



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

Department of  
Rural Health

# GOING RURAL HEALTH STUDENT SUPPORT SCHEME POLICY 2023

The Going Rural Health Student Support Scheme 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

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

**Bursary:** The bursary payment is a set amount per week and is capped at \$1,500 per placement.

Eligible locations are [MMM2-5](#) within our footprint\*.

[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](#).

**Subsidised accommodation:** Within University of Melbourne owned housing, \$75 per week (subject to availability) can be offered.

**Ballarat Placements:** If a student lives in Melbourne (MMM1) and travels to Ballarat, completing a 2-week placement, a reduced bursary can be offered to the cap of \$200, if accommodation is not available. For placements longer than 2 weeks, the below eligibility criteria will apply.

## [University of Melbourne accommodation information](#)

If the location of placement has University of Melbourne student accommodation, this will be the offer provided to the student. If the student declines the use of UoM accommodation, a reduced bursary can be offered to the cap of \$600.

Should there be accommodation within the placement location but no rooms available, the student can be offered a bursary if eligible to the cap of \$1,500.

## Virtual or online placements (Hybrid Placements)

Support will not be offered for virtual or online placements and therefore, these days will also not be supported within a hybrid placement model. Proof of onsite attendance will need to be recorded on the completed proof of placement form.

## Application Process

Applications to be lodged through the [Rural Living Portal](#)

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 or subsidised accommodation, the support is guaranteed as long as the successful student provides all required documentation and meets all placement requirements as detailed below.

If your application is successful, we will email you a letter of offer for either accommodation or bursary.

The offer will outline:

- The support offered
- Instructions on accepting the offer and supporting documentation required to meet eligibility
- We require all supporting documentation to enable payment or subsidised accommodation.

\*Placements within Albury are NSW and therefore cannot be supported unless completed at Albury Wodonga Health.

## Eligibility Criteria

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

- ❑ 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.
- ❑ Be an Australian or New Zealand resident or have refugee status (evidence to be provided).
- ❑ Placements must be a minimum of 2 weeks full time (and no less than 4 days per week)
- ❑ Complete a placement in specified locations/towns in Victoria ([See GRH Footprint](#))
- ❑ Successfully complete the required placement length/days and successfully pass placement.
- ❑ Submit an application for placement support to the Going Rural Health team, either prior to or during the completion of your placement via the [Rural Living Portal](#). Applications submitted after completion of placement will not be eligible.  
  
Have not received any other scholarship or financial assistance to complete the placement in which the student is applying for.
- ❑ Submit [Proof of Placement Form](#) within **10 business days** of completion of your placement.

## Going Rural Health Bursary Support package

### Financial – Student Obligations:

1. Payment will occur at the successful completion of the placement and upon receipt of a [Proof of Placement Form](#) signed by your Placement supervisor
2. Non-University of Melbourne students will be required to complete an online form to provide their financial institution details. Failure to complete this after 30 days will result in termination of support.

### Placement Support:

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

## Accommodation Support

### Domestic Students

1. At the completion of the placement a [Proof of Placement Form](#) signed by your Placement supervisor must be submitted to Going Rural Health.

2. If this form is not submitted within **10 Business days**, the FULL amount of the accommodation cost (\$200 per week) will be charged to the applicant.

### International students

1. Owned or managed accommodation; \$200 per week will apply.

## Duration of the Placement Support Program

1. The program support is for the duration of the clinical placement period.
2. Students may apply for any placement but will only receive one form of support, per placement.
3. The financial support will be terminated in the event of any of the following:
  - Student ceases to be enrolled, withdraws from or defers their course.
  - The student does not successfully complete the required criteria placement length.
  - The student does not pass their placement successfully.
  - The clinical placement ceases.
  - The student failing to submit the required paperwork to GRH as requested, including documentation for proof of domestic status, proof of enrolment, Proof of Placement documents, and required financial institution details for payment.
  - The student does not submit required documentation within **10 Business days** of the completion of their placement.

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

## Dispute & Complaints Mechanism

In applying, you agree that the [University of Melbourne's Student Complaints and Grievances Policy](#) will apply to any complaint regarding the Going Rural Health Student Support Scheme (GRH SSS).

Unsuccessful applicants who wish to appeal the outcome of their application should initially discuss their situation with the Going Rural Health Manager, to determine if they may be eligible to access funding and/or support from other sources to meet their upskilling or professional development needs. Please email [going-ruralhealth@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:going-ruralhealth@unimelb.edu.au)

For any further information please email the Student Placement team: [going-ruralhealth@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:going-ruralhealth@unimelb.edu.au)

We encourage you to complete our [student placement evaluation survey](#).

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Australian Government  
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