



Commonwealth Medical Internships – Information for medical students

The Commonwealth Medical Internships (CMI) programme is designed to increase the nation's capacity to train medical interns in the private sector in rural and regional Australia, where there are traditionally fewer options for internship training. As all domestic medical graduates are expected to be placed into an internship by states and territories, CMI positions are only available to international full-fee paying medical graduates who have completed their medical course in Australia in 2015 and who have not yet accepted an intern place for 2016. This information sheet has been developed to provide an overview of the CMI programme and to assist potential applicants to understand how the programme will work and how to apply for a CMI place.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet **all** eligibility requirements. Applicants must:

- be a full-fee paying international student completing their medical degree during the current calendar year from an onshore medical school in Australia, having completed all of their medical degree in Australia (short-term elective rotations completed offshore will not exclude applicants provided rotations have university approval); and
- have met the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) English language competency requirements for registration purposes (*provisional registration as a medical practitioner cannot be obtained without meeting this standard*); and
- not be an Australian Citizen; and
- commit to obtaining an appropriate visa to work in Australia during the internship year and as long as necessary to complete the return of service obligation (refer to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website for details <http://www.immi.gov.au/>).

Note: The Department recognises that some applicants will only meet the MBA English language competency for registration purposes upon completion of their medical degree and not at the time of submission of their application, if they are using the Combined secondary and tertiary pathway and/or the Extended education pathway. Refer to the MBA English language competency on page 2.

Applicants who do not meet **all** eligibility criteria will be ruled ineligible.

You are **not** eligible for a CMI internship if:

- your medical degree was undertaken in an offshore campus of an Australian university, such as Monash Malaysia or as part of the UQ-Ochsner MBBS Program, or you commenced your medical degree at an overseas university such as the International Medical University and are completing the final part of your degree in Australia; or
- you have a return of service obligation to a country which has sponsored your university medical studies; or
- you are an Australian citizen; or
- you have already accepted an internship position from a state or territory for 2016; or
- you completed your medical degree in, or prior to, the 2014 calendar year or are completing your medical degree in the 2016 calendar year (eligible applicants from the previous calendar year who were not offered a CMI internship place or executed a Deed of Agreement and could not commence or needed to withdraw during their first rotation due to exceptional circumstances may be given approval to participate in the current CMI programme on a case by case basis); or
- you have not met the MBA English language competency requirements at the time of application.

Application

If you are interested in a CMI internship position, you need to submit an application via email to CMI2016@health.gov.au, using the CMI application form available at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/work-commonwealth-medical-internships>.

The application will ask you for basic information such as your university, completion date, nationality, Intern Placement Number and contact details. You will be required to attest that you are eligible and understand that a return of service obligation is involved in accepting a Commonwealth Medical Internship.

You will also be given the opportunity to include a short description of any particular interests you may have as a medical intern. You will have the opportunity to nominate a region or hospital you may be interested in working in, but please note that for operational reasons a list of regions and hospitals cannot be provided to potential applicants at this time.

Medical Board of Australia (MBA) English language competency

The Department will accept a CMI application from applicants intending to use the MBA English language competency through the Combined secondary and tertiary pathway and/or the Extended education pathway, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria and provide evidence at the time of application which may include secondary qualifications (where these are being used to meet MBA requirements) and must include written advice from an authorised person representing the medical school that states completion of the medical degree is expected to occur in 2015.

An applicant's eligibility, provided they have met all other criteria, will be conditional on them meeting the MBA English language competency upon completion of their medical degree. Failure to meet this requirement will mean these applicants are ineligible for the CMI.

Applications open 9.00am Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) on Monday, 24 August 2015 and must not be submitted before this time. The CMI 2016 [application form](#) is available at www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/work-commonwealth-medical-internships

You will need to email your fully completed application to CMI2016@health.gov.au by 5.00pm (AEST) on Monday, 7 September 2015. Applications time-marked after this will not be accepted and you will not be considered for a CMI internship unless exceptional circumstances can be proven.

Please ensure that your application is complete and accurate. Incomplete applications may not be accepted.

By applying for a CMI 2016 internship, you agree that any details you provide can be forwarded, in confidence, to stakeholders (including private hospitals and state and territory governments) for the purposes of facilitating the allocation of medical internships in Australia for 2016 (including for the National Internship Audit Process) and for the ongoing operation of the CMI 2016 programme.

Allocation Process

Once applications have closed, details of all eligible applicants will be made available to all hospitals offering places in 2016. These hospitals may contact you to discuss your interest in a CMI place. Participating hospitals are expected to make their offers over a two week recruitment period set by the Department of Health. Applicants will have to decide whether to accept any offers during this period. The recruitment period is expected to occur in October or November 2015.

If you accept an offer under the CMI programme, both you and the hospital **must** separately email the CMI mailbox advising that an offer and acceptance has been made. You will then be required to enter into a Deed of Agreement with the Commonwealth (to complete your internship and return of service obligation), which is necessary to guarantee that the hospital providing your internship receives funding for the internship.

You will have 28 days to sign a Deed of Agreement. If this Agreement is not signed within 28 days, the offer will be rescinded and you will be withdrawn from the process. Successful applicants are encouraged to seek legal advice on the Deed of Agreement. A sample of the Deed of Agreement is available at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/work-commonwealth-medical-internships>

After the closing date of the recruitment period, no more internship offers are expected to be made. However, it is possible that an intern who accepted an offer during the recruitment period may subsequently withdraw from their CMI 2016 position. On a case by case basis, the hospital involved may be able to recruit a replacement intern from the list of eligible interns provided by the Department. The replacement intern can only be selected from the list of eligible applicants that was provided to the hospital. No late additions will be made to this list.

It is possible that a CMI applicant will not receive any offers or interviews through the CMI programme during 2016. Hospitals are under no obligation to interview or recruit applicants.

To be clear - once you and the hospital have agreed in-principle that you will work at that hospital in 2016, and you and the hospital have separately e-mailed the CMI mailbox to that effect during the recruitment period, you must sign a Deed of Agreement within the time specified above or be removed from the CMI process altogether.

Participation in the CMI Programme in 2016

Please note that:

- participation in the CMI programme is voluntary;
- an application to the CMI programme will not guarantee you an internship for 2016;
- undertaking an internship under the CMI programme will not guarantee you employment after your internship;
- any internship you are offered cannot be swapped with another intern and cannot be deferred or completed part-time;
- graduates who accept a CMI internship position will need to enter into a Deed of Agreement with the Commonwealth. The Deed of Agreement will require you to complete your internship and a 48 week return of service period in an approved location (Regional or rural as specified by the Australian Standard Geographical Classification - Rural Areas 2-5) which is to be completed within five years of commencing internship (*the 48 weeks does not have to be served concurrently, however, a minimum of 4 continuous weeks working in an approved location is required for the time to count towards the return of service period*);
- formal acceptance of an offer occurs when both you and the hospital separately email the [CMI 2016 mailbox](#) confirming that an offer has been made and accepted (see the Frequently Asked Questions for more information);
- should your CMI internship be based in an area which the Commonwealth agrees would also qualify as meeting the return of service obligation, the successfully completed internship will count as the return of service obligation;
- if part of your internship is completed in an approved return of service location, this component will count towards the 48 week return of service period; and
- **failure to complete the internship year or the return of service period will result in a breach of the Deed of Agreement and may require the applicant to repay the cost of providing the internship place. This may be up to \$140,000 (GST inclusive).**

Relationship to State / Territory Internship Processes

The CMI programme is not linked to state or territory intern allocation processes. CMI is a totally separate programme. However, work is ongoing with state and territory governments to streamline the internship application and allocation process in each jurisdiction. In an effort to reduce the inefficiency and confusion which may emerge from a system in which one student may submit several applications, the following policies will apply to the CMI programme.

- CMI applicants who accept an offer from a state or territory, will be removed from the CMI process; and
- CMI applicants who accept a CMI internship offer will have their details provided to states and territories, which may alter the status of any offers or acceptances they have made with the applicant.

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Registration Process

CMI applicants should note that a new approach to international criminal history checks has taken effect as of 4 February 2015.

The new approach applies to all individuals when they apply for registration in Australia (if they are currently unregistered in Australia) and have declared an international criminal history and/or have lived, or been primarily based, in any country other than Australia for six consecutive months or more when aged 18 years or over. For further information you will need to refer to the AHPRA website at:

<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Process/Criminal-history-checks/International-Criminal-History.aspx>

Further Information

Further information about the CMI programme is available in the following information sheets available from the [Department of Health website](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/work-commonwealth-medical-internships) at www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/work-commonwealth-medical-internships.

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Deed of Agreement
- Programme Guidelines