

## UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF RURAL HEALTH

### GOING RURAL HEALTH STUDENT SUPPORT SCHEME POLICY 2022

#### Overview

The Going Rural Health Student Support Scheme (GRH SSS) has been developed through Federal Government funding, to assist students with costs associated with accommodation and travel when completing a placement in a rural setting across the Hume, Ovens, Murray, Goulburn, Ballarat, Wimmera and Grampians regions. See the map link below for locations in which Going Rural Health operates.

[Regional GRH - UDRH map](#)

Student Support Scheme policy details:

#### 1. **Financial Assistance: Bursary & Subsidised Accommodation**

Eligible students can receive **either** a bursary or subsidised accommodation (not both).

**Bursary:** The bursary payment increases with length of placement, size of town, and distance from metropolitan Melbourne, and is capped at \$2,500 per placement. Amounts allocated are based on the Modified Monash Model (MMM) of the placement location. Eligible locations are MMM2-5. MMM1 includes metropolitan Melbourne and Geelong, and placements in these areas are not eligible for funding. See this locator for MMM details (using 2019 MMM): [Health Workforce Locator - MMM](#)

OR

**Subsidised accommodation** at University of Melbourne owned housing, for \$50-100 per week (subject to availability, and at specific locations only) can be offered. If a student accepts accommodation in an MMM location different to the MMM of the placement site, the MMM of the accommodation site will apply.

University of Melbourne accommodation information: [GRH - Student Accommodation Information](#)

The amounts allocated will be decided on a case by case basis and will be at the discretion of Going Rural Health.

#### **\*Virtual or online placements**

For those students completing an online or virtual placement, on the days where students are not required to be physically present no bursary will be applied. Payment of funds will not apply for online or virtual placement days. Proof of attendance will be required with the supply to GRH of a proof of placement form signed by the placement supervisor or education provider clinical placement coordinator.

#### 2. **Application Process**

All applicants will automatically be considered for a Bursary.

Upon review of an application, the applicant will be advised if their application has been accepted or declined within 15 working days of receipt of the application (excluding public holidays). Where a student is accepted for a bursary, the bursary is guaranteed **as long as the successful student provides all required documentation and post placement requirements** as detailed in Section 6.

### 3. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for the Going Rural Health Bursary or Accommodation Support applicants must:

- a. Be enrolled in a Nationally recognised nursing, allied health or other health science undergraduate or postgraduate degree with a recognised Australian education provider which requires the applicant to complete a compulsory placement.
- b. Be an Australian or New Zealand resident or have refugee status (evidence to be provided).
- c. For RN and Allied Health students, placement must be a minimum of 2 weeks full time (no less than 4 days per week). NOTE: Enrolled nursing students or Allied Health assistants must complete a placement of minimum **4 weeks** or more full time (no less than 4 days per week).
- d. Complete a placement in specified locations/towns in Victoria see map)
- e. Register all details with the Going Rural Health team either prior to, during or within 30 days of completion of your placement via the [Rural Living Portal](#)
- f. Successfully complete placement requirement and length.
- g. Submit Proof of Placement form/s - [Proof of Placement Form](#) within 30 days of completion of your placement.
- h. Have not received any other scholarship or financial assistance to complete the placement in which the student is applying for.
- i. Students must meet a travel requirement of at least a minimum of 50km one way from their enrolled address (i.e. where students live during semester) to the location of their placement.

### 4. Selection of Applications

To be considered, all applications need to meet all eligibility criteria.

Processing and review of applications will be completed by the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH), Going Rural Health team.

In the event that more applications are received than there are bursaries available, the UDRH may consult with the applicants' education provider to determine the most suitable candidates.

### 5. Going Rural Health Bursary Support package.

#### a. Financial – Student Obligations:

- i. Payment will occur at the successful completion of the placement upon receipt of a 'Proof of Successful Completion of Placement' [Proof of Placement Form \(final\)](#) signed by your Placement supervisor
- ii. Students are asked to complete the Student Placement Evaluation Survey as provided by the UDRH: [Student placement survey](#)

#### b. Placement Support:

- i. Access to Cultural Awareness in Aboriginal Health training [GRH Registration](#)
- ii. Access to further online or face to face learning, mentoring, peer assisted learning and student mental health support - [GRH Online Learning Centre](#), [Health and Wellbeing Service](#)

### 6. Accommodation support

#### a. Domestic students

- i. At the completion of placement, a 'Proof of Successful Completion of Placement' [Proof of Placement Form \(final\)](#) signed by your Placement supervisor must be submitted to Going Rural Health.
- ii. If this form is not submitted, the full amount of the accommodation cost may be charged to the applicant.

#### b. International students

- i. International students can stay in University of Melbourne-owned or managed

accommodation, but the full rate applies.

#### 7. Duration of the Bursary and Placement Support Program

- a. The program support is for the duration of the clinical placement period.
- b. The bursary will be terminated in the event of any of the following:
  - i. Student ceases to be enrolled, withdraws from or defers their course.
  - ii. The student does not successfully complete the placement requirements.
  - iii. The clinical placement ceases.
  - iv. The student failing to submit the required paperwork to the UDRH as requested, including documentation for proof of domestic status and proof of enrolment, Proof of Placement documents, and required financial institution details for payment.
  - v. The student does not submit required documentation **within 30 days** of the completion of their placement.