

Gold Coast Hospital

Hello everyone my name is Dr Geoff Copeland

I am the Director of Clinical Training at the Gold Coast Health Service District. This is a major district with two major hospitals, one at Southport and one at Robina. The district itself is a large area with approximately 600,000 people, so to give you an idea of the district itself currently there are 750 acute beds across the district. These beds are provided at Southport campus and Robina campus and our medical staff rotate between the two campuses/hospitals. In 2011 there will be 85 Interns across the district, 110 House Officers, 240 Registrars on training programs and consultants full time medical staff and visiting medical staff 213.

The intern terms that are provided at the hospital meet the requirements of the Medical Board of Queensland and the post graduate Medical Council of Queensland. This training includes 52 weeks of service broken up into 5 terms and the 5 terms include 3 compulsory or core terms of 10 or 11 weeks duration in emergency medicine, medicine and surgery and the other two terms of 10 week duration approximately include elective opportunities, anesthetics, pediatrics, Obstetrics, Psychiatry, Medicine, General Practice Rotations, Rural Hospital and Rural General Practice.

The summary of your rosters, holidays, hours and pays are in Emergency Medicine you work 4 x 10hr shifts per week, in the wards you work approximately 8 hour days with some ward call shifts. Everyone gets 5 weeks annual leave and your pay is standard pay with penalty rates for overtime and on call. We have a comprehensive 6 day education orientation program, which covers all the essential skill areas that interns require with a commence duty. We also have two one hour sessions per week which deal with interns specific training requirements which last for the 12 month period, they are adjusted according to your needs. In addition each department provides education programs for interns at that level.

As far as training opportunities at the Gold Coast Health Service District you can enter almost all training programs directly at the Gold Coast Hospital. There are only very sub specialised ones that you cannot, but bearing in mind that many training programs are now at state or national levels which make it more competitive to gain entry into training programs.

So what is different about the Gold Coast Health Service District?

- It is a large hospital but it has a small hospital feel.
- We have a very strong emphasis on education and training particularly for interns.
- It is a busy hospital with lots of clinical opportunities.
- Opportunities for you to enter into most specialties directly from this hospital.
- It is a rapidly growing area with the establishment of Australia's first university hospital in 2013.
- From the Interns in 2009, 100% were very complimentary about their experiences here and I am sure you will feel the same.

JHO - Christine

Hi my name is Cristina, and I am a JHO at the Gold Coast Hospital and I heard you might be considering coming and joining us here on the coast? Well I think that would be a wise decision.

Who can beat running on the beach in the morning and all the pubs, clubs, bars and restaurants that you couldn't possibly count in a lifetime just a stones throw away. Besides all that it has been a really great place to work, the people are just so friendly and the clinicians are extremely supportive and the educational program has been fantastic.

JHO - Alister

Hello there, my name is Dr Alister Jones and I am one of the Junior House Officer here at the Gold Coast Hospital. I started here as an intern and looking back, I think it is one of the best decisions I ever made. Not only for the medicine, but additionally for the lifestyle of the Gold Coast. My aspirations are for a career in surgery and I think the Gold Coast Hospital is the perfect place to commence and even continue the training that's required to become a surgeon.

JHO - Holly

My name is Holly Smith, and I am currently a Junior House Officer at the Gold Coast Hospital. The reason I initially chose to do my internship at the Gold Coast Hospital was actually multi factorial. It offers a diverse range of intern opportunities in terms of not only core terms, but elective terms for junior doctors that include pediatrics, obstetrics and in particular rural medicine in the intern year which is something that is quite unique to this district. It's also quite a small hospital that offers a diverse range of pathology, which as an intern is something that keeps you coming back for more and I think that if you consider Gold Coast as a future option, I think it would be a very wise choice.