

Teacher orientation and teaching opportunities at Westmead Clinical School

1. Patient-doctor tutors – 90min tutorial weekly in either examination or communication

Introduction to patient-doctor tutorials for new tutors is held before each block – experienced tutors are also invited to come for coffee and a chat. Tutors are emailed at the beginning of the block, and new tutors who can't attend are contacted individually and offered a one-to-one discussion.

Generic skills to be discussed include:

- basic teaching skills
- learning by doing
- practice with feedback
- building confidence
- students and patients
- clinical exercises.

Tutors will be able to raise issues that are of interest or concern to them. They will be offered the opportunity to have the medical educators observe their teaching and give feedback, but we don't expect to be knocked over in the rush.

2. Problem-based learning tutors:

PBL tutors for blocks 4 and 10 have an orientation here at the clinical school as do the stage 3 surgical PBL tutors. This has been taken by the EO (a trained and experienced PBL tutor).

Discussion includes:

- an explanation of how PBL works
- a look at the aims and objectives
- a preview of the problems
- advice on groups
- resources.

3. Stage 3 Bedside tutorials:

Stage 3 students who are on attachments in medical terms receive weekly bedside tutorials on topics in that specialty. These tutorials take ~1 hour and occur 6 times in the block.

4. Personal and Professional Development facilitators

The facilitators meet as a group at the beginning of the year and discuss the programme and the teaching with the heads.

5. EBM PEARLS

Tutor training is very much hands-on, beginning with tutors observing tutorials and debriefing with the teacher afterwards. In training examiners, new recruits make as "extras" alongside experienced markers. Results are compared and discussed, and the process is repeated until the marking is accurate.

6. Procedural and Diagnostic Skills Teaching

Throughout the course students learn and practice a wide variety of skills. While these are initially taught by staff that are proficient in the knowledge, performance and assessment of the skill, some sessions benefit from having 'assistant teachers' to ensure all students are observed and given feedback. Times vary, so keep an eye out for emails asking for help with upcoming sessions.

7. OSCE/MOSCE examiners

Throughout the year we will be holding Mock-OSCEs for the students. We would be grateful for assistance from stage 3 students, interns and above to hear a MOSCE station for about 6 students and provide feedback as needed.

Summative OSCE examiners must be PGY2 or above. In the week prior to the OSCE examiners are invited to view their station and discuss any questions or concerns. This takes little time but is most important in assuring we can keep to time on the day of the exam.

8. Long case

Examiners meet to discuss the marking process 1-2 days before the long case, although for some this is delayed until the day of assessment. Calibration sessions are held at which the video is shown as an aid to standardizing the marking between the examiners.