



Charles Sturt
University



School of
Rural Medicine

Being a doctor is all about giving back. To people and communities.

The impact of our medicine program and its students is particularly important in rural and regional Australia.

As Australia's largest regional university, we're passionate about giving back to our communities.

Our purpose

At Charles Sturt University's School of Rural Medicine, we aim to train students with the skills they'll need to work as a rural doctor. With a focus on rural generalist medicine, students will develop an understanding of the different role rural doctors play, in primary and acute care settings – and highlight their importance in the functioning of our healthcare system.

Having a community and patient-centred approach to rural generalist medicine means communities get access to health services and have their healthcare needs met.

Every community is different. Their healthcare needs are different. That's why we aim to create a generation of medical professionals who are equipped with the knowledge and experience to inspire and champion the health of our rural and remote communities.





Looking ahead

Our vision is simple – for every rural and remote community in Australia to have sufficient doctors to meet their health needs.

To bring this dream to life, we train students to become outstanding rural doctors through principles we've developed and adopted. This includes:

- Training that's aligned with community and health service needs
- Early exposure to rural and remote clinical placements
- Early exposure to general practice and rural generalism
- Training pipelines that align with rural postgraduate training
- Longitudinal rural generalist placements
- Longitudinal connection to rural communities and regions.

About us

The Charles Sturt University School of Rural Medicine is committed to training doctors who have the clinical skills that our rural and remote communities need. That's why our Bachelor of Clinical Science (Medicine)/Doctor of Medicine has been based on the foundations of rural generalist medicine and is supported by specialty training rotations.

We aim to develop a strong and sustainable rural workforce by selecting the majority of students who are of rural origin – providing clinical training in rural and remote locations and distributing students on placements within the region over the duration of the five-year course.



A commitment to rural medical education

As Australia's largest regional university, we're committed to tackling the shortage of doctors in rural and remote communities.

Through the School of Rural Medicine, our course is a five-year combined undergraduate and postgraduate Bachelor of Clinical Science (Medicine)/Doctor of Medicine, allowing students to enter the workforce as medical interns in both Australia and New Zealand.

Students learn through experience and immersion in a broad range of hospital and community-based services – all with a rural and remote focus. The curriculum emphasises:

- equity issues for rural and remote communities
- inequities in health and health service access
- living and working in rural and remote communities
- public health issues
- remote health
- social determinants of health
- First Nations Peoples' health.

"Charles Sturt gave me the perfect base for being a good intern. I loved my time in Orange for pre-clinical years and Griffith as a medical student where I had great teaching and clinical experience... I am so glad I've chosen to stay at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital and could not ask for a more supportive environment to start my career as a doctor."

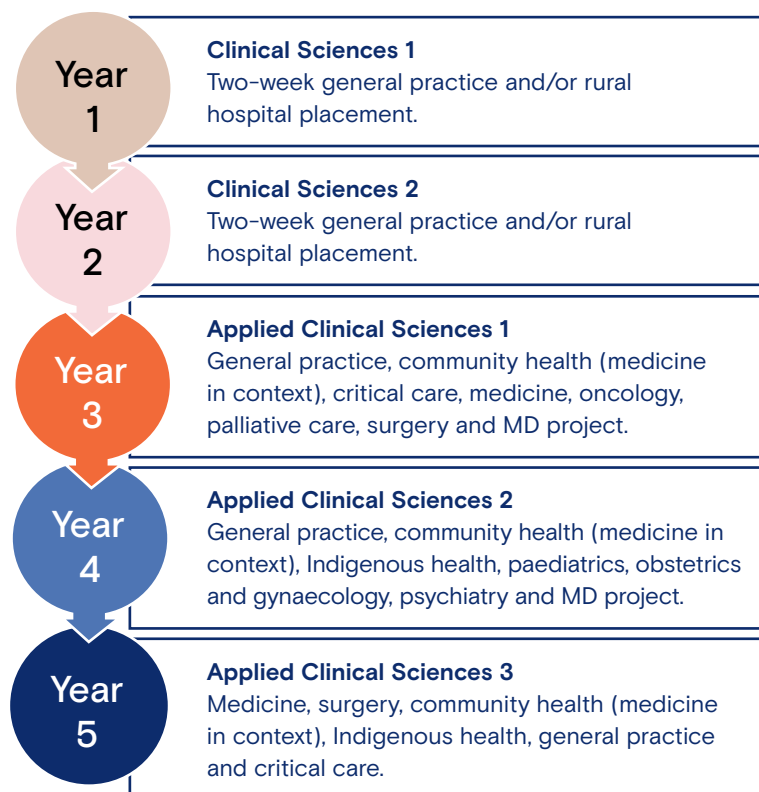


Caitlin Del Solar

Charles Sturt
medicine graduate
(first cohort)



The Rural Generalist Placement Program



The School of Rural Medicine has devised a unique Rural Generalist Placement Program. This includes a network of clinical schools that allows students to study and work in rural and regional locations. The program extends over the full five years of the Bachelor of Clinical Science (Medicine)/Doctor of Medicine degree.

You will be allocated to a clinical school for the duration of the program for your clinical placements. You will study full-time in your clinical school location in years 3 to 5 and will be seconded to regional base hospitals, district hospitals and general practices for training and pre-internship education. You'll return each year to the same rural and regional community. This allows you to build relationships and connections with community and experience the attraction of permanently locating to these areas.

This model encourages students to see the potential and the importance of a career in rural medicine. Not only does it produce outstanding rural practitioners, but also forms the foundation for future research and research partnerships.



“Training in Albury has helped with my transition to internship... It has been so rewarding to give back to a hospital and community that invested so much time, guidance and support in me and my classmates throughout our studies. One of the highlights of internship so far has been seeing a young patient after she was discharged following a stroke. She recognised me and shared how well she was doing – this moment perfectly captures one of the most special aspects of rural medicine. You are not just caring for patients; you are part of the same community.”



Sophie Matthews

Charles Sturt medicine graduate (first cohort)

Clinical schools

We've established a network of nine clinical schools in rural locations across New South Wales and northern Victoria. Each clinical school offers a unique experience for students and forms a regional hub that services the surrounding communities.

After completing the first two years of the Bachelor of Clinical Science (Medicine)/Doctor of Medicine on campus in Orange, students will progress to their extended clinical school placement. Clinical schools are where the majority of learning in years three to five take place. Students go out to our partner hospitals and clinics, and experience hands-on learning with real patient situations – immersive learning at its best.



Central Tablelands Clinical School Bathurst and Mudgee

Located on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people, Bathurst really is the best of both worlds – a beautiful country lifestyle just under three hours drive from Sydney. Bathurst has just over 57,000 people and is Australia's oldest inland colonial settlement. There is no shortage of things to see and do if you want to explore or take a lazy Sunday drive. Its rich heritage combined with the excitement of the V8 Supercars and local sporting competitions makes Bathurst a great place to live, study and work. There are plenty of restaurants and cafes – all of which make the most of the local produce – giving you plenty of places to explore and socialise.



Central West Clinical School Condobolin, Cowra, Forbes, Grenfell, Parkes, Peak Hill and Trundle

The Central West region of NSW is located on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people, and is renowned for its food, wine and excellent agricultural produce. The towns of Parkes, Forbes, Cowra and Grenfell are rich in natural resources and are full of heritage buildings, gorgeous river banks and leafy parks. Explore the history of the towns, visit the great galleries in the area, and make the most of the superb country pubs that are putting high-quality food and wine at the forefront.



Orange Clinical School Orange

Orange is a thriving country town as rich in heritage as it is in award-winning restaurants, wineries, bike tracks, boutique shops and bustling markets. With plenty of picnic shelters, walking trails and even a dormant volcano, there are a variety of walks and breathtaking views to enjoy on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people. As Orange is also the home of our School of Rural Medicine, students who complete their clinical placement in Orange will have established connections in the local area from the first two years spent studying on campus.



Hastings Macleay Clinical School Kempsey, Port Macquarie, South West Rocks and Wauchope

The Mid North Coast of NSW boasts a subtropical climate full of beaches, waterways and a hinterland of forest and farms, and is located on the traditional lands of the Dughutti, Gumbaynggir and Birpai people. With national parks and state forests aplenty, there is plenty to explore through hiking and mountain bike riding. Full of fashion boutiques, stylish homewares stores and cool cafes, bars and restaurants, the Mid North Coast has everything you could want – all while keeping its laid-back charm.



Mallee Clinical School

Deniliquin, Kerang and Swan Hill

Swan Hill, Deniliquin and Kerang are renowned for their Murray Downs location, fresh local produce, epic landscapes, native wildlife and First Nations heritage. The beautiful and remote area is located on the traditional lands of the Wamba Wamba, Latji Latji, Tatti Tatti, Waddi Waddi and Barapa Barapa people. With plenty of waterskiing, wakeboarding, fishing, bushwalking, cycling and golf available at your fingertips, there is plenty to do and see. Only a 3.5 hour drive to Melbourne, Swan Hill and Deniliquin are close enough to taste the lights of the city whilst making the most of all the benefits that country living has to offer.



Murray Clinical School

Albury, Beechworth, Corowa, Corryong and Wangaratta

Located within the historic area of the Murray River, these charming towns boast a delicious food scene, endless outdoor activities and a thriving arts culture. With snowfields, the Snowy Mountains, Kosciusko National Park and Rutherglen wine region all just a short drive away, you are within reach of all the action. These towns have fascinating histories and are located on the traditional lands of the Bangarang, Dhudoroa, Jaitmathang, Min-jan-buttu, Ngarigo, Wavereoo, Wolgal and Wiradjuri people. Enjoy strolling through the weekend markets, eat in the charming pubs and make the most of Murray Clinical School's location.

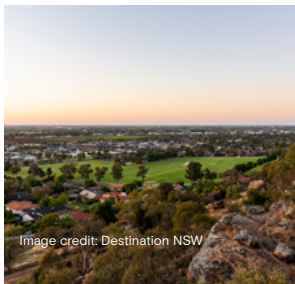


Image credit: Destination NSW

Murrumbidgee Clinical School

Griffith, Hay, Hillston and Lake Cargelligo

Experience striking outback sunsets, rich agricultural heritage and towns full of history on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people. Many food and wine crops are produced in the area, meaning you get to experience the highest quality local produce that's on offer (think oranges, cherries, potatoes, almonds, walnuts and more). Explore the great plains of Hay, meander along the Lachlan River in Hillston, water ski on Lake Cargelligo or experience some of the best Italian food on offer in Griffith.



Image credit: Destination NSW

Northern Rivers Clinical School

Bellingen, Bowraville, Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo, Grafton, Macksville and Nambucca Heads

Discover the traditional lands of the Gumbaynggirr people with its rainforest drives, white beaches, amazing restaurants and vibrant local markets. Dine at an eclectic range of cafes and restaurants whilst experiencing the vibrant creative arts scene in relaxed seaside and river towns. Explore the uncrowded waterways and national parks of the area, with opportunities for fishing and boating, kayaking and surfing, whale watching and scuba diving, and hiking and mountain biking. There's plenty on offer when you join the Northern Rivers Clinical School.



Image credit: Destination NSW

Riverina Clinical School

Cootamundra, Finley, Gundagai, Temora, Tumut and Wagga Wagga

The Riverina is home to the Murrumbidgee River and its waterways and is located on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people. Find an amazing array of food trails, natural wonders and charming towns in Australia's food bowl. Explore the celebrated Tumut River Brewing Co, visit the birthplace of Sir Donald Bradman in Cootamundra and discover the largest inland city in NSW, Wagga Wagga. There are few better places to slow down and embrace the country lifestyle than the Riverina.

Where we are (and where we could be)



Partner with us

We're looking for practices to partner with us to invest in a small number of students. You'll get the chance to shape relationships with our students and their training – and they'll get to contribute to general practice and rural generalism in your community.

Contact the Charles Sturt School of Rural Medicine



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Australian Government



Murray-Darling
Medical Schools Network
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