Welcome to Sydney Medical School
For prospective elective students

Sydney Medical School at the University of Sydney is the first Medical School in Australasia and one of the top 20 health universities in the world.

The Sydney Medical School has an outstanding reputation for excellence in teaching, learning and research ensuring that students are equipped for rewarding and successful careers as clinicians, scientists or public health leaders. The Sydney Medical Program provides a unique learning environment that nurtures communication, team work, lifelong learning and evidence based practice, essential for tomorrow’s doctors.

We hope you enjoy reading about the opportunities you will have as a medical elective student if you choose to study at one of our six Clinical Schools. Studying with us will give you valuable insight and experience that will enhance your future medical career.

Assiociate Professor Kirsty Foster

Head, Office for Global Health
Associate Dean (International)
Sydney Medical School
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Discover
About Sydney Medical School

Sydney

Sydney is Australia’s largest and most dynamic city as well as being one of the most multicultural cities in the world. More than a quarter of our 5 million residents speak a language other than English, and the most widely spoken languages include Mandarin, Cantonese, Arabic, Greek, Vietnamese, Hindi, Italian, Spanish, Korean and Indonesian.

We enjoy a comfortable, temperate climate with warm summers and mild winters. If you decide to come here on your student elective placement, you can explore the city and its many green spaces all year round. You can visit famous icons such as the Sydney Opera House, the Harbour Bridge and Bondi Beach, as well as the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains.

Why do a placement at Sydney Medical School?

More than 50,000 students call the University of Sydney home. Our vibrant student body is a wonderfully diverse community, including more than 10,000 students from 145 countries. It’s a truly inclusive and welcoming environment.

The Sydney Medical School itself has around 5,000 students and is internationally recognised for research and teaching in health and medicine of world class standards. With formal links to more than 50 hospitals and health care facilities across New South Wales, Sydney is Australia’s longest established medical school, offering outstanding opportunities for researchers and students.

Each year 600 medical students from other countries or from around Australia come to us for short term elective placements. Some of these overseas medical students are participants in our student exchange programs with partner institutions.

Study at one of our Clinical Schools

Inbound elective students can apply for placements at one of six Clinical Schools:
Sydney Medical School - Central
Sydney Medical School - Concord
Sydney Medical School - Nepean
Sydney Medical School - Northern
Sydney Medical School - The Children’s Hospital at Westmead
Sydney Medical School - Westmead

Each Clinical School provides unique learning opportunities for our students, while still maintaining the curriculum that has led to the Sydney M.D. becoming one of the most respected medical programs in Asia Pacific. An overview of each Clinical School can be found [http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/schools-disciplines-centres/clinical-schools/index.php](http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/schools-disciplines-centres/clinical-schools/index.php). You can find details of the Clinical Schools further on in the brochure, but meanwhile you can read about the experiences of some of our inbound students.
Discover
What our elective students say

Sydney Medical School - Central
Sha Meng from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China undertook a clinical placement at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 2014.

I spent a fantastic 8 weeks in the cardiothoracic department in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Every day was full. I arrived at 7am for the morning ward round. I learned a lot from this which included observations of BP, HR, temperature, wounds, lungs, swelling of limbs, drains, new medications, etc. After the morning round, I always went to the operating theatre to observe surgeries.

The surgeries usually took 4 hours, sometimes even more. It was quite fortunate for me to have a great team and a kind register who always encouraged me to scrub in and be a part of the surgeries instead of just observing.

All in all, this was a fascinating and unforgettable experience, which improved my ability to empathize with patients, communicate with them and ultimately cure them. Both the clinical exposure I received and the cultural difference I gained will be of great use for me in the future. Finally, I am really grateful to the University of Sydney, the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the whole cardiothoracic team offering me the great opportunity to both take medical practice and experience wonderful customs in Australia.

Sydney Medical School - Concord
Nakato Winfred from Makerere University, Uganda undertook a clinical placement at Concord Hospital in 2014.

The major objective of this placement [in Concord Hospital] was to experience the delivery of healthcare in a developed country. From this rotation, I have learnt a lot about care of geriatric patients which is not a specialty in my country plus I have enriched my knowledge in different aspects in medicine and surgery.

I have also appreciated the Australian healthcare system, modernized transport system, the variety of cultures in the country as well as the social system.

We appreciated the multidisciplinary approach taken up by doctors here in patient care as allied health professionals were involved in the care e.g. dieticians, physiotherapists, social workers occupational and speech therapists.

The whole family at Concord Clinical School and the hospital that made us feel welcome. We are grateful. Wendy Lac, electives officer at Concord Clinical School. Thank you for the help with the helpful guidance with the necessary requirements, making us feel at home and always playing the nurturing role whenever we needed solace.

Sydney Medical School - Nepean
Olivia Begasse de Dhaem from Columbia University, USA undertook a clinical placement at Nepean Hospital in 2015.

What struck me the most at the Nepean Hospital is the exceptionally warm welcome we have gotten from everyone. I received emails from several University of Sydney medical students who offered to show me around the area.

Everyone on my team in the hospital was genuinely interested in my learning and well-being and went above and beyond for me to have the most enriching experience.
The most impressive thing is the professional coordination in team working of the staff in order to give patients the best health care. Not only doctors and nurses but also social workers, physiotherapists, dieticians, etc. work together and discuss plan to take care of patients. The doctors were also very friendly and helped me a lot in my study. After taking medical history and examination of patients, I usually discussed with registrars and interns how to approach the diagnosis with the symptoms and signs that I found in patients.

Besides studying in hospital, it was a good chance for me to visit many places and go sightseeing in Sydney because this is the first time I have been abroad. I have enjoyed amazing beauty of many landscapes such as Darling Harbour, Bondi beach, Manly beach, The Rocks, Circular Quay, Featherdale Wild Life Park, etc. I also enjoyed cuisines from many countries and different cultures such as Korea, China, Singapore, even from Vietnam so I felt more comfortable when I was homesick.

There were many good things that I learnt during my four weeks placement but the most important things that I learnt is the way in which the Medical staffs communicate with their patients. They explain their patient’s illness and treatment plan very clearly and patiently to each of their patients. This is important because patients need to be educated and they need to be aware of what’s happening so that they can protect themselves and be prepared.

Westmead hospital has all possibility to process autoimmune and imaging investigation such as MRI and bone scan, which is very different from Laos, we do not have such facilities…

On the weekends, we spend most of times to explore the city and visit some famous places. We go to the zoo, it was an unforgettable memory to touch and hold a real Koala. Sydney is a very beautiful, alive and enjoyable city. We also visit the Art Galleries of NSW, the nice Royal Botanic Garden, have some relax on the beautiful Bondi beach and travel to the formidable Blue Mountains.
Discover
Meet our staff

Office for Global Health, Sydney Medical School
Ms Felicity Bywater, Student Liaison and Administration Officer

Felicity coordinates and organises the international experiences of the incoming medical students who come from international partner institutions.

T +61 2 9351 5993 F +61 2 9351 3295 E ogh.placements@sydney.edu.au

The following staff members coordinate and organise the elective placements of inbound medical students coming to their respective Clinical Schools

Sydney Medical School - Central
Ms Duriye Varol, Education Support Officer

T +61 2 9515 7245 F +61 2 9515 3359 E duriye.varol@sydney.edu.au / rpa.electives@sydney.edu.au

Sydney Medical School - Concord
Ms Wendy Lac, Education Support Officer

T +61 2 9767 7173 F +61 9767 6785 E concord.electives@sydney.edu.au

Sydney Medical School - Nepean
Ms Denise Thornhill, Executive Officer

T +61 2 4734 2171 F +61 2 4734 1817 E denise.thornhill@sydney.edu.au

Sydney Medical School - Northern
Mr Martin Crawford, Education Support Officer

T +61 2 9926 4683 F +61 2 9926 4033 E northern.electives@sydney.edu.au

Sydney Medical School - The Children’s Hospital at Westmead
Ms Vikki Cheetham, Education Support Officer

T +61 2 9845 3376 F +61 2 9845 3389 E SCHN-CHW-ElectiveStudents@health.nsw.gov.au

Sydney Medical School - Westmead
Ms Angela Wallace, Education Support Officer

T +61 2 9845 9771 F +61 2 9891 3749 M 0437 869 961 E angela.wallace@sydney.edu.au
W http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/westmead
Join us
Elective placement opportunities

Sydney Medical School welcomes applications from overseas and Australian medical students wishing to undertake elective periods at one of the teaching hospitals in the Clinical Schools of the University of Sydney.

The list below gives an overview of what is offered by each Clinical School. However, for specific details about availability, conditions and the application process you will need to check directly with the Clinical School.

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<th>Elective</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>Concord</th>
<th>Nepean</th>
<th>Northern</th>
<th>Westmead*</th>
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* The elective placements at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead all relate to paediatrics

** At Nepean Clinical School students can nominate preferences but generally rotate through various surgery sub specialties depending on availability

*** This elective takes place at Blue Mountains Hospital which is one hour by train from Nepean Hospital
Join us
Office for Global Health

The Office for Global Health (OGH) was established by Sydney Medical School and drives the internationalization of our health-focused research, learning and teaching. The OGH forges and maintains links with key international partners and government agencies to contribute to the health and wellbeing of our region, by engaging in health projects to tackle some of the most challenging problems.

The OGH has agreements with over 30 partner institutions. Information for incoming applicants from partner institutions wishing to apply for placements at Sydney Medical School, the University of Sydney, is available from our website.

Further Information
Or contact Felicity Bywater ogh.placements@sydney.edu.au  T +61 2 9351 5993

Sydney Medical School - Central

Sydney Medical School - Central is based at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH), an 800-bed tertiary hospital, with over 10,000 staff. The School also has large teaching and research units at Sydney Eye Hospital (which houses the Discipline of Clinical Ophthalmology and Eye Health and the Save Sight Institute), Balmain Hospital and staff based at Canterbury Hospital.

Staff at the School cover a wide range of disciplines, and are active in both research and teaching. The School at RPAH offers a huge scope of clinical exposure to common and rare chronic medical illnesses. This includes acute illness and trauma, the full range of surgical conditions, with patients ranging across all age groups - from pre-term newborns to the elderly.

For basic clinical skills training, the School at RPAH has comprehensive clinical skills laboratories, including facilities for the development of advanced levels of consultative skills and surgical procedural skills training.
The precincts of RPAH have the largest concentration in Australia of leading Medical Research Institutes – including the Woolcock Institute of Respiratory Disease, the Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell Biology, the Heart Research Institute, Brain & Mind Institute, and the newly established RPA Institute of Academic Surgery. The RPAH precinct includes the new Charles Perkins Centre and a new dedicated Cancer Hospital (“The Chris O’Brien Lifehouse”).

Accommodation
Unfortunately accommodation is not available at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. However, the University of Sydney website can offer Homestay and other alternatives http://sydney.edu.au/study/finances-fees-costs/living-costs.html

Further Information
Or contact Ms Duriye Varol duriye.varol@sydney.edu.au / rpa.electives@sydney.edu.au
T +61 2 9515 7245

Sydney Medical School - Concord

Sydney Medical School - Concord is a teaching hospital of the University of Sydney based at the 750-bed Concord Repatriation General Hospital, renowned for its teaching and scientific excellence. Our students are taught by leading clinicians in their field and our staff are experienced and approachable. Concord Hospital has a large and diverse range of specialty departments and students are placed with experienced supervisors in medical and surgical settings.

The School state of the art purpose built facility is equipped with sophisticated IT and Audio-visual installations and include 12 problem based learning rooms, 2 lecture theatres, an auditorium, 2 large skills labs, a wet skills lab, an Anatomy room and 2 large computer rooms for student use. Our program includes an advanced, high fidelity simulation centre used to teach medical students and medical staff in hands-on simulated scenarios.

Sydney Medical School - Concord is very closely associated with Concord Hospital research institutes such as the ANZAC Research Institute that focuses on research into aging; the Asbestos Disease Research Centre is dedicated to research into asbestos related diseases; the Centre for Education and Research on Aging; and the Sports Medicine Institute which focuses on research, treatment and rehabilitation of sporting and exercise injuries.

Accommodation
Hospital live-in accommodation is available.

Further Information
Or contact Ms Wendy Lac concord.electives@sydney.edu.au T +61 2 9767 7173
The Sydney Medical School – Nepean is located approximately 50km West of Sydney central business district at the foot of the Blue Mountains in the Nepean Hospital precinct in Penrith.

Medical students train at the 530-bed Nepean Hospital as well as at the Nepean Private Hospital and Blue Mountains District ANZAC Memorial Hospital. Nepean Hospital specialises in maternity, gynaecology, neonatal intensive care, emergency, diagnostics, paediatric, surgical, intensive care, coronary care, rehabilitation and mental health and has leading surgery, psychiatry, critical care and emergency departments which students can experience firsthand.

The Sydney Medical School – Nepean is in a new building housing education, Clinical School administration, clinical research pods and outpatient clinics. The building has a 90 seat Auditorium, 10 tutorial rooms and a large interactive clinical skills laboratory. There are two large student computer labs accessible after hours to students. The School is able to provide invaluable learning opportunities for attending medical students and research opportunities for Australian and International students in biomedical, clinical and epidemiological research across all disciplines. The School houses the Charles Perkins Centre Nepean. The Centre’s mission is to ease the burden of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease by generating collaborative interdisciplinary research and education that translates into real-world solutions.

On the Nepean Hospital campus are a Tresillian Family Care Centre, Menopause Service, Nepean Cancer Care Centre, Diabetes Service and the Wentworth Centre for Drug and Alcohol Medicine.

Accommodation
Student accommodation is available at an affordable price and is walking distance to the School and Hospital.

Further Information
Sydney Medical School – Nepean
Or contact Ms Denise Thornhill denise.thornhill@sydney.edu.au T +61 2 4734 2171
Sydney Medical School – Northern

Students at Sydney Medical School - Northern have the benefit of undertaking training in a range of different clinical teaching facilities. The 620-bed Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) is one of the largest general hospitals in Australia. Students also have the opportunity to choose an elective at smaller hospitals at Hornsby, Manly, Mona Vale, Ryde, and the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney.

Sydney Medical School - Northern provides an excellent supportive environment with over 800 active, experienced clinical teachers across all the School’s sites. The School has a state of the art Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre located in the Kolling Building which has an above-ground connection to the clinical treatment areas of the new acute hospital. Students can access world class researchers and facilities in partnership with The Kolling Institute of Medical Research.

Accommodation
Accommodation is available at Mona Vale Hospital only. For all other sites please refer to local accommodation on the Clinical School webpage.

Further Information
Sydney Medical School – Northern [link](http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/northern/electives/index.php)
Or contact Mr Martin Crawford [northern.electives@sydney.edu.au](mailto:northern.electives@sydney.edu.au)  T +61 2 9926 4683

Sydney Medical School – The Children’s Hospital at Westmead

The Clinical School is based at The Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW) which is the largest paediatric centre in NSW. The Clinical school is a leader in medical education and medical education research; has a broad teaching, education and research role and is overseen by the Discipline of Paediatrics and Child Health.

The Clinical School encompasses diverse graduate training areas including: epidemiology of childhood disorders, social and psychological aspects of child development, genetics research encompassing morphologic, biochemical and molecular genetic investigation of disorders in children, vaccination,
obesity, neuromuscular disorders, infectious diseases, indigenous health, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

The hospital is a member of the Westmead Research Hub, with close links with other research communities such as Westmead Hospital (an adult facility) and the Children’s Medical Research Institute. The Kid’s Simulation Australia at the CHW is a unique facility designed to train staff and students in the most cutting-edge treatments for sick children, especially in emergency scenarios.

Accommodation
Hospital live-in accommodation is available.

Further Information
Sydney Medical School – The Children’s Hospital at Westmead
Or contact Ms Vikki Cheetham SChn-CHW-ElectiveStudents@health.nsw.gov.au T +61 2 9845 3376

Sydney Medical School – Westmead
Since its establishment in 1978, the Sydney Medical School - Westmead at the 925-bed Westmead Hospital has been a place of innovation and growth.

Westmead Hospital

The Clinical School has a patient population of approximately 1.1 million. The great number and diversity of people within the Sydney West Area serves to enrich medical student training and experience.

Westmead Hospital has a full range of acute and elective surgery and broad caseload medical patients, a comprehensive and world renowned Emergency Department, a state of the art ICU, and an Ophthalmology Unit. Westmead Hospital is a Level 1 Trauma Centre for Greater Western Sydney, with over 3,200 admissions annually. The hospital is also a base for the Careflight Retrieval Service.

The Clinical School medical students have the unique opportunity to attend Westmead Private Hospital, Norwest Private Hospital and Blacktown Hospital for specific rotations during the learning experience.

“About 40 percent of the patients admitted to Westmead Hospital come through the emergency department so it’s a very busy, hi acute and high demand environment which is very good for learning for medical students.” Doctor Andrew Coggins, Clinical Lecturer, Emergency Medicine.

Accommodation
Hospital live-in accommodation is available.

Further Information
Or contact Ms Angela Wallace angela.wallace@sydney.edu.au T +61 2 9845 9771
Apply
Scholarships

SMS does not offer scholarships directly to individual students. On occasion, scholarships will be available through our affiliated partner institutions – you will need to check with them.

For a full list of these partner institutions see Inbound Students

Fees

Application Fee
AU$100 applies to all medical students and is paid with the elective application

Elective Fee
AU$900 for an elective of up to 4 weeks
AU$1,100 for an elective of 5 to 8 weeks
The fee for students wishing to stay longer than 8 weeks is AU$500 for each week of their stay from Week 1, that is, the cost of a 12 week stay would be AU$6,000

Exceptions
Elective fees do not apply to medical students coming through an affiliated partner institution. However, the application fee of AU$100 still applies.

How to apply

If you are a medical student coming from an affiliated partner institution as seen on the Office for Global Health website, follow the contact information listed for your institution. See

If you are a medical student coming from a non-affiliated partner institution overseas or you are studying in Australia at an Australian university, you will need to contact the Clinical School of your choice for their application form.

Note
• You may only apply to one Clinical School at a time. If your first choice is not available you may then apply to an alternate Clinical School
• Students seeking to undertake elective placements are encouraged to apply to the Clinical Schools at least 9 months in advance
• International applicants should contact their nearest Australian Mission with respect to visa requirements. The location of your nearest Australian Mission can be found at the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection
http://www.border.gov.au/about/contact/offices-locations
• In order for students to benefit from their placements they should have a minimum English level of IELTS 6.5 or TOEFL 570. Your university should include in your letter of good standing a paragraph on your English ability: either the language of instruction for your studies is entirely in English; or that they are happy that your English ability is sufficient for you to gain an
acceptable level of experience and skills from your elective placement, to satisfy their elective criteria

When you are here

Obligations
Your Clinical School will give you specific details of what is expected from you, but the following will apply wherever you are based:

- You are expected to attend every day of your elective placement (Monday to Friday) and behave in a professional and responsible manner at all times
- If you are unable to attend a clinical day due to illness, you must contact your clinical supervisor and elective officer
- Wear professional dress and closed in shoes
- You must always identify yourself as a student and your status should be recorded on entries into patients’ records. Be aware of the limitations as outlined by your Clinical School
- You must meet NSW health vaccination and criminal record check requirements

Student support and access
Your Clinical School will give you specific details of the student support and access available. In general, the following will be available wherever you are based:

- Official ID badge
- Access to student common room and facilities
- Computer facilities
- Medical library access
- Emergency phone numbers and contact details
- Safety Information

Safety and wellbeing

Emergency Services
Police, Fire Brigade or Ambulance - dial 000

Beach safety
Sydney has some of Australia's most beautiful and popular beaches. Enjoy them safely. Always swim between the red and yellow flags on patrolled beaches and do not swim alone.

Bush safety
Sydney and NSW have many spectacular national parks and areas of natural beauty. We encourage you to explore them and enjoy safely. Make sure someone knows where you are going and try to go with a person who is familiar with the area. Do not feed or touch animals.

Pedestrian safety
Traffic travels on the left hand side of the road in Australia. Be alert – especially if this differs from your country!

Sydney public transport
Sydney’s extensive public transport system services the city centre and suburbs. Types of transport include buses, trains, light rail and ferries. There are also private bus companies that service some areas. For timetables, maps, fares and general transport information: [http://www.transportnsw.info](http://www.transportnsw.info)