



Rural and Remote Pharmacy Placement Allowance Scheme

Rural and Remote Pharmacist Workforce Development Program

Guidelines and Eligibility Criteria

The Placement Allowance Scheme is an initiative of the Rural and Remote Pharmacy Workforce Development Program (RRPWDP). The RRPWDP was established in 1999 in recognition of the key role pharmacists play in maintaining the health of all Australians, particularly in rural and remote Australia. The aim of RRPWDP is to implement strategies to strengthen and support the rural and remote pharmacy workforce in Australia.

The Placement Allowance Scheme is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (CDHAC) under the RRPWDP and is managed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (the Guild) under an agreement between the Guild and CDHAC.

The Placement Allowance Scheme provides financial support to encourage and enable undergraduate pharmacy degree programs at Australian Universities to deliver compulsory student placements in rural and remote communities. The Scheme aims to facilitate positive placement experiences for final year pharmacy students in rural and remote communities, encouraging students to return to rural or remote practice on graduation.

Please read the accompanying guidelines and eligibility criteria before completing this application form.

Funding Allocation

Each Placement Allowance has a maximum value of \$500 and is to assist with travel and accommodation costs associated with undertaking a placement in a rural or remote area, provided the placement is not in the same locality as the student's "home" address (that is their address used upon admission to the degree).

Students are permitted to apply for more than one Placement Allowance in a given academic year provided they are undertaking more than one placement in a rural or remote location.

Forfeited Placement Allowances are not transferrable to another student.

Role of Universities, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Students

Universities are responsible for:

- publicising and promoting the Placement Allowance scheme where appropriate;
- providing application forms;
- developing an agreement with students;
- allocating Placement Allowances;
- acknowledging assistance provided by the Placement Allowance scheme in any public statements in relation to the performance of a Allowance holder; and
- providing an annual report to the RRPWDP Advisory Group in relation to the distribution of the Placement Allowance, activities undertaken by the Placement Allowance holders, and any other activities outlined in the attached reporting pro forma.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia are responsible for:

- development of an agreement with each participating University;
- publicising and promoting the scholarship scheme where appropriate; and
- providing application forms to Universities for handout to students

Students are responsible for:

- providing a written report following each funded placement; and
- participating in longitudinal studies of the recruitment of pharmacists to rural practice.

Allocation of Allowances

The allowances may be awarded to students undertaking internship placements as part of their final year studies in an Undergraduate pharmacy degree at any Australian University in the rural or remote locations of Accessible, Moderately Accessible, Remote, or Very Remote, as defined by the Pharmacy Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia (PHARIA).

Payment of an allowance is conditional upon the applicant satisfying the administrative requirements of the University for accessing an allowance.

Application, Selection and Allocation Process

Allowances are awarded on the basis of individual student application, supplied on a standard application form which will be assessed by the University against selection criteria as outlined below.

Successful applicants must formally agree to the terms and guidelines of the Allowance.

The allowances may be awarded to students undertaking internship placements in a rural or remote location, as part of their final year studies in an Undergraduate pharmacy degree at any Australian University.

Payment of an allowance is conditional upon the applicant satisfying the administrative requirements of the University for accessing an allowance.

Selection Criteria

The following criteria are mandatory in the selection process.

Students must:

The following criteria are mandatory in the selection process. Students must:

- be an Australian citizen, permanent resident or have permanent resident status;
- be enrolled as a full time student in their final year of an undergraduate pharmacy degree at any Australian University;
- demonstrate an interest in rural pharmacy practice through supplying a statement to the University demonstrating a broad awareness of rural practice issues and rural health issues;
- have an intention to practice in a rural or remote location;
- show a commitment to the promotion of rural pharmacy as a career option; and
- agree to provide a brief report at the completion of their internship placement.

Allowance holders are not disqualified from receiving other awards that support rural and remote pharmacy practice but must declare receipt of any other award to the RRPWDP, by advising the University in the first instance.

Holders of other RRPWDP Undergraduate Scholarships and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarships are eligible to apply for a Placement Allowance.

Scholarship Terms

Students awarded a Placement Allowance will be required to sign an agreement provided to them by the University to undertake placements in a rural or remote community.

Allowance holders may be asked to participate in longitudinal studies of the recruitment of rural pharmacists to rural practice.

Allowance recipients are encouraged to seek employment in rural or remote areas following graduation.

Appeals Process

Any disputes arising from the Allowance scheme should be dealt with through the RRPWDP Advisory Group in conjunction with the dispute resolutions and appeals procedures of the University.

Student Reporting Requirements

The selection criteria include the student's willingness to provide a brief written report to the University at the end of their internship.

University Reporting Requirements

To assist with the monitoring of the program, the Allowance holder's University is asked to make annual assessment of the value of the program based on reports provided by the student and the student's course and subject coordinators.

Contact

The University you are attending for further information.



**Remote and Isolated
Pharmacists
Association of
Australia**



**Committee Heads of
Pharmacy Schools
Australia and New
Zealand**