



Extended Placement Program Information 2024



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1. Extended Placement Program

Introduction

The Extended Placement Program focuses on continuity of practice in a rural community, thus for students enhancing patient and learner-centeredness.

The Extended Placement Program provides a repeated rural exposure for students with a keen interest in rural practice. The aim is to have medical students see and experience medicine for their Rural & Remote Medicine and the General Practice placements, as medicine is practiced rurally with integration of the community.

It is known that rural primary care is an excellent setting for high quality clinical and educational experiences (Worley, Strasser & Prideaux, 2009).¹ The chosen rural sites would provide an integrated learning environment with extensive clinical exposure.

Students who have participated in the Extended Placement Program say the experience strengthens their desire to practice in a rural area. It allows them to build confidence in their clinical skills through hands-on learning and it enhances their knowledge of rural medicine through providing continuity of care. They speak particularly highly of the one-on-one teaching they receive from the rural Preceptors who enjoy teaching and are good at it. They also consistently mention how much they appreciate being valued members of the community.

The Extended Placement Program involves medical students undertaking the General Practice and Rural & Remote Medicine placements back to back in the same rural location for a total of 12 weeks.

In 2024, EPP is open to students taking their Rural & Remote Medicine and General Practice placements in either the Year 3 Comprehensive Clinical Practice (CCP) semester, or the Year 4 Primary Care Plus semester.

2. Student selection

Students apply to be part of the program. Students must be in good academic standing and have a keen interest in rural and primary care. In 2024, EPP is open to all Domestic and International students from rural and urban backgrounds.

Students will be asked to submit an application focused on providing responses to the following criteria:

- Any previous experience living/working in a rural/remote area
- Whether you have membership and active involvement with TROHPIQ
- Any attendance/presentations at events or conferences of rural significance
- If you have undertaken electives in other years of the MD program in a rural/remote area
- If you are a current rural scholarship holder eg. Bonded Medical Program (BMP) Scheme
- Following submission of the application by 12 noon Sunday, 23 July 2023 the student will be assessed as to their suitability to participate in the program.

¹ Worley, P. S., Strasser, R. & Prideaux, D. Can medical students learn specialists disciplines based in rural practice: lessons from students' self reported experience and competence Rural and Remote Health 4:338. (online), 2004.

3. Number of students

Student numbers will be dictated by the number of Preceptors who are keen to participate in the Extended Placement Program.

4. Course Structure

The **duration** of the Extended Placement Program will be 12 weeks to include the two placements (General Practice, followed by Rural & Remote Medicine) in the MD program.

In 2024, students can be allocated to one of the following combinations:

- Semester 1 - placement 1 (GP) with placement 2 (RRM)
- Semester 1 - placement 2 (GP) with placement 3 (RRM)
- Semester 2 – placement 4 (GP) with placement 5 (RRM)
- Semester 2 – placement 5 (GP) with placement 6 (RRM).

5. Curriculum

Curriculum for each of the placements will be determined by the individual courses (MEDI17313 General Practice and MEDI7315 Rural & Remote Medicine). For the Extended Placement Program student, the learning objectives, learning activities and assessment are equivalent to other MD students, but enriched by the extended engagement in the rural community and the opportunity to follow the local patient journey.

- Please go to the course profiles for MEDI7313 General Practice and MEDI7315 Rural & Remote Medicine on the UQ website to see full details of required objectives and assessment:
<https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/>
- Please note that whilst the recommended number of GP sessions is at least 30 half-day sessions for the usual GP 6-week placement, as an EPP student, it is expected that you take advantage of the additional rural opportunities either at your placement site or within the community to ensure that you attend on a full-time basis. Discuss and negotiate with your preceptor and local placement support staff any other opportunities that may be available.
- GP tutorials involve clinical case presentations and discussion, diagnostic and management roleplays, discussion of clinical and professionalism topics, and review of learning materials. These are delivered as dedicated EPP tutorials remotely via zoom; tutorial times are advised at the commencement of each GP clinical placement.
- RRM attendance guidelines are shown in the RRM Teaching Clinician Handbook which is sent out to preceptors, but it is expected that students participate for at least 30 hours a week in a clinical environment and make the most of their time in the rural community.

6. Student support

Learning support is provided by a rural GP medical educator through the weekly online GP tutorials, this also provides an opportunity for EPP students to connect and engage with peers who are sharing in this experience.

EPP placements and accommodation are coordinated by the RRM team, overseen by the RRM Course Coordinator. Internet facilities will be made available (either included at the accommodation or supported by a subsidy) and quality accommodation will be provided free of charge to students.

Students will be paid a placement subsidy, in line with the Rural Placement Student Support Program, which will assist to defray the costs associated with travel to commence at and return from the placement location.

7. Locations

The rural sites chosen will provide an integrated learning environment with extensive clinical exposure. Potential locations in 2024 include: Beaudesert (sem 1 only), Charleville, Dalby, Emerald (sem 1 only), Goondiwindi, Kingaroy, Kilcoy, Miles, Roma (sem 1 only), St George, Theodore and Yeppoon (sem 1 only). EPP students are given priority for rural placement location and successful applicants will be contacted after clinical unit allocations are finalised to discuss and confirm EPP placement site availability and preferences.

8. Community Engagement

Placement providers will orientate and connect students with other local community groups. Students are encouraged to seek opportunities to join local sporting teams, social activities, or volunteer opportunities, and explore all that the beautiful rural environment has to offer.

Engaging in community activities will help students build meaningful relationships, feel connected and part of the team, and enhance their learning opportunities.

9. Program Evaluation

Aspects of the program will be evaluated such as:

- the performance on examinations and / or assessments
- students assess and evaluate the site, Preceptor, and course.

Appendix A

A-1 Frequently Asked Questions about the Extended Placement Program

I am considering applying for the Extended Placement Program but have a couple of questions:

1. Is the Extended Placement Program available to international students?

Yes, in 2024 the program is available to international students.

2. Can I also enquire about the accommodation – it is mentioned in the application form that this would be provided. Does that imply rent free accommodation for both rotations?

Yes, safe and appropriate rent-free accommodation is pre-organised by UQ, and will be provided for the duration of both placements (12 weeks). The accommodation will be in either homestay, practice house or hospital quarters depending on availability.

3. To my knowledge, the GP block consists of mandatory sessions that students are required to attend. If my GP block is at a rural/remote location, then how would this be organised?

The GP format of mandatory sessions during the 6-week placement will be delivered via Zoom and this will be led by a dedicated GP medical educator.

4. Will only one student be allocated per location from the list provided? Or will this depend on the number of applications?

This will depend on the number of applications and the ability of the placement location to cater for more than one student. No more than 2 students would be allocated to a location.

5. Will I be able to choose my location?

Students selected into the program will be able to preference their location. However, applications will be ranked accordingly to assist with the selection process. EPP students are given priority for rural placement location and successful applicants will be contacted after clinical unit allocations are finalised to discuss and confirm EPP placement site availability and preferences.

6. Can I participate in EPP and attend at one of the Regional Clinical Units?

Yes, you can choose to participate in EPP and attend a Regional Clinical Unit. Regardless of the clinical unit you are allocated to it is also possible to participate in EPP.



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