

Medical School
6 July 2024



CREATE CHANGE

Expression of Interest - Rural Clinical School Allocations



1.1 Definitions

Placement: Individual clinical experiences undertaken by Students in Year 3 & 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 (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 Student: 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).

Semester: See below for further detail.

Semester Name	Courses
Year 3	
Comprehensive Clinical Practice	Mental Health, General Practice, Rural & Remote Medicine or Medicine in Society
Women's, Children's & Mental Health	Mental Health, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics & Child Health

UQ-Ochsner MD: Doctor of Medicine Program at the University of Queensland in which Students are required to undertake Year 3 & 4 at the Ochsner Clinical School (OCS) in New Orleans, USA.

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

OCS: The UQ Ochsner Clinical School.

RCS: The UQ Rural Clinical School.

1. Application Timeline

- 1.1 Applications will open in July, in the year prior to allocation. Students will be advised of the dates and application process during the Years 3 and 4 Allocations 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.
- 1.2 Year 3 Students who submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a particular RCS Clinical Unit will preference their preferred Semester (WCMH or CCP) as part of the EOI process.
- 1.3 Year 4 Students who are approved for a RCS Clinical Unit will preference their Semester/Block order in the main preferencing round.

2. UQ-Onshore MD Domestic Students

- 2.1 Section 2 applies to UQ-Onshore MD domestic students only.
- 2.2 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.

Application Process and Assessment Criteria

- 2.3 To express their interest, Students will be required to submit a brief written application.

Undersubscribed Sites

- 2.4 If a student has listed an undersubscribed RCS Clinical Unit as their first preference, they will be offered their placements at that RCS Clinical Unit.

Oversubscribed Sites

- 2.5 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 student's likelihood to practice rurally, as reported by the UQ Regional Training Hub Research Team.
- 2.6 If a student is not offered their first preference, they will be offered their next available preference. 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

- 2.7 Students are able to accept or decline their offer and must do so by the deadline stated in their offer.
- 2.8 If a student declines, or does not accept their offer by the deadline, they are still able to preference a RCS Clinical Unit in the main allocation round, if placements are available.

2.9 If a student declines or does not accept their offer by the 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

2.10 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.

2.11 Following the finalisation of the EOI process, any remaining capacity at the RCS Clinical Units will be allocated in the main allocation round.

Special Consideration

2.12 Students with approved Special Consideration will be given priority during the allocation process.

Table 1: Assessment Criteria for Ranking Students at Oversubscribed RCS 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.

3. Opting Out of RCS Allocation

- 3.1 Section 3 applies to UQ-Onshore MD domestic students only.
- 3.2 Undertaking Year 3 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.
- 3.3 Students who complete Year 3 at a RCS Clinical Unit will be able to 'opt-out' of returning to a RCS Clinical Unit for Year 4 during the RCS EOI application period.
- 3.4 Students will be advised of the dates by which they need to 'opt-out' during the Placement Allocations presentations, as well as via the MD Community Blackboard site and Newsletters.

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

- 4.1 Section 4 applies to UQ-Onshore MD international students only.
- 4.2 UQ-Onshore MD international students who undertook Year 3 at the Rockhampton Regional Clinical Unit in 2023 will be able to 'opt-in' to undertake Year 4 at the Rockhampton Regional Clinical Unit in 2024.
- 4.3 There is no capacity to support UQ-Onshore MD international students in Year 3 at the Rockhampton Regional Clinical Unit in 2024.

Final Allocation and Swaps

- 4.4 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 Regional Clinical Unit. They are, however, unable to participate in the Clinical Unit swap process.

Accommodation & Funding

- 4.5 Accommodation within RCS owned or leased facilities is dependent on availability. If there is space available, a service fee will apply as standard process.
- 4.6 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 Clinical Unit Team Leader for details of how to finalise their accommodation (uqrcs.rockhampton@uq.edu.au).