

Department of General Practice
and Primary Care



VicREN- Education

The Department of General Practice and Primary Care is committed to enhancing general practice through excellent education that engages with the community and the wider health care system.

Each year we coordinate around 800 Doctor of Medicine (MD) student placements in general practice clinics throughout Victoria. Students are guided and supported in their learning by skilled general practitioners and exposed to a wide variety of patient situations. Face-to-face clinical experience is an important component of their four-year post-graduate medical course.

We strongly promote a whole-of-practice approach to learning. Students are encouraged to spend time with multiple GPs, practice nurses, and other allied health staff to learn how their individual roles contribute to primary care. In 2024, 757 MD students were placed in 259 Victorian general practices for 10,094 placement days. 21% of these placements were in rural locations.

Year 1: Longitudinal Clinical Placement

This placement exposes students early to the intrinsic role that general practice plays in the health care system. Students attend the same practice for 12 days.

Year 2: Discovery

Students can choose to complete a discovery subject that focuses on the transition of care between hospital and general practice. This four-week subject involves six days of placement equally split between hospital and community settings.

Year 3: GP Block Rotation

This six week GP block provides an opportunity for students to learn about general practice as a distinct specialist discipline. Students attend a clinic for three days each week, where they engage with patients and participate in all clinic activities.

Year 3: Research Project

Students undertake a research project with the opportunity to choose general practice as an area of focus.

Year 4: Clinical Scholar

Students can choose to complete four, eight, or 12 weeks of placement with a GP clinic that is aligned to their interests. They also complete a research project in a specialty of their choice.

Year 4: Transition to Practice

Students attend full-time for a four-week block. This clinical placement allows students who have almost finished their medical course to explore an area of clinical practice in which they think they might like to develop a career.

Year 4: Research Scholar

Students undertake a research project with the opportunity to choose general practice as an area of focus.

Placements are eligible to claim the Teaching Practice Incentive Payment. All GP Supervisors have access to specialised training to enrich the placement experience for our students.



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