

Learning Community Allocation Guidelines 2024



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1. Definitions

Learning Community: Clusters of health care providers, including hospital and community-based services, general practices, and other community providers. Students will be assigned to a Learning Community at the start of the MD program and will undertake the majority of their learning and clinical placement activities at that Learning Community for the duration of the program.

Learning Community	Hospitals
Greater Brisbane Clinical School (GBCS)	
Central	Royal Brisbane and Greenslopes Clinical Units and geographically aligned GPs and community providers
South	Princess Alexandra-Southside Clinical Unit, (including QEII Hospital and Redlands Hospital) and geographically aligned GPs and community providers
North	Northside Clinical Unit, (including Redcliffe Hospital and Caboolture Hospital) and geographically aligned GPs and community providers
West	Mater and Ipswich Clinical Units and geographically aligned GPs and community providers
MD Learning Hub	Home base for students at St Lucia campus in Year 1 of the MD program
Rural Clinical School (RCS)	
Central Queensland	Rockhampton Regional Clinical Unit and geographically aligned GPs and community providers
Wide Bay	Bundaberg and Hervey Bay Regional Clinical Units and geographically aligned GPs and community providers
Darling Downs and South West	Toowoomba Regional Clinical Unit and geographically aligned GPs and community providers
Ochsner Clinical School (OCS)	
Ochsner Clinical School and geographically aligned GPs and community providers	

Medical Pathway: Entry pathway into the UQ-Onshore Doctor of Medicine (MD) program, which will determine the Learning Community where Students are based for the duration of their program.

- **Darling Downs and South West Medical Pathway (DD-SW MP):** Entry pathway into the UQ-Onshore MD program, where Students will be based at the GBCS for Year 1, then move to the Darling Downs and South West Learning Community for the remainder of their program.
- **Central Queensland and Wide Bay Regional Medical Pathway (CQ-WB RMP):** Entry pathway into the UQ-Onshore MD program, where Students will be based at the GBCS for Year 1, then move to the Central Queensland or Wide Bay Learning Community for the remainder of their program.
- **Greater Brisbane Medical Pathway (GBMP):** Entry pathway into the UQ-Onshore MD program, where Students will be based at a Learning Community in the GBCS for the entirety of their program.

Student: A student enrolled in or undertaking courses in the MD program.

UQ-Ochsner MD: Doctor of Medicine program in which Students are required to undertake Years 3 and 4 at the OCS operating in New Orleans, USA.

UQ-Onshore MD: Doctor of Medicine program in which Students are required to undertake Years 3 and 4 at the GBCS or RCS in Queensland, Australia.

2. Purpose of the Guidelines

- 2.1 The Medical School has established the Learning Community allocation process to manage and support clinical training for Students throughout the duration of the program.
- 2.2 The Dean of the Medical School is responsible for decisions related to Learning Community and clinical placement allocations. While all reasonable attempts will be made to accommodate student requirements and preferences, this may not always be possible due to operational requirements.
- 2.3 Decisions related to Learning Community allocations are administrative in nature. In accordance with the University policy on [Student Grievance Resolution](#), it is only possible to appeal in circumstances where a Student can demonstrate that the decision did not comply with the University's policies, rules or procedures. Personal dissatisfaction is not grounds for an appeal.
- 2.4 The allocation process is administered by the Faculty of Medicine Placements Team. Key dates for 2024 can be found [here](#) and further information about the allocation process can be found [here](#).

3. Learning Community Allocations

- 3.1 Students will preference and be assigned to a Learning Community at the start of the program.
- 3.2 Students who receive a late offer for entry into the MD program and/or accept their offer after the Learning Community preferencing and allocation period, will be assigned to a Learning Community based on operational requirements. Personal preference will be accommodated wherever possible.
- 3.3 Students who receive a late offer for entry into the MD program and/or accept their offer after the Special Consideration period, will be able to request Late Special Consideration in accordance with Section 4 below.
- 3.4 Students will be based at the MD Learning Hub at St Lucia for Year 1, but may also undertake learning experiences within their Learning Community.
- 3.5 Throughout their studies, students will have opportunities to experience other Learning Communities.

Darling Downs and South West Medical Pathway Students

- 3.6 DD-SW MP Students will be allocated to the Central Learning Community in Year 1 of the program.
- 3.7 DD-SW MP Students will move to the Darling Downs and South West Learning Community for Year 2-4 of the program.

Central Queensland and Wide Bay Regional Medical Pathway Students

- 3.8 CQ-WB RMP Students will be allocated to a Year 1 GBCS Learning Community as follows:
 - Central Queensland Students will be allocated to the Central Learning Community
 - Wide Bay Students will be allocated to the South Learning Community.
- 3.9 Central Queensland Students will move to the Central Queensland Learning Community for Years 2-4 of the program.
- 3.10 Wide Bay Students will move to the Bundaberg Regional Clinical Unit in Year 2 and preference for allocation to the Bundaberg or Hervey Bay Regional Clinical Unit for Year 3 and 4 of the program.

Greater Brisbane Medical Pathway Students

3.11 GBMP Students will have the opportunity to preference from the following GBCS Learning Communities for the duration of their program:

- Central Learning Community
- South Learning Community
- North Learning Community
- West Learning Community.

UQ-Ochsner MD Students

3.12 UQ-Ochsner MD Students will have the opportunity to preference from the following GBCS Learning Communities for Year 1-2 of their program:

- Central Learning Community
- South Learning Community.

3.13 UQ-Ochsner MD Students will move to the OCS for Years 3 and 4 of the program.

Learning Community Allocation Swaps – Year 2 Students in 2024

3.14 During Semester 2 of Year 2, GBMP Students may be given an opportunity to express an interest to transfer Learning Communities (subject to availability), including:

- to the Darling Downs and South West Learning Community for Years 3 and/or 4 of the program.
- to the Central Queensland or Wide Bay Learning Community, for Years 3 and/or 4 of the program.
- to a new Learning Community within the GBCS.

Out of Sync and Repeating Students

3.15 Students who take an Interruption of Studies (IOS) at any point during the program will return to the same Learning Community they were allocated at the commencement of the program.

3.16 Students who are required to repeat a year will remain in the same Learning Community they were allocated at the commencement of the program.

4. Special Consideration Process

Pre-Allocation (UQ-Ochsner and UQ-Onshore, GBMP only)

4.1 The Medical School recognises that students may have circumstances requiring them to be located within a specific region of the GBCS. Such students may seek to be assigned to a particular Learning Community through the MD Learning Community Allocation Special Consideration process prior to the commencement of Year 1.

4.2 Only UQ-Ochsner and UQ-Onshore (GBMP) Students can request Special Consideration for their Learning Community allocation. CQ-WB RMP and DD-SW MP students are unable to apply for Special

Consideration.

- 4.3 Students who meet one or more of the categories outlined below may, upon application, be afforded Special Consideration during the MD Learning Community Allocation process:
- a) Have a medical condition which:
 - o Requires specialised treatment that is only available at a specific location.
 - o Amounts to temporary disability, which cannot be supported at a specific Learning Community.
 - b) Have primary carer responsibilities.
- 4.4 The following are not considered grounds for Special Consideration:
- a) Private accommodation and/or transportation arrangements
 - b) Financial considerations (including current employment and/or business arrangements)
 - c) Location of partner or family (excluding primary carer responsibilities)
 - d) Primary carer responsibilities for animals (including pets)
 - e) Recognised as an elite athlete under [PPL 3.50.07 Programs and Assessment for Elite Athletes](#).
- 4.5 Students must provide supporting documentation. Applications will be assessed on an individual basis and approval is subject to operational requirements.
- 4.6 Special Consideration outcomes will be made at the discretion of the Dean, Medical School (or delegate).

Post-Allocation – All Students

- 4.7 In exceptional circumstances, all students may apply for Special Consideration after commencement of Year 1. Applications sent to med.placements@uq.edu.au must meet one or more of the categories outlined in Paragraph 4.3 and demonstrate, with supporting documentation, that:
- a) exceptional circumstances existed that made it not possible to submit their application for Special Consideration during the designated application period; or
 - b) there has been a significant and unexpected change to their personal circumstances that would warrant Special Consideration, subsequent to the closing date of the designated application period.
- 4.8 Applications may also be made on religious grounds following timetable allocations in Year 1, where compulsory learning activities prevent Students from participating in compulsory religious activities.
- 4.9 Students are only able to transfer between Learning Communities within their Medical Pathway.
- 4.10 A lack of knowledge or awareness of the procedure to seek Special Consideration and the associated timelines is not considered a circumstance beyond a student's control and does not meet the criteria for a late application to be considered.
- 4.11 Acceptance of applications for Special Consideration submitted after allocation to a Learning Community will be considered in accordance with the Student Grievance Resolution procedure ([PPL 3.60.02b](#)), Section 2.3.2 Formal administrative grievances/appeals.