NSW GOVERNMENT | HETI HEALTH EDUCATION & TRAINING

SEMESTER 1, 2022 NSW RURAL ALLIED HEALTH CLINICAL PLACEMENT GRANTS

For Placements from November 2021 to January 2023

GUIDELINES

The NSW Rural Allied Clinical Placement Grants have been established to assist NSW University students enrolled in courses in the following disciplines:

- Audiology
- Art Therapy
- Child Life Therapy
- Counselling
- Dietetics & Nutrition
- Diversional Therapy
- Exercise Physiology
- Genetic Counselling
- Music Therapy
- Nuclear Medicine Technology
- Occupational Therapy
- Orthotics
- Orthotics & Prosthetics
- Pharmacy
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Psychology
- Radiation Therapy
- Radiography
- Sexual Assault
- Social Work
- Speech Pathology
- Welfare

NSW Rural Allied Health Grants provide financial assistance to:

- both rural and urban allied health students with the travel and accommodation costs of rural clinical placements; and
- allied health students from a rural or remote background studying at rural universities with the travel and accommodation costs of metropolitan clinical placements with opportunities to experience rural practice and lifestyle in NSW.

Please note the grant may not cover all costs associated with the placement.

Grants are limited to one applicant per calendar year, for placements between 1 November 2021 - 31 January 2023.

APPLICATIONS WILL CLOSE ON 1st April 2022

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grants are awarded on the basis of the duration of the placement and the cost of travel associated with accessing the placement.

The Placement Grant funding formula provides:

- An amount per week for each week of the placement to assist with the cost of accommodation and the incidental costs associated with the placement.

- This component of the placement grant will vary dependent upon the number of eligible applicants and available funds each semester.

- The maximum amount per week for metropolitan placements is $150. The maximum amount per week for rural placements is $100. *These amounts will be reduced proportionately should the number of eligible applicants rise.*

- A mileage allowance based on $0.30 per kilometre from the university location to the location of the clinical placement as per Policy Directive PD2016_010.

The maximum placement grants amount is $750 except for placements undertaken at Broken Hill where the amount awarded may be up to $1,000

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. **Applicants MUST be a resident of NSW** and an Australian citizen or permanent resident. If you are not a resident of NSW your application will not be considered eligible for consideration.

2. **Applicants MUST be enrolled as a full time NSW university student** in an Undergraduate/Graduate Entry Masters course leading to a qualification that enables practice in one of the following disciplines.

   - Audiology
   - Art Therapy
   - Child Life Therapy
   - Counselling
   - Dietetics & Nutrition
   - Diversional Therapy
   - Exercise Physiology
   - Genetic Counselling
   - Music Therapy
   - Nuclear Medicine Technology
   - Occupational Therapy
   - Orthotics
   - Orthotics & Prosthetics
   - Pharmacy
   - Physiotherapy
   - Podiatry
   - Psychology
   - Radiation Therapy
   - Radiography
   - Sexual Assault
   - Social Work
   - Speech Pathology
   - Welfare

   a) Second or higher year of an Undergraduate course or either year of a Graduate Entry Masters qualification that leads to practice in any of the above listed disciplines.

3. **Applicants MUST have confirmation from your Course Coordinator** of your participation in a metropolitan or rural or remote clinical placement in NSW.

   The term “metropolitan” refers to areas covered by metropolitan Local Health District:

   - Sydney
   - Western Sydney
   - South Western Sydney
   - South Eastern Sydney
   - Northern Sydney
   - Central Coast

- Nepean Blue Mountains (Excluding: Lithgow LGA)
- Hunter New England metropolitan components (Cessnock, Maitland, Port Stephens, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie (LGA)

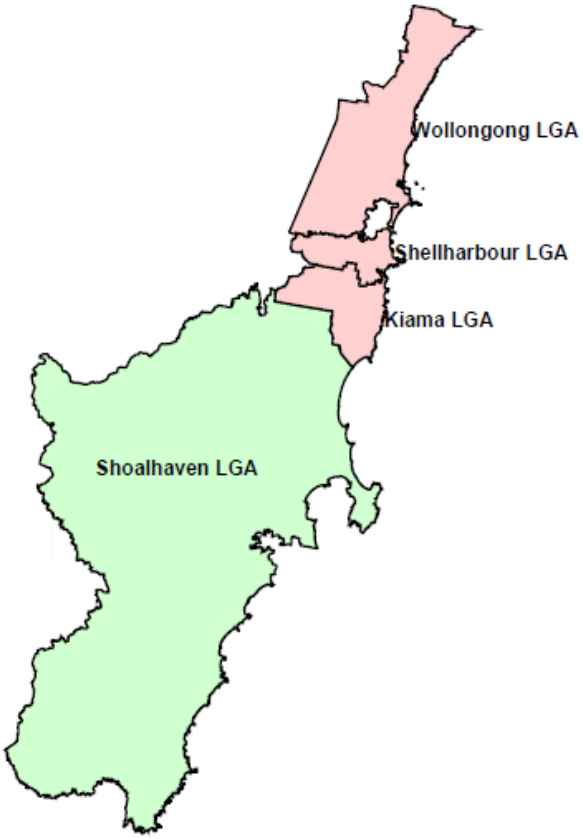
The term "rural" refers to areas covered by rural Local Health District:

- Far West
- Western NSW
- Northern NSW
- Mid North Coast
- Murrumbidgee
- Southern NSW
- Hunter New England (*excluding: Cessnock, Maitland, Port Stephens, Newcastle, and Lake Macquarie LGA*)
- Illawarra Shoalhaven (*excluding: Kiama, Wollongong and Shellharbour LGA*)
- Nepean Blue Mountains (*Lithgow LGA only*)

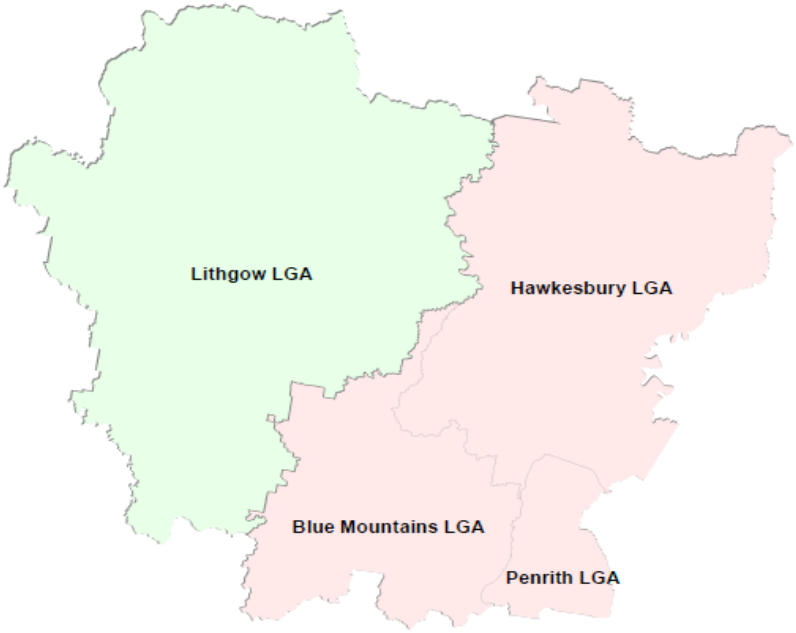
<u>NSW Rural map</u>

Hunter New England Rural map

Illawarra Shoalhaven Rural map



Nepean Blue Mountains Rural map



4. **Applicants MUST be undertaking a clinical placement outside your current residential locality**. The NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grants targets allied health students undertaking rural clinical placements in locations where the student incurs additional costs, such as accommodation and board/lodging, associated with being away from their usual place of residence. *For example, if you are studying or living in Armidale you would not be eligible for financial assistance for a clinical placement in Armidale, or towns with the same postcode.*

5. **Applicants MUST be willing** to participate in any longitudinal studies of the recruitment of allied health professionals to rural practice.

6. **Priority will be given** to students who have not previously received a NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grant, though past Grant recipients are not restricted from applying.

ELIGIBILITY

✓ You are **ELIGIBLE** to apply if you are a resident of NSW, enrolled full time at a NSW University studying one of the eligible allied health disciplines.

✓ You are **ELIGIBLE** to apply if you are a recipient of a Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship and/or the Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship.

✗ Students in receipt of a NSW Rural Allied Health Scholarship are **NOT ELIGIBLE,** as are students in receipt of any other Scholarship valued at more than $6,000 (other than those mentioned above).

✗ Students in receipt of any other Grant or financial assistance for this placement, or who are able to claim reimbursement from the University or any other organisation for the costs incurred during the placement are **NOT ELIGIBLE**.

✗ Non-residents of NSW are **NOT ELIGIBLE**; this Program is available for NSW students only.

✗ NSW students undertaking clinical placements at rural locations outside NSW, including the ACT and Queensland, are **NOT ELIGIBLE**.

✗ Students undertaking placements in university clinics are **NOT ELIGIBLE.**

✗ Students who already possess an Undergraduate/Graduate Entry Masters qualification that enables Allied Health practice are **NOT ELIGIBLE** to apply for a placement grant as part of a Postgraduate course in the same discipline.

✗ Pharmacy students with placements undertaken in a Pharmacy Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia (PhAria) 1 rural location are **ELIGIBLE** to apply.

✗ Pharmacy students whose placements are undertaken in PhAria 2-6 locations are **NOT ELIGIBLE** as they are able to claim reimbursement through the Rural and Remote Placement (internship) Scheme administered by Universities.

WHEN DO I APPLY?

First Semester Placements: Both retrospective and prospective applications will be considered. Semester 1 applications will be accepted for placements starting no earlier than 1 November 2021 and finishing no later than 31 January 2023.

Second Semester Placements: Both retrospective and prospective applications will be considered. Semester 2 applications will be accepted for placements starting no earlier than 1 November 2021 and finishing no later than 31 January 2023.

Please note if a NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grant has been awarded and the metropolitan or rural or remote placement is unable to be undertaken and/or completed, the Placement Grant recipient must notify the Health Education and Training Institute within one week of the event. Part or full repayment may be required after consideration of the individual case.

HOW TO APPLY?

1. Complete the online application form. Please note this online application is not supported by mobile devices, laptops or applications made **within** the NSW Health network.

2. A letter from your Course Coordinator, with the below information, must be uploaded with your application form

- ✓ Confirming that you meet the classifications indicated in the eligibility criteria; **AND**
- ✓ Providing details of your placement duration, location and dates.

Applications must be received by the Health Education and Training Institute by midnight, FRIDAY 1st April 2022.
No applications will be accepted after this time.

WHEN WILL I KNOW?

All applicants will receive a confirmation email about the outcome of their application from the Health Education and Training Institute within eight weeks of the relevant semester's application closing date. Payment will be made by Electronic Funds Transfer into the recipient's selected account generally within three months after the closing date. Please note that you may not receive payment before you begin your placement.

The decision of the Health Education and Training Institute is final and there is no appeal mechanism.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Q: My placement is in Canberra, am I eligible for the grant?
A: No. Canberra is part of ACT; this grant is only for NSW metropolitan or rural and remote areas. "Metropolitan" is within the Greater Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong areas. "Rural" is outside the Greater Sydney, Newcastle, and Wollongong areas.

Q: I am an international student, am I eligible for the grant?
A: No. You have to be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

Q: Are Pharmacy students eligible to apply?
A: Pharmacy students located outside the PhAria Rural location are able to claim reimbursement from the University through the Rural and Remote Placement (internship) Allowance Scheme. Only Pharmacy students located in the PhAria Rural location 1 who meet the eligibility criteria are eligible to apply.

Q: Do I have to come from rural background to apply for the grant?
A: No. Anyone who is a resident of NSW, and studying at a NSW university can apply for the grant.

Q: I would like to experience working in metropolitan or rural NSW. How do I organise a clinical placement?
A: Please contact your course coordinator about this matter.

Q: I am planning on taking a metropolitan or rural placement in the next semester. Do I apply now?
A: No. You have to apply in the next semester. Please refer to the guidelines for the time frame.

Q: I am a Nursing student; can I apply for the grant?
A: No. However, you can obtain the information for nursing grants at: http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/nursing/scholarship/Pages/default.aspx

Q: When will I receive the money?
A: Payment will be made generally within three months after the closing date, however unexpected delays sometimes occur.

Q: Some of my friends have received the money, why haven't I received it yet?
A: HETI process payments in batches due to the large number of applicants so some students may receive their payment sooner than others.

Q: It has been more than 5 months since the closing date, why haven't I received the cheque?
A: Grant Payment will be made by Electronic Funds Transfer into the recipient's selected bank account. Please check your statements to determine if the payment has been deposited.

Q: My friend received more money than me, why?
A: The amount of the grant will vary dependent upon the duration of the placement, and the distance you need to travel to your placement.

Q: I received the NSW Clinical Placement Grant last year, can I apply again for this year?
A: Yes, but priority may be given to applicants who have not previously received a grant.

Q: Can I apply for a grant for more than one placement?
A: Yes you may, provided it's a placement in a different location and attached with a letter from the course coordinator. You need to submit an application form for each placement.

Q: I applied for the NSW Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarship. Can I apply for the grant?
A: Yes, but your Clinical Placement Grant will be cancelled if you are successful for the NSW Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarship.

Q: What happens if my placement is cancelled?
A: Please inform HETI as soon as possible. If you have already received the grant, you are required to return it.

Q: I am still not clear and have a question.
A: Please contact the scholarship co-ordinator at 9844 6570 or email: HETI-Scholarships@health.nsw.gov.au