



Health Sciences student placement frequently asked questions

Q: When are the placement dates? When is the placement calendar/timetable available?

A: The timing of placements is different in each course. Placements do not generally fit into the standard semester dates. Please refer to your discipline calendar for more information on the timing of placements for each course. <https://sydney.edu.au/medicine-health/study-medicine-and-health/study-areas/health-sciences/placements.html>

Q: How many hours per week am I expected to be on placement?

A: Across the professions/discipline's placement hours vary per week, but unless otherwise advised, you should expect to be on placement between 35 to 40 hours/week or 7-8 hours per day. Please note that some placements in some disciplines require students to complete a minimum of **40 hours/week**, for example Occupational Therapy.

Q: Can I request a particular work area for placements?

A: Placements in Health Sciences are allocated to students based on accreditation, professional registration and course (program) requirements.

Q: Will I be required to go outside of local area to do placements?

A: Yes, all courses will require you to travel outside your local area for placements.

Q: Do I have to do a rural placement as part of my course?

A: All students must expect to be allocated a rural/regional or out of Sydney placement during their course (program). In some programs you can expect to do a minimum of one, perhaps more than one rural placement. Please be aware that Australia is a large country. Students are expected to travel to the rural location for their placement and stay in that location for the full length of the placement.

Q: Is there any financial assistance available for rural placements?

A: There are several scholarships or support schemes that may be available to aid with some of the costs associated with going on a rural placement. Some are open to all students, while others are only available to domestic students. Information is available after you start your course. There may also be some financial support available from the University of Sydney Financial Assistance Office at: http://sydney.edu.au/stuserv/financial_assistance_office/.

Q: Do we get paid for the placement? Who pays for my expenses?

A: No, the placements are not paid. Placements are part of your learning within the course. All expenses during placement are the responsibility of the student.

Q: What vaccinations do I need to complete to go on placement?

A: You can find all the required vaccinations on the second page of the [Student Placement Clearance Summary Sheet](#)

A basic summary is below:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (Whooping cough)
- Hepatitis B
- Measles, mumps, rubella
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Influenza

Additional information about Clinical placement checks and clearance can be found here <https://sydney.edu.au/students/clinical-placement-checks.html>

Q: Do I require a Tuberculosis (TB) test/screening?

A: A TB test is only required if:

- 1) you were born in a country with a high incidence of TB, or you have resided for a cumulative period of 3 months or longer in a country with a high incidence of TB **OR**
- 2) You are attending a placement in the ACT Health service.

Q: My vaccinations weren't complete, but I was granted "Temporary Compliance". How long does that last for? And can I still attend placement in this time?

A: Temporary Compliance lasts for 6 months to allow you time to complete your vaccinations. You will be able to attend placement with this status until the expiry date. Temporary Compliance is only available to students who are in the first year of their course and only to complete Hepatitis B vaccination or TB screening.

Q: What type of Criminal Record Check should I apply for?

A: Domestic Students: apply online for a name check only National Police Certificate through one of the following websites:

- The [NSW Police Force](#) (processing time 10-15 days) OR
- [CV Check](#) (general, this check will take 1-2 working days). You can upload your documents and have them verified without attending a NSW Police station and then print the certificate.

Overseas Students: If you are residing in a country outside of Australia at the time of your application, apply online for a name check only National Police Certificate through the [Australian Federal Police](#) and provide:

- a) A completed Statutory Declaration; OR
- b) A national criminal record check from your home country or any country in which you have been a citizen or permanent resident of since turning 16 years of age, with a certified translation if relevant.

Q: When do I have to renew my National Police Check (NPC)/Criminal Record Check (CRC)?

A: National Police or Criminal Record Checks are generally accepted for 3 years from the date of issue. The issue date is on the Check document. If you still have placements to complete for your degree when due for renewal, you will need to obtain a new Criminal Record Check as your certificate must be valid for the full duration of your placement.

Q: Do I need a Working with Children Check?

A: Not all disciplines require a Working with Children Check and it is not a requirement of NSW Health. Information will be provided to you by the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) team. Please check with [WIL](#) if you are not sure.

Q: I have a WWCC from interstate (e.g. blue card) is this valid in NSW?

A: No. A Working with Children or Vulnerable People Check (or similar) is only valid for the state or territory it is issued from. You will need to apply for an NSW WWCC. This can only be done when you are in Australia.

Q: Do I require a CPR Certificate for placement? How long is it valid for?

A: Yes, an Australian **CPR certificate** is required for all course Health Sciences before going out on placement. CPR Certificates are valid for 12 months and it is your responsibility as a student going out on placement to have this updated every year. If your certificate is not valid to cover the duration of your placement you cannot attend placement. Your placement site may request to see your CPR certificate. Information about where you can undertake the CPR course is available once you start the course.

Q: Do I need a First Aid Certificate for placement?

A: This is not a requirement for placement, as only a CPR certificate is required. However, it may be desirable to have this qualification before going on placement for your own personal development. Please note that if you obtain a First Aid Certificate, you will still need to renew your CPR certificate every 12 months.

Q: I have an Overseas CPR certificate, is that valid for my course?

A: No. You will need to apply to complete a relevant CPR course in Australia. The course code required is HLTAID001, which is part of the Australian vocational training courses.