



Queensland Government
Queensland **Health**

**Please note the final 50 QHBMS
Scholarships will be offered in
the 2009 Griffith University
Selection Process for students to
commence in 2010!**

Queensland Health Bonded Medical Scholarships Info

This document contains general information only.

The only authoritative statement of the scholarship terms is set out in the scholarship agreement.

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General Information

On 1 July 2005, Queensland Premier Peter Beattie announced that the Queensland Government would fund 235 new medical student places at Griffith University, Gold Coast campus, in response to the increasing shortage of doctors in Queensland. In May 2008, the Commonwealth Government agreed to reimburse the Queensland Government for the cost of training the 235 medical students under the Queensland Health Bonded Medical Scholarship program.

The Office of Rural Health based in Roma which manages the Queensland Health Rural Scholarship Scheme, in addition to a number of Allied Health Scholarships, took over responsibility for managing the Queensland Health Bonded Medical Scholarship program in May 2006.

The aim of the Queensland Health Bonded Medical Scholarship program is to train 235 additional doctors to work in Queensland Areas of Priority Service for 6 years following their graduation from the Griffith University Graduate Medical Course.

What do Queensland Health Bonded Medical Scholarships (QHBMS) provide to Scholarship Holders?

- Payment of full tuition fees to Griffith University on behalf of QHBMS scholarship holders for the four years they undertake the Graduate Medical Course at Griffith University. This means that QHBMS scholarship holders do not graduate with a HECS debt!
- Payment of an annual Education Support Allowance of \$21,000 for the four years of the Graduate Medical Course. This Allowance is paid as a lump sum within 30 days of the commencement of each academic year.
- Guaranteed employment for six years following graduation from the Graduate Medical Course.
- Case management and support. Case management occurs from the first year of the Graduate Medical Course and involves regular contact between case managers and scholarship holders in addition to the provision of vocational guidance and development of indicative career planning to give guidance through the medical vocational training/career pathway system.
- Access to the Queensland Health Clinicians Knowledge Network (CKN) website, which provides access to a wide range of clinical information resources.
- Provision of relevant Queensland Health newsletters and publications.
- Mentorship from experienced medical advisors.
- A toll-free phone number and dedicated email address to contact the Office of Rural Health for assistance at any time (see Info Kit front cover for contact information).

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What obligations do Queensland Health Bonded Medical Scholarship Holders have?

Accepting a Queensland Health Bonded Medical Scholarship requires successful applicants to:

- Sign a legal agreement with Queensland Health. The Agreement outlines the responsibilities of both parties, including the requirement for scholarship holders to be bonded for 10 years. This 10 year period will include 4 years as a medical student and 6 years bonded service in an Area of Priority Service (determined on the basis of geographical and or specialty need). Internship and pre-vocational training is included in the 6 year bonded work period;
- Pass all subjects and complete all requirements of the Graduate Medical Course (GMC) at Griffith University in order to be awarded a Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery by the end of the 4 year course;
- Notify Queensland Health of any changes in address or contact telephone number;
- Notify Queensland Health of any change in circumstances that may prevent, or delay, a scholarship holder complying with any of the obligations under the Scholarship Agreement with Queensland Health and;
- Provide Queensland Health with any information or documentation relevant to the Agreement.

Who is eligible to apply for a Queensland Health Bonded Medical Scholarship (QHBMS)?

All Australian Citizens who meet the entrance requirements for a place in the Griffith University Graduate Medical Course are eligible to apply for a QHBMS Scholarship. Griffith University is able to provide further information on the course admission requirements.

Preference for QHBMS Scholarship places will be given to Queensland residents, in the event that there are more successful applicants than scholarship places available.

How to apply for a Queensland Health Bonded Medical Scholarship (QHBMS)

Griffith University manages the application and selection process for QHBMS Scholarships in the Graduate Medical Course (GMC). Information on the GMC admission process is available from Griffith University.

As part of the University GMC admissions process, applicants who have been successful in the GAMSAT examination may be invited to attend an interview at the University. At this interview, in order to be considered for a QHBMS Scholarship, applicants must nominate a QHBMS place as a preference for a place in the GMC.

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QHBMS Scholarship Agreement with Queensland Health

When successful applicants are sent an offer of a QHBMS Scholarship place in the Griffith University GMC, they will also be sent a copy of a Scholarship Agreement with Queensland Health. The Griffith University GMC enrolment acceptance must be returned to the Griffith University Medical Selections Officer by the due date nominated by the University to ensure enrolment in the GMC.

A signed copy of the QHBMS Agreement along with evidence of Australian Citizenship, in the form of a Justice of the Peace certified copy of a birth or citizenship certificate or passport, must also be returned to the Queensland Health Office of Rural Health by the due date nominated.

Prior to signing and returning the Agreement, it is strongly advised that applicants seek independent legal advice on the Agreement, the conditions attached to the Scholarship and the consequences if the conditions are not complied with. Obtaining legal advice ensures that the QHBMS Scholarship Agreement is appropriate to successful applicants' circumstances and career aspirations. Legal advice may be obtained from a solicitor or legal aid advisory service.

The Scholarship Agreement must be signed by both the scholarship recipient and a Justice of the Peace or Commissioner of Declarations (as witness to the scholarship recipients signature). Once the signed Agreement is returned to the Office of Rural Health, it will be counter-signed by the Queensland Health Director-General or their delegate and returned to the scholarship recipient.

Breach of QHBMS Scholarship Agreement

In the event that a QHBMS scholarship holder breaches a Scholarship Agreement with Queensland Health, they will be required to repay some or all scholarship fees, including any tuition fees paid to the University and any allowances that may have been received.

How are the Areas of Priority Service determined and where will QHBMS scholarship holders be required to work following their graduation?

Following graduation from the GMC, QHBMS scholarship holders will be required to work in an Area of Priority Service (defined in the Agreement as 'either, or both, a Queensland geographical location, or field of medical specialty') as determined by an Area of Priority Service (APS) Reference Group.

The APS Reference Group comprises representatives from:

- Various Medical colleges;
- Office of the Medical Board;
- Health Consumers of Rural & Remote Australia Inc.; and
- Queensland Health representatives, including the Chief Health Officer and Rural Medical Advisor; representatives of the Medical Advisory Panel, Workforce Analysis & Research Unit, Office of Rural Health, Medical Workforce Advice & Co-ordination Unit and Workforce Design & Liaison Unit.

Scholarship Recipient student representatives attend meetings as observers.

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The APS Reference Group was formed in August 2006 to enable appropriate research and consultation for Area of Priority Service speciality disciplines to be pre-determined. Pre-determining APS speciality disciplines allows for vocational guidance to be provided and career planning undertaken with QHBMS scholarship holders.

It is not possible to pre-determine locations where QHBMS scholarship holders will be required to serve their bonded service, as these locations will depend on medical workforce demographics at the time scholarship holders are being placed.

In October 2006, the APS Reference Group developed the first APS Specialty Discipline List, which was distributed to current QHBMS scholarship holders and 2007 QHBMS applicants, together with the advice that Queensland Health will guarantee QHBMS scholarship holders access to pursue training in these specialty disciplines while performing their bonded service, subject to their application and acceptance by the respective training colleges.

The APS Specialty Discipline List contains:

1. Core specialty disciplines, that scholarship holders will be guaranteed access to train in while performing their bonded service;
2. Possible future specialty disciplines, that scholarship holders may have access to train in and;
3. Out of scope specialty disciplines, which will NOT be considered as APS specialty disciplines.

The APS Reference Group will review and update the APS Specialty Discipline List each year, so that as QHBMS scholarship holders graduate, they will know which disciplines are approved so they can apply for entry into relevant training programs. Once accepted into vocational specialist training by the respective training colleges, QHBMS scholarship holders can commence vocational training, whilst performing their period of bonded service.

A sample QHBMS Agreement, copy of the current APS Fields of Medical Practice List and a document which explains the operation of this List are available on the QHBMS website at:

www.health.qld.gov.au/orh

Further information on the APS List or any aspect of the QHBMS Scholarships can be obtained from the Office of Rural Health.