

Victorian Rural Medical Scholarship (VRMS) Scheme

2020 Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. How do I apply for the VRMS scholarship?**

The VRMS 2020 application form will be available online from 9am 4 May 2019 until 5pm 29 June 2020:
<https://www.jotform.com/build/200758314890862>
- 2. I have a Bonded Medical Place. Am I eligible to apply for the VRMS scholarship?**

Yes. As the Bonded Medical Place does not attract a scholarship so you are eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship.
- 3. I have a Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship for which I receive a tax-free income. Am I eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship?**

No. You are not eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship if you are in receipt of other scholarships, cadetships or bursaries with a combined total of more than \$7,000 per year.
- 4. I receive a RAMUS scholarship. Am I eligible to apply for VRMS scholarship?**

No. You are not eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship if you are in receipt of other scholarships, cadetships or bursaries with a combined total of more than \$7,000 per year.
- 5. I really want to work in rural Victoria, but I gave my top preference to a metropolitan health service. Am I eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship?**

No. To be eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship, you must give your top three preferences in the intern computer match to a minimum of one and maximum of three regions offering Rural Generalist Internships and no metropolitan health services as per the VRMS Guidelines.
- 6. Which health services are considered rural for the purposes of the VRMS?**

Albury Wodonga Health, Bairnsdale Regional Health Service, Bendigo Health Care Group, Gippsland Rural Intern Training program, Goulburn Valley Health (Shepparton), Mildura Base Hospital, Northeast Health Wangaratta, Southwest Healthcare Warrnambool, Portland District Health.
- 7. What is the Rural Generalist Internship?**

The Rural Generalist Internship is a rural intern training model where trainees are based in a small rural health setting with core rotations to larger hospitals and non-core rotations to GP practices or community health settings. There are five regions in Victoria offering these internships. Please see the Victorian Rural Generalist Training Program Fact Sheet on the VRMS application page.
- 8. If I quit during my intern year and/or second year, do I have to pay back the VRMS scholarship?**

Yes. If you do not complete your return of service (ROS) obligation, you will be required to pay back a percentage or all of the scholarship that has been paid to you.
- 9. Will my employer know that I have received a VRMS scholarship?**

Yes. The PMCV will contact your employer to monitor your return of service obligation.
- 10. Does the two-year Return of Service (ROS) obligation have to be served consecutively?**

No. The two-year ROS obligation must be discharged within a period of three years following graduation from medical school.
- 11. I am receiving Centrelink student payments. If I am successful in obtaining a VRMS, how will this impact my payments?**

You are advised to consult with your accountant about the impact of the VRMS on any Centrelink payments you receive. You may request the VRMS to be paid as a lump sum or in instalments with payments completed no later than 31 December 2020.
- 12. Is the VRMS tax free?**

No, the VRMS scholarship is not tax free and you are advised to consult with your accountant about the impact of the VRMS on your personal financial situation.

Contact: If you have any further questions about the VRMS, please contact the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV) via allocations@pmcv.com.au

Victorian Rural Medical Scholarship (VRMS) Scheme

2020 Guidelines

Key dates

Date	Activity
4 May 2020	Applications open
29 June 2020	Applications close
31 July 2020	Offers sent (via email)
7 August 2020	Last day to accept offers
August to December 2020	Payment of scholarships commence

The Victorian Rural Medical Scholarship (VRMS) Scheme supports career pathways to rural medical practice and assists rural and regional health services to attract, employ and retain medical graduates. The VRMS scheme 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 scheme is administered by the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV) on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

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 2020, you must:

1. review VRMS scheme guidelines for 2020 and ensure that you meet all eligibility criteria
2. complete and submit the online VRMS 2020 application form to DHHS by 5pm Monday 29 June.

The VRMS 2020 application form will be available online from 9am 4 May 2020 to 5pm 29 June 2020:

<https://www.jotform.com/build/200758314890862>

Eligibility

To be eligible for a VRMS scholarship in 2020, applicants must:

- be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- be currently studying full-time towards an accredited Australian primary medical qualification at a Victorian University or Notre Dame University (with final year placement in Victoria)
- be in a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) or be a domestic full-fee paying student
- be in the final year of studies and graduating in 2020
- not be in receipt of other scholarships, cadetships or bursaries with a combined value of more than \$7,000 per year
- include a minimum of one and maximum of three regions from Table A in your top three preferences in the intern computer match
- not include a metropolitan health service in your top three preferences in the intern computer match
- commit to working in rural and regional Victoria for two years post-graduation.

Table A – Rural Generalist Internships

Region	Parent hospital
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Barwon South West (Rural Generalist - South West Community Intern Program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">South West Healthcare (Warrnambool)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Grampians (Rural Generalist – Grampians Rural Community Intern Program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">East Grampians Health Service (Ararat)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Loddon Mallee (Rural Generalist – Echuca Intern Network)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Echuca Regional Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hume (Rural Generalist – Murray to the Mountains Program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Numurkah District Health Service
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gippsland (Rural Generalist – East Gippsland Community Based Intern Program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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) and will be required to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV). Return of service obligations are monitored by the PMCV.

If you choose to accept the offer you will be required to:

- accept employment with the health service to which you have been offered employment for 2020;
- 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 Scheme, the conditions attached to the scholarship, and the consequences if the recipient does not comply with those conditions.

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

How applications are assessed

VRMS applications will be assessed by a joint panel from DHHS and the PMCV.

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 criteria

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

- demonstrated commitment to a career in rural practice within Victoria
- demonstrated understanding of the professional and personal issues involved in rural practice
- interest in undertaking training as a Victorian Rural Generalist.

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 computer match and contingent on the successful applicant accepting employment with the eligible health service to which they have been matched/offered employment for 2020.

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 2020.

Contact

Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV)

Allocation and Placement Service

allocations@pmcv.com.au

The VRMS 2020 application form will be available online from 4 May 2020 to 5pm 3 July 2020

<https://www.jotform.com/build/200758314890862>