



PGY3+ RMCLHN
Rural Generalist / General Training
Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence

Information Pack 2025 Clinical Year



as of April 2024

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About Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence Rural Generalist / General Training Pathway

Introduction

The Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence (RACE) articulates the ambition of the Riverland Mallee Coorong LHN to be a centre of excellence in rural health – teaching, research, and innovative clinical care. It is the next exciting step in a long-term commitment to medical education in our region.

Based on a holistic understanding of health and integrating hospital and general practice training at all levels with a broad range of contemporary training in advanced skills, it is a one-stop-shop for career advancement in general practice and rural generalism. The Academy Trainee Medical Officer (TMO) program is also excellent preparation for other specialty training programs and includes opportunities to advance your career through becoming part of local and international research and education networks.

We have listened to Trainee Medical Officers around the country who want a secure single-employer contract for the duration of their training, who want to be able to choose to live in one place if they wish, and who want flexibility for part-time employment. All of this in supportive communities where you have meaningful work while you learn.

Our Academy Pathway is based in the small towns that have been the home of the Parallel Rural Community Curriculum for 25 years. New GPs and other specialists have brought an exciting culture of ‘can do together’ to the region.

Our PGY2 program will provide you with rural emergency medicine, anaesthetics, women’s health, paediatrics, general practice, and mental health options critical for advantaging you to gain entrance to Fellowship training. And once enrolled with either ACRRM or RACGP, your registrar advanced skills and general practice learning is covered too! Or you can choose to use our program, and the networks you make with other specialists in our region, as the springboard for other specialist training in Adelaide or elsewhere.

You will have opportunities to work with experienced healthcare teams, under personalised supervision of experienced rural clinicians, challenge yourself and gain valuable experience with hands-on procedural skills. You will work in a network of hospitals, general practices, aboriginal health services, community, mental health, and aged care services in our region that provide high quality care close to home for our 70,000 residents.

Being a member of a smaller cohort of trainees, you will have access to significant individual support from the RACE Medical Education Unit and you will also develop close working relationships with your junior and senior medical colleagues. The working culture at our hospitals and general practices embraces teamwork and recognises that all team members, including you as a Trainee Medical Officer, are highly valued for the skills and knowledge they are able to contribute to patient care.

Key Dates

| | |
|--|---|
| Expressions of Interest open: | Wednesday 12 June 2024 (09:00am) |
| Expressions of Interest close: | Wednesday 3 July 2024 (close at midnight) |
| Referee reports close: | Wednesday 10 July 2024 |
| Shortlisting commences: | Wednesday 31 July 2024 |
| Interviews: | To be advised |
| Round 1 results available to applicants: | Thursday 19 September 2024 1 st preference matches only) |
| Round 2 results available to applicants (excluding general training): | Thursday 26 September 2024 2 nd or higher preference matches) |
| Round 3 results available to applicants (excluding general training): | Thursday 3 October 2024 (3 rd or higher preference matches) |
| Round 4 onwards (including general training): | Thursday 10 October 2024 4 th or higher preference matches) |
| Start date of Term 1 Clinical Year: | Monday 3 February 2025 |

Number of positions in 2025 clinical year



Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network (RMCLHN)

What can you expect from the Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence training program

Does this program meet RACGP and ACRRM Training Requirements?

Yes. RACGP Trainees in our Northern and Southern regions will be able to meet the requirements of the College hospital year.

ACRRM Trainees in our Northern Region will be able to achieve two of the three core clinical experiences (Anaesthetics and Obstetrics) as required by the College during this year.

It is also possible to meet the Paediatrics requirements of both Colleges in both regions.

Where will I be based? Will I be expected to travel to other country locations?

Your primary site for the Academy will be either at the Riverland General Hospital in Berri (Northern region) or Murray Bridge Soldiers Memorial Hospital in Murray Bridge (Southern region).

Rotations to other towns in each region are at commutable distances.

What are the key outcomes of the program?

The pathway aims to provide Trainees with key 'hands-on' experiences in the management of patients in the rural setting, providing both primary care and inpatient care to local rural and remote communities.

The Core Clinical experiences are mapped to the requirements of RACGP and ACRRM.

This will serve as an excellent pathway for trainees interested in Rural Generalist Training or those intending to pursue General Practice or other Specialist training.

Are contracts renewed every 12 months? If I want to stay on for an extra year, do I have to apply again?

RACE PGY2+ contracts are for 5 years subject to entry being gained into either the RACGP or ACRRM Fellowship training programs before the end of your first PGY2+ year with us.

What are the hours of work and overtime?

Trainees are rostered to work 76 hours per fortnight and expected to participate in the general on-call roster. Actual hours of duty will be flexible as determined by the Health Service in order to accommodate the needs of the patient/ service provision.

What education is provided?

Generous education opportunities are available from the Medical Training Unit including tutorials, video-conference education sessions and journal clubs.

How will supervision be provided? Will this vary from rotation to rotation?

Trainees will work under close supervision and support of General Practitioner and other Specialist consultants, registrars, and term supervisors. The mix of General Practitioner and other Specialist Consultants will be appropriate to the specific rotation.

What other support is provided?

The Executive Director of Medical Services, Director of Clinical Training and Medical Education Officers are available for professional, administrative and welfare support. RACE will also provide access to a Learning Coach for each trainee.

The Medical Education staff has an open-door policy where Trainees are encouraged to discuss any issues or concerns.

Will the TMO supervise interns/others in their role?

TMOs may be required to assist in the learning experience of medical students and interns.

What pathways are there after the year is completed?

Trainees will be supported to apply for any specialist training program. The RACE Pathway provides for all requirements of the RACGP and ACRRM programs within the region, and for more limited rotations for other specialist pathways.

The Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence Training Pathway

The rotations of the Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence are designed to provide a range of clinical experiences that are high quality and truly representational of rural medicine. Each trainee will rotate through a combination of the following rotations:

- > Anaesthetics and General Practice – Berri.
- > Emergency Medicine and General Practice – Berri, Renmark, Barmera, Loxton, Waikerie, and Murray Bridge.
- > Women’s Health and General Practice – Berri.
- > Paediatrics and General Practice - Loxton & Waikerie and Mannum.
- > General Practice and Mental Health – Mannum and Waikerie.

Selection**About the selection panel**

The selection panel for this program will include, but not limited to, a combination of the following:

- > Director of Clinical Training.
- > Executive Director of Medical Services.
- > Relevant General Practitioner.
- > Medical Workforce Coordinator
- > Medical Education Officer

Eligibility

To apply for a TMO position in South Australia you must comply with the following criteria:

- > Must be eligible for general registration as a medical practitioner in Australia issued by the Medical Board of Australia on or before the February start date.
- > Must meet Ahpra and SA Health’s recency of practice requirements. SA Health requires applicants to have practiced as a medical officer with paid employment (not an observer) within two years at the time of submitting the Expression of Interest.
- > Can demonstrate that you meet the English Language Skills Registration standard.
- > Be able to begin working on the 3 February 2025 start date, which includes compulsory orientation, and fulfil a minimum 12-month commitment.

- > Be an Australian Citizen, Australian Permanent Resident, Australian Temporary Resident, New Zealand Citizen, New Zealand Permanent Resident.
- > Have a residency status or visa that allows you to work unrestricted in Australia for the duration of your pre-vocational training.
- > Have completed and submitted an online Expression of Interest, including the provision of valid supporting documentation, by the Expression of Interest closing date.

Late Expressions of Interest will not be accepted.

Pre-employment requirements

All appointments are subject to:

- > Verification of registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra).
- > Working with Children check (WWCC) and National Police Certificate (NPC) General Employment Probity Check.
- > Pre-employment Immunisation Screening.
- > Credentiailling.

You will not be able to commence your PGY2+ if these requirements are not satisfied.

Skills and knowledge required for the role

Educational /Vocational Qualifications

- > Medical Qualification registerable with the Medical Board of Australia.
- > Minimum of 1-year postgraduate training.
- > Working rights and appropriate visa in Australia.

Personal Abilities / Aptitudes / Skills

- > Interest in experiencing rural learning environment.
- > Professional integrity.
- > Ability to work in a multidisciplinary team environment.
- > Commitment to quality improvement.
- > Ability to be adaptable to change.
- > Good Communication skills both verbally and in writing.
- > Proficient in using computers in various settings.
- > Commitment to teaching medical students.

Experience

- > Successful completion of intern or intern equivalent program.
- > Sound experience in procedural skills.
- > Sound examination and diagnostic skills in adult and paediatric medicine.
- > Experience in a rural health setting.

Knowledge

- > Demonstrated understanding of the rights and responsibilities of patients and their families.
- > Demonstrated understanding of Cultural Safety and Occupational Health Safety & Welfare practices and principles.
- > Good theoretical knowledge of medical practice.
- > Knowledge and awareness of quality improvement activities and clinical risk reduction and patient safety techniques.
- > Demonstrated understanding of the practices and principles of Equal Opportunity.
- > Knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation, industrial agreements, standards, codes, ethics, and competency standards.

Selection Process

Our approach to selection

At a minimum the selection process will involve assessing:

- > Curriculum Vitae.
- > Answers to Expression of Interest short answer questions.
- > Referee reports.
- > Appropriate completion and submission of required documentation.
- > An interview.

All Expression of Interests will be scored/ranked for shortlisting. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a face to face or online interview, and in some circumstances, this can be conducted via teleconference. SA Health will match the highest ranked candidates to the available positions of this program.

Your Expression of Interest

Your Expression of Interest must include:

- > An Expression of Interest addressing the selection criteria (see below).
- > Current Curriculum Vitae.
- > Contact details for three referees in Australia who you have worked with in a clinical setting.

Curriculum Vitae

In your Curriculum Vitae you are required to carefully document any professional development you have undertaken including academic and clinical achievements, quality improvements and research. The contact details for the three referees should also be current and accurate.

Cover letter

Not required.

Other Expression of Interest questions

1. *In no more than 300 words describe why training in the Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence interests you?*
2. *What experience have you had of either living and / or working in a rural area or what personal strengths do you have which will assist you to live and work within a rural community?*

Interview

Applicants who are shortlisted for an interview will be notified by mobile phone and/or email. The intention of the interview is to ensure that the best fit for the role. Interview is likely to include invitation to describe previous experiences with some scenario-based questions with the aim to evaluate candidates against selection criteria which include:

- > *Demonstrated ability to thrive in the rural context.*
- > *Highly effective communication and collaboration skills in the clinical setting.*
- > *Clinical competence commensurate with the postgraduate role.*

Frequently Asked Questions

I am unsure about moving to the country. Can I visit to look at the facilities prior to finalising my preferences?

Yes, we welcome you to come and meet us and see the region for yourself.

Will accommodation be provided?

Accommodation support is available through the RMCLHN on request.

Will I be supported with relocation expenses?

We appreciate that moving house can put a strain on your finances, particularly prior to starting your new job. Please contact us to discuss what relocation support may be available and what documentation you will need to supply.

Will I need my own transport?

Berri is a rural town with the population of approximately 5,000 people. Some sort of private transport is required as the Riverland region is spread over quite a large area. Most locations are only 10-15 minutes away by car, 20-25 minutes by bicycle. There is a limited public transport system (bus) which runs primarily between 9am and 5pm to major towns.

Do I need to arrange for a carpark?

The good news is that parking in all of Berri is currently free of charge. Some areas require permits and time limits, but generally it is easy to park in or around the Hospital. There is a secure staff car park on the Hospital site.

Can I get decent coffee and food in Berri?

Yes, and yes. Berri offers a range of dining options featuring regional produce inspired by freshness and seasonality. Restaurants, Cafes', and hotels provide something for everyone. There is a wide range of cuisines on offer and real baristas.

What is there to do in Berri?

The benefits of living on the Murray River is it will provide you with the ultimate rural Australian experience, with meandering networks of waterways, endless horizons of orange earth and national parks makes it the ideal place to hire a kayak.

Berri is not only a riverside town, but it is surrounded by 3000 hectares of vineyards, and it is only natural that Berri has a lot of wine to offer. Visit a number of the small boutique wineries around the region to have a taste of the local crisp whites and Moorish reds or dine at one of the cosy local pubs, perhaps one of the hearty restaurants or relax and enjoy the perfect cappuccino at a little riverbank cafe.

You will fall in love with Berri and surrounding communities.

Contacts

Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network:

Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence

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| Executive Director Medical Services | Name: Dr Caroline Phegan Email: Caroline.Phegan@sa.gov.au |
| Executive Director Clinical Innovation | Name: Professor Paul Worley Email: Paul.Worley@sa.gov.au |
| Director Clinical Training | Name: Dr Hamish Eske Email: Hamish.Eske@sa.gov.au |
| Medical Education Officer | Name: Megan Walker Email: Megan.Walker@sa.gov.au Name: Sandra Crockett Email: Sandra.crockett@sa.gov.au |

Role Description

View Role Description [here](#)

Any further questions?

SA Health Salaried Medical Officers Enterprise Agreement 2022 [here](#)

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) registration standards [here](#)

For more information

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

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