program – 2023

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 Tuesday 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 RCU. 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. Please note that RCS students who attend Intro Week at their RCU are not eligible for an Intro Week subsidy.

For students undertaking their rural placement in Block 2, 3, 5 & 6 and are travelling for Intro Week, the subsidy contributes towards a return trip from your Clinical Unit to the allocated Intro Week site. Students undertaking RRM in placement Blocks 1 or 4 are eligible for a subsidy for a one-way trip to Intro Week site, with subsequent travel to placement included with RRM subsidy (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 – see section 3).

Clinical Unit					
Introductory Week Site	Brisbane Metro	Toowoomba RCS	Hervey Bay RCS	Bundaberg RCS	Rockhampton RCS
Emerald	\$ 265	\$ 265	\$ 150	\$ 115	\$ 65
Rockhampton	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 80	\$ 65	-
Theodore	\$ 115	\$ 105	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 45
Roma / St George	\$ 105	\$ 80	\$ 115	\$ 115	\$ 115
Bundaberg	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 25	-	\$ 65
Goondiwindi	\$ 80	\$ 45	\$ 115	\$ 115	\$ 150
Hervey Bay	\$ 65	\$ 80	-	\$ 25	\$ 80
Kingaroy	\$ 45	\$ 45	\$ 45	\$ 65	\$ 115
Toowoomba	\$ 35	-	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 150
Laidley / Gatton	\$ 25	\$ 15	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 150

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 – see section 3).

Clinical Unit					
Introductory Week Site	Brisbane Metro	Toowoomba RCS	Hervey Bay RCS	Bundaberg RCS	Rockhampton RCS
Emerald	\$ 525	\$ 525	\$ 295	\$ 230	\$ 125
Rockhampton	\$ 295	\$ 295	\$ 160	\$ 125	-
Theodore	\$ 230	\$ 210	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ 85
Roma / St George	\$ 210	\$ 160	\$ 230	\$ 230	\$ 230
Bundaberg	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ 45	-	\$ 125
Goondiwindi	\$ 160	\$ 85	\$ 230	\$ 230	\$ 295
Hervey Bay	\$ 125	\$ 160	-	\$ 45	\$ 160
Kingaroy	\$ 85	\$ 85	\$ 85	\$ 125	\$ 230
Toowoomba	\$ 65	-	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ 295
Laidley / Gatton	\$ 45	\$ 25	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ 295

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	\$ 35
100 – 200km	\$ 55
201 – 400km	\$ 105
401 – 600km	\$ 160
601 – 800km	\$ 210
801 – 1000km	\$ 315
1001 - 1500km	\$ 475
➤ 1501km	\$ 630

3.2 Guidelines

- For students who are based at Greater Brisbane Clinical Units, the travel distance calculations are from the Brisbane CBD.
- 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 Clinical 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 > rural placement site > return to Clinical Unit.

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 Course requirements including completing assessments, online modules, attending Zoom tutorials remotely, staying in contact with support networks and independent study.

Students assigned to accommodation where internet is not available will be eligible for an Internet Access Subsidy of \$85 (based on the average cost of a 2-month, sim-only plan) to assist students in adjusting personal internet plans.

4.1 Guidelines

- 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. If you are needing to purchase an alternate SIM from another provider and are thinking a portable modem may be needed, contact the RRM Team and we may be able to assist with some options.

- 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. Pre-Hospital Trauma Session

Please note there will be a change in 2023.

Metro students will complete a 1-day Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) trauma session at Port Lytton, Brisbane. Sessions will be scheduled for the weekend (sessions are held on a Saturday or a Sunday) usually at the end of week 3 of the students' Mental health placement block. Metro allocations will be posted on the MEDI7315 Blackboard site, and students will also be notified by email.

RCU students will be required to complete a mandatory Pre-Hospital Trauma Session facilitated by their relevant Regional Clinical Unit and will be notified by student email of when they are scheduled to attend.

6. 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.

6.1 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.

6.2 Timeline for subsidy payments

Form Completion By	Subsidy	Payment By
Semester 1: 6 January 2023 Semester 2: 16 June 2023	Introductory Week Subsidy	Semester 1: Week 2 of Block 1 Semester 2: Week 2 of Block 4
	RRM Placement Subsidy	Week 3 of the RRM placement
	Internet Access Subsidy	Week 3 of the RRM placement

NB: EPP students receive their subsidy by Week 3 of their GP placement. This covers initial travel to rural GP location and final return travel from RRM location to clinical unit at the end of the 12-week extended placement.