

The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Medical Student Elective Program

2024-2025



Please read the following information carefully before applying for an elective placement.

The Medical Student Elective Program at The Royal Children's Hospital is administered by The University of Melbourne, Department of Paediatrics. All elective enquiries are to be directed to the Elective Coordinator at RCH-electives@unimelb.edu.au

Please **DO NOT** contact RCH clinicians directly.

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Who can apply for a clinical medical elective?

Medical undergraduates can apply for a clinical elective at The Royal Children's Hospital. Applicants are required to be in their penultimate or final year of study at the time of their elective placement.

*Medical students **must have completed the paediatric component of their medical degree prior to undertaking an elective placement at RCH.***

If you have graduated and are a doctor, you are not eligible for this program.

When can I apply for a placement?

Placements for 2026 have now closed.

Placements for 2027 will be released mid-2026. If you are interested, you can be added to a mailing list and will be contacted when applications open. More information, and the link to the application form once it is released, can be [found here at the RCH Clinical Electives page](#).

How many weeks are available for an elective?

Electives are generally available for four weeks. No adjustments can be made, and unfortunately longer placements will not be available in 2027.

How much does an elective cost?

AUD \$250 per week of placement. Elective payments are non-refundable.

Will you help me with a visa?

The University of Melbourne, Department of Paediatrics cannot provide information to international students regarding the type of visa required. You will not be enrolled as a student, and we do not sponsor any visa applications. You will be a visitor to this hospital, observing and shadowing clinicians.

Students are required to ensure that they have the correct visa. In most cases a 'visitor' visa will be sufficient. For information regarding a visa, please contact the [Visa list \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#)

Please ensure your visa covers the entire duration of your stay in Australia.

Elective payments will not be refunded if you are unable to obtain a visa.



Do you provide accommodation?

Accommodation **is not provided** at The Royal Children's Hospital.

Other options include: [Youth Hostels Association Australia](#) or [Airbnb](#)

Suburbs close to RCH: Parkville, North Melbourne, West Melbourne, Melbourne, Brunswick and Carlton.

When are clinical elective placements available?

Clinical placements are generally available from March through November.

The number of students we can intake changes month to month, depending on hospital and department capacity. The bulk of our placements are available between March and August.

We are no longer facilitating placements in January or February, due to reduced staffing numbers at RCH.

What types of clinical elective placements are available?

These are the departments available for Clinical placements at the Royal Children's Hospital. Availability in each department will vary year to year.

In 2027, placements will be available in:

Endocrinology

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

Orthopaedics

Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery

Respiratory

Surgery

Please Note: Elective placements are unable to be undertaken in General Medicine or the Emergency Department.

What elective experience can I expect?

A clinical elective placement will involve integration into the activities of the Unit (as deemed appropriate by the Head of each Unit) usually “shadowing” the resident/registrar.

You will:

- Gain an understanding of paediatric medicine.
- Be given the opportunity to interact (under supervision) with patients whilst on ward rounds and outpatient clinics or other clinical settings
- Clerk patients using the electronic medical record system under supervision.
- Attend clinical meetings and appreciate communication skills required for interdisciplinary team function.

This does **NOT** include individual tutorials or integration into the University of Melbourne medical student teaching program.

We are unable to provide a timetable prior to your elective commencement date. Your hosting department will advise you on your first day which activities you will be able to participate in.

How do I apply for an elective?

You will need to complete an online application form. We need your CV and a letter of good standing from your university, which must:

- Be signed by the Dean or another appropriate member of your university’s staff
- Indicate that you are a penultimate or final year student
- Indicate that you have completed your paediatrics rotation
- Be in good standing with your university

[Link to the Application Form will be available on our website.](#)

When will I hear if I have been successful?

Please allow a **minimum of FOUR WEEKS from the application closing date** for your application to be reviewed. We routinely receive an extraordinarily large number of applications for clinical elective placements at this hospital.

If my application is successful what happens next?

Successful applicants will be notified after a **minimum of four weeks from the application closing date**, and we will forward a *Letter of Offer* to you. Once you have accepted the offer you will need to provide the below documentation up to six weeks before your placement begins.

In extremely rare circumstances, we may need to modify or withdraw a placement opportunity. This will usually be due to changes in staff availability in departments. We will do our best to find another spot for you, but cannot guarantee this will be possible. In the event we do need to withdraw a placement opportunity, we will do this at least six weeks before your placement is due to start.

What documentation do I need to provide?

If you have been successful in obtaining a clinical elective placement and if you wish to accept the offer, you will then need to provide the following documents **prior** to your placement:

- **A document of evidence of cover for Professional Indemnity/Medical and Health Malpractice.** Your Medical School may be able to provide you with this, or you will need to apply for it with another provider separately. Please note that if you accept this elective you will NOT be an enrolled student of this University, and you will therefore not be covered by University of Melbourne's insurance.
- **Personal Medical and Accident Insurance** that covers you in the event of sickness, accident or medical emergency.
- **A police check** (from your country of residence) that is dated no longer than 3 months prior to your elective commencement date.
- **A Victorian Working With Children Check (WWCC)**
 - The WWCC is an assessment of a person's suitability to work or volunteer with children. It involves an examination of relevant criminal offences and disciplinary findings across a person's lifetime.
 - International students must apply for a Victorian WWCC once they arrive in Australia. Further details will be provided.
 - [How to apply | Working with Children](#)
- **Hand Hygiene certificate** --- an on-line learning package, which you will be sent a link to as part of your letter of confirmation.
- **RCH Privacy & Confidentiality form**, which will be sent as part of your letter of confirmation.
- **RCH Emergency Contact form**, which will be sent as part of your letter of confirmation.
- **Proof of Covid vaccinations** - Proof of 3 Covid vaccinations

- **Proof of other vaccinations** – please see below section
- **A fit-test for a respiratory mask**

Our equivalent in Australia is the FIT test for N95 masks, though any test for a mask that protects against Covid-19 can be accepted – please provide document of completion. If you are unable to get a fit test completed, you may also provide evidence that you have been trained in the use of PPE by your university.

Please note: FIT testing cannot be undertaken at The Royal Children's Hospital.

- **Payment of the administration fee of AUD\$250 per week of placement** must be made up to 6 weeks prior to your commencement. Payment is made online – a link will be provided as part of your offer letter.

All documentation, (apart from the WWCC and Hand Hygiene Certificate if you are an overseas medical student) must be received up to 6 weeks prior to your commencement.

You do not need to provide the above documentation and payment until after you have accepted the formal offer.

What insurance and vaccinations do I need to have?

Insurance

Visiting elective students are not enrolled students of The University of Melbourne and are not covered by The University of Melbourne's insurance.

Professional Medical Indemnity Insurance and Health Malpractice. (Minimum AUD \$10 million per occurrence)

All elective students are required to provide evidence of professional medical indemnity and health malpractice cover for the elective period. This coverage can be provided by your University, or an alternative insurance organisation, however please note the coverage must amount to minimum AUD \$10 million per occurrence for professional indemnity insurance and health malpractice. In Australia, [MIPS](#) offer medical indemnity cover to medical students from Australia and overseas.

Personal Medical and Accident Insurance that covers you in the event of sickness, accident or medical emergency.

Vaccinations

Covid Vaccination – you must provide your proof of Covid 3 Vaccinations before commencing your elective placement.

TB test is a mandatory requirement for a placement at this hospital. You will need proof of either Mantoux or Quantiferon done within 12 months of your elective commencement date. A chest x-ray is not acceptable. If you happen to be TB positive, then you will need a letter from your doctor stating that you are not infectious.

Influenza vaccine is also mandatory and required to be done within 12 months of your elective commencement date.

The following vaccinations are Highly Recommended to be completed by all students prior to the commencement of a clinical elective placement at The Royal Children's Hospital:

Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus

Has been administered an adult dose of dTpa vaccine within the past 10 years.

Hepatitis A

Has received positive c test results for total hepatitis A antibodies or anti---HAV IgG.

Note: Immunity to hepatitis A is recommended for all healthcare students but is typically required for nursing students only.

Hepatitis B

Has been serologically tested within the past 12 months and shown to be free from infection with hepatitis B; and has been administered a full course of hepatitis B vaccine and been shown to have Anti---HBs greater than or equal to 10mIU/mL through serological testing

Measles

Has serological evidence that indicates immunity to measles (positive IgG).

Mumps

Has serological evidence that indicates immunity to mumps (positive IgG).

Poliomyelitis

Has been administered a full course of poliomyelitis vaccine.

Rubella

Has serological evidence that indicates immunity to rubella (positive IgG).

Tuberculosis

Has been screened by tuberculin (Mantoux) skin testing or QuantiFERON Gold blood testing within the past 12 months and shown to be free from infection with tuberculosis.

Varicella

Has serological evidence that indicates immunity to varicella (positive IgG) or (if protective antibody levels are not demonstrated) has been administered two doses of varicella vaccine.

What should I wear?

Dress code

Students are expected to be well groomed and professional in appearance at all times. Jeans, low-cut tops, bare midriff and low-cut pants are not acceptable. Trainers/gym shoes and open toed shoes are not acceptable on the wards.

White coats are not required. Theatre scrubs will be provided by the hospital where required and can only be worn within designated areas.

Your official RCH hospital ID badge must be displayed prominently at all times so that your status as a student is clear.

Professional Behaviour

Professional boundaries are integral to the relationship between those working in the caring professions and patients, clients, families or carers.

Maintaining professional boundaries / relationships with patients who have lengthy, ongoing or frequent episodes of care can be particularly challenging in healthcare organisations like The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) which is committed to patient and family centred care.

As medical elective students you are expected to be polite and respectful to the hospital, university and clinical school staff as well as patients, their relatives and hospital visitors.

You should exercise great care in the material you post on social media about your private life and your hospital experiences. At no time should material be posted which could adversely affect your patients, their relatives, your supervisors/teachers or the clinical school staff.

Elective placements at other University of Melbourne affiliated hospitals

For a list of other University of Melbourne affiliated hospitals that offer electives please [Click here](#)

Research Placements

Medical students seeking research placements at The Royal Children's Campus must apply through the relevant Murdoch Childrens Research Institute Group and RCH clinical department.

Please contact the applicable Research Group Leader directly via email. Details can be found at www.mcri.edu.au under Research--- Themes & Groups.

If you require further information, please contact the MCRI Student Administrator

Student Administrator

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Murdoch Childrens Research Institute

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The Royal Children's Hospital

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