

UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF RURAL HEALTH MASTERS OF PSYCHOLOGY – RURAL PLACEMENT BURSARY POLICY 2022

1. Overview

The Masters of Psychology – Rural Placement Bursary was established in 2016 to assist with costs incurred by students undertaking clinical placements in rural areas.

2. Bursary Package

The bursary comprises financial assistance paid to the student in two instalments – mid and end of placement.

For 2022 the bursary amount is \$75 per placement day, up to a maximum of \$4500 for eligible students.

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

3. Eligibility Criteria

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

- a. Be enrolled in a Masters of Psychology program with a recognised Australian University which requires the applicant to complete a compulsory placement.
- b. Be an Australian/New Zealand citizen or permanent resident of Australia or have refugee status.
- c. Maintain satisfactory progress throughout the clinical placement as well as through the Masters of Psychology program.
- d. Complete a minimum 40-day rural clinical placement (part-time or full-time).
- e. Meet a travel requirement of at least a minimum of 50km one way from their home to the location of their clinical placement
- f. Have not received any other scholarship or financial assistance to complete the clinical placement in which the student is applying for.

In addition:

- g. Students may be asked to complete a written evaluation and complete an interview at the end of their placement.
- h. Students are required to find their own accommodation. **The University of Melbourne takes no responsibility for the quality of accommodation used by the student.** Subsidised accommodation may be available at University of Melbourne managed properties in some locations. This will be reviewed when processing applications.

4. Application Process

Applications should be submitted through the [Rural Living Portal](#). All applicants will be considered against the eligibility criteria for a Bursary subject to availability of funds.

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 in Section 6.

5. Selection of Applications

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

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

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

6. Value and Benefit of the Masters of Psychology – Clinical Placement Bursary and Placement Support package.

a. Financial:

Payment will occur at 2 points of the clinical placement:

- Half will be paid at the mid-point of the clinical placement time frame, upon receipt of a signed 'Proof of Placement – Mid Placement' document signed by the Clinical Supervisor from where the clinical placement is being completed.
- Half will be paid after:
 - The successful completion of the clinical placement.
 - Upon receipt of a 'Proof of Successful Completion of Placement' document as signed by your placement Clinical Supervisor
 - Completion of the Student Placement Evaluation Survey as provided by the UDRH.
 - Student's written evaluation has been received by the UDRH, if requested.
 - The post placement interview has been completed, if requested.

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:
 - Student ceases to be enrolled, withdraws from or defers their course.
 - 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.

8. 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.

For further information please email the Student Placement team:
going-ruralhealth@unimelb.edu.au