

MEDI7300 Clinical Immersion

Rural Placement Student Support Program – 2025

Purpose

The *Rural Placement Student Support Program* is an initiative of the Rural Clinical School and provides financial support to assist students to complete a clinical immersion in rural and remote communities throughout Queensland during year 3 of their MD program. The Mayne Academy of Rural and Remote Medicine (RRM) staff administer this program.

1. Accommodation Support

Accommodation for all **8-week UQ-arranged rural terms** will be booked for students and provided at no cost. Accommodation is available from the Sunday prior to the immersion term start date until the Saturday following the immersion term end date. If you wish to extend these arrangements, please contact the RRM Team to discuss.

1.1 Types of Accommodation

Rural immersion term 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.
- 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. Rural Placement Travel Subsidy

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

2.1 Schedule of Rural Placement Travel Subsidy

Schedule of Rural Placement Travel Subsidy	
Less than 100km	\$ 45
100 – 200km	\$65
201 – 400km	\$130
401 – 600km	\$180
601 – 800km	\$250
801 – 1000km	\$330
1001 - 1500km	\$530
➤ 1501km	\$670

2.2 Guidelines

- Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to their rural placement.
- If there are exceptional circumstances where a student is approved to commute each day to a rural placement from their home, they will be eligible for the Placement Support Subsidy (Section 3) that they can use to offset any travel costs.

3. Placement Support Subsidy

In 2025, students undertaking a rural immersion will be eligible to receive a flat fee amount of \$400 to offset the cost of living away from home.

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 \$80 per placement (based on the average cost of a 2.5-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.
- 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.

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

Subsidy	Payment By
Rural Immersion Travel Subsidy	Week 3 of each rural immersion
Immersion Support Subsidy	Week 3 of each rural immersion
Internet Access Subsidy	Week 3 of each rural immersion