

Deakin Medical School Placement Site Allocation



Guidelines for Extenuating Circumstances

Part A of these Guidelines set out reasons which may give rise to extenuating circumstances. Part B of these Guidelines set out the reasons which will not be considered extenuating circumstances. The examples provided in Parts A and B are not intended to be exhaustive.

The purposes of these Guidelines are to assist:

- students to understand what constitutes an extenuating circumstance; and
 - the School of Medicine when allocating students to the Deakin Medical School placement sites.
- Note:
- due to capacity at the Deakin Medical School placement site, students who may meet the requirements for extenuating circumstances are not guaranteed to be allocated their preferred placement site; and
 - these Guidelines do not (nor are they intended to) limit or affect any existing course completion requirement or Deakin University policy or procedure.

A. Considered reasons for allocation to a specific Deakin Medical School placement site:

1. Personal (must relate to the student and must require that the student remain within a certain geographic region to fulfil the following on-going commitments):
 - Illness or disability requiring frequent on-going specialist care that cannot be accessed if the placement proceeds.
 - Carer Responsibility (acting as a Carer within the meaning of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic) which provides as follows “a person on whom another person is wholly or substantially dependent for ongoing care and attention, other than a person who provides that care and attention wholly or substantially on a commercial basis”).

- Representation in sports, arts or other activity at an elite Australian national level which requires an on-going commitment such as team practice which cannot be undertaken if the placement proceeds. This is a Deakin University wide policy, and not specific to clinical school allocation.

2. Other on-going and serious circumstances deemed to be exceptional by the Placements Allocation Committee, provided adequate evidence is supplied.

Note: Rural Training Stream students applying for consideration under these guidelines must demonstrate that there has been a change to their circumstances since their enrolment that satisfies the above criteria. However, under no circumstances can Rural Training Stream students request a placement site that is not an available placement site location within the Rural Training Stream.

Supporting documentation will be required and must be provided in accordance with any reasonable instruction provided by the Selection and Placements Team.

B. The following reasons will not be considered acceptable for requests for allocation to a specific Deakin Medical School placement site:

1. Family matters
 - Care of a family member that is not immediate family, and/or where the primary responsibility for that family member lies elsewhere.
 - Family connections to a particular hospital, clinical school or location.
 - Preference not to relocate.

2. Personal

- Illness of a more general nature where appropriate treatment is readily available in the region of the placement.
- Other studies (concurrent studies are not permitted during clinical years).
- Lack of a vehicle or other means of transport.
- Volunteer commitments.
- Friendship groups.
- Personal preference.
- Accommodation.

Applications for transfer from one Deakin Medical School placement site to another will only be approved due to unforeseen exceptional circumstances satisfying the criteria in Part A above, and subject to the student providing satisfactory supporting documentation and clinical school availability in the receiving year level (e.g. transfer to fill a vacancy arising from intermission of a student). Applications for transfer must be lodged via som-clinical@deakin.edu.au (Attention: Cody) and will be reviewed at the end of the teaching year by a panel comprised of the Unit Chair, Course Director and Clinical Education Lead/s.