



alliedhealthworkforce

Queensland Health Allied Health "Area of Priority" Scholarships

Radiation Oncology Medical Physics

Information Kit

Office of Rural Health
PO Box 1006
ROMA QLD 4455
Freecall: 1800 680 291
Fax: (07) 4624 1818
E-mail: QHRSS@health.qld.gov.au
Web: www.health.qld.gov.au/orh



Queensland
Government
Queensland Health

This document contains general information only.
The only authoritative statement of the scholarship terms is set out in the
scholarship agreement.

General Information

Area of Priority scholarships provide financial assistance to allied health students in their **final** year of undergraduate study. Scholarship holders, are guaranteed temporary full time employment with Queensland Health for the duration of their bonded service in an "Area of Priority".

Areas of Priority" are likely to be in regional, rural or remote facilities but in some instances, metropolitan areas may be appropriate where there is a significant problem with recruitment and retention or where the service is available only in metropolitan regions.

Eligibility for Scholarship

You are eligible to apply for this scholarship if you are:

1. An Australian resident, or possess permanent residency, and
2. Applicants need to be a full time university student in your last year of your course or
3. have completed the last year of your course with a major in Physics
(Other qualifications can apply with the approval of the Head of the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences)

Dietetics/Nutrition	Orthotics and Prosthetics	Occupational Therapy	Pharmacy
Physiotherapy	Podiatry	Radiography	Speech Pathology
Social Work	Radiation Oncology	Medical Physics	

Selection

Information Kits

Information Kits are available on the website www.health.qld.gov.au/orh or by contacting the Office of Rural Health on 1800 680 291.

All students who are interested in applying for a Queensland Health Allied Health "Area of Priority" Scholarship must complete a written application addressing the selection criteria. Applications received will be short-listed and successful applicants will be offered an interview.

Interviews

Students who are successful in obtaining an interview will be contacted by the Office of Rural Health to arrange an interview time. Every effort is made to ensure that interviews cause minimal disruption to academic studies. At the completion of the interview process, all interviewees will be notified in writing of the outcome of their interview. Successful applicants will then be offered a scholarship contract with Queensland Health.

Placement

Following graduation, scholarship holders need to obtain their degree and registration through their affiliated associations. Scholarship holders are then contracted to be employed by Queensland Health in an "Area of Priority" to provide the communities with essential health services needed.

Placements for Orthotics and Prosthetics students will be limited to Brisbane.

How "Area of Priority" is determined:

The "Area of Priority" locations will be determined by the following criteria:

- * High numbers of vacancies either in specific disciplines or across a range of allied health disciplines.
- * Continual vacancies over an extended period of time.
- * Risk of service closure due to reduced permanent staffing levels.

Financial Assistance

All components of the financial assistance are taxable

Payments commence and are back dated from 1st January in the year the scholarship is awarded and you are taxed on all amounts paid to you. As the Queensland Health Allied Health "Area of Priority" Scholarship Scheme guarantees you employment upon graduation, your financial assistance is classed as taxable income. Students are advised to contact their local Centrelink office to discuss how these payments may affect them.

Each student will receive financial assistance totalling \$21,000 in the final year of their degree. This includes a living allowance of \$544.27 per fortnight and a lump sum payment paid at the commencement of the academic year to assist with tertiary fees, travel expenses and conference costs. Students will be expected to meet the travel and accommodation expenses associated with clinical placements or work experience weeks out of this allowance.

Scholarship Total: \$21000

Living Allowance:	\$544.27 per fortnight
Tertiary Grant:	\$5800.00 per year
Travel Allowance:	\$500.00 per year
Conference Assistance:	\$500.00 per year

Area of Priority Experience

All scholarship holders **must** complete one (1) "Area of Priority" Experience Week. Where possible, Experience Weeks should be undertaken in an area where the student is interested in completing their bonded service, as indicated on application. This is recommended to familiarise students with the area and assist with networking and relationship building. Students are encouraged to include the Experience Week as part of their University clinical placement requirements, but this will depend on placement availability.

Orthotics and Prosthetics students must completed there experience week in Queensland.

Contractual Obligations

- * A student who accepts a scholarship must complete a contracted service period after graduation.
- * Continuation of the scholarship is dependent upon satisfactory progress in university coursework.
- * **Pharmacy** and **Radiography** scholarship holders, the Pre-Registration, or Professional Development Year, is **not** counted toward the service period.
- * Scholarship holders are required to work in an "Area of Priority" for a period equal to the period of assistance given.
- * If a scholarship holder fails to complete the course or does not satisfy the obligations of contracted service, a financial liability may be incurred.
- * Scholarship holders are required to complete one "Area of Priority" Experience Week placement whilst at university.
- * Successful applicants will be expected to participate in clinical education placements to- tally approximately 10 weeks (non concurrent) within Radiation Oncology Medical Physics departments during the period of their scholarship.
- * Upon successful completion of QUT Masters program, successful applicants will enter a Queensland Health Radiation Oncology Medical Physics department for a minimum fixed term of 2.5 years (appointed at HP3 level). During this period applicants will be expected to complete the Australasian College of Physical Sciences and Engineers in Medicine (ACPSEM) Radiation Oncology Medical Physics Training Education and Accreditation Program.

Scholarship Support

Queensland Health offers a range of support measures to assist scholarship holders, including:

- * A support network of health advisors and past scholarship holders
- * Regular teleconferences
- * Assistance with the transition from university to the workplace
- * Availability of a Case Manager to discuss and assist with any issues.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I want to move, my circumstances change or I need to defer?

There is flexibility within the scholarship scheme. A Contract Variation can be prepared when scholarship holders wish to defer or extend their contract in some way. This can be at undergraduate or post graduate level. At undergraduate level an extension may be given with or without additional financial assistance. At post graduate level a deferral or extension will vary the length of the return of service period therefore a contract variation is required. A contract variation is required for any reason that varies the original contract signed at the commencement of the scholarship. All scholarship holders circumstances are assessed on a case by case basis.

Can I still work while I am at University?

Yes. Remember your financial assistance is considered as income for taxation purposes. Scholarship payments can impact upon any Centrelink payments you may be in receipt of therefore you should seek individual financial advice prior to signing the scholarship contract.

Can I apply for a Scholarship if I am not at a Queensland University.

Yes. However you must do your Work Experience Week Placement in Queensland each year and after graduation you will be placed at a Queensland Health Facility for your period of bonded service.

What happens if I fail a subject?

Some allowance is made for students to repeat subjects. In this instance you may require a contract variation with an extension of your financial assistance and bonded service period.

When will my scholarship payments commence/cease?

Payments commence from 1st January in the year the scholarship is awarded and continue until the 31st December in the year of graduation.

When will I receive my Tertiary Grant payments?

50% of your Tertiary Grant will be paid to you at the commencement of the academic year and 50% to be paid on or before 31 July.

Can my Tertiary Grant be paid in fortnightly instalments?

No.

Does the Office of Rural Health pay my Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) fees?

No. The Tertiary Grant is recommended to be used to help offset your HECS fees, but it is entirely up to you how you spend it.

Will the scholarship payments affect my Centrelink payments?

Possibly. As the Queensland Health "Area of Priority" Scholarship Scheme guarantees your employment upon graduation, your financial assistance is considered taxable income. You will need to contact your local Centrelink office to discuss how this may affect you.

Why are the scholarship payments taxed?

The financial assistance received by scholarship holders is taxed due to the guarantee of employment upon graduation.

Can I combine my Work Experience Week Placement with my University clinical placement?

Yes. Provided it is in a designated rural/regional area. Queensland Health may be able to provide free accommodation for placements where available.

Does my Work Experience Week Placement have to be completed in a hospital?

Yes. The idea of the Work Experience Week Placement is to gain a feel for rural/regional practice.

Do I have to do my Work Experience Week Placement and my period of bonded service within Queensland?

Yes. Your Work Experience Week Placement and bonded period of service must be served in Queensland. The intent of the Work Experience Week Placement is to give scholarship holders realistic expectations of Queensland Health's facilities and to commence building networks for the future.

How does the placement process work? Who decides where I go for my bonded period of service? Do I have a say in where I will be placed for my bonded period of service?

Health Service districts within Queensland provide the Office of Rural Health with information on vacancies within their districts. A preference list is prepared from the information provided and distributed to scholarship holders to preference where they would like to go. A working group then considers all preferences and makes placement decisions in consultation with scholarship holders.

When do I find out where I am going for my bonded period of service?

You will find out where you will be going for your bonded period of service no later than October of the year in which you graduate.

Does the Professional Registration Training (PRT—Pharmacy only) or Professional Development Year (PDY—Radiography only) year count towards the bonded period of service?

No. You commence your bonded period of service the year after you complete your intern year.

Does Queensland Health pay for my removal costs?

Yes. Health Service Districts will pay for your removal costs when re-locating for your bonded period of service in accordance with individual Health Service District policies. Relocation arrangements and expenses must be negotiated and pre-approved by the respective District Manager prior to relocation.