



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Department of
Rural Health

GOING RURAL HEALTH STUDENT SUPPORT SCHEME INFORMATION SHEET 2026

This Information Sheet is intended as guidance only and does not replace reviewing the agreement in place between the Commonwealth and the University of Melbourne in relation to the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) program or the University's obligations under such agreement, which supports the Going Rural Health Student Support Scheme.

For any questions, please contact:
going-ruralhealth@unimelb.edu.au

The Going Rural Health Student Support Scheme has been developed through Federal Government funding, to assist students with costs associated with accommodation, travel and other financial support when completing a placement within the Going Rural Health footprint, which includes rural settings 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 – Our Rural Footprint map](#)

Eligible students can receive either a Rural Placement Support Payment (RPSP) or subsidised accommodation (not both).

Students are eligible for support within the Going Rural Health footprint (locations are MMM2-7).

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](#).

The types of support that are available include:

Rural Placement Support Payment: RPSP scheme has been developed to support eligible nursing and allied health students to undertake a clinical placement in our rural footprint. The payment is a set amount per week of placement and is calculated on the rurality (MMM) of your placement location. Any such payment is provided to students at the discretion of the University and is not recompense or reward for services rendered to either the University or rural placement provider. The basis for providing a payment is to ensure students can access a rural student placement, notwithstanding their personal circumstances. Payments relating to placements are taxable regardless of a student's enrolment load. Students receiving Centrelink benefits should seek advice on how their benefits may be affected by a RPSP.

For more information, please see: [Financial Support | Going Rural Health](#)

Subsidised accommodation: The Department of Rural Health at the University of Melbourne has a number of student accommodation sites within our rural footprint. The accommodation is available to both eligible undergraduate and post graduate health professional students from any recognised Australian education provider. This accommodation is within the University of Melbourne's owned housing. Housing is subject to availability.

Cost:

Eligible students will be charged as follows:

Ballarat, Creswick, Wangaratta, Shepparton and Echuca accommodation - A fee of \$50 per week.

All other accommodation - A fee of \$50 per week for the first two weeks. The following weeks for the duration of your placement are at no charge.

Students who do not meet our support criteria (including international students) may be accommodated, subject to availability, and will incur a fee of \$200 per week. Priority will be given to students who meet our criteria.

For more information, please see: [University of Melbourne's, Department of Rural Health accommodation information](#)

Application Process

Applications are 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 from submission of the application (excluding public holidays).

The offer will outline:

- The support offered
- Instructions on accepting the offer and supporting documentation required

*Placements within Albury are located in NSW, outside the Going Rural Health footprint, and therefore cannot be supported unless completed at Albury Wodonga Health.

In the event that [funding for the Going Rural Health Student Support Scheme](#) **is fully allocated or nearing exhaustion**, applications may still be received; however, they will be **reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis, subject to the availability of remaining funds.**

In this event, the following applications will be prioritised:

- Placements in MMM4 and MMM5 locations
- Placement duration of 4 weeks or more
- Students travelling longer distances to their rural clinical placement from their permanent residence

Going Rural Health reserves the right to close applications at any point within the calendar year due to funding being exhausted, and will notify you by our website [\[goingruralhealth.com\]](#) or when you submit an application via the portal [\[Rural Living Portal\]](#)

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Rural Placement Support Payment or subsidised accommodation, applicants must:

- Be an Australian citizen, New Zealand citizen, permanent resident of Australia (including holder of an Australian permanent visa) or have refugee status (evidence must be provided)
- Be undertaking a placement that has been applied for, organised and confirmed by the relevant registered Australian university (evidence must be provided)
- Be undertaking a placement that is a minimum of 2 weeks full time (and no less than 4 or more days per week)
- Be completing a placement within the Going Rural Health footprint ([See GRH Footprint](#))
- Submit an application before, during, or up to 30 days after the completion date of the placement. Applications submitted more than 30 days after the placement completion date will not be accepted
- At the completion of placement, finalise their application through the application portal (accessible here: [\[Rural Living Portal\]](#)) to confirm that they have completed their placement. Students do this by providing relevant documentation showing placement completion. This must be completed within 30 days of the placement completion date. Failure to do so will result in students' application being withdrawn, and support will be revoked. (Students who have been accepted for subsidised accommodation will be invoiced for the full rate at \$200 per week of stay, if they fail to comply) +
- Provide further documentation to support their initial application if requested, or are followed up to provide correct documentation. Our team will follow up students for 30 days from the initial request for further documentation date. If no response is received within this timeframe, the application will be considered withdrawn

Rural Placement Support Payment

Payment of the Rural Placement Support Payment will be made:

- At the completion of the placement; and
- Upon receipt of accepted Proof of Placement completion documentation through the students relevant application on the [Rural Living Portal](#).

If the above requirements are not completed within 30 days of the student finishing their placement, it will result in the withdrawal of the application.

Additional placement support provided at no charge:

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

Subsidised Accommodation Support

Domestic Students

Once the placement is completed, the student will be required to submit Proof of Placement completion documentation through the student's relevant application on the rural living portal (portal accessible here: [[Rural Living Portal](#)])

If this form is not submitted within 30 days of the placement completion date, the full amount of the accommodation cost (\$200 per week) will be charged to the applicant.

Duration of the support

Students can apply for support (RPSP and subsidised accommodation) in respect of multiple placements and will be supported if they meet the eligibility criteria.

RPSP financial support will not be awarded or applications will not be accepted in the event of any of the following:

- The student does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- The student ceases to be enrolled, withdraws from or defers their course.
- The student does not successfully complete the required placement length.
- The clinical placement ceases.
- The student fails to submit the required paperwork to Going Rural Health as requested and within the time requested, including (but not limited to) documentation for proof of domestic status, proof of enrolment, proof of placement documents and required financial institution details for payment.
- The student does not apply for the support within 30 days of the completion of their placement.
- The student does not submit the required documentation as part of the application or when requested by Going Rural Health within 30 days of the initial follow up request.

The Going Rural Health team reserves the right to not award support even if a student believes they meet all the eligibility criteria. Reasons will be provided by the Going Rural Health team as to why support was not awarded.

Dispute & Complaints Mechanism

The [University of Melbourne Student Complaints and Grievances Policy](#) applies to any complaint regarding the Going Rural Health Student Support Scheme.

Unsuccessful applicants who wish to appeal the outcome of their application should initially discuss their complaint with the Going Rural Health Manager [03 5823 3142, going-ruralhealth@unimelb.edu.au], to determine if support can be provided and/or whether they may be eligible to access funding and/or support from other sources.

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

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

Contact Information

Phone: 03 5823 3142

Email: going-ruralhealth@unimelb.edu.au

Website: goingruralhealth.com