



Charles Sturt
University

School of
Rural Medicine

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

The impact of these medical services is particularly important in rural and regional Australia. As Australia's largest regional university, giving back to the communities we call home is something we're passionate about.

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. And 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:

- 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 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 students of rural origin - providing all clinical training in rural and remote locations and distributing students on placements within the region over the duration of the five-year course.

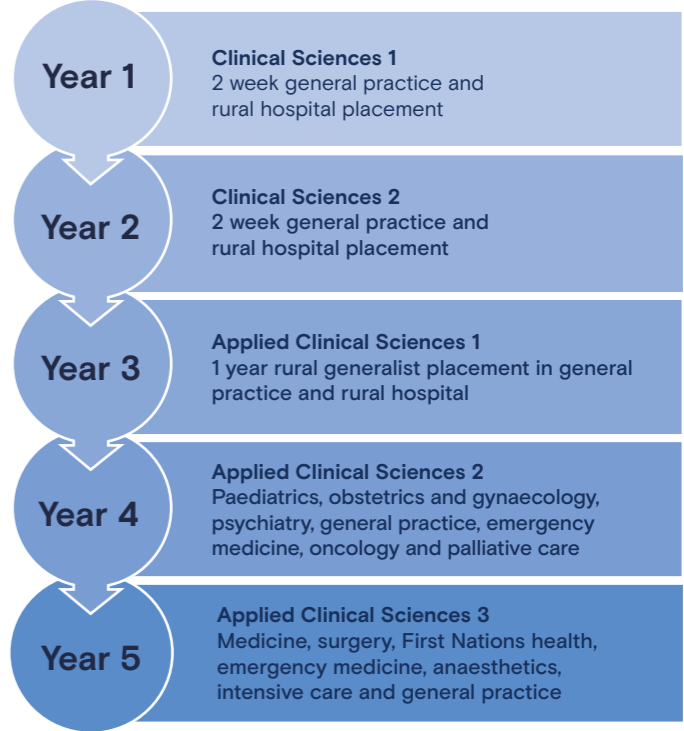


The Rural Generalist Placement Program

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 Doctor of Medicine degree.

Not only do students learn and work within the Clinical Schools, but they are also seconded to regional base hospitals for training in specialist disciplines and for pre-internship placements. They return each year to the same rural and regional community – allowing them to build their 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. It not only produces outstanding rural practitioners, but it also forms the foundation for future research and research partnerships.



A joint venture for rural medical education

Our School of Rural Medicine has been developed as a mutual venture with Western Sydney University as part of a Joint Program in Medicine (JPM).

The JPM is a five-year undergraduate degree resulting in a Doctor of Medicine, allowing students to enter the workforce as medical interns in both Australia and New Zealand.

While the two universities share common learning objectives and assessments, the School of Rural Medicine delivers its own program contextualised through the lens of rural and remote communities.

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.

“Exposure to rural health disparities has motivated me to be the best doctor I can be to ensure I competently provide medical care as a rural practitioner when I complete my degree.”



Eve West
Charles Sturt medicine student



“I really care about the rural experience, and Charles Sturt University does as well – they don’t just pay lip service to it. I wanted to study in a small cohort and be surrounded by like-minded people who are passionate about working in the regions.”



Heidi Annand
Charles Sturt medicine student

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 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 3-5 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

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 Parkes, Forbes, Cowra and Grenfell

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 2 years spent studying on campus.



Hastings Macleay Clinical School Kempsey, South West Rocks, Port Macquarie 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 Dunghutti, 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.



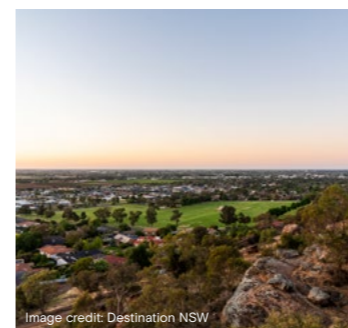
Mallee Clinical School Swan Hill, Deniliquin and Kerang

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, Corryong, Corowa and Deniliquin

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.



Murrumbidgee Clinical School Griffith, Hay, Lake Cargelligo and Hillston

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.



Northern Rivers Clinical School Macksville, Nambucca Heads, Bowraville, Belligen and Coffs Harbour

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.



Riverina Clinical School Temora, Wagga Wagga, Tumut, Cootamundra and Finley

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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