

VICTORIAN RURAL MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP (VRMS) SCHEME

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. How do I apply for the VRMS scholarship?**

The VRMS 2021 application form will be available via the via the Victorian Rural Preferential Allocation (VRPA), as part of the Victorian Intern Match administered by the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV).

The Victorian Intern Match opens online for candidate registrations from 9am 4 May 2021 until 5pm 3 June 2021.
- 2. I have a Bonded Medical Place. Am I eligible to apply for the VRMS scholarship?**

Yes. As the Bonded Medical Place does not attract a scholarship so you are eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship.
- 3. I have a Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship for which I receive a tax-free income. Am I eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship?**

No. You are not eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship if you are in receipt of other scholarships, cadetships or bursaries with a combined total of more than \$7,000 per year.
- 4. I receive a RAMUS scholarship. Am I eligible to apply for VRMS scholarship?**

No. You are not eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship if you are in receipt of other scholarships, cadetships or bursaries with a combined total of more than \$7,000 per year.
- 5. I really want to work in rural Victoria, but I also want to nominate metropolitan health services in my preference list. Am I eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship?**

No. To be eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship, you must participate in the VRPA and nominate only rural health services and intern training programs in your preference list.
- 6. Which health services are considered rural for the purposes of the VRMS?**

All five of the Victorian Rural Generalist Program (VRGP) internship programs (see Q7 below), as well as Albury Wodonga Health, Bairnsdale Regional Health Service, Ballarat Health Services, Barwon Health, Bendigo Health Care Group, Gippsland Rural Intern Training program, Goulburn Valley Health (Shepparton), Mildura Base Hospital, Northeast Health Wangaratta, and Southwest Healthcare Warrnambool.
- 7. What is the Rural Generalist Internship?**

The Rural Generalist Internship is a rural intern training model where trainees are based in a small rural health setting with core rotations to larger hospitals and non-core rotations to GP practices or community health settings. There are five regions in Victoria offering these internships. Please see more about Victorian Rural Generalist Training Program on the VRGP website.
- 8. If I quit during my intern year and/or second year, do I have to pay back the VRMS scholarship?**

Yes. If you do not complete your return of service (ROS) obligation, you will be required to pay back a percentage or all the scholarship that has been paid to you.
- 9. Will my employer know that I have received a VRMS scholarship?**

Yes. The PMCV will contact your employer to monitor your return of service obligation.
- 10. Does the two-year Return of Service (ROS) obligation have to be served consecutively?**

No. The two-year ROS obligation must be discharged within a period of three years following graduation from medical school.

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11. I am receiving Centrelink student payments. If I am successful in obtaining a VRMS, how will this impact my payments?

You are advised to consult with your accountant about the impact of the VRMS on any Centrelink payments you receive. You may request the VRMS to be paid as a lump sum or in instalments with payments completed no later than 31 December 2021.

12. Is the VRMS tax free?

No, the VRMS scholarship is not tax free, and you are advised to consult with your accountant about the impact of the VRMS on your personal financial situation.

Contact: If you have any further questions about the VRMS, please contact the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV) Jenny Smith, VRGP APS Coordinator via allocations@pmcv.com.au