

MASTER OF PSYCHOLOGY – CLINICAL PLACEMENT BURSARY POLICY

Overview

In 2016 the Going Rural Health (GRH) Master of Psychology – Rural Clinical Placement Bursary & Placement Support package was established to assist with costs incurred by students to complete their clinical placements in a rural setting. The purpose of this funding was to provide students the opportunity to experience rural mental health practice and make a contribution to addressing mental health outcomes for rural communities who are often under-served (Conomos, Griffin, & Baunin, 2013).

Funding is provided to support Master of Psychology placements in rural, regional or remote areas that run for a minimum of 40 days. For 2018 there will be 20 Bursary and Placement Support packages offered.

The Bursary and Placement package can consist of:

- Payment of supervision to enable placements in rural Victoria.
- Financial support to students to assist with travel and accommodation costs up to the value of approximately \$4,000.
- Assistance to secure a clinical placement within the Ballarat, Grampians, Goulburn and Ovens Murray region.
- One or more of the above three options will be considered per placement.

Application Process

All applicants will be considered for a Bursary.

Upon review of an application, the applicant will be advised if their application has been accepted or declined. Where a student is accepted, the bursary and support is guaranteed as long as the successful student provides all required documentation and post placement requirements as detailed below.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for the Master of Psychology Bursary and Placement Support Program the applicants must:

1. Be enrolled in a Master of Psychology program with a recognised Australian University, which requires the applicant to complete a compulsory placement
2. Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia
3. Maintain satisfactory progress throughout the clinical placement as well as through the Master of Psychology program
4. Complete a minimum 40-day clinical placement within rural or regional Victoria
5. Have not received any other scholarship or financial assistance to complete the clinical placement in which the student is applying for
6. Students must have to travel more than 80km's from their home to the location of their clinical placement
7. Students must complete a written evaluation and an interview at the end of their placement
8. Students must write a 400-word statement outlining their need for the bursary

9. Students are required to find their own accommodation but they are able to access UoM accommodation, as is available. The University of Melbourne takes no responsibility for the quality of accommodation used by the student.

Selection of Applications

Processing and review of applications will be undertaken by the University Department of Rural Health, Going Rural Health team. To be considered, all applications must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Financial hardship of the student
- Level of impact the placement would have on rural mental health services
- The extent to which the bursary is required to make a rural placement possible
- Justification of why the student wants to complete a rural placement
- The distance required for travel by the student to complete the clinical placement.

Value and benefit of the Bursary and Placement Support package.

Financial:

Eligibility for the bursary will determine how the funds are distributed. The funds will be only be distributed once the following criteria have been met:

- Upon receipt of the Clinical Placement Agreement (between the student and the placement provider) to the Going Rural Health team
- Upon receipt of a signed 'Proof of Placement – Mid Placement' document signed by the Clinical Supervisor from where the clinical placement is being completed
- The successful completion of the clinical placement
- Upon receipt of a 'Proof of Successful Completion of Placement', document as signed by the Clinical Supervisor from where the clinical placement is being completed
- Completion of the Student Placement Evaluation Survey
- Student's written evaluation has been received by the UDRH
- The post placement interview has been completed.

Placement Support:

- Assistance in finding and securing a clinical placement position within the Ballarat, Grampians, Goulburn and Ovens Murray regions
- Access to Cultural Competency in Aboriginal Health face to face training which all students are required to complete
- Access to online and face-to-face learning opportunities and student support.

Termination

The program support is for the duration of the clinical placement period. The bursary will be terminated in the event of any of the following:

- Student ceases to be enrolled
- Student withdraws from the program
- The student does not successfully complete the placement requirements
- The clinical placement ceases
- The student failing to submit the required paperwork to the UDRH as requested, including Clinical Placement Agreement, Proof of Placement documents, and required financial institution details for payment.

Dispute & Complaints Mechanism

In submitting an application, you agree that the University of Melbourne's Student Complaints and Grievances Policy (<https://policy.unimelb.edu.au/MPF1066>) will apply to any complaint regarding the Masters of Psychology Clinical Placement Bursary.

The Going Rural Health team reserves the right to not award an allowance even if a student believes they meet all the eligibility criteria.

For further information, please email the Going Rural Health team at: going-ruralhealth@unimelb.edu.au

Bibliography

Conomos, A. M., Griffin, B., & Baunin, N. (2013). Attracting psychologists to practice in rural Australia: The role of work values and perceptions of the rural work environment. *Australian Journal of Rural Health*, 105-111.