

# Victorian Rural Medical Scholarship (VRMS) 2024 Guidelines

## Key Dates

Date	Activity
Monday 6 May 2024	Applications open
Thursday 6 June 2024	Applications close
Wednesday 7 August 2024	Offers sent via email
Friday 23 August 2024	Last day to accept offers
August to December 2024	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 2024, you must:

1. Review VRMS guidelines for 2024 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 10am, 6 May 2024 to 5pm, 6 June 2024.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for a VRMS scholarship in 2024, applicants must:

- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen.
- Be in the final year of studies and graduating in 2024.
- 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 Victoria<sup>1</sup>
- 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.
- 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 rural. Barwon Health, Geelong is also considered rural for the purpose of VRPA and the VRMS.
- Provide evidence as requested by PMCV for payment of scholarship.
- Participate in the Victorian Rural Preferential Allocation (VRPA) as part of the Intern Match.

**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.
- Be employed as a full-time or part-time (minimum 20hours per week) employee.
  - Employment as a casual or locum will not contribute to the return of service obligation.
- Sign the Scholarship Agreement with the PMCV.

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

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 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 Scholarship

VRMS Scholarships are paid to recipients by the PMCV.

Payment of the scholarship is staggered across the two-year return of service.

- \$10,000 initial payment (to support relocation)
- \$5,000 at commencement of year 2 in a rural/regional health service (candidate will be required to provide a copy of employment contact)
- Final \$5,000 paid at completion of year 2 once evidence is provided (Statement of Service from employer).

### Contact

Melanie Vellios  
Senior Workforce Coordinator – Prevocational  
[allocations@pmcv.com.au](mailto:allocations@pmcv.com.au)