



Doctor of Medicine

Student Information Guide 2026

Rural Training Stream

Acknowledgement of Country

Deakin University respectfully acknowledges the custodians of the unceded lands on which our multiple campuses and clinical sites are located and pay our respect to Elders: past, present and future. In particular we acknowledge the Gulidjan, Djargurd Wurrung, Gunditjmarra, Djab Wurrung, Jadawadjali, Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jupagulk, Wergaia, Dja Dja Wurrung and Wada Wurrung traditional owners, on whose lands much of our teaching and learning occurs. We wish to acknowledge the longstanding commitment of the traditional owners to upholding the health and wellbeing of the lands, communities and individuals, and we endeavour to continue that commitment.

Welcome from the Dean of Medicine Professor Gary Rogers

Nyurra wurriyn*,

Welcome to the School of Medicine at Deakin University and warmest congratulations on gaining a place in Year 1 of the Doctor of Medicine (MD) program. I am confident that the School community of staff and existing students will do all they can to help you settle in and make your time with us happy and productive.

The School of Medicine at Deakin University was established in 2006 and admitted the first medical students in 2008 to serve communities in Victoria, wider Australia and elsewhere in the world. We are proud that many of our graduates are establishing strong links with regional and rural health services.

The purpose, aspirations and values of the School of Medicine are clearly articulated. We expect the attitudes and behaviours of both staff and students to align with these guiding statements.



In addition to the MD, the School offers other postgraduate and undergraduate programs:

- Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Optometry
- Bachelor of Medical Imaging
- Graduate Certificate in Agricultural Health and Medicine
- Bachelor of Biomedical Science, jointly run with School of Life and Environmental Sciences
- Bachelor of Health and Medical Science (Honours)

- Graduate Certificate of Health and Medical Research
- Master of Philosophy (Medicine)
- Master of Surgical Research
- Doctor of Philosophy

The School is also a significant research leader with world-leading work at the interface between physical and mental health through the Institute for Physical and Mental Health and Clinical Translation (IMPACT), as well as highly influential rural health research through Deakin Rural Health, based in Warrnambool. We have a large number of academic and student researchers in medical sciences, clinical research, bioethics, and health professional education at the Waurin Ponds, Warrnambool and Burwood campuses, as well as those working in primary, secondary, and tertiary care settings across south and western Victoria.

Our other major organisational centres and partners include:

- The Centre for Rural Emergency Medicine, based in Warrnambool
- The National Centre for Farmer Health, based in Hamilton
- Barwon Health
- South West Healthcare, Warrnambool
- Grampians Health Service, Ballarat, Horsham, Stawell and Edenhope
- East Grampians Health Service, Ararat
- Western Districts Health Service, Hamilton
- Kardinia Health, Geelong
- Active Health Portland
- CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory
- The Western Alliance Academic Health Science Centre

As a school we are committed to providing excellent education and research facilities and services for students and staff for the ultimate benefit of the communities we serve. We welcome you to the School of Medicine and wish you every success on your journey to becoming a doctor.

Kun gadji*,



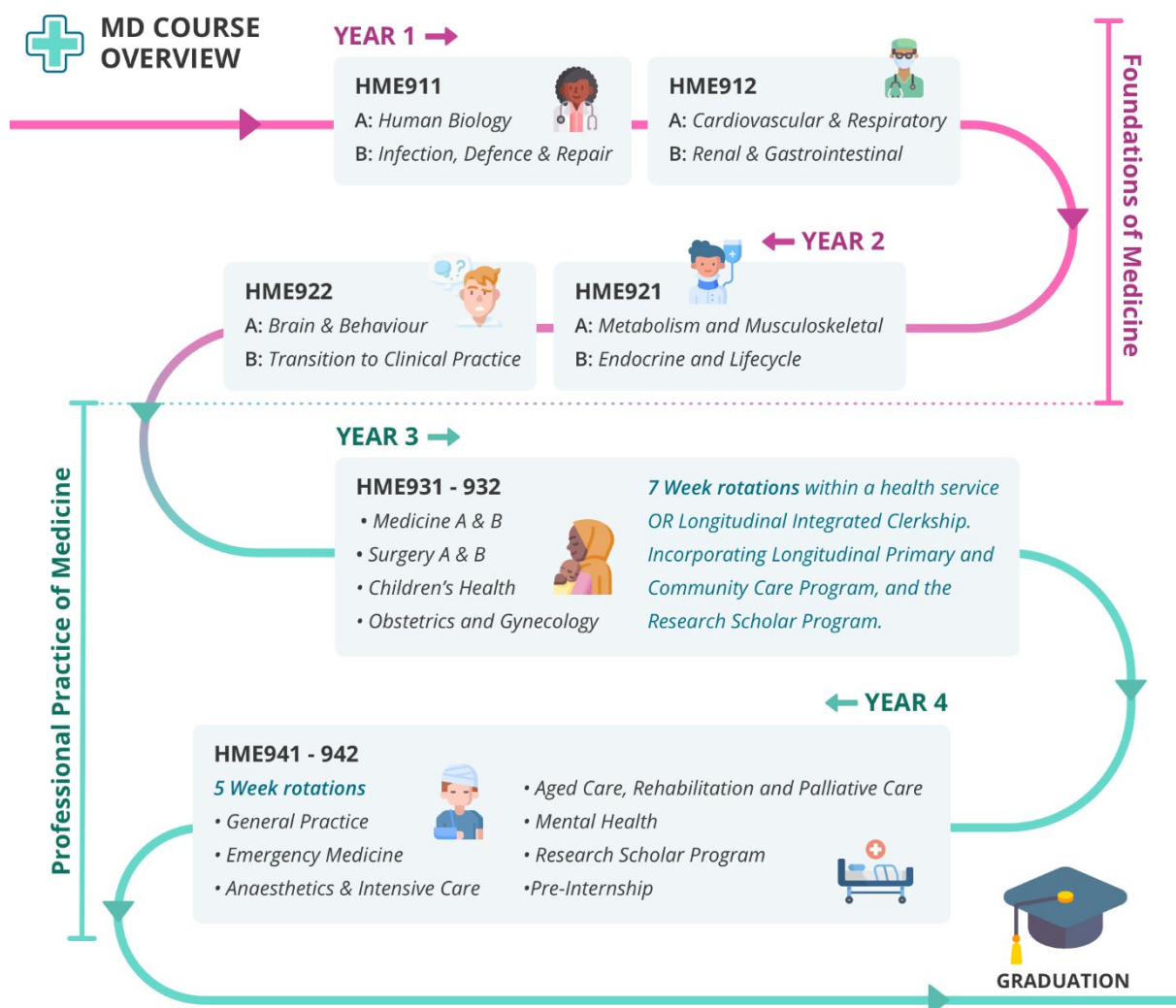
Professor Gary Rogers
Dean, School of Medicine

*In the Deakin School of Medicine, we pay respect to the Wadawurrung people, on whose land we work, by using language with permission of local elders. Nyurra Wurriyn: "How do you do", Kun Gadji: "Goodbye" in the Wadawurrung language local to the Deakin Waurin Ponds Campus.

Doctor of Medicine Course Overview

The Doctor of Medicine (MD) is a four-year graduate entry program for students wishing to qualify as medical practitioners who have a person-centred approach to clinical care. Our school prides itself on training excellent health practitioners, who have a strong grounding in medical sciences and clinical skills, and a well-developed understanding of the ethical, social and public health context of their professional environment. We value innovation and research, as well as training health practitioners who will make a difference in the communities they serve. The staff teaching into and supporting this course uphold these values through their work and will inspire you as you progress through your studies.

A brief outline of the MD program is provided below, with further information available on your Unit and Course Hub CloudDeakin sites (our online learning management system), as well as in the Unit guides, which will be available at the start of the semester.



Important information about the Doctor of Medicine degree

The Doctor of Medicine degree requires a full time course load for Years 1–4 of the course; including a full-time clinical placement load in Years 3 and 4. Whilst flexibility may be provided in contact hours, the course requires a significant amount of private study time to achieve the unit and course learning outcomes.

The Doctor of Medicine academic program follows a semester timetable, to view the dates visit the [2026 Doctor of Medicine dates](#).

By accepting this offer, you:

- acknowledge that the School of Medicine has a focus on preparing doctors for work in rural/regional areas of Australia.
- may be allocated to any of the Years 3 and 4 Deakin Medical School placement sites. Allocations for Years 3 and 4 placement sites will occur early in Year 2. Information about placement sites can be accessed on this [webpage](#).
- understand that it is my responsibility to inform the School of Medicine of any extenuating circumstances that I would like the School of Medicine to consider when allocating placement sites in Years 3 and 4. However, I accept that constraints in capacity of learning locations or the late notification of any extenuating circumstances may result in me not being allocated my preferred placement site. Further information about extenuation circumstances can be found in the Commencing Student Information Guide which will be made available after you enrol in the course.
- am responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in relation to a placement (including without limitation travel to and from my home residence to a placement site).
- am willing to accept a long or short-term placement in a rural/regional area.
- am responsible for monitoring my own physical and mental health through the course and will proactively seek relevant support when required. *
- will at all times act in accordance with the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and contribute positively to an inclusive, respectful, culturally safe and supportive learning and work environment.

* The MD Program and Deakin University are committed to providing an inclusive, respectful, culturally safe and supportive learning and work environment. Deakin University partners with students to help them achieve their goals. Should you wish to make early contact with a support person upon acceptance of this offer, please feel welcome to contact:

- [Dr Bryony McNeill](#), Deputy Course Director
- Dr Heather Morrison, [HME911 Unit Chair](#) and/or the [Disability Resource Centre](#)
- [Associate Professor Mark Johnson](#) Deputy Course Direct Professional Practice, for a confidential conversation if you have any significant mental health diagnoses, such as severe anxiety, PTSD, ASD and/or ADHD which may impact your ability to undertake the course.

Years 1 and 2

Students within the Rural Training Stream (RTS) program are based at either the University's Warrnambool campus, or within East Grampians Health Service facilities in Ararat for the first two years. Teaching and learning will be delivered in a hybrid format, with some activities held online (including lectures and Problem-Based Learning (PBL) classes), and others based in clinical skills and anatomy facilities on site. This allows flexibility in learning whilst retaining opportunities for face-to-face study and networking.

The Deakin Rural Training Stream (RTS) is part of Deakin's commitment to address health workforce needs, and to advance the health and wellbeing of regional, rural, remote, Indigenous and marginalised individuals and communities. As such, the RTS is designed to both improve access to medical training for students from rural communities in the Barwon South West Health Region (with a focus on applicants residing locally to their allocated Rural Learning Campus and/or allocated Rural Clinical School throughout their course), and provide the experience of completing all four years of the MD course within a rural location.

In line with the above, applicants to the RTS program should be aware of the following:

- Students who reside in Deakin's Tier 1 footprint and opt to stay in their rural communities throughout the course will be required to undertake regular travel to their assigned Rural Learning Campus; Rural Clinical Placement sites; and/or Rural Clinical School, as part of the program of study.
- Students who reside outside of Deakin's Tier 1 footprint would be expected to relocate locally to their designated Rural Learning Campus; Rural Clinical Placement sites; and/or Rural Clinical School, as regular study at the assigned Rural Learning Campus and/or Rural Clinical School is a requirement of the program.
- Students residing within Deakin's Tier 1 footprint but closer to the Deakin Waurn Ponds Campus than to one of the Rural Learning Campuses will not be able to use Waurn Ponds as their primary place of study, as RTS places are not funded or allocated for study at this campus. Regular travel will be necessary to the assigned Rural Learning Campus; Rural Clinical Placement sites; and/or Rural Clinical School.
- Some required learning experiences will be scheduled at the Deakin Waurn Ponds campus for RTS students.

Years 1 and 2 are 'Foundations of Medicine' years, structured around major body systems as a framework for learning. Foundational principles of the medical sciences are introduced in a clinical context, using clinical cases with problem-based learning (PBL) to illustrate required knowledge. Students develop foundational skills relating to person-centred approaches to communication and care, including obtaining a clinical history, examining a patient and performing basic clinical procedures on manikins. Students learn through small group work as well as larger classes, under the supervision of highly engaged clinical tutors and scientists.

Students gain exposure to the clinical environment through a series of health placements and commence the development of professional and interprofessional communication skills. Students are introduced to issues of ethics and justice in healthcare, and develop their core knowledge and skills in research, research ethics and evidence-based practice – particularly within the Ethics, Law and Professionalism (ELP) Theme. Principles of public health medicine are introduced and applied to the clinical context – including within the Public Health Medicine (PHM) Theme, and students begin their learning of Indigenous Health, including the Cultural Immersion program early in Year 1 – led by the Indigenous Health (IH) team.

Throughout Years 1 and 2, students are supported to develop professional self-awareness, appropriate self-regulated learning skills and personal well-being strategies. Each student will meet with a facilitator to conduct Learning Needs and Wellbeing Check-Ins (LNWs) each semester, to review learning and well-being goals to assist each student with their learning journey. Year 2 concludes with a 'Transition to Clinical Practice' rotation designed to prepare students for the clinical learning environment of Years 3 and 4.

Students are allocated to their Year 3 and 4 Deakin Medical School placement site in Semester 1 of Year 2. Students nominate their preferences at the end of January which placement site they wish to attend. Students with [extenuating circumstances](#) are able to provide a confidential submission to the

Allocations Committee, along with supporting evidence. This will be taken into account by the Allocations Committee at the time of allocation. Allocation outcomes are released mid-March.

Students within the rural training stream will be able to select a Deakin Medical School placement site at any of our rural sites located in Ballarat, Warrnambool or Rural Communities.

Years 3 and 4

In the 'Professional Practice of Medicine' years, during third and fourth year, students work closely with patients and healthcare practitioners, located wholly within clinical schools and healthcare services.

Year 3 and 4 students work through 10 key disciplines. Year 3 includes medicine; surgery; children's health and obstetrics & gynaecology. In Year 4 these include emergency medicine; general practice; mental health, anaesthesia & intensive care and aged care, rehabilitation and palliative care. Students are supported in their learning with both online resources and face-to-face teaching sessions and bedside tutorials and are encouraged to progressively develop their skills as they learn in the clinical environment. The LNW process continues in years 3 and 4 of the course, where facilitators assist each student to achieve their learning and well-being goals in the clinical environment.

In addition, in Year 3 students will undertake the Longitudinal Primary and Community Care (LPCC) program that provides a community medicine experience and perspective. A key component of the program is understanding the individual's experiences as they journey between primary, community and secondary care, and their social, personal and clinical context. Every student's foundational skills in research are further developed during a Research Scholar Program (RSP) which evolves over years 3 and 4, culminating in a scholarly output and student conference in Year 4. Students also participate in two Pre-internship (PRINT) rotations during Year 4, in order to prepare for transition to independent practice upon graduation as a junior doctor.

Professionalism in the MD & AHPRA Registration

Student doctors and health practitioners are held to a high standard of professional competency and ethical behaviour by their peers, patients and the community. As such, professionalism is an explicit component of the curriculum in the MD program, and is guided by the [Code of Conduct](#) developed by the Medical Board of Australia. Student doctors entering the course are expected to uphold these standards in their own behaviour. Student doctors are also expected to abide by the University's [Code of Conduct](#) and [Student Academic Integrity](#). However, the School takes a developmental approach to professionalism, providing support and guidance to students as they develop their understanding and embodiment of this core element of their future profession. For further information regarding the [School of Medicine's Code of Conduct](#) and professionalism requirements, please see the MD Course Hub on CloudDeakin, which will be available on commencement of the program.

As a legal requirement, Deakin University is required to provide details of any enrolled School of Medicine students to the [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency](#) (AHPRA). Students undertaking clinical training placements in a health profession must be registered in the interests of protecting the public's safety in much the same way that health practitioners must be registered.

AHPRA manages notifications about students whose health is impaired to such a degree that there may be substantial risk of harm to the public, who have been found guilty of an offence punishable by 12 months' imprisonment or more, or who have a conviction of, or are the subject of, a finding of guilt for an offence punishable by imprisonment, or their registration under the law of another

country that provides for the registration of students has been suspended or cancelled. AHPRA provides more information in their [FAQ for students](#).

It is important to note that health issues (including mental health) do not need to be reported to AHPRA, unless there is significant risk of harm to the public. There is a high threshold for reporting. Concerns regarding registration should not stop you seeking support for health issues; in fact, looking after your own health and well-being is a key element of medical professionalism.

If you have concerns regarding AHPRA registration, please contact Dr Karen D'Souza, MD Course Director, karen.dsouza@deakin.edu.au for a confidential discussion.

The School of Medicine will complete the registration process on your behalf at the commencement of your course. If, at any stage during your course, you require a document stating that you are registered as a student with AHPRA please email: som-clinical@deakin.edu.au.

Getting Started at Deakin

Health and Well-being

The most important aspect of preparation for medical school is to ensure that you are feeling healthy, supported and connected prior to beginning your studies. The School encourages all students to identify a local GP to support you during your studies and beyond. Students that require assistance in identifying a local GP are encouraged to reach out to key staff, including the Unit Chair or Course Director.

Deakin offers a range of services to help students stay healthy and safe – physically, mentally and spiritually. Extensive information is provided on the [Health and Wellbeing](#) website and the MD Program Course Hub.

The School of Medicine has a dedicated Counsellor available to all students. An appointment with the Medical School Counsellor can be secured by contacting the Division of Student Life on (03) 5227 1221 (please identify yourself as a medical student).

The School of Medicine encourages those with a disability, chronic illness, primary carer responsibilities or other special circumstances to join the MD program, and actively works to support these students to succeed in their studies. To best facilitate providing early and relevant support, we encourage all students with circumstances that may impact on their studies to reach out to the school for a confidential, support-focussed discussion of your needs. Your Year 1 Semester 1 Unit Chair ([Heather Morrison](#)), Deputy Course Director ([Bryony McNeill](#)) or Course Director ([Karen D'Souza](#)) can help you to explore reasonable adjustments and other support structures. Students can also reach out to the [Disability Resource Centre](#) (DRC) for information and support.

First Nations Students

For students who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, there are further supports that are available to access both within the school and through the broader university community. These services can include free tutoring sessions and specific Social and Emotional Wellbeing counsellors sessions, study support, community and cultural support. To receive further information regarding the supports that are available within the School of Medicine please contact [Kelsey Love](#) in the Indigenous Health Team, and for broader university supports please contact the NIKERI team via the [NIKERI](#) webpage.

International Students

Deakin offers a range of support services for international students. You will find information about these supports at <https://www.deakin.edu.au/international-students/why-study-in-australia/living-in-australia/support>.

The School provides pastoral support for international students and is available to support international students throughout their time studying medicine at Deakin University. This support includes connecting students with services, providing information, and offering a space to talk about their experiences. Students can meet Sarah Hosking at the fortnightly drop-in sessions or arrange an individual appointment as needed. Sarah can be contacted by emailing s.hosking@deakin.edu.au

Students who require loan documents signed, please email the Selection and Placements Team at som-selection@deakin.edu.au.

Accommodation for students at the Waurin Ponds campus

Students studying in the Rural Training Stream are encouraged to consider their personal circumstances, medicine is a full time intensive course with an on campus commitment in year 1 and 2 of approximately 1-2 full days per week, with intensive blocks of study of a few days' duration located at the Waurin Ponds campus approximately once per teaching block. Deakin offers accommodation at Ararat and Warrnambool.

Please email drhstudentofficer@deakin.edu.au for information on accommodation in Ararat as well as off campus accommodation options at Warrnambool. On campus accommodation at Warrnambool is also an option, please visit the [website](#) for further information.

Financial Support

Deakin provides resources regarding [financial support](#) for students, including [Deakin University Scholarships](#) (noting that there are several specifically for MD students and many others for which MD students may be eligible), financial counselling and student loans.

Computing Requirements

To fully engage with Deakin learning experiences, students need to have access to and be able to use internet-connected devices. As such, the required standards to be met for effective study at Deakin University are: access to a device such as a desktop computer or laptop, connectivity to the internet, capability to use our online learning environments. Please note that many of our teaching sessions and some assessments are run online, and so you will need to have a stable internet connection which allows video streaming. We strongly recommend the use of a device with a camera and microphone. For more information, view the [University's computing requirements site](#).

Returning to Study

The School appreciates that some students may be returning to study after a period of employment or other activities. The University provides extensive [resources and support](#) to students to help them in learning how to study effectively and succeed in their courses, including useful tips on [note-taking](#) and other key areas. An excellent module has been developed for those commencing postgraduate study at Deakin: [Preparing to Succeed](#). This module contains information on studying at Deakin, taking control of your learning, and assessments, and is available online. We strongly recommend that all students engage with this resource to get off to a flying start in the MD course!

Reviewing Foundational Material

The School of Medicine has a firm commitment to facilitating entry to the course to students who have a non-health or biomedical background. However, some students may wish to review some of the fundamental principles of medical biology prior to commencing if they have not studied these subjects previously. For these students, the first three chapters of the textbook [Anatomy and Physiology](#) are recommended. These provide a good overview of the major principles, systems, and relevant terminology. This is an open-access resource which does not require Deakin University Library log-in.

Your schedule of study for 2026

An indicative timetable is included below so that you can become familiar with your weekly schedule. Although most weeks will follow this basic format, there may be exceptions (e.g. for cultural immersion program, examinations, due to public holidays etc). A detailed timetable will be available at the start of the semester.

The Doctor of Medicine course carries a full-time study load. The MD Program will provide approximately 10 hours of lectures per week. Lectures can be delivered:

- a. On campus (with live-streaming online) for students based at the Rural Learning Campuses in Ararat and Warrnambool
- b. Online via zoom or
- c. Pre-recorded.

Students are encouraged to attend lectures synchronously to engage with the lecturers and remain up to date with the course requirements in preparation for weekly Problem-Based Learning (PBL), clinical skills sessions and Anatomy and Pathology workshop small-group teaching sessions. There are two Problem-Based Learning (PBL) Sessions each week, on Monday and Friday. The majority of students will attend these face-to-face on campus. Each week you will have a 3hr Medical Sciences Workshop and a 3hr Clinical skills session on a Thursday. Specific session allocations will be provided closer to the start of semester.

Assessments will occur throughout the Semester. Attendance at learning activities is a professional requirement of the course. There may be additional opportunities for flexibility for students who have a disability, carer requirements or other specific circumstances (see Health and Wellbeing, above). Any student considering requesting additional support should contact the Year 1 Semester 1 Unit Chair ([Dr Heather Morrison](#)), for a supportive, individualised, confidential discussion.

Please understand that within this timetable framework, a variety of factors may affect the delivery of teaching in specific weeks of the academic year and are listed below. Please rest assured that you will receive advanced notice of these days.

Orientation Year 1, Semester 1	All students from all campuses are required to attend the Waurin Ponds campus for three days of week 1. (Monday to Wednesday and online classes are scheduled for Thursday).
Public holidays	Teaching may be moved to the Placement/Individual study days.
Cultural Immersion	Days may change dependent on the individual week's timetable.
Rural Immersion	Days may change dependent on the individual student's location and timetable.
Placement	These will be individual to each student's timetable.
Assessment	Assessment may be scheduled on the Placement/Individual study days.
RTS students	Teaching sessions scheduled at other MD learning centres to provide specific learning experiences.

Typical Week Year 1

Start Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		Friday
8am	Lecture Slot	Placement and Individual Study	Lecture Slot			Lecture Slot
9am	Lecture Slot		Lecture Slot			Lecture Slot
10am	Lecture Slot		Lecture Slot	Workshop	Clinical Practice Session	Lecture Slot
11am	Problem Based Learning (PBL)		Lecture Slot			Lecture Slot
12pm			Lecture Slot			
1pm			Placement and Individual Study			PBL
2pm	Lecture Slot			Workshop	Clinical Practice Sessions	
3pm	Lecture Slot					Lecture Slot
4pm	Lecture Slot					Lecture Slot

Note: On Monday and Friday lectures will be scheduled with an appropriate break for lunch.

Year 1 – 2026 Yearly Timetable

Please mark these dates in your diaries – especially the commencement date and exam week for each Semester.

* University is closed

Calendar	Year 1
19 January	Human Biology (HB) 1 Orientation 19 – 22 January: All students are expected to attend on campus on 19, 20, and 21 January with online activities delivered on 22 January
26 January	Human Biology (HB) 2 (includes public holiday on 26 January *)
2 February	Human Biology (HB) 3
9 February	Human Biology (HB) 4
16 February	Human Biology (HB) 5
23 February	Human Biology (HB) 6
2 March	Human Biology (HB) 7
9 March	Human Biology (HB) 8 University closed for the public holiday
16 March	Infection, Defence & Repair (IDR) 1
23 March	Infection, Defence & Repair (IDR) 2
30 March	Cultural Immersion Week (includes the public holiday on 3 April) Census Date: 31 March
6 April	Mid-semester Break
13 April	Infection, Defence & Repair (IDR) 3
20 April	Infection, Defence & Repair (IDR) 4
27 April	Infection, Defence & Repair (IDR) 5 (Deakin holiday on 27 April for ANZAC Day)
4 May	Infection, Defence & Repair (IDR) 6
11 May	Infection, Defence & Repair (IDR) 7
18 May	Infection, Defence & Repair (IDR) 8
25 May	Infection, Defence & Repair (IDR) 9 27 & 28 May – RTS student intensive All RTS student needs to be on campus at Waurin Ponds from 12pm on 27 May until 5pm on 28 May
1 June	Study Period
8 June	Exam week
15 June	Vacation
22 June	No scheduled classes this week Result Release 25 June
29 June	Cardiorespiratory (CR) 2 + Further End of Unit Assessment Rural Clinical Immersion
6 July	Cardiorespiratory (CR) 3 Rural Clinical Immersion
13 July	Cardiorespiratory (CR) 4
20 July	Cardiorespiratory (CR) 5
27 July	Cardiorespiratory (CR) 6
3 August	Cardiorespiratory (CR) 7
10 August	Cardiorespiratory (CR) 8
17 August	Cardiorespiratory (CR) 9

24 August	Cardiorespiratory (CR) 10
31 August	Mid-semester Break Census Date: 31 August
7 September	Renal/Gastrointestinal (RG) 1
14 September	Renal/Gastrointestinal (RG) 2
21 September	Renal/Gastrointestinal (RG) 3 (<i>includes Grand Final public holiday* on 25 September TBC</i>)
28 September	Renal/Gastrointestinal (RG) 4
5 October	Renal/Gastrointestinal (RG) 5
12 October	Renal/Gastrointestinal (RG) 6 RTS students on campus at Waurin Ponds from afternoon on 14 October and all day on 15 October
19 October	Renal/Gastrointestinal (RG) 7
26 October	Renal/Gastrointestinal (RG) 8
2 November	Study Period
9 November	Exam
16 November	Non-teaching period
23 November	Result Release – 26 November
30 November	Reassessment
7 December	Vacation
14 December	Vacation
21 December	Vacation

Requirements of enrolment

The School has several compliance requirements that you must complete by **28 January 2026**.

Police Check Report

Please do not organise your own. You will receive a link from Fit2work to complete your application

Note: International and NZ students are required to provide a police check from their home country

Working with Children Check

We require a copy (digital copy) of your WWCC.

Note: International, NZ and interstate students, please apply for this when you first arrive in Geelong

Deakin University Pre-Placement Occupational Risk Check List

This checklist must be completed by an independent nurse/doctor, not a family member or relative

Immunisation and assessment are offered by the Deakin Medical Centre and this is preferred as they are familiar with our requirements. However, students are able to see their local GP if preferred.

International Students: Please begin your immunisation requirements upon arrival in Australia. While we appreciate that many students prefer to be organised and proactive, some tests conducted overseas cannot be accepted unless they are performed in Australia.

The Deakin Health Service can provide a confidential personal report of immunisations and tests to the student (a copy of which should be filed for further reference). It is highly recommended that if students do require immunisations and assessments (as per the School guidelines above) that this takes place as early as possible prior to the commencement of the course.

Evidence of COVID-19 vaccinations

The School of Medicine requires evidence of a primary and booster dose.

Hand Hygiene Certificate

Do not complete and upload this until after 1 January. This is an annual requirement and will expire if uploaded prior to 31 December.

You will also need to sign a number of consent forms:

1. Student Information Consent Form
2. Collection, Use and Disclosure of Working with Children Check Consent Form
3. Student Statement of Compliance with Infectious Disease Guidelines
4. Code of Conduct Student Declaration Form
5. Anatomy & Pathology Code of Conduct Form
6. Sonographic Examination Consent Form
7. Peer Examination Consent Form
8. Disclosure of Personal Information to Support Assessment Consent Form
9. Student Undertaking Form

You will be required to purchase the following items:

1. Name Badge

Please note

- For privacy, only include your first or preferred name to be displayed on your name badge.
 - The account must be set up using your Deakin email address. Account requests using a personal email address will be rejected.
2. Simulation in a BOX (information provided at a later date)
 3. Personal stethoscope – recommended minimum standard Littman Classic 3
 4. White coat and safety glasses for workshops

If you have any questions regarding your compliance, please contact the Selection and Placements Team at som-clinical@deakin.edu.au.

Further resources

Further information and resources can be found via the University's [Current Student](#) page.

For further enquiries prior to the commencement of semester, please contact the School of Medicine Selection and Placements Team on (03) 5227 3001 or email som-clinical@deakin.edu.au.

Introduction

All enrolled students are required to read, understand and comply with the Infectious Diseases and Immunisation Guidelines. These guidelines are in addition to the University's requirements regarding COVID-19 Vaccination (see below).

The guidelines have been developed by the Deakin School of Medicine to minimise the risk of infection that may occur between students, patients and other health care workers. While these risks cannot be totally eliminated, it is essential that the necessary steps are taken at all times to minimise such risks. It should be noted that students have an ethical duty to be aware of their immunity or infectious status to ensure that they protect themselves as individuals and to prevent placing others at risk of infection.

This policy and guidelines are consistent with the Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (MDANZ) Guidelines for Infectious Diseases Policies and Programs for Medical Students and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Infection control strategies

Various infection control strategies, known as 'standard precautions' and 'additional precautions' are utilised to minimise infectious disease risks. These precautions include assessing the risk posed by persons with particular infections and clinical syndromes, hand-washing, aseptic technique, disposal of sharps and clinical waste, use of single-use only equipment, sterilisation and disinfection of re-usable equipment, use of personal protective equipment and managing patients in various forms of isolation or working with biological agents in a laboratory setting. All procedures and work instructions are based on the assumption that blood and body fluids should always be handled as if they are infected.

[Immunisation](#) is also used to provide additional protection against many of the infectious organisms present in health care settings or laboratories where human samples may be used in research projects or working with live animals, tissue and excreta. Students must be vaccinated according to this immunisation policy provided by the School. Immunisation and assessment are offered through the [Deakin Health Service](#) or students may prefer see their local general practitioner (GP).

Students may opt out of the immunisation program on medical or conscientious grounds but only with the written approval of the Dean of Medicine. In such instances, students will be referred to an infectious diseases and/or occupational health specialist for further advice on protecting themselves in the case of working in a health care setting with patients, to protect themselves and their patients from infectious diseases.

Blood-borne virus infections

Students who are infected with a blood-borne virus must consult a specialist medical practitioner experienced in the particular blood-borne virus infection to assess their medical condition and advise which clinical activities they can perform. Assistance will be provided to arrange appropriate follow up. The Dean of Medicine should be informed on a confidential basis so that learning activities can be modified to allow students to complete their studies. Academic, personal and career counselling will be made available.

Students who engage in at-risk behaviour and/or suspect that they may have been infected with a blood-borne virus during the course of study have an ethical duty to seek testing and counselling. The Deakin University Health Service will provide pre- and post- testing counselling for students and this will be carried out in accordance with the right of the individual to confidentiality and privacy.

Students with infectious diseases are expected to exercise their duty of care to other members of the University community and general public. If this duty of care is breached, the individual and the University may be subject to legal action under statutory provisions such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Health Act, or under common law.

Deakin is required as far as is reasonably practicable to provide and maintain a workplace that is safe and without risk to health. Employees, students and others are required to take care of their own health and safety and follow the procedures of the organisation (including university and/or health service where students are placed).

Students are expected to follow safe practice to prevent the transmission of an infectious disease; students who have been diagnosed with an infectious disease are expected to exercise their duty of care to prevent the transmission to other members of the University community and general public. If this duty of care is breached, the individual and the University may be subject to legal action under statutory provisions such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Health Act. The student and/or their medical practitioner may seek confidential advice from the MDANZ Guidelines for Infectious Diseases Policies and Programs and AHPRA, who may impose restrictions on course-related activities or clinical practice after graduation.

Exclusion from exposure-prone procedures

Students infected with blood-borne viruses must exclude themselves from 'exposure-prone procedures'. These procedures are characterised by the potential for contact between the skin (usually finger or thumb) and sharp surgical instruments, needles or sharp tissues (splinters/pieces of bone or teeth) in body cavities or in poorly visualised or confined body sites (including the mouth). Advice will be provided by a specialist medical practitioner in consultation with the Dean of Medicine. Doctors treating students with a blood-borne viral infection who fail to self-exclude or modify their practice may have a legal duty to inform their State Medical Board.

Exposure to body fluids

If, during the course of their training, a student sustains an injury involving exposure to blood or other body fluids, fellow student or health care worker or in a laboratory setting, the student should immediately seek appropriate management through their supervisor in accordance with protocols in place at the site or University campus or health service where the injury occurred. All students have access to occupational health surveillance and management in relation to blood borne and other infectious diseases (at no cost to the student) at all clinical placement sites.

The student will be clinically and serologically evaluated for HIV antibody, hepatitis B surface antigen and hepatitis C antibody and appropriate counselling will be offered. For suspected HIV exposure, immediate commencement of prophylactic treatment will be considered by the treating medical officer. Further testing and counselling may be necessary depending on the initial results. For suspected hepatitis virus exposure, the immunisation status of the person will be assessed and appropriate action taken.

If there is no documented history of previous infection or immunisation, serology tests will need to be performed to establish the status of immunity to these infectious diseases (except influenza). A

Vaccination Schedule can then be put in place for any of these diseases for which immunity is lacking. Where clinically indicated, tests will be performed after immunisation to confirm immunity. Follow-up of students who fail to respond to vaccinations will be required in consultation with the School, and arrangements made for follow-up infectious diseases and/or occupational health specialist for further advice.

Appointments can be made via this link: <https://www.deakin.edu.au/students/health-and-wellbeing/medical-centres/online-booking>.

References/Links

[The Australian Immunisation Handbook](#)

[National Health and Medical Research Council: Infection Control in the Health Care Setting Guidelines for the Prevention of Transmission of Infectious Diseases](#)

[University Immunisation \(Vaccination\) Guidelines](#)

[Staff and Students with Infectious Diseases Deakin](#)

[Victorian Regulations regarding Vaccination for Healthcare workers](#)

