Semester 2, 2007 NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grant Guidelines

As part of its ongoing commitment to maintain and improve the health status of rural communities, the NSW Health Department established the NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grants to assist NSW Universities students enrolled in courses in the following disciplines:

- Aboriginal / Indigenous Health
- Audiology
- Diagnostic Radiography
- Dietetics
- Exercise Physiology
- Genetic Counselling
- Hospital Laboratory Science
- Nuclear Medicine
- Occupational Therapy
- Optometry
- Oral Health (excl Dentistry)
- Orthoptics
- Orthotics / Prosthetics
- Pharmacy
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Pre Hospital Care (Ambulance / Paramedics)
- Psychology
- Radiation Therapy
- Social Work
- Speech Pathology

- Second year or higher of undergraduate courses in any of the above listed.
- Either year of a Post-graduate entry level course in any of the above listed disciplines including Psychology (Masters).
- Final year of an Honours degree in Psychology (Honours).

NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grants have been created to assist both rural and urban allied health students with the travel and accommodation costs of rural clinical placements and provide students with opportunities to experience rural practice and lifestyle in NSW. Placement Grants of up to $650 (or $1,000 in the case of placements at Broken Hill) are offered during each semester.

APPLICATIONS WILL CLOSE ON FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2007

Just over one quarter of the people of NSW live outside the three major cities of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. Rural NSW is characterised by diversity with major regional centres and coastal cities, small towns and remote communities. Since 1997, the NSW Health Department has offered NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grants as a way of assisting students to experience rural and remote practice. The program is part of a broader strategy to recruit allied health professionals to rural and remote NSW.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grants are awarded on the basis of the duration of the rural placement and the cost of travel associated with accessing the rural placement.
The Placement Grant funding formula provides:

- An amount per week for each week of the rural placement to assist with the cost of accommodation and the incidental costs associated with the rural placement.

- This component of the placement grant will vary dependent upon the number of eligible applicants and available funds each semester.

- The maximum amount per week is $100 but this amount will be reduced proportionately should the number of eligible applicants rise.

- The cost of a return student concession economy rail or coach fare. **Note: Students travelling to Broken Hill should include cost of a return student “Red Kangaroo Sleeper Cabin” rail fare. This amount forms the travel component of your Placement Grant even if you drive your own vehicle or travel by plane.**

  *Please note: Cost of travel will be confirmed by using the NSW Countrylink’s website Timetables and Fares only - www.countrylink.nsw.gov.au. When quoting the cost of fares on your application please remember to include the 50% discount available for students with ISIC or NSW student card.*

  **THE MAXIMUM PLACEMENT GRANT AMOUNT IS $650**

  *Except for placements undertaken at Broken Hill where the amount awarded may be up to $1,000*

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

**NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grant Applicants MUST:**

1. **Be a resident of NSW** and an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

2. **Be enrolled as a full time NSW university student** in a course in one of the following disciplines.

   - Aboriginal / Indigenous Health
   - Audiology
   - Diagnostic Radiography
   - Dietetics
   - Exercise Physiology
   - Genetic Counselling
   - Hospital Laboratory Science
   - Nuclear Medicine
   - Occupational Therapy
   - Optometry
   - Oral Health (excl Dentistry)
   - Orthoptics
   - Orthotics / Prosthetics
   - Pharmacy
   - Physiotherapy
   - Pre Hospital Care
   - (Ambulance / Paramedics)
   - Podiatry
   - Radiation Therapy
   - Social Work
   - Speech Pathology
   - Psychology

   a) Second or higher year of an undergraduate course in any of the above listed disciplines.

   b) Either year of a Post-Graduate entry level course in any of the above listed disciplines including Psychology (Masters).

   c) Second or higher year of an undergraduate course in any of the above listed disciplines.
4. **Have confirmation from your Course Coordinator** of your participation in a rural or remote clinical placement in NSW. The term “rural” refers to areas defined by the Commonwealth Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Area (RRMA) classification as either rural (RRMA 3, 4, 5) or remote (RRMA 6, 7). In this regard, please note that Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle and Port Stephens Shire are classified RRMA 2 and are ineligible. Similarly, Kiama, Shellharbour and Wollongong are classified RRMA 2 and are ineligible. If you have any queries, please contact the Scholarship Co-ordinator on 02 9391 9501

5. **Be undertaking a clinical placement outside your current residential locality.** NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grants targets allied health students undertaking rural clinical placements in locations where the student incurs additional costs, such as accommodation and board/lodging, associated with being away from their usual place of residence. For example, if you are studying and living in Armidale you would not be eligible for financial assistance for a clinical placement in Armidale, or towns with the same postcode.

6. **Complete an evaluation form** that will be provided with your letter of acceptance. This evaluation form will include questions relating to your experiences while on your rural placement and will assist in providing valuable feedback to the Department, Area Health Services and Universities on the success of rural placements. All information collated via the evaluation form will be anonymous

--- IMPORTANT ---

**IT IS COMPULSORY FOR ALL SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS TO RETURN THE EVALUATION FORM TO THIS OFFICE WITHIN A MONTH AFTER THE PLACEMENT IS COMPLETED.**

**YOU WILL BE INVOICED FOR THE RETURN OF YOUR GRANT IF THE EVALUATION IS NOT COMPLETED AND RETURNED.**

7. **Be willing** to participate in any longitudinal studies of the recruitment of allied health professionals to rural practice.

8. **Priority will be given** to students who have not previously received a NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grant, though past Grant recipients are not restricted from applying.

**INELIGIBILITY**

- Students in receipt of a NSW Rural Allied Health Scholarship are ineligible to apply, as are students in receipt of any other Scholarship or Grant for this placement.
- NSW students undertaking clinical placements at rural locations outside NSW, including the ACT and Queensland, are ineligible to apply.
- Exercise physiology students can only apply for placements in a NSW public health service. Clinical placements in other facilities are ineligible.

**WHEN DO I APPLY?**
First Semester Rural Placements: Both retrospective and prospective applications will be considered. Semester 1 applications will be accepted for placements during the period December of the previous year to July of the current year.

Second Semester Rural Placements: Both retrospective and prospective applications will be considered. Second semester placements will be accepted for placements during the period from June of the current year to January of the next year.

Please note if a NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grant has been awarded prospectively and the rural placement is unable to be undertaken and/or completed, the Placement Grant recipient must notify NSW Health Department within one week of the event. Part or full repayment may be required after consideration of the individual case.

HOW TO APPLY?

1. Obtain an application form by:
   - Sending an email to alliedschol@doh.health.nsw.gov.au
   - Contact 02 9391 9501

2. Complete the application form.

3. Attach a letter from your Course Coordinator:
   - Confirming that you meet the classifications indicated in the eligibility criteria; AND
   - Providing details of your rural placement duration, location and dates.

3. Forward the Application Form and your Course Coordinator’s letter to:

   NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grants
   Statewide Services Development Branch
   NSW Health Department
   Locked Mail Bag 961
   NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Applications must be received by NSW Health Department by 4.00pm, FRIDAY 28 September 2007. No applications will be accepted after this time. Receipt of applications will be acknowledged in writing.

WHEN WILL I KNOW?

Successful applicants will receive confirmation letter from NSW Department of Health within six weeks of the relevant semester’s application closing date. Payment will be made by Electronic Funds Transfer into the recipient’s selected account within two months after the closing date.

The decision of NSW Health Department will be final and there is no appeal mechanism.