

Rural and Remote Medicine

Rural Placement Student Support Program – 2024

Purpose

The *Rural Placement Student Support Program* is an initiative of the Rural Clinical School and provides financial support to assist students to attend Introductory Week and complete placements in rural and remote communities throughout Queensland during the Comprehensive Clinical Practice (CCP) and Primary Care Plus (PCP) Semesters. The Mayne Academy of Rural and Remote Medicine (RRM) staff administer this program.

Please note that in 2024, support will apply to any Year 3 & 4, domestic and international students undertaking rural placements (outside of your Clinical Unit) arranged by the RRM Team, including:

- RRM placement
- GP placement in a rural location
- PLC in a rural location
- CCP/PCP (RRM & MiS) Introductory Weeks

In addition to this, in 2024, Regional Clinical Unit students completing the below placements will also receive support subsidies:

- Integrated Medicine/Surgery placements at a rural hospital in Semester 2 (Rockhampton and Toowoomba)
- Paediatric placements at Gladstone Hospital (Rockhampton only)

1. Accommodation Support

Accommodation for the duration of **CCP/PCP Introductory Week** is booked by the RRM Team and provided to students at no cost. This can be extended in some circumstances to meet travel arrangements, please contact the RRM Team to discuss.

Accommodation for all **2 and 6-week UQ-arranged rural placements** is booked by the RRM staff and provided for students at no cost. It is available from the Sunday prior to the placement block start date until the Saturday following the placement block end date. If you wish to extend these arrangements, please contact the RRM Team to discuss.

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 (QH) staff quarters. Kitchenette facilities will be available.

Placement block accommodation varies in type and availability and includes 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 Team as soon as possible so any issues can be 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 the 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.
- Repayment of the subsidy or part thereof may be required 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 undertaking RRM in placement Blocks 1 or 4 are eligible for a subsidy for a one-way trip to their Intro Week site, with subsequent travel to their rural placement site paid as part of their RRM Travel Subsidy (refer 3.2). For students undertaking a 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.

2.1 Intro Week with a Rural Placement in BLOCK 1 & 4

The below subsidy amounts are available to students with a rural 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 a Rural Placement in BLOCKS 2 & 3, 5 & 6

The below subsidy amounts are available to students who have a rural placement in **BLOCKS 2 & 3, 5 & 6** (calculated from your Clinical Unit to Introductory Week site and return to Clinical Unit).

Introductory Week Site	Clinical Unit				
	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

- As accommodation is provided at each Introductory Week site, the subsidies are for a one-way (Block 1 & 4) or single return (Block 2, 3, 5 & 6) trip to the allocated Introductory Week site.
- RCS students who attend Intro Week at their RCU are not eligible for an Intro Week Travel Subsidy.
- 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.rmmstudents@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.
- Students who are driving to the rural Introductory Week site are to review FoM Fatigue Management and Road Safety Guideline, available on the [Student OHS](#) page.

3. Rural Placement Travel Subsidy

The Rural Placement Travel Subsidy is provided to offset the cost of a single return trip to your rural placement site.

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.
- Students who are approved to complete a non-UQ placement are not eligible to receive a placement travel subsidy.
- For students completing their 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.
- Students completing back-to-back rural placements will receive a travel subsidy for each placement (including EPP).

4. Internet Access Subsidy

Some of the rural placement accommodation options include internet access for students, while others do not. Access to the internet is considered essential for students on placement to meet course requirements.

Students assigned to accommodation where internet is not available will be eligible for an Internet Access Subsidy of \$85 per placement (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 Team prior to placement.
- Students eligible to claim the Internet Access Subsidy need to decide if their current plan is sufficient or if they need to move to another plan. If you need 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 of exceeding the monthly data subsidy. No further support for internet access is available to cover the cost of exceeding plan limits.
- Students who are approved to complete a non-UQ placement or have made their own accommodation arrangements are not eligible to receive an Internet Access Subsidy.

5. 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, eligible students will automatically be paid their subsidies directly into their nominated bank account in accordance with the payment timeline below.

5.1 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.

5.2 Timeline for subsidy payments

Form Completion By	Subsidy	Payment By
Semester 1: 7 January 2024 Semester 2: 16 June 2024	Introductory Week Subsidy	Semester 1: Week 2 of Block 1 Semester 2: Week 2 of Block 4
	Rural Placement Subsidy	Week 2 of each rural placement
	Internet Access Subsidy	Week 2 of each rural placement