

# SYDNEY MEDICAL SCHOOL – FLEXIBLE STUDY PROVISIONS 2014

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## 1 Purpose and application

- (1) These provisions facilitate integration of international students into the system in which they intend to practise medicine by permitting appropriate variations to students' programs.
- (2) These provisions apply to international students enrolled in Stage 3 of the Sydney Medical Program.

## 2 Commencement

These provisions commence on 1 January 2014.

## 3 Definitions

<b>core block</b>	means any of the following eight week periods of study which occur in Stage 3 Year 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medicine 4</li><li>• Surgery</li><li>• Critical Care</li></ul>
<b>elective</b>	means the flexible elective term which occurs over an eight week period between years 3 and 4 of the Medical Program.
<b>Medical Program</b>	means the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) award course or the Doctor of Medicine (MD) award course.
<b>Office for Global Health</b>	means the Office for Global Health within Sydney Medical School.
<b>PRINT</b>	means Pre-Internship Term.
<b>Stage 3</b>	means any of the following eight week periods of study which occur in Stage 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine</li></ul> <p><b>Note:</b> The Discipline of Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine does not offer flexible arrangements due to block requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child and Adolescent Health</li><li>• Perinatal and Women's Health</li><li>• Community</li></ul>

**term** means the terms in Stage 3 of the Medical Program, which are referred to as terms A - J inclusive.

#### **4 Eligibility**

- (1) International students who have been granted permanent residency will be regarded as local students and will not be eligible for placement under these provisions except as provided in subclause 4(2).
- (2) If an international student:
  - (a) has obtained full approval for the term; and
  - (b) is granted permanent residency less than eight weeks before commencement of the termthe student may apply for permission to proceed with an approved overseas placement.
- (3) International students undertaking overseas placement must be of good standing and be recommended by the Associate Dean of their clinical school as being suitable to represent Sydney Medical School overseas.

#### **5 General requirements for overseas placements**

- (1) Placements must be organised:
  - (a) directly by the international student; or
  - (b) through one of the Office for Global Health exchanges.
- (2) Placements must comply with the standards of the Sydney Medical Program.

#### **6 Pre-Internship Term (PRINT)**

- (1) International students are expected to undertake their PRINT in the system in which they are intending to do their internship, which must be:
  - (a) in their country of origin; or
  - (b) for North American students, in either Canada or the USA.
- (2) International students may apply to undertake their PRINT in an accredited medical centre in the selected country.
- (3) Approval must be sought at least two months before commencement of the PRINT, from each of:
  - (a) the Coordinators of Clinical Studies; and
  - (b) the Associate Dean of the student's clinical school.

#### **7 Electives**

International students may undertake an elective overseas in Term F in the same manner as local students.

## 8 Core blocks

- (1) International students may apply to complete four or eight weeks of any one core block in their country of origin or, for North American students, in either Canada or the USA.
  - (a) This may be undertaken as:
    - (i) one placement of eight weeks;
    - (ii) two placements of four weeks each; or
    - (iii) one placement of four weeks.
- (2) Any other international student may apply to complete four or eight weeks of any one core block in North America.
  - (a) Sydney Medical School will consider such applications on a case-by-case basis, considering:
    - (i) the applicant's needs;
    - (ii) The applicant's academic performance; and
    - (iii) the characteristics of the proposed placement..
- (3) Approval must be sought at least three months before the commencement of the relevant block from each of:
  - (a) the relevant Head of Discipline;
  - (b) specialty block co-ordinator;
  - (c) the Associate Dean of the student's clinical school; and
  - (d) the Coordinators of Clinical Studies
- (4) If approval is given to complete a core block overseas, all specialty blocks must be completed in Australia.

## 9 Specialty blocks

- (1) International students may apply to do part of **one** of the Stage 3 specialty blocks in their country of origin or for North American students, in either Canada or the USA.
- (2) Any other international student may apply to complete between four and seven weeks of a Child and Adolescent Health, Perinatal and Women's Health or Community specialty block in North America.
  - (a) Sydney Medical School will consider such applications on a case-by-case basis, considering:
    - (i) the applicant's needs;
    - (ii) the applicant's academic performance; and
    - (iii) the characteristics of the proposed placement.
- (3) Approval must be sought before commencement of the relevant block from each of:
  - (a) the relevant specialty block co-ordinator;
  - (b) the Associate Dean of the student's clinical school; and
  - (c) the Coordinators of Clinical Studies.



- (4) **For Child and Adolescent Health:**
- (a) international students may complete from four to seven weeks overseas; but
  - (b) must attend the whole of examination week (week eight) in Sydney; and
  - (c) approval must be sought six months before commencement of the relevant term.
- (5) **For Perinatal and Women's Health:**
- (a) international students may complete four weeks overseas, which must comprise the obstetrics and gynaecology components of the block; but
  - (b) must undertake the neonatology component of the block in Sydney;
  - (c) must be in Sydney for:
    - (i) the lecture/orientation week (week one);
    - (ii) at least one week of neonatology; and
    - (iii) the examination week (week eight); and
  - (d) approval must be sought 12 weeks before commencement of the relevant term.
- (6) **For Community:**
- (a) international students may complete seven weeks of the block overseas; but
  - (b) must be in Sydney for:
    - (i) the first three days of the term (week one) which includes the orientation; and
    - (ii) the assessments in week eight;
  - (c) placement approvals must be approved no later than 12 weeks before commencement of the relevant term; and
  - (d) full approval, including University placement agreements, must be finalised no later than eight weeks before commencement of the term.
- (7) If approval is given to complete a specialty block overseas, all core blocks must be completed in Australia.

## 10 Impact of flexible arrangements on progression

- (1) International students are responsible for ensuring that:
- (a) any flexible arrangements into which they enter, including any overseas placements:
    - (i) meet the criteria of the Sydney Medical Program; and
    - (ii) provide sufficient and appropriate training and clinical experience; and
  - (b) they have sufficient study time and adequate preparation for examinations.
- (2) A claim that an overseas placement was inadequate will not be an acceptable basis for an appeal in any circumstances.



## NOTES

Sydney Medical School – Flexible Study Provisions

Date adopted: 1 January 2014

Date registered: 1 January 2014

Date commenced: 1 January 2014

Date amended: 10 January 2017

13 October 2017

Approved by: Professor Arthur Conigrave (Dean)

Signature:

Review date:

## AMENDMENT HISTORY

Provision	Amendment	Commencing
6(2)(c);	Amendment of positions relating to approval of USMLE	17 January 2017
6(4)	New clause	17 January 2017
7(3)(a);	Amendment of positions relating to approval of PRINT	17 January 2017
7(3)(b)		
9(3)(d)	Amendment of positions relating to approval of core blocks	17 January 2017
10(4)	Revised clause	17 January 2017
3	Definition of core block corrected;	13 October 2017
	Block names amended to reflect current usage: Critical Care and Community;	
	Correction of typographical error: Office for Global Health;	
	Note added to Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine;	
	Definition deleted: USMLE	
4(1); 4(3); 5(1)(a); 7(2); 10(4)(a); 10(5)(a); 10(6)(a); 11(1)	Reference to students changed to international students	13 October 2017



<b>Provision</b>	<b>Amendment</b>	<b>Commencing</b>
5(1)(b)	Administrative amendment typographical error	13 October 2017
6	Clause deleted	13 October 2017
7-11	Clauses renumbered: 6-10	13 October 2017
7(1)	Subclause reworded for clarity and (a) and (b) added	13 October 2017
7(3); 10(3); 10(4)(b); 10(5)(b)	Administrative amendment	13 October 2017
9(1)	Subclause reworded for clarity and (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) added	13 October 2017
9(2)	Subclause replaced	13 October 2017
10(1)	Subclause reworded for clarity	13 October 2017
10(2)	Subclause replaced	13 October 2017
10(4)	New subclause (c) added	13 October 2017
10(5)	New subclause (c) added	13 October 2017
10(6)(a)	Administrative amendment for clarity	13 October 2017
10(6)	Subclause (b) replaced	13 October 2017
Notes	Administrative amendment	13 October 2017
Footer	Administrative amendment	13 October 2017