Intern Recruitment
Toowoomba Hospital

Junior Doctor Training

‘I am so glad that I came to Toowoomba’ is a regular comment from junior doctors after their first few weeks of internship, when they have had time to reflect on their exciting new career.

The Medical Education Unit at Toowoomba Hospital looks after junior doctor training and has established an excellent reputation within the State, being seen to be on the forefront of teaching and learning. Clinical teachers foster ongoing learning and maintain a high standard of professional practice.

As an intern you will be well-supported through regular, personal contact with your peers. This collegial support, together with close supervision in a supportive environment, will enable you to become a confident and skilled practitioner.

The Director of Clinical Training (DCT), Deputy Director of Clinical Training (DDCT), Medical Education Registrar and the Medical Education Officers (MEOs) at Toowoomba Hospital are actively involved in guiding and supporting your training. Your progress is continually measured through mid-term and end of term interviews to ensure that your learning needs and expectations are met and that your work environment and supervision ensure a positive experience. Any concerns are swiftly addressed. The DCT acts as an advocate for junior doctors and offers individual career advice to ensure that you are aware of, and can take advantage of, the many opportunities available to you in planning your future.

About Toowoomba Hospital

Toowoomba Hospital, part of the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service, is a 320 bed hospital providing surgical, orthopaedic, ENT surgery, ophthalmology, urology, obstetric, paediatric and neonatal care in Special Care Nursery, anaesthesia, intensive care and high dependency care, medicine including geriatrics, oncology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, respiratory and renal, and emergency medicine. The Hospital has a large 59 bed acute Mental Health Unit.

Last year the Emergency Department saw 54,751 presentations of which 39% were admitted. There were 2,054 babies born. A total of 10,904 operations were performed.

The Hospital serves a large catchment area throughout southern inland Queensland including to the South Burnett and South West of the State. About 30% of all patients come from outside Toowoomba city.

The University of Queensland’s Rural Clinical School is also based at the Hospital, with 30 third year students and 40 fourth year students on campus for their current academic year.

Our People, Our Stories

After completing most of my medical school studies in Brisbane, I moved out to Toowoomba for intern year. In the 5 years since, I have had zero regrets about this decision! I chose Toowoomba Hospital for internship because of the strong focus on quality education. I chose to stay due to the excellent sense of community and commitment to improvement within our health service. From day one I have been surrounded by colleagues and mentors who genuinely cared about my growth as a doctor and a person. I am now working in areas of medicine I never dreamed I would be- and loving every minute! I am working within a system that is making genuine improvements towards patient care. I have also fallen completely in love with the Darling Downs region- the multitude of cafes, parks, nearby bushwalks, waterfalls and wineries awaiting you on days off is spectacular! If you make the decision to come to Toowoomba Hospital, know that you will be welcomed with bright smiles and all the support you need to flourish in your intern year.

Dr Shenae Fletcher – Intern 2015, JHO 2016, Registrar 2017 to 2019

Darling Downs Health

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Our People, Our Stories

Toowoomba Hospital; smaller than your average hospital but bigger in opportunities. Opportunities to work one on one with your registrars and consultants, to work in rural communities and to work around the clock. Our senior clinicians and medical education team are ready to challenge your clinical reasoning and help you establish a strong foundation in general medicine, general surgery and emergency medicine. You are then invited and encouraged to explore the wide variety of specialities Toowoomba Hospital has to offer until you find your happy place. Outside of work, the Toowoomba region offers plenty of baked goods, great coffee and a bunch of beautiful hikes to unwind. Toowoomba Hospital is a unique and supportive environment where you can make meaningful and long-lasting personal and professional relationships, fine-tune fundamental skills as a junior doctor and maintain work life balance. Choosing somewhere to train as a junior doctor has never been so easy. I guarantee you’ll call it home.

Dr Rosie Doherty – Intern 2018, JHO 2019
Toowoomba, the Garden City

Well known as the ‘Garden City’, Toowoomba is home to nearly 100,000 people, and is the regional capital for the Darling Downs, serving a population of more than 300,000 people. Toowoomba is only 125 km west of Brisbane, and is a treasure trove of tradition and culture on the edge of the Great Dividing Range. Experience the four seasons and the colour and amazement in the lush parklands and reserves of the city. Toowoomba’s climate can best be described as pleasant, with temperature ranges averaging a cool 5° to 16° in winter and a mild 17° to 27° in summer.

Support is essential

Toowoomba is a great place for you to undertake your internship. We understand that if you want great doctors, you need to provide great support. Support and dedication to training is something we are proud of, and you too can be a part of this should you choose to work here as an intern. Every day, specialists are providing teaching, rounding and caring with interns and registrars. Almost all of our interns stay with us through their PGY2 year and a number stay on as PHOs or registrars. Our consultants and Medical Education Unit support our junior doctors’ career aspirations.

Toowoomba Hospital is achieving outstanding results. We deliver more services locally, staff specialist vacancies are only occasional, and the numbers of specialists have increased.

Our rural terms offer a rich learning experience in hospitals with onsite senior medical officers. There is the opportunity for hands-on experience in birthing, emergency care, surgical assisting and anaesthesia. We have carefully selected which hospitals interns go to based on the calibre of our senior doctors.

Good luck with finishing your degree. I look forward to welcoming you to Toowoomba in 2020 as an intern, and supporting you in your future medical career.

Dr Martin Byrne
Executive Director Medical Services - Toowoomba Hospital
Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service

Flood Club

The Flood Club is the Resident Medical Officers’ Society and has been running for over 100 years. The Club’s main function is as a social outlet for members and their families, but it also plays an advocacy role in negotiating with medical administration at times.

The Flood Club is active in organising social events such as barefoot bowls, kegs, trivia nights, Society Balls, a quarterly newsletter and anything else that a member might have a passion for. These events are not exclusively for RMOs; in fact, staff from all streams of the hospital are encouraged to be a part of the club and the festivities. The Flood Club understands that many of the medical and allied health staff don’t have family or friends in Toowoomba initially and aims to encourage social activities and a greater involvement in the community as well. For those considering coming to Toowoomba Hospital, the Flood Club encourages you to make the move and get involved in our flourishing hospital social life.

2020 Intern Term Rotations

Terms available at our facility:
Five terms – four @ 10 weeks and one @ 12 weeks

Core Terms:
- Emergency Medicine
- Medicine (Available as: General Medicine & Geriatric and Rehabilitation Medicine)
- Surgery (Available as: General Surgery, Orthopaedics)

Elective Terms:
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Paediatrics
- Psychiatry
- ENT Surgery
- Anaesthetics
- ICU
- Rural Hospital term (Stanthorpe and Warwick Hospitals)
- Rural GP term (Goondiwindi, Clifton, St Andrew’s Toowoomba, Downs Rural Medical Toowoomba)

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