

# SYDNEY MEDICAL SCHOOL – FLEXIBLE STUDY PROVISIONS 2014

---

## 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medicine 3</li><li>• Medicine 4</li><li>• Surgery</li><li>• Critical Care/Surgery.</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 of Global Health</b>	means the Office of Global Health within Sydney Medical School.
<b>PRINT</b>	means Pre-Internship Term.
<b>specialty block</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><li>• Child and Adolescent Health</li><li>• Perinatal and Women's Health</li><li>• Community Medicine.</li></ul>
<b>Stage 3</b>	means Years 3 and 4 of the Medical Program.

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

#### **4 Eligibility**

- (1) 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) 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 student; or
  - (b) through one of the Office of Global Health exchanges.
- (2) Placements must comply with the standards of the Sydney Medical Program.

#### **6 United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE)**

- (1) International students planning to sit the USMLE may apply to use the time allocated to one of the Stage 3 specialty blocks to study for that examination.
- (2) Approval must be sought at least three months prior to commencement of the relevant specialty block, from each of:
  - (a) the relevant specialty block coordinator;
  - (b) the Associate Dean of the student's clinical school; and
  - (c) the Coordinators of Clinical Studies.
- (3) If approval is granted:
  - (a) the missed specialty block and its associated summative assessment paper must be undertaken at the end of Year 4 in Term J; and
  - (b) the student's PRINT must be undertaken after the stipulated dates for Term J, between December and mid-January of the following year.

- (4) Students who fail the missed specialty block in Term J will usually be required to repeat the academic year in its entirety ([see Sydney Medical School Handbook 2017 - Section 8 Progression Rules](#))

## 7 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 may be in their country of origin or another country.
- (2) 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 prior to the commencement of the PRINT, from each of:
  - (a) the Coordinators of Clinical Studies and
  - (b) the Associate Dean of the student's clinical school

## 8 Electives

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

## 9 Core blocks

- (1) International students may apply to complete four or eight weeks of any **one** core block in a country in their region of origin. This may be undertaken as a single placement of eight weeks or two placements of four weeks each.
- (2) An international student who has completed step 1 of the USMLE and scored 229 or above may apply to complete four or eight weeks of any one core block in the United States.
- (3) Approval must be sought at least three months prior to the commencement of the relevant block from each of:
  - (a) the relevant Head of Discipline;
  - (b) the core 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.

## 10 Specialty blocks

- (1) International students may apply to complete **one** of the Stage 3 specialty blocks in a country in their region of origin.
- (2) Any student who has completed step 1 of the USMLE and scored 229 or above may apply to complete between four and eight weeks of a specialty block in the United States.

- (3) Approval must be sought at least three months prior to the 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) students may complete from four to seven weeks overseas; but
  - (b) must attend the whole of examination week (week eight) in Sydney.
- (5) **For Perinatal and Women's Health:**
  - (a) 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, which period must include:
    - (i) the lecture/orientation week;
    - (ii) two weeks of neonatology; and
    - (iii) the examination week.
- (6) **For Community Health:**
  - (a) students may complete seven weeks of the block overseas during Terms B, C, D and E provided that week eight is undertaken in Australia;
  - (b) students in Term E who are remaining overseas to do an approved elective term and are therefore not returning to Australia to do week eight must:
    - (i) complete an eight week placement overseas; and
    - (ii) undergo an assessment period after Term F.
- (7) If approval is given to complete a specialty block overseas, all core blocks must be completed in Australia.

## 11 Impact of flexible arrangements on progression

- (1) 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 – SMP Flexible Study Arrangements Provisions 2014

Date adopted: 1 January 2014

Date commenced: 1 January 2014

Date amended: 10 January 2017

Approved by: Professor Arthur Conigrave (Dean)

Signature:

Related documents:

## AMENDMENT HISTORY

<b>Provision</b>	<b>Amendment</b>	<b>Commencing</b>
6(2)(c);	Amendment of positions relating to approval of USMLE	17 January 2017
6(4)	New clause	17 January 2017
7(3)(a); 7(3)(b)	Amendment of positions relating to approval of PRINT	17 January 2017
9(3)(d)	Amendment of positions relating to approval of core blocks	17 January 2017
10(4)	Revised clause	17 January 2017