

VICTORIAN RURAL MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP (VRMS)

2023 GUIDELINES

KEY DATES

Date	Activity
Monday 8 May 2023	Applications open
Friday 8 June 2023	Applications close
Monday 7 August 2023	Offers sent via email
Monday 21 August 2023	Last day to accept offers
August to December 2023	Payment of scholarships commence

The Victorian Rural Medical Scholarship (VRMS) supports career pathways to rural medical practice and assists rural and regional health services to attract, employ and retain medical graduates. The VRMS supports medical students with a commitment to working in rural and regional Victoria by providing financial assistance towards living and tertiary expenses in the final year of their medical degree and into their rural intern year.

The VRMS is administered by the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV) on behalf of the Department of Health (DH).

Scholarships valued at \$20,000 each are available to be awarded to final year medical students in Victoria. Scholarship recipients are required to commit to a two-year return of service in rural or regional Victoria (within three years from graduating from medical school).

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for a VRMS scholarship in 2023, you must:

1. review VRMS guidelines for 2023 and ensure that you meet all eligibility criteria.
2. complete the VRMS section of registration form when applying for the Intern Match administered by PMCV.

Applications via the PMCV Intern Match will be available from 9am, 8 May 2023 to 5pm, 8 June 2023.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a VRMS scholarship in 2023, applicants must:

- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen.
- be in the final year of studies and graduating in 2023.
- be currently studying full-time towards an accredited Australian primary medical qualification at a Victorian University
- be studying full-time towards an accredited Australian primary medical qualification at an interstate Australian university and have completed your Year 12 schooling in Victoria¹
- be in a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) or be a domestic full fee-paying student.
- not be in receipt of other scholarships, cadetships, or bursaries with a combined value of more than \$7,000 per year. Does NOT include Centrelink payments or paid employment.

¹ University of New South Wales -Albury Wodonga Clinical School graduates do not need to have completed Year 12 in VIC.

- opt-in to participate in the Victorian Rural Preferential Allocation (VRPA) as part of the Intern Match
- commit to working in rural and regional Victoria for two years post-graduation (within three years from graduating from medical school).

The Australian Department of Health’s [DoctorConnect locator](#) will indicate which Health Services are deemed rural based on their Modified Monash Model (MM) rating. MM2 – MM7 locations are deemed as rural. Barwon Health, Geelong is also considered as rural for the purpose of VRPA and the VRMS.

- preference only rural health services and/or Rural Generalist (RG1) intern training programs in your preference list. The RG1 program are listed below:

Table A – Rural Generalist Internships

Region	Parent hospital
Barwon South West Rural Generalist Intern Training Program	South West Healthcare (Warrnambool)
Grampians Rural Generalist Intern Training Program	East Grampians Health Service (Ararat)
Loddon-Mallee Rural Generalist Intern Training Program	Echuca Regional Health
Hume Rural Generalist Intern Training Program (formally M2M)	NCN Health – Nathalia, Cobram, and Numurkah
Gippsland Rural Generalist Intern Training Program	Bairnsdale Regional Health Service

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Successful scholarship applicants must commit to:

- working in rural/regional Victoria for two years post-graduation (within three years from graduating from medical school). Return of service obligations are monitored by the PMCV.
- accept employment with the health service to which you have been offered employment for 2024.
- sign the Scholarship Agreement with the PMCV.

Before accepting a VRMS scholarship, successful applicants are advised to seek independent legal and financial advice on the Victorian Rural Medical Scholarship, the conditions attached to the scholarship, tax implications and the consequences if the recipient does not comply with those conditions.

A copy of the Scholarship Agreement is available on request from PMCV.

HOW APPLICATIONS ARE ASSESSED

VRMS applications will be assessed by a PMCV panel and approved by the Department of Health.

Applicants will be considered for a scholarship where:

- the applicant meets all eligibility criteria.
- the applicant has agreed to the return of service obligation.
- the applicant has provided written responses to the key selection criterion.

Applications will be assessed according to how well applicants address the following key selection criteria:

- previous rural living/work experience
- connections to rural Victoria
- demonstrated commitment to a long-term career in rural Victoria, with preference to MM3 and above locations.

HOW TO ACCEPT A SCHOLARSHIP OFFER

VRMS scholarship offers will be made in writing by the PMCV to eligible applicants.

Scholarship offers are tied to the outcomes of the intern match and contingent on the successful applicant accepting employment with the eligible health service to which they have been matched/offered employment for 2024.

If you receive an offer, you may accept or decline the offer by responding to the PMCV as instructed in the letter of offer.

PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIPS

VRMS Scholarships are paid to recipients by the PMCV.

Scholarships are paid as a lump sum unless otherwise agreed to by the recipient and the PMCV. If payment is made in instalments, the final payment cannot be received later than 31 December 2023.

CONTACT

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