

Bonded Medical Places Scheme Information Booklet

Contents

What is the Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme?	2
Student obligations	4
University medical schools.....	6
Frequently asked questions	7
The Rural, Remote and Metropolitan (RRMA) classification	12
Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS) Scheme.....	13
Other scholarships and information for Australian medical students	14
Contact details for the Bonded Medical Places Scheme.....	15

Disclaimer

This information is published as a guide only. It by no means overrules or diminishes what is stated in individual contracts with the Commonwealth of Australia.

What is the Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme?

The BMP Scheme offers students a greater chance of entry into medical school by providing funding to universities for more than 600 additional commencing Commonwealth supported medical school places each year. These extra places are intended to provide more doctors for areas experiencing doctor shortages.

The number of places available under the Scheme is set at 25 percent of all students commencing studies in Commonwealth supported medical places each year.

If you accept a BMP Scheme place, you will sign a formal Deed of Agreement with the Australian Government and agree to work in a District of Workforce Shortage of your choice for a period of time equal to the length of your medical degree upon completion of your medical studies.

Districts of Workforce Shortage are located in either an outer metropolitan area of a capital city, or in regional, rural or remote Australia.

If you breach the Agreement there will be financial implications in the form of cost recovery back to the Australian Government for the cost of funding your medical studies, on a pro-rata basis.

What will it mean for me?

All Australian medical schools providing publicly funded medical degrees enrol a number of BMP Scheme students each year. Medicine is a highly competitive field of study and as a BMP Scheme student you are selected through the same competitive process as non-BMP Scheme students.

On completion of your degree you will choose which specialty you will pursue. Please note, there is no scholarship attached to the BMP Scheme and you will have to pay your student contribution (HECS-HELP).

BMP Scheme students only differ from other medical students in that you agree to

work in a District of Workforce Shortage for a period of time equal to the length of your degree.

Application process

The application and selection process for the BMP Scheme is the responsibility of the universities and takes place after an application to study medicine has been lodged.

Australian universities use a number of selection processes when offering medical places to Australian students. These may include:

- the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT);
- the Graduate Australian Medical Schools Assessment Test (GAMSAT);
- interviews;
- entrance scores;
- academic merit based on completion of previous tertiary course/s; or
- a combination of the above.

It is important that you indicate your willingness to accept a place under the BMP Scheme when asked, as this will increase your chance of being offered a place in medicine.

BMP Scheme applicants must meet the same entrance requirements as any other students applying for a medical place.

If you wish to seek further information on the application processes used by one or more universities, contact the medical schools directly as listed on page 6.

Eligibility

Applications are open to Australian citizens and permanent residents of Australia. If you are a New Zealand citizen or both your parents were born overseas, you will be required to demonstrate Australian citizenship or be in possession of a permanent resident visa

Bonded Medical Places Scheme Information Booklet

at the time of application to be eligible for the BMP Scheme.

This is because every person born in Australia on or after 26 January 1949 and before 20 August 1986, is an Australian citizen by birth (with the exception of certain children born to diplomats and certain other excluded people).

Following amendments to the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948*, a person born in Australia on or after 20 August 1986 is an Australian citizen by birth only if at least one of the parents was an Australian citizen or permanent resident at the time of the person's birth. (www.immi.gov.au)

Further support for BMP Participants

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) has been engaged by the Department to provide support to BMP Scheme participants.

The support program funds students to attend health conferences and provides access to online medical education resources, newsletters and communication with peers and mentors.

To enable students to participate in the support program, the students' contact details will be provided to ACRRM after

they sign the BMP Scheme Deed of Agreement.

Further information regarding the BMP Support Program can be obtained through the website:

www.acrrm.org.au/main.asp?NodeID=29374
or by contacting ACRRM on freecall 1800 223 226, or by email: bmpsupport@acrrm.org.au.

What is a District of Workforce Shortage?

Districts of Workforce Shortage (DWS) are located in outer metropolitan areas in capital cities, as well as regional, rural and remote areas that are experiencing doctor shortages. Districts of Workforce Shortage are subject to change, so you should check the current status of your preferred District of Workforce Shortage location. A searchable database on the BMP Scheme website: www.health.gov.au/bmpscheme is provided for this purpose. The database is updated quarterly.

What is RRMA?

RRMA is Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) Classification 1991 Census Edition, published in November 1994. More information about the RRMA classification can be found on page 12.

What is the difference between the BMP Scheme and the Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship (MRBS) Scheme?

The BMP Scheme places are additional Commonwealth Supported Places at medical schools. Acceptance of a BMP Scheme place includes a return of service obligation to work in a District of Workforce Shortage for a period of time equal to the length of the medical degree. Districts of Workforce Shortage can be in outer metropolitan, regional, rural or remote areas. However, up to half the return of service obligation can be met while completing prevocational training and vocational training.

The MRB Scholarships are also linked to additional Commonwealth Supported Places at medical schools. The MRB Scholarship provides over \$23,000 each year to medical students. Acceptance of the MRB Scholarship requires a commitment to work for six continuous years in a rural or remote area of Australia. MRBS Scheme doctors start their six year commitment to work in rural Australia after completing their vocational training to become a specialist, including general practice.

Student obligations

Deed of Agreement

If you decide to take up an offer of a BMP Scheme place, you will need to enter into a legal Deed of Agreement with the Australian Government that specifies your rights and obligations on the one hand and the Australian Government's on the other.

Joining the BMP Scheme is a legal commitment and it is strongly advised that you seek legal advice to ensure that you understand the terms and conditions of the Deed of Agreement you will be signing.

The Deed of Agreement requires you to:

- Complete your medical studies **and** gain Fellowship, either as a general practitioner or a specialist within 16 years of commencing your medical studies, excluding any deferrals.
- Work for a period of time equal to the length of your medical degree in a District of Workforce Shortage of **your choice**, for your specialty.

Return of Service obligation

As a BMP Scheme doctor you can choose where you work, and for whom you work, when undertaking the return of service obligation. The only requirement is that you work in an area designated as a District of Workforce Shortage for your specialty, including general practice.

You can undertake up to half your return of service during prevocational training and vocational training. From your second year of prevocational training, the eligible areas to count towards your return of service are RRMA 1 (outer metropolitan areas only) to RRMA 7.

For vocational training to count towards your return of service it needs to be completed in a District of Workforce Shortage as defined in the Deed of Agreement. Work in RRMA 1 is permitted if there is a shortage of a specialty. Each period of vocational training must not be

shorter than 3 months, to be counted towards the return of service.

It is possible to seek permission to defer the return of service period in special circumstances. BMP Scheme participants are entitled to take breaks in their study and during the return of service period for parenthood.

Breach of Deed of Agreement

If you fail to fulfil your obligations in your Deed of Agreement with the Australian Government, you will be in breach of your Agreement.

A BMP Scheme participant will be considered to be in breach of the Deed of Agreement if, for example, they:

- withdraw or are excluded from the medical course after starting the second year of study;
- withdraw or are excluded from the medical course and consequently the Scheme while repeating the first year of the medical course;
- fail to become registered as a medical practitioner (following the intern year) within ten years of commencing the course (unless a deferral for parenting or an extension of time has been approved);
- fail to obtain Fellowship of a medical college within 16 years of starting the medical course (unless a deferral for parenting or an extension of time has been approved)
- do not complete their obligation to work in a District of Workforce Shortage for a period of time equal to the length of their degree.

If this occurs, you will be required to repay what it has cost the Australian Government to provide your place at university, on a pro-rata basis.

For example, if you have worked half of your return of service period in a District of Workforce Shortage before breaching the Deed of Agreement, you must repay half of what it has

cost the Australian Government to provide your place at university.

Please Note: This information summarises the breach conditions in the Deed of Agreement. It does not overrule or diminish what is stated in individual Deeds of Agreement with the Australian Government.

Completing medical training

Once you obtain your medical degree, you will commence training to become a fully qualified doctor, and attain your Fellowship.

Prevocational training

After graduating from an Australian Medical Council (AMC) accredited medical school, Australian medical graduates must undertake a year of supervised training. This year is known as an intern year or PGY1, and must be completed before you can gain general registration as a medical practitioner.

Once you complete your intern or PGY1 year, and gain general medical registration, you enter PGY2. The PGY2 is a year of structured rotations through supervised training placements, mostly in public hospitals. There is a state based annual application and allocation process.

Vocational training

Most junior doctors enter vocational training programs after two years of prevocational work. The term 'vocational training' is used to indicate medical training that is being undertaken in a training program in pursuit of a specific career option either in general practice, or specialist practice such as radiology or obstetrics. Most vocational training programs are between three to six years in duration. Information about vocational training may be found on the Australian Medical Council's website at: www.amc.org.au/images/SpecialistCollegeReports/SpecialistCollegeDetails.pdf

Tenure

You can apply to stay in some locations from the time you commence your vocational training. Eligible locations are RRMA 3-7 areas for general practitioners and RRMA 2-7 areas for specialists.

If you undertake your vocational training in an eligible location and are granted tenure, you can remain in the same location to complete your return of service, even if that location ceases to be a District of Workforce Shortage.

If you have not applied for and been granted tenure, you may have to move to an eligible District of Workforce Shortage to complete your return of service after attaining fellowship.

University Medical Schools

Who do I contact at the university to find further information about the application and selection process of the BMP Scheme?

This information is published as a Guide only

The University of Adelaide *	admissions.health@adelaide.edu.au	(08) 8303 4859
The Australian National University **	medadmissions@anu.edu.au	(02) 6125 1304
Deakin University**	hmnbs-support@deakin.edu.au	(03) 9251 7777
Flinders University **	tina.comely@flinders.edu.au	(08) 8201 2421
Griffith University **	medicine@griffith.edu.au	(07) 5678 0305
James Cook University*	medicine@jcu.edu.au	(07) 4781 6232
The University of Melbourne **	medicine-info@unimelb.edu.au	(03) 8344 5890
Monash University * Clayton Campus	medicineadmissions@med.monash.edu.au	(03) 9905 2048
Monash University ** Gippsland Campus	GippslandMed@med.monash.edu.au	(03) 5122 6445
The University of Newcastle *	jmp@newcastle.edu.au	(02) 4921 5680
University of New England *	jmp@newcastle.edu.au	(02) 6773 3877
The University of Notre Dame Fremantle Campus**	medicine@nd.edu.au	(08) 9433 0532
The University of Notre Dame Sydney Campus **	sydney@nd.edu.au	(02) 8204 4450
The University of New South Wales *	justine@unsw.edu.au	(02) 9385 3250
The University of Queensland **	admissions@som.uq.edu.au	(07) 3365 5278
The University of Sydney **	admissions@med.usyd.edu.au	(02) 9351 3132
University of Tasmania *	course.info@admin.edu.au	1800 363 864
The University of Western Australia ***	medinfo@meddent.uwa.edu.au	(08) 9346 7507
University of Western Sydney *	medstudent@uws.edu.au	1800 897 669
University of Wollongong **	gsm_admissions@uow.edu.au	(02) 4221 5925

* Undergraduate Course - 5 or 6 years of study, ** Graduate Course - 4 or 4.5 years of study

*** Both a Graduate and Undergraduate course is offered.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for the BMP Scheme?

The application and selection process for the BMP Scheme is the responsibility of the universities and takes place after an application to study medicine has been lodged.

It is important that you indicate your willingness to accept a place under the BMP Scheme when asked, as this will increase your chance of being offered a place in medicine.

BMP Scheme applicants must meet the same entrance requirements as any other students applying for a medical place.

If you wish to seek further information on the application processes used by one or more universities, contact the medical schools directly as listed on page 6.

Do I have to sign a Deed of Agreement?

Yes. To accept the offer of the BMP you will need to sign a legal Deed of Agreement that will be sent to you by the Department of Health and Ageing. You will need to sign the Deed of Agreement to ensure your enrolment and return it to the Department of Health and Ageing by the due date, or the offer may lapse.

Do I have to come from a rural or remote area to be eligible for the BMP Scheme?

No. The BMP Scheme is open to all first year medical students who are Australian citizens or permanent residents.

I am a citizen of New Zealand. Am I eligible for the BMP Scheme?

If you are a New Zealand citizen, you will be required to provide evidence that you are an Australian permanent resident to be eligible for the BMP Scheme. You are not a permanent resident if you do not have a visa stamp stating "Permanent Resident" in your passport.

What is the time commitment of the BMP Scheme?

The time it takes to complete your commitment to the BMP Scheme will depend on the time it takes to complete your medical degree, prevocational training and vocational training.

A graduate entry student could complete their training in 9 to 12 years and an undergraduate entry student could complete their training in 11 to 14 years.

In order to become a doctor who can participate in the Medicare system, you will have to complete prevocational and vocational training regardless of whether or not you participate in the BMP Scheme.

The return of service obligation commences after you have become a fellow of a recognised Australian medical college. However, you can complete up to half of your return of service obligation during your prevocational and vocational training. Therefore the entire period of time from commencement of studies to completion of your return of service could be between 11 years and 20 years, without deferrals or time out for parenting.

If I receive an offer of a BMP Scheme place from a university, am I able to use it in my application to other medical schools throughout Australia?

No. The BMP is allocated to, and linked to, the university making the offer of a place at medical school. This means that if you are successful in receiving an offer of a BMP Scheme place from a university, it is only valid for that specific university.

Can I defer the start of my medical degree?

Universities may allow you to defer starting your study after you have been offered a place under the BMP Scheme. The Australian Government would not enter into a Deed of Agreement with you in this case. It remains at the university's discretion as to whether a BMP Scheme place would be offered to you when you commence your study in the following year.

Can I defer while studying for my medical degree?

Yes, providing your university agrees.

Can I transfer from my BMP Scheme place to a standard entry Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) previously known as a HECS place?

Your place at university is tied to the BMP Scheme. Withdrawal from the Scheme will mean that you forfeit your medical school place and you may not be able to continue in the medical course. However, if the university agrees, you may change to a CSP before the Census date that your university finalises places in the year that you start your course.

If I fail one year of my studies, can I repeat?

Yes, if the university gives approval for you to repeat.

Are graduates and undergraduates required to commit to the same return of service obligation?

No, your return of service obligation requires you to work for a period of time equivalent to the length of your medical degree.

Can I take time out for parenting?

Yes. Within the Deed of Agreement there is provision for you to defer your obligation to the Australian Government, for parenting.

This deferral period is available for a participant of either sex, for each event, including a birth or an adoption. Multiple births, eg twins, are counted as a single event for the purposes of a deferral period.

You will need to notify the Department in writing no later than 30 days after the commencement of the period of deferral, which must include the day on which the child was born or adopted, together with supporting evidence, such as the child's birth certificate. Deferrals may be granted for a period of up to one year, as specified in your Deed of Agreement. You will need to seek approval for longer leave periods for special

circumstances.

Can I choose where to work and will I be able to practise in more than one District of Workforce Shortage location during my return of service?

Yes, provided it is a District of Workforce Shortage, you choose where to work. You can fulfil your return of service by practising in one or more Districts of Workforce Shortage.

Is there flexibility in my working hours during the return of service?

Yes. You are required to work for not less than nine months of each full calendar year at an average of at least 20 hours per week, including not less than three months in any six month period. See the Deed of Agreement for further details, available on the BMP Scheme website at: www.health.gov.au/bmpscheme

Am I entitled to have annual leave/sick leave during the return of service period?

Yes, as with normal working conditions and arrangements agreed with your employer, providing you meet your obligations under the BMP Scheme Deed of Agreement.

Does the return of service need to be continuous?

Yes. You must commence the return of service within 12 months of attaining Fellowship (i.e. a recognised specialist or general practitioner qualification) or within 16 years of commencing your medical course. However, you can complete up to half of your return of service during your prevocational and vocational training in three month blocks.

It is possible to seek permission to defer your return of service period in special circumstances. You are, however, entitled to take breaks in your return of service for parenting. (See page 8).

Can BMP Scheme participants undertake vocational training overseas?

Yes, however, you must return to Australia and commence your return of service within 12 months of attaining Fellowship (i.e. a

recognised specialist or general practitioner qualification).

When making a decision about studying overseas you should consult with the Australian Medical Council (AMC) at www.amc.org.au to clarify the implications for medical registration in Australia.

You should also consult with the relevant Australian specialist medical college(s) www.amc.org.au/images/SpecialistCollegeReports/SpecialistCollegeDetails.pdf to find out whether they allow overseas placements within their Fellowship courses and what process would apply to recognising training you may undertake overseas.

If you choose to gain Fellowship qualifications overseas you would then have to seek assessment of your qualifications through the AMC and the relevant Australian medical college before being recognised as a specialist or general practitioner in Australia.

Although this procedure is administered by the AMC, the relevant specialist medical college undertakes assessment of each applicant's training and experience. The AMC website contains information about the recognition of overseas specialist qualifications in Australia (see web address above).

Can I specialise in an area of my choice?

Yes, however, you need to be aware that a few highly specialised sub-specialties may only have facilities in inner metropolitan areas. Therefore, you need to carefully consider your choice of specialty, having regard to your obligations under the Deed of Agreement.

To investigate the types of specialties that you can study at medical colleges, a list of contact details can be found at the following website:
www.amc.org.au/images/SpecialistCollegeReports/SpecialistCollegeDetails.pdf

What areas can I specialise in?

The list of currently recognised medical colleges that lead to a Fellowship is also shown in the BMP Scheme Deed of Agreement.

Why is the BMP Scheme only available to first year students?

The BMP Scheme is only available to first year medical students due to the link between the Scheme and the creation of additional medical school places.

Will I have to pay the HECS-HELP?

Yes. You will be responsible for your HECS-HELP debt. Further advice on your individual income and HELP repayments can be obtained from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations HELP enquiry line on freecall 1800 020 108 or by visiting their website at:
www.goingtouni.gov.au

Will I receive a scholarship with my BMP Scheme place?

No. There is no scholarship associated with the BMP Scheme. The BMP Scheme offers students a greater chance of entry into medical school by providing funding to universities for more than 600 additional Commonwealth supported medical school places each year. These extra places are specifically intended to provide more doctors for areas experiencing doctor shortages.

Can I apply for scholarships while in a BMP Scheme position?

Yes. Students who agree to take up a new medical school place through the BMP Scheme are able to apply for other Australian Government or State Government assistance schemes such as the Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS) Scheme. A list of some of the scholarships available to medical students can be found on pages 13-14. However, it is your responsibility to ensure that you will be able to meet your obligations under your Deed of Agreement if you accept a scholarship.

If I complete an honours year or a research year, will I have to work an extra year in a District of Workforce Shortage?

Yes. Your return of service is equal to the length of your degree, which includes any additional elective study. If you choose to complete honours or a research year that is not required as part of your medical degree, your return of service period will increase by the length of the additional study. Up to half of the increase can be offset through prevocational and vocational training.

Where can I work as a BMP Scheme participant?

As a doctor participating in the BMP Scheme you must work in a District of Workforce Shortage for a period of time equal to the length of your degree.

What is a District of Workforce Shortage?

Districts of Workforce Shortage (DWS) are located in outer metropolitan areas in capital cities, as well as regional, rural and remote areas that are experiencing doctor shortages.

Districts of Workforce Shortage are subject to change, so you should check the current status of your preferred District of Workforce Shortage location. A searchable database on the BMP Scheme website: www.health.gov.au/bmpscheme is provided for this purpose. The database is updated quarterly.

Aboriginal Medical Services

All Commonwealth funded Aboriginal Medical Services, as listed on the website below, are considered Districts of Workforce Shortage regardless of their location. <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/public.nsf/Content/Aboriginal+and+Torres+Strait+Islander+Health+Services-1lp>

After-hours-only medical services

All After-Hours-Only Medical Services are considered Districts of Workforce Shortage, regardless of their geographic location.

An After-Hours-Only Medical Service means medical services are only provided during the following periods:

Monday to Friday: 18:00 – 24:00 and 24:00 – 08:00
Saturday: 24 hour coverage
Sunday: 24 hour coverage
Public Holiday: 24 hour coverage

What is RRMA?

RRMA stands for the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) classification, 1991 Census Edition, published in November 1994. More information about the RRMA classification can be found on page 12.

What if I begin to work in a District of Workforce Shortage and it is subsequently reclassified and ceases to be a District of Workforce Shortage? Will I need to move areas?

No. You may be the reason why the area is no longer a District of Workforce Shortage. Under the BMP Scheme you can stay in the one location for the whole of your return of service or you can move. It is your choice.

If I don't complete my work in a District of Workforce Shortage will I still be able to practise as a doctor?

Yes, but you will be in breach of your Deed of Agreement and you may be required to repay the Australian Government's contribution to your medical education on a pro-rata basis.

What happens after I complete my return of service in a District of Workforce Shortage?

After completing your return of service in a District of Workforce Shortage, you will have no further obligations under the Deed of Agreement.

What happens if I only complete part of the return of service?

If you work for only a part of the return of service, you will be in breach of your Deed of Agreement. You may be required to repay the Australian Government's contribution to your medical education on a pro-rata basis. For example, if a doctor works for half their return of service in a District of Workforce Shortage before breaching the Deed of Agreement, the doctor would be required to repay half of the government's contribution towards their medical education.

Is there further support for BMP Scheme participants while studying?

Yes. The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) has been engaged by the Department to provide additional support through the BMP Support Program

The BMP Support Program provides participants with the opportunity to attend national health events/conferences and enables access to ACRRM's online medical education resources as well as communication with peers and mentors via a 'virtual community'.
www.acrrm.org.au/main.asp?NodeID=29374

The Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) classification

The Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) classification divides Australia's States and Territories into metropolitan, regional, rural and remote zones. RRMA is also utilised for a number of programs related to medical practice in Australia.

Metropolitan areas

- RRMA 1 Capital cities e.g. Melbourne, Vic; Sydney, NSW; Brisbane, Qld; Adelaide, SA; Perth, WA; Hobart, Tas; Canberra, ACT; Darwin NT (note all of Darwin is currently considered to be a District of Workforce Shortage).
- RRMA 2 Other metropolitan centre / urban population > 100 000 e.g.. Geelong, Vic; Queanbeyan, NSW; Newcastle, NSW; Townsville, Qld; Gold Coast, Qld.
-

Rural zone

- RRMA 3 Large rural centre / urban centre population 25 000 - 99 999
e.g. Shepparton, Vic; Lismore, NSW; Mackay, Qld; Launceston, Tas; Whyalla, SA.
- RRMA 4 Small rural centre / urban centre population 10 000 - 24 999
e.g. Armidale, NSW; Albany, WA; Caloundra, Qld; Devonport, Tas; Mount Gambier, SA; Mildura, Vic.
- RRMA 5 Other rural area / urban centre population < 10 000
e.g. Swan Hill, Vic; Batemans Bay, NSW; Ayr, Qld; St Helens, Tas; Busselton, WA; Port Vincent, SA.
-

Remote zone

- RRMA 6 Remote centre / urban centre population > 5000
e.g. Mt Isa, Qld; Alice Springs, NT; Kalgoorlie, WA.
- RRMA 7 Other remote centre / urban centre population < 5000
e.g. Kununurra, WA; Birdsville, Qld; Carrieton, SA; Strahan, Tas; Katherine, NT; Murrayville, Vic.
-

This information is provided as a guide only
Further information can be found at www.health.gov.au/bmpscheme

A scholarship that may interest you is the Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS) Scheme.

Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS) Scheme

RAMUS scholarships are targeted at medical students from a rural background who need financial support to assist with their accommodation, travel and living expenses while they are studying medicine.

Successful applicants receive a scholarship of \$10,000 a year during their medical studies subject to satisfactory progress through their course and continuing financial need.

RAMUS scholarships are open to Australian citizens or permanent residents who have lived in a rural area for a minimum of 5 consecutive or 8 cumulative years, commencing from the age of five years. Applicants are also required to join their university Rural Health Club, and participate in the Rural Doctor Mentor Scheme, for the duration of their scholarship.

The RAMUS Mentor Scheme provides support to scholarship holders during their studies. Students are assisted to find a mentor who is a practising rural doctor. Scholarship holders develop a learning plan with their mentor, have ongoing contact on at least a quarterly basis with their mentor and undertake appropriate rural activities to strengthen their links with rural Australia.

Scholarship holders are free to work wherever they wish after graduating and qualifying as a medical practitioner. However, the mentor support arrangements and the requirement to become a member of a Rural Health Club, encourage scholarship holders to pursue a career in rural medicine.

The Scheme is currently administered by the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

There are a limited number of new scholarships available each year and not all eligible students may be awarded a scholarship. Eligible applicants are assessed against selection criteria, as part of a competitive process, to identify their rural background and financial need.

Advertising for the RAMUS Scheme for 2009 will commence towards the end of 2008. Students may wish to register their interest in the Scheme and request an application form by calling the National Rural Health Alliance on 1800 460 440.

Further information is available at:
www.ruralhealth.org.au

Other scholarships and information for Australian medical students

A variety of other scholarships and funding arrangements may be available to students who are interested in a career in medicine. Some of these are listed below. You can visit relevant websites or contact university scholarship offices for further information.

Career exploration, information and a scholarship list

www.myfuture.edu.au

For scholarships, select the 'facts' button, then awards and funding or financial support. Search under both medical and medicine.

Other scholarship opportunities

The John Flynn Placement Program:
<http://www.acrrm.org.au/main.asp?NodeID=194>

Queensland Health Rural Scholarship Scheme:

www.health.qld.gov.au/orh/default.asp

Scholarships targeted at Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander health students:

www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publications.nsf/Content/health-oatsih-workforce-s1

Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarships
www.rcna.org.au/site/puggyscholar.php

Of further interest

Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship Scheme:
www.health.gov.au/mrbscholarships
(see page three for the difference between MRBS and BMP Schemes places at medical schools)

Information about going to university including, course information, costs, minimum entrance requirements, scholarship lists and more:

www.goingtouni.gov.au

National Rural Health students' network
www.nrhn.org

Australian Medical Students Association (AMSA):

www.amsa.org.au

Medicare Australia:

www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

Australian Medical Association (AMA):

www.ama.com.au

List of specialist colleges:

www.amc.org.au/images/SpecialistCollegeReports/SpecialistCollegeDetails.pdf

Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM):

www.acrrm.org.au

Rural Clinical Schools (RCS):

www.health.gov.au/clinicalschools

University Departments of Rural Health (UDRH):

www.health.gov.au/udrh

Contact details for the Bonded Medical Places Scheme

To make further enquiries please contact the
Department of Health and Ageing:

Website www.health.gov.au/bmpscheme

Email BMPScheme@health.gov.au

Phone (freecall) **1800 987 104**

Fax: **(02) 6289 8600**
(Attention BMP Scheme)

Mail: **Bonded Medical Places Scheme**
Department of Health and Ageing
MDP 149
GPO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601

Contact details for the BMP Support Program

Mail: **Australian College of Rural and Remote**
Medicine
GPO Box 2507
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Phone: **07)3105 8200**
Website: www.acrrm.org.au
Fax: **(07) 3105 8299**