

ELECTIVES PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ELIGIBILITY & PROGRAM RESTRICTIONS

Who is eligible to apply for an elective placement?

Our program is strictly designed for medical students currently enrolled in an **undergraduate medical degree** (eg. MBBS, MD) who have not yet qualified as a doctor. Applicants must also be in their final year of study, or penultimate year of study with a compulsory elective requirement, during the proposed period of elective placement.

Masters / Postgraduate Students: We cannot accommodate students enrolled in master's programs or post-qualification degrees. If you already hold a medical degree and are seeking advanced experience, please view opportunities via the [Eastern Health Careers](#) page.

What if my home university isn't ranked in the top-300 globally for medicine?

Students enrolled at universities in English-speaking countries (eg. United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, New Zealand) that are ranked within the top 300-400 globally for the study of clinical medicine are also invited to apply.

Students of other universities do not meet our eligibility criteria and are advised to investigate other providers.

What is the maximum duration of a placement?

- Standard placements are **4 weeks** or **6 weeks** in duration.
- Placements of **8 weeks** may be considered under exceptional circumstances with supporting evidence from your home university. These are typically split across two units for periods of 4-weeks.
- We will not accept students for placements any less than 3 weeks in duration.
- We cannot accommodate placements longer than 10-weeks in duration under any circumstances due to clinical capacity and rostering constraints.

Can I do a split rotation across two specialties?

Yes, but **only if applying for a 6-week or 8-week placement**. You may request different specialties or disciplines for 3 or 4 week rotations. Split rotations are not offered for placements under 6 weeks. Split rotation requests must be clearly stated in your initial letter of application.

DATES, TIMINGS & AVAILABILITY

When are elective placements available?

- Placements only run from **mid-January through to mid-December**.
- **Christmas / New Year closure:** Without exception, placements are not available between the third week of December and the second week of January each year.
- Placements must start on a Monday and finish on a Friday. The only exception to this is if a start or end date falls on a Victorian public holiday, in which case you would start on a Tuesday or end on a Thursday.

Can you confirm my placement dates or department allocation earlier?

Elective placements are determined by the availability of a suitable supervisor and vacancies remaining after our Monash & Deakin medical students have been rostered for the year.

- **Confirmation Timelines:** Please refer to the table on our [website](#). We cannot guarantee early confirmations to meet external home university deadlines. We strongly advise exploring alternative options if your university requires early binding confirmation.
- **Local Student Rotation Alignment:** Local students rotate in fixed **6-week blocks**. Elective requests that fit neatly within these 6-week rotation blocks are significantly easier to place. Requests spanning across multiple local rotation blocks are difficult to accommodate as a matching vacancy must exist across both blocks. Refer to the *Guidelines* document for more information about these blocks.

Are all specialties or disciplines available for electives?

Please refer to the list of specialties of disciplines in our *Guidelines* and application form.

- **Not Offered:** We **do not** offer elective placements in Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Dermatology, Radiology, or Ophthalmology.
- **Highly Restricted:** General Medicine, Critical Care (ie. Emergency, ICU & Anaesthetics), and Surgical specialties have extremely limited vacancies.

Where will I be located? Can I choose my hospital site?

Placements take place across our two key Eastern Health sites, which are the **Box Hill Hospital** and the **Maroondah Hospital** (Ringwood East). Maroondah Hospital is located on the same direct train line as Box Hill Hospital (approx. 20–30 minutes away).

- You may indicate a site preference on your application form.
- Nominating "**Either Site / Flexible**" significantly increases your chances of securing a placement.

Can you place a group of students from the same university?

We cannot accommodate groups of students. We will attempt to place 2 to 3 students travelling together during the same dates, but this cannot be guaranteed. Places are subject to availability and each student must meet the eligibility criteria and submit an individual application.

DOCUMENTATION & COMPLIANCE

What are the English language proficiency requirements?

- **Taught in English / Native English:** If your medical degree is taught and assessed in English, or if you are enrolled in a country where English is the primary language (e.g., Australia, NZ, UK, USA, Canada), a separate language certificate is **not** required. Your home university's '*Letter of Good Standing*' must explicitly state that the program is taught and assessed in English.
- **Other Applicants:** Must supply formal test results (e.g., IELTS, TOEFL) demonstrating proficiency. International Baccalaureate transcripts are accepted as evidence of proficiency if the program was completed in English.

What are the Police Check / Criminal Record Check requirements?

All applicants must provide:

- **Australian Federal Police (AFP) Check:** Mandatory for ALL applicants, including international students who have never lived in or visited Australia. We cannot waive this requirement under any circumstances. The AFP check must be issued within **12 months** of your proposed elective commencement date.

International applicants must also provide:

- **Home Country Police Check:** Must be issued within **12 months** of your proposed elective commencement date.

Need a letter to apply for your local check?

Email ehcs.msselectives@monash.edu with your full name, university and intended dates for placement, and we can issue an "Intention to Apply" support letter. This letter is not an offer of placement or a confirmation of availability.

What are the immunisation & serology requirements?

The following strict validity periods apply:

- **dTpa or Tdap (Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis):** Must have received a booster within the past 10 years.
- **Hep B, Hep C, HIV:** Serology reports **must be dated within 12 months** of your requested placement start date. Re-issuing older laboratory reports with a current date stamp is **not accepted**; new tests must be undertaken.
- **Tuberculosis (QuantiFERON-TB Gold / Mantoux):** Only required if you reside in or come from a WHO high-risk country, or have a history of a positive result. Applicants residing in low-risk countries (e.g. UK, NZ, Australia) do not require TB testing.

In addition to the infectious diseases listed on the form:

- **Influenza Vaccine:** Must be received within **12 months** prior to commencement. Either Northern or Southern Hemisphere seasonal vaccines are acceptable depending on your place of residence at the time of vaccination. International students may also choose to receive the Southern Hemisphere strain upon arrival in Australia prior to commencement.
- **COVID-19:** Minimum of 3 doses/boosters required.

Do I have to use the Monash form?

You may use your home university's immunisation compliance form if it is equivalent to the [Monash Immunisation Compliance Form](#), ie. same infectious diseases listed. It must be signed and stamped by a registered medical practitioner, but overseas applicants do not need to have an AHPRA-registered practitioner sign the form.

INSURANCE, FEES & ASSESSMENTS

What insurance do I need?

- **Public Liability & Professional Indemnity:** Many students are covered by their home university. If not covered, you can obtain free student indemnity insurance via the [Medical Indemnity Protection Society \(MIPS\)](#) in Australia or an equivalent provider that covers clinical placements in Australia. You may mark public liability/indemnity insurance as "forthcoming" on your acceptance form while finalizing policies prior to commencement.
- **Travel & Personal Accident / Medical Insurance:** You are required to hold personal health/medical and travel insurance for the duration of your stay in Australia. (You do not need to submit proof of travel/health insurance to us, but you must hold it).

What are the program fees?

- **Application Fee:** AUD \$150.00 (**non-refundable administration fee**, payable upon application submission). It is your responsibility to ensure you meet the eligibility criteria prior to making payment and submitting an application.
- **Placement Fee:** AUD \$225.00 per week. Placement fees are payable **only after** an official offer has been made and accepted. Fees are subject to annual review.

Will my supervisor complete forms from my home university?

- Supervisors **cannot** complete graded assessments or detailed academic evaluations.
- **Permissible Forms:** Supervising clinical staff may complete standard global rating scales, attendance checklists, or end-of-placement supervisor reports evaluating basic skills and professionalism.
- **Official Stamps / Dean's Signatures:** If your home university requires an official Dean's signature, hospital or university seal, you will be required to travel in person to the Monash University Clayton Campus to obtain this.
- A **Declaration of Attendance Certificate** can be requested upon completion of placement. This will outline the dates of your placement and where you were placed and can be provided as evidence for your home university.

VISAS, LOGISTICS & ACCOMMODATION

What visa do I need?

You must hold a valid visa permitting study/training in Australia. **We do not sponsor visas** and cannot provide official immigration advice. Please consult the [Australian Department of Home Affairs](#).

Is accommodation provided?

No, accommodation is not provided at Eastern Health.

- Box Hill is a suburban hub with ample short-term student housing, largely due to neighbouring tertiary institutions.
- Popular housing platforms searched by past students include: [Student Housing Australia](#), [Unilodge](#) & [uHomes](#).
- Both Box Hill and Maroondah Hospitals are safely situated along the main Belgrave/Lilydale suburban train lines, within walking distance of public transport.

Can international students get public transport discounts?

No; international students must purchase full-fare Public Transport Victoria (PTV) passes/Myki cards. Student concession fares are restricted to students formally enrolled at a Victorian education provider.

What should I wear during my elective?

Students are expected to be dressed in appropriate professional attire at all times. Lab coats are not to be worn whilst on placement, however surgical scrubs in a plain or block colour are acceptable for all students.

If your application is successful, you will be provided with orientation information that covers this question prior to commencement of your elective placement.

How do I know that my application has been received?

After the application deadline has passed you will receive an email confirming receipt of your application. You can also select 'Send me a copy of my responses' for your own records before you submit the application form.

Once evidence of the application fee has been sighted, other provided documents will be checked and reviewed, and we will notify you to request any omissions or corrections. Please allow up to 8 weeks for your application to be processed and outcome notified.