Sydney Medical School

Flexible study arrangements for international students 2018
Contents

Introduction 2
Checklist of requirements 2
Summary of options for flexible study 3
Core Blocks 4
Specialty Blocks
  - Community 6
  - Child and Adolescent Health 7
  - Perinatal and Women's Health 8
  - Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine 9
Pre-Internship 10
Elective Term 11
Contacts 12
Resources 14
Terms of flexible study arrangements 15
Frequently Asked Questions FAQs 17
Helpful tips 19
Introduction

As an international student, Sydney Medical School recognises that experience in your home country is beneficial to you. The flexible study arrangements allow you to apply to complete either one Stage 3 Core block OR part of a Specialty block AND Pre-Internship Term (PRINT) in your country of origin or, for North American students, in either Canada or the USA. In addition, as with local students, you can choose to spend your Elective Term F overseas.

This booklet outlines the flexible study arrangements to help you understand the requirements, guidelines and application procedures. It will assist you in planning your overseas placement. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on page 17 will answer most, if not all, of your questions so take a moment to go through them. This booklet is a guide only, so please refer to Blackboard for updates or contact the appropriate faculty staff for more information on specific programs.

Checklist of requirements

This brief checklist allows you to see at a glance the key requirements that need to be met before you can participate in a flexible study arrangement. It is based on the document *Sydney Medical School-Flexible Study Provisions 2014*

- These arrangements are for international students. If you are granted permanent residency you will be regarded as a local student and will not be eligible for an overseas placement under these provisions. For exceptions, see section 4 Eligibility in the Provisions document
- Placements must be in your country of origin or, for North American students, in either Canada or the USA. For exceptions, see the Provisions document and the Child and Adolescent Health details in this booklet
- You can complete either a Core block or part of a Specialty block overseas, not both
- You must have sought and have formal approval from Sydney Medical School well in advance of the commencement of the relevant term
- You are required to attend a briefing prior to the commencement of the overseas placement
- Placements with a relative as the supervising practitioner will not be approved
- Applications must be made using the forms available on Blackboard or obtained from the relevant staff member

**Summary of options for flexible study**

Below is a summary of SMS flexible study arrangements for international students to study in a country in their region of origin.

**Core blocks**
- Medicine 4 (MED 4)
- Critical Care (CC)
- Surgery (SURG)

**Specialty blocks**
- Community Block (CR)
- Child and Adolescent Health (CAH)
- Perinatal and Women’s Health (PWH)
- Note: Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine (PAAM) is not available for flexible study due to block requirements

**Pre-Internship (PRINT)**

In addition to the above, all students, both local and international, can apply for an Elective Term F placement in any country overseas.

Note that there is a 12 week clerkship/elective limit in New York State for International Medical Graduates applying for residency there. That is, the State of New York will not allow you to become a resident if you have done more than 12 weeks of clerkships/electives in a country other than the one where your medical school is located.
Core blocks  
**Medicine 4, Critical Care and Surgery**

**Pacific Bridge Initiative**
Through the Pacific Bridge Initiative international students may apply to complete a Core block of study overseas in their country of origin or, for North American students, in either Canada or the USA.

- The Medicine 4 (MED 4) placement is of either eight weeks or four weeks duration and is in adult medicine
- The Critical Care (CC) placement is of four weeks duration and is in adult emergency medicine
- The Surgery (SURG) placement is of four weeks duration and is in adult surgery

Timing of when students may go overseas depends on what stream they are in for Stage 3 as shown below. Refer to the SMS Planner for the dates.

**Year 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stream</th>
<th>Term F</th>
<th>Term G</th>
<th>Term H</th>
<th>Term I</th>
<th>Term J</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td><strong>MED 4</strong></td>
<td>PWH</td>
<td><strong>SURG</strong></td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Weeks 1-4</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Weeks 1-4</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td><strong>CC</strong></td>
<td><strong>CAH</strong></td>
<td><strong>MED 4</strong></td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Weeks 1-4</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Weeks 1-4</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td><strong>CAH</strong></td>
<td><strong>CC</strong></td>
<td><strong>MED 4</strong></td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Weeks 1-4</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Weeks 1-4</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td><strong>PWH</strong></td>
<td><strong>MED 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>CC</strong></td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Weeks 1-4</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1  Adult emergency medicine as part of the Critical Care block (CC) in Term G or Term H can be done in either weeks 1-4 or in weeks 5-8. The remaining four weeks are completed in Australia

Note 2  Term I placements can only be done in weeks 5-8 as there is the National Prescribing Curriculum online exam in week one of Term I
The international placements are self-organised (with the exception of the University of Toronto placements — see below) and must meet the requirements as outlined in the checklist on page 2. Approval must be sought no later than 12 weeks prior to the commencement of the relevant Core block term. The guidelines and application process are available from Blackboard.

Sydney Medical School has an agreement with the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine for a bilateral student clinical placement exchange. This allows for 6 exchange students to complete a 4-week Core block placement between April and August. This is a competitive process and all eligible students in Year 3 will be notified of the procedure mid-year.

If you are interested, contact Ms Veronica Ryan for further details on eligibility and how to apply.

Ms Veronica Ryan
Pacific Bridge Administrator
Sydney Medical School
T: 9036 7123
E: pacificbridgeadmin@sydney.edu.au
Specialty blocks

Community
The Discipline of General Practice allows Community (CR) block international students to study overseas for seven weeks. Students must attend the first 3 days of the term (week one), which includes the orientation, and the assessments in week eight in Sydney.

The international placements are self-organised and must meet the requirements as outlined in the checklist on page 2. Placement approvals must be completed no later than 12 weeks prior to the commencement of the relevant CR term. Full approval including University placement agreements must be finalised no later than 8 weeks prior to the term. The guidelines and application process are available from Blackboard.

Timing of when students may go overseas depends on what stream they are in for Stage 3 as shown below. Refer to the SMS Planner for the dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Term A</th>
<th>Term B</th>
<th>Term C</th>
<th>Term D</th>
<th>Term E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stream 1</strong></td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>MED 3</td>
<td>PAAM</td>
<td>CAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stream 2</strong></td>
<td>MED 3</td>
<td>PAAM</td>
<td>SURG</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>PWH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stream 3</strong></td>
<td>MED 3</td>
<td>SURG</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>PWH</td>
<td>PAAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stream 4</strong></td>
<td>SURG</td>
<td>MED 3</td>
<td>PAAM</td>
<td>CAH</td>
<td>CR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are interested, contact Mr Drew Barr for further details on eligibility and how to apply.

Mr Drew Barr
Administrative Officer
Discipline of General Practice
Sydney Medical School
T: 9036 5023
E: andrew.barr@sydney.edu.au
Child and Adolescent Health

The Discipline of Child and Adolescent Health allows Child and Adolescent Health (CAH) block international students to study overseas for the first four weeks of the CAH term, but they must be back in Sydney to attend the structured teaching week (week five) and the rest of CAH including the examination week eight.

The international placements are self-organised and must meet the requirements as outlined in the checklist on page 2. Approval must be sought 6 months prior to the commencement of the relevant CAH term. The guidelines and application process are available from Blackboard.

Timing of when students may go overseas depends on what stream they are in for Stage 3 as shown below. Refer to the SMS Planner for the dates.

### Year 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stream</th>
<th>Term A</th>
<th>Term B</th>
<th>Term C</th>
<th>Term D</th>
<th>Term E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>MED 3</td>
<td>PAAM</td>
<td>CAH Weeks 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MED 3</td>
<td>PAAM</td>
<td>SURG</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>PWH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MED 3</td>
<td>SURG</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>PWH</td>
<td>PAAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SURG</td>
<td>MED 3</td>
<td>PAAM</td>
<td>CAH Weeks 1-4</td>
<td>CR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Year 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stream</th>
<th>Term F</th>
<th>Term G</th>
<th>Term H</th>
<th>Term I</th>
<th>Term J</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>PWH</td>
<td>SURG</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>CAH Weeks 1-4</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>CAH Weeks 1-4</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>PWH</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students who are completing an elective placement in Paediatrics with Paris Descartes University through the Office for Global Health may follow this with a four week part substitute block. Fluency in French to level DELF B2 is required. See www.afsydney.com.au/language-centre/delf-dalf

If you are interested, contact Dr Hasantha Gunasekera for further details on eligibility and how to apply.

Associate Professor Hasantha Gunasekera
Sub-Dean (Education)
The Children’s Hospital at Westmead Clinical School
T: 9845 3399
E: hasantha.gunasekera@health.nsw.gov.au

Perinatal & Women’s Health
The Discipline Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology allows Perinatal and Women’s Health (PWH) international students to study four weeks of Obstetrics and Gynaecology overseas. Students must be in Sydney for week one (orientation) and week eight (examination). The neonatology component of the block must be undertaken in Sydney and is for at least one week.

Timing of when students may go overseas depends on what stream they are in for Stage 3 as shown below. Refer to the SMS Planner for the dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stream 1</th>
<th>Term A</th>
<th>Term B</th>
<th>Term C</th>
<th>Term D</th>
<th>Term E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CC</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>MED 3</td>
<td>PAAM</td>
<td>CAH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stream 2</th>
<th>Term A</th>
<th>Term B</th>
<th>Term C</th>
<th>Term D</th>
<th>Term E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MED 3</td>
<td>PAAM</td>
<td>SURG</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>PWH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stream 3</th>
<th>Term A</th>
<th>Term B</th>
<th>Term C</th>
<th>Term D</th>
<th>Term E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MED 3</td>
<td>SURG</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>PWH</td>
<td>PAAM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stream 4</th>
<th>Term A</th>
<th>Term B</th>
<th>Term C</th>
<th>Term D</th>
<th>Term E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SURG</td>
<td>MED 3</td>
<td>PAAM</td>
<td>CAH</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Year 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stream</th>
<th>Term F</th>
<th>Term G</th>
<th>Term H</th>
<th>Term I</th>
<th>Term J</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>PWH</td>
<td>SURG</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>CAH</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>CAH</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>PWH</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The international placements are self-organised and must meet the requirements as outlined in the checklist on page 2. Approval must be sought no later than 12 weeks prior to the commencement of the relevant PWH term.

If you are interested, contact Associate Professor Kirsten Black for further details on eligibility and how to apply.

Associate Professor Kirsten Black
Joint Head of Discipline
Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology
Sydney Medical School
T: 9515 7696
E: kirsten.black@sydney.edu.au

Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine
The Discipline of Psychiatry does not offer flexible arrangements due to block requirements.
Pre-Internship

Pre-Internship PRINT

International students planning to carry-out their internships overseas in their country of origin or, for North American students, in either Canada or the USA, may complete the four week PRINT (PR) term at an accredited medical centre in that country.

The international placements are self-organised and must meet the requirements as outlined in the checklist on page 2. Approval must be sought no later than 8 weeks prior to the commencement of the PRINT term.

The guidelines and application process are available from Blackboard. If you are interested, contact your clinical school in the first instance to determine eligibility and receive guidance for term selection. Ms Mei Ball can give you further details on how to apply.

Ms Mei Ball
Assessment & Evaluation Manager,
Sydney Medical School
T: 9351 6295
E: mei.ball@sydney.edu.au

Year 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stream 1</th>
<th>Term F</th>
<th>Term G</th>
<th>Term H</th>
<th>Term I</th>
<th>Term J</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stream 2</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>PWH</td>
<td>SURG</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream 3</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>CAH</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream 4</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>CAH</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream 4</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>PWH</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Refer to the SMS Planner for the dates.
Elective Term

Elective Term F
Sydney Medical School local and international students may self-organise an Elective Term F overseas. The Elective Term Guidelines and application process are on Blackboard.

The Office for Global Health (OGH) has more than 30 international elective exchange and relationship agreements with medical schools. Refer to the OGH website for details of their international partners and international elective placements process. See OGH Outbound Student Opportunities

International students undertaking an overseas elective placement may be eligible to apply for Sydney Medical School Elective Scholarships. These opportunities are advertised on the University, Sydney Medical School and OGH websites.

For general information on Elective Term F contact Ms Ancella Cheung E: medicine.electives@sydney.edu.au

For information on OGH partners and Elective Term F opportunities contact Ms Felicity Bywater E: ogh.placements@sydney.edu.au

Year 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stream 1</th>
<th>Term F</th>
<th>Term G</th>
<th>Term H</th>
<th>Term I</th>
<th>Term J</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stream 2</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>PWH</td>
<td>SURG</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream 3</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>CAH</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream 4</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>CAH</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream 4</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>PWH</td>
<td>MED 4</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Refer to the SMS Planner for the dates.
Contacts

Core blocks
Pacific Bridge Initiative – Primary contact
Ms Veronica Ryan
Pacific Bridge Administrator
Sydney Medical School
T: 9036 7123
E: pacificbridgeadmin@sydney.edu.au

Pacific Bridge Initiative
Associate Professor Kirsty Foster
Associate Dean (International)
Director of Electives
Sydney Medical School
T: 9926 4658 or 9114 1164
E: kirsty.foster@sydney.edu.au

Specialty blocks
Community – Primary contact
Mr Drew Barr
Administrative Officer
Discipline of General Practice
Sydney Medical School
T: 9036 5023
E: andrew.barr@sydney.edu.au

Community
Associate Professor Narelle Shadbolt
Joint Head of Discipline
Discipline of General Practice
Sydney Medical School
T: 9477 9136
E: narelle.shadbolt@sydney.edu.au
Child and Adolescent Health
Associate Professor Hasantha Gunasekera
Sub-Dean (Education)
The Children’s Hospital at Westmead Clinical School
T: 9845 3399
E: hasantha.gunasekera@health.nsw.gov.au

Perinatal and Women’s Health
Associate Professor Kirsten Black
Joint Head of Discipline
Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology
Sydney Medical School
T: 9515 7696
E: kirsten.black@sydney.edu.au

Pre-Internship PRINT
PRINT – Primary contact
Ms Mei Ball
Assessment & Evaluation Manager,
Sydney Medical School
T: 9351 6295
E: mei.ball@sydney.edu.au

PRINT
Dr James Edwards
PRINT Chair
Sydney Medical School
T: 9515 0010
E: james.edwards@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

Elective Term
Elective Term – Primary contact
Ms Ancella Cheung
Project Officer
Sydney Medical School
T: 9351 5692
E: medicine.electives@sydney.edu.au
Elective Term – OGH exchange partnerships
Ms Felicity Bywater
Student Liaison and Administration Officer
Office for Global Health, Sydney Medical School
T: 9351 5993
E: ogh.placements@sydney.edu.au

Resources

Placements
Office for Global Health
The Office for Global Health has more than 30 elective exchange and relationship agreements with medical schools around the world.

On-Line Extramural Electives Compendium (EEC)
EEC is a searchable database that contains information on North American medical schools with elective opportunities.
W: https://services.aamc.org/eec/students/

The Electives Network
This is a database of schools around that world that offer electives. It groups electives by location including ones outside of North America and allows you to search by fees and open electives. W: http://www.electives.net/

The AFMC Student Portal
The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) offers the AFMC Student Portal, a bilingual information hub and centralised application service for visiting electives for all Canadian faculties of medicine.
W: https://www.afmcstudentportal.ca/

University of Sydney
Student Travel Insurance
Carefully read the University of Sydney student travel insurance policy.
Note that if you are in Australia on a student visa, or residing here temporarily, you are not covered for medical expenses if you travel back to your home country.
University of Sydney medical student organisations

North American Medical Student Association (NAMSA)
NAMSA are a group of North American medical students with the mission of helping to provide information and resources to help their fellows succeed in their pathway to North America and/or continue their medical training in Australia. W: http://namsa.info/

globalHOME
GlobalHOME is an organisation consisting of students from The University of Sydney who share an interest in international health. Its goal is ‘to inspire and encourage medical students to promote health opportunities and medical equality globally.’ W: https://globalhome.org.au/about

University of Sydney - Singapore Medical Society (USYD-SMS)
The objective of USYD-SMS is to facilitate information exchange between medical students in Australia and healthcare providers in Singapore.
President: Cheow Soon Chia E: cchi5964@uni.sydney.edu.au

Terms of flexible study arrangements

Students must read and sign the Terms (as appear below) that are part of the application form for all international placements. The application forms are available on Blackboard or from the relevant staff contact.

I acknowledge and agree that any approval given by the University is given subject to the following terms:

1. Expenses
I agree to pay all expenses associated with my participation in the [international placement], including, but not limited to:

- University tuition fees, including any compulsory fees
- The cost of text books and educational supplies required by the host organisation
- All travel, visa, accommodation and living expenses associated with my participation in the [name of block]
- All health insurance costs and medical and pharmaceutical expenses incurred for my benefit
• All costs resulting from the modification or termination of my participation in the [name of block]

2. Visas
I agree that I am responsible for obtaining appropriate visa, entry or re-entry documents prior to my departure.

3. Insurance
I agree that I am responsible for obtaining insurance that will provide me with medical and health coverage for the duration of my participation in the [name of block], and that I am responsible for appropriate travel insurance.

I agree that I am responsible for obtaining advice from the University’s Insurance Officer if I plan to take any personal travel as part of my approved placement overseas in order to ascertain if it is covered by the University travel insurance.

4. No payment by the University
I acknowledge that, except where it has agreed to do so in a signed letter addressed to me, the University has not undertaken to provide any funds to assist with the payment of any costs or expenses referred to above.

5. Unforeseen Events
I understand that due to the international aspect of the [name of block], events beyond the control of the University may occur including the outbreak of war, civil unrest or natural disasters and that these may require a modification of my participation in the [international placement]. I agree that the University may modify my participation in the [name of block] in these circumstances.

6. Ambassadorship, Rules and Regulations
I acknowledge that as a student of the University, being a good representative of the University and Australia is an important part of the [name of block]. I undertake to conduct myself in a manner that will not offend either the laws of the host country or the cultural norms or behaviour pattern of the people of the host country.
In addition, I acknowledge that I am subject to the rules and regulations of both the University and the Host Organisation.
I therefore acknowledge and agree that failure to abide by the applicable rules and regulations or failure to maintain what the University reasonably considers to be an acceptable standard of public and private conduct may result in the immediate termination of my participation in the [international placement] as well as other relevant disciplinary proceedings.

I am aware of the current travel advice level issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/

7. Ongoing Obligations
I will keep the University informed of my contact details (email, telephone, address) at all times [This includes the period before I leave Australia and whilst away on placement and travelling].

I will also keep the University informed about my expected date of return to Australia and will advise it of my return to Australia within 7 days of my arrival.

FAQs

1. Are all overseas placements self-organised?
Most flexible study arrangements are self-organised.

2. Can students be placed with supervisors of their choice?
Most of the flexible study arrangements are self-organised which gives you the flexibility to pursue placements of your choice with approval from your clinical school and the SMS. Placements with relatives will not be approved.

3. Can I use the ‘visiting student electives’ program to complete my Core block?
Yes, you are able to use the ‘visiting student electives’ program in other medical schools to fulfill the requirements of a Core block.

4. How soon after an application is submitted will a confirmation email be received?
You will receive an email confirmation when your application has been received, but your application will take longer to process as approval is sought from the relevant signatories.
5. Can a date, department or supervisor be changed after an application is processed?
After your application has been approved changes are permitted only in exceptional circumstances.

6. Do I have to notify my clinical school when planning an overseas placement?
Yes, it is courteous to keep the Stage 3 coordinator of your clinical school informed as they have to make arrangements for the Core and Specialty blocks.

7. In general, have Canadian and U.S. students been successful in securing placements within North America?
Yes, many students have successfully secured placements within North America for Core block, Community, PRINT and Elective Term F.

8. What support is available for organising an overseas placement?
You are responsible for arranging your international placement, but faculty and staff may be able to assist you with contacts to facilitate arrangements.

9. Will my grades impact my success in securing an overseas placement?
If your previous barrier results have been close to the pass mark, you may be advised to stay in Sydney to receive the necessary support for completion of Stage 3.

10. What partnership agreements does SMS currently have in place?
SMS has a number of partnerships through the Office for Global Health http://sydney.edu.au/global-health/students/outbound

There is an exchange agreement with University of Toronto in Canada. This allows for 6 international students to complete a 4-week Core block placement between April and August. It is a competitive process and students will be advised when applications open.

11. Why is it not possible to complete both a Specialty and Core block overseas?
The Sydney Medical Program is highly regarded throughout the world. As you are enrolled in the Sydney Medical Program, the majority of your study must be completed at Sydney Medical School.
12. **What is the maximum number of weeks I can complete overseas?**

In theory, an international student could complete 20 weeks of their medical course overseas: Core or Specialty block overseas (up to 8 weeks), Elective Term F overseas (8 weeks) and PRINT overseas (4 weeks).

Note that there is a 12 week clerkship/elective limit in New York State for International Medical Graduates applying for residency there. That is, the State of New York will not accept you as a resident if you have done more than 12 weeks of clerkships/electives outside of Australia.

**Helpful tips**

- Give yourself plenty of time to organise overseas placements. Some elective placement destinations open 6 to 18 months prior to commencement of placement.
- Sit for the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) early as a lot of American medical schools require your USMLE scores for overseas placements.
- PRINT can be set up early in your final year, look into it at during your Elective.
- Make use your personal and professional network when researching for overseas placements.
- Get in touch with upper year students who completed overseas placements as most are happy to help. The University of Sydney medical student associations will have contacts – see the Resources section for details.
- Read the students’ impressions about their overseas experience. W: http://sydney.edu.au/global-health/students/outbound/experiences.php
- Do some research about the institution you are applying to so that you don’t ask questions that are already addressed on their website.
- Have all your documents and immunisations updated, get references early.
- Find out when the applications open and apply early.
- Apply widely to increase your placement options.
- Make sure your e-mail is professional

- Remember, the overseas electives coordinator is dealing with hundreds of students, so give them time to respond to your requests

- Look into overseas accommodation options early

- Be prepared to work hard and to do long hours while on placement. As one student said, ‘My advice to future students is be prepared to work! It’s no vacation and they like to quiz you on things above your knowledge – read up!’

- Final tip?
  “The experience is priceless and is worth all the trouble of applying!”