Guidelines for International Students seeking to undertake a Rural Placement in their Country of Origin

International students are encouraged to return to their country of origin in order to satisfy the requirements for the placement component of the Medicine in Society course. It will be the responsibility of the student to plan and negotiate the proposed placement opportunity. This will include the student arranging and funding all their own accommodation, travel and other support for the placement.

What is an appropriate Rural Placement?
The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine1 defines Rural and Remote Medicine in the following way:

**Rural and Remote Medicine** operates on a unique paradigm of primary, secondary and tertiary medical care, with increased responsibility (for the practitioner) owing to the relative professional isolation, geographic isolation, limited resources and special cultural and sociological factors.

The **Rural or Remote Medical Practitioner** requires a broad understanding of diagnosis, treatment and management from the perspective of a number of medical and surgical disciplines and applies these skills along a continuum of care from primary presentation to secondary and sometimes tertiary care. Practitioners are able to adapt and build their skills in response to the health needs of a diverse range of rural and remote community settings and the degree of isolation from other health services and resources.

In the context of this definition, the School of Medicine has determined that the placement requirements for Medicine in Society – Stream B International Rural Medicine may be satisfied under the supervision of an experienced practitioner (Preceptor) in a clinical environment located in a rural or regional (Provincial) community with a maximum population of 100,000. The clinical environment will be staffed by generalist practitioners capable of working with a high degree of professional independence across the primary and secondary health care continuum utilising a broad range of procedural and cognitive skills with a particular focus on rural and remote medicine.

**Procedures**

1. The Head of Discipline (Rural and Remote Medicine) must approve the proposed Preceptor and Placement Site. In order that such approval might be secured, students must complete and submit the requisite application form (with attachments) to the Rural Placement Office at least twelve (12) weeks prior to the commencement of the placement.

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proposed rural placement. A completed application form will contain the following information:

a. Name and contact details for the proposed preceptor

b. Written statement from the proposed preceptor confirming their status as a Rural and Remote Medical Practitioner and their willingness to supervise and support the student during the placement, including the conduct of requisite assessment tasks

c. Brief profile for the healthcare facility(ies) where training will be undertaken

d. Brief description of the community in which the placement will be undertaken

2. Students will be notified of the outcome of their application within ten (10) working days of the application being received by the Rural Placement Office.

3. Students will be required to attend all sessions in the Orientation program (Week 1) held at either Rockhampton or Toowoomba

4. Students will be exempted from attending the Debriefing Week (Week 8) on the condition they are able to satisfy all the requirements typically undertaken/finalised during that Week. It is mandatory that students attend the Trauma Management Scenarios in the rotation prior to undertaking the Medicine in Society rotation.

5. The Head of Discipline (Rural and Remote Medicine) must be satisfied that the student can sit the written exam at an appropriate time (typically during Week 8) under University approved examination conditions at the overseas placement site.

   a. The student will be responsible for arranging an invigilator and examination venue, and shall incur any and all costs associated with such arrangements.

   b. The student will inform the Rural Placement Office by the commencement of Orientation Week (Week 1) of the name, position and contact details (including a secure email address) for the proposed invigilator.

NOTE: In order for you to be properly prepared for the written examination, students should take every opportunity to discuss cases with their Preceptor and peers and students should ensure that course material provided in Orientation and Debriefing Weeks (available through Blackboard) is reviewed.

6. Following confirmation of the Head of Discipline’s approval of the proposed placement (including endorsement of the Preceptor and arrangements for the conduct of the written examination), the Rural Placement Office will formalise arrangements with the Preceptor and/or host agency and will address the School of Medicine’s expectations and requirements, including insurance and indemnity issues.