

# FRAME - Rural Clinical School Evaluation

## About this Survey

### Aim

The aim of this survey is to find out about your Rural Clinical School (RCS) experience. We are interested in your feedback and your thoughts about whether attending a RCS affected your interest in rural practice. This information is important as it will help to improve RCS programs to better suit students' needs.

Students of Rural Regional Medical Schools (Deakin University, James Cook University, Australian National University and University of Wollongong) should interpret the term "RCS Experience" as the most senior year-long rural placements they completed during their medical course, and answer "RCS" questions in relation to this long-term experience. Additional rural (and regional) clinical experience should be recorded in Section 27 of the questionnaire.

### Student input and support for the project

This questionnaire was developed with review by, and input from, student representatives from Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) and National Rural Health Students' Network (NRHSN). AMSA and NRHSN representatives have attended a presentation regarding the confidentiality aspects of this study and are fully supportive of the project.

### Confidentiality

While we would greatly appreciate you filling out this questionnaire, your participation is completely voluntary, and you are able to withdraw at any stage. **Clinical and teaching staff will not have access to any individual's information.** Your academic progress will not be affected in any way by the information that you provide, or if you choose not to participate in this study.

Your data will be de-identified by research staff and will be collated with feedback from all other students, so no individual responses can be identified. The data will be compared with that collected from the other Rural Clinical Schools around Australia. The data will be analysed and presented for publication in journals and at conferences. Your agreement for use of the data from your participation in this survey is implicit if you complete this survey.

Thank you for helping us gain insight into the experiences of rural medical students and thus helping improve the rural medical/health workforce.

**If you have any questions concerning this survey, please contact:**

**Professor Dawn DeWitt**  
[ddewitt@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ddewitt@unimelb.edu.au)



Q1a. ID # .....

Q2. Gender:  1. Male  2. Female

Q3. Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ e.g. 31/08/1984  
Day Month Year

Q4. Medical School: (Please select one)

- 1. Australian National University
- 2. Flinders University (Flinders University Rural Clinical School)
- 3. Flinders University (NT Rural Clinical School)
- 4. Monash University
- 5. University of Adelaide (SGRHS)
- 6. University of Melbourne (Undergraduate)
- 7. University of Melbourne (Graduate)
- 8. University of Newcastle
- 9. University of New England
- 10. University of New South Wales
- 11. University of Queensland
- 12. University of Sydney
- 13. University of Tasmania
- 14. University of Western Australia (Undergraduate)
- 15. University of Western Australia (Notre Dame)
- 16. University of Western Sydney
- 17. University of Wollongong
- 18. Deakin University
- 19. James Cook University

Q5. Which year of medical school are you currently in? \_\_\_\_\_

Q6. Are you a member of a Rural Health Club?  1. No  2. Yes  3. Previously

Q7. Please indicate if you have a... (please select one response only)

- 1. Commonwealth Supported (HECS) Place
- 2. Medical Rural Bonded Scholarships (MRBS)
- 3. Bonded Medical Place (BMP)
- 4. Commonwealth Bonded Place
- 5. State Bonded Place
- 6. International Fee-paying Place
- 7. Australian Fee-paying Place

Q8a. Do you hold a scholarship?  1. No  2. Yes

Q8b. If yes, please indicate which scholarship(s):

- 1. Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship
- 2. Rural Australian Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS)
- 3. John Flynn Scholarship
- 4. Australian Rotary RCS Scholarship
- 5. Australian Defence Force Scholarship
- 6. Other: Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Q9. Source(s) of income support: (Please select as many responses as necessary)

- 1. Government assistance (e.g. Youth Allowance, Austudy/Abstudy)
- 2. Supported by parents
- 3. Supported by partner
- 4. Currently employed on a part-time basis
- 5. Scholarship
- 6. Financially independent
- 7. Other: Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

***In the following section we are interested in your plans for future medical practice***

**Q10. On completion of your basic medical degree, where would you most like to practise medicine?**

Please rank up to three options by writing 1 in the box next to your most preferred, 2 next to your second preference and 3 next to your third preference:

1. NSW		2. SA		3. NT		4. VIC	
5. TAS		6. WA		7. ACT		8. QLD	
9. Country other than Australia				Please specify:			

**Q11. In which geographical location within Australia would you most like to practise?**

Please rank up to three options by writing 1 in the box next to your most preferred, 2 next to the second preference and 3 next to your third preference: *(both columns please)*

New (2009) RRMA Classification		Previous RRMA Classification	
1. Capital or Major City		1. Capital city	
2. Inner regional city or large town in Australia (25,000 – 100,000)		2. Major urban centre: e.g. Geelong (>100,000)	
3. Smaller town in Australia – outer regional (10,000 – 24,999)		3. Regional city or large town in Australia (25,000 – 100,000)	
4. Small rural or remote community in Australia (<10,000)		4. Smaller town in Australia (10,000 – 24,999)	
5. Very remote centre/area		5. Small rural community in Australia (<10,000)	
		6. Remote centre/ area	

**Q12a. Have you decided what area of medicine you are interested in pursuing once you have completed your basic medical degree?**

1. No       2. Yes

**Q12b. If you have decided please tick one of the boxes below. If you have not decided please rank your top 3**

**areas of interest below** (Please rank up to three options by writing 1 in the box next to your most preferred, 2 next to the second preference and 3 next to your third preference)

1. Adult Medicine/ Internal Medicine		2. Anaesthesia	
3. Dermatology		4. Emergency Medicine	
5. General Practice		6. Intensive Care Medicine	
7. Obstetrics and Gynaecology		8. Occupational Medicine	
9. Ophthalmology		10. Paediatrics and Child Health	
11. Pathology		12. Psychiatry	
13. Public Health Medicine		14. Radiology	
15. Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM)		16. Surgery	
17. Medical Administration (e.g. <i>managing a hospital</i> )		18. Non-Specialist Hospital Practice (e.g. <i>career as a medical officer in a hospital</i> )	
19. Rehabilitation Medicine		20. <i>Other:</i>	
21. <i>Other:</i>		22. <i>Other:</i>	



**Q18. In your decision to attend the RCS, please indicate whether the following factors had a positive influence (increased the desirability) or negative influence (decreased the desirability) of attending the RCS:**

In your decision this factor was a:

	positive influence	Neutral	negative influence	N/A
	1	2	3	4
18a My spouse/partner's needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18b My children's needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18c Other family members' needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18d My friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18e Extracurricular activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18f Social opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18g Cultural/religious issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18h Academic reputation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18i Patient access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18j Transportation costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18k Availability of paid part-time employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18l Scholarship support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18m Cost of accommodation at rural campus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18n Cost of accommodation at city campus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

***In the following section we are interested in feedback on your experiences at a Rural Clinical School (RCS)***

**Q19. During your rural clinical school experience, were you able to appropriately develop skills for further training?**

	strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree
	1	2	3	4	5
19a I was able to develop my knowledge base	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19b I was able to develop my procedural skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19c I was able to develop my written/oral case presentation skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19d I was able to develop my physical examination skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q20a. Would you recommend your RCS to other medical students?**  1. No  2. Yes

**Q20b. Why/why not?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Q21. Please respond to each of the following items concerning your rural clinical school experience:**

		strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree
		1	2	3	4	5
21a	The environment was conducive to learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21b	The educational experience met my expectations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21c	I saw a sufficient number of patients	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21d	I was well prepared for examinations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21e	I was able to achieve my learning goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21f	I was able to participate actively in patient care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21g	I had access to postgraduate trainees to assist my learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21h	I had access to adequate Information Technology to assist my learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21i	I felt I was an important part of the clinical team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21j	Given my time over I would go to the RCS again	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21k	I would spend more time at the RCS if I could	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21l	My clinical school experience increased my interest in rural training and rural practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21m	I would prefer a rural internship/basic training after my clinical school experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21n	I would consider rural practice after my clinical school experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q22. Did you own/have a non-university car while you were attending the RCS?**

1. No                       2. Yes

**Q23. While based at your metro medical school, did you have access to free/subsidised non-university (e.g. family) accommodation?**

1. No                       2. Yes

**Q24. While based at the RCS did you have access to free/subsidised non-RCS (e.g. family) accommodation?**

1. No                       2. Yes

**Q25a. Was there anyone who became an important role model for you and who contributed positively to your Clinical School experience?**

1. No                       2. Yes:

**Q25b. If yes, please specify from which setting:**  1. Rural or  2. Metro

**Q25c. If yes, what was important about that experience?**

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**Q26. Please respond to each of the following items concerning your rural clinical supervisors:**

	strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree
<b>My clinical supervisors:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
26a Gave adequate help and advice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26b Were approachable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26c Were enthusiastic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26d Assisted me in identifying my learning needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26e Treated me with respect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26f Facilitated a learning environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26g Gave me sufficient autonomy in clinical setting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26h Gave constructive feedback	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26i Were excellent role models	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26j Provided me with access to people with a wide range of health problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26k Provided me with appropriate clinical responsibilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26l Provided opportunities for continuity of patient care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26m Facilitated the development of my decision-making about patient management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26n Provided appropriate supervision of my clinical decisions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26o Overall my clinical school provided an excellent clinical education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q27a. Other than your RCS (regional medical school) clinical experience, have you had any other rural medical experiences?**

1. No  2. Yes:

**Q27b. If yes, please give details:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q27c. If yes, how much additional time have you spent in rural compulsory and elective training experiences? :**

Number of weeks: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q28. Please respond to the following statements concerning your beliefs about rural practice:**

		strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree
		1	2	3	4	5
28a	Working in a rural area provides more opportunity to practise a variety of skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28b	There are good opportunities for employment in rural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28c	There are good opportunities for career advancement in rural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28d	Staff are more supportive of each other in rural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28e	Professional isolation is a problem when working in rural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28f	Rural practice provides greater opportunity for clinical practice autonomy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28g	There are things I enjoy doing in rural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28h	Rural areas have good social opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28i	Rural areas have insufficient recreational facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28j	People in rural areas are very friendly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28k	Working in a rural area means being too isolated from friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28l	Rural practice will be too isolated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28m	Rural practice is too hard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q29a. Do you intend to sub-specialise (e.g. Oncology, Head and Neck Surgery)?**

1. No                       2. Yes

**Q29b. If yes, would you like to practise rurally if the speciality post-graduate training and jobs were available in rural areas?**

1. No                       2. Yes

*In the following section we are interested in finding out about your background*

**Q30a. Place of Birth:**

1. NSW     2. WA     3. SA     4. ACT  
 5. NT     6. QLD     7. VIC     8. TAS  
 9. Country other than Australia: Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q30b. If born in another country, please indicate year of arrival in Australia: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Q31. Do you speak a language other than English at home (or as a first language)?**

1. No                       2. Yes: Please list: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q32. Do you consider yourself to come from a rural background?     1. No     2. Yes**



**Q33. Are you an:**

- 1. Australian citizen (including Australian citizens with dual citizenship)
- 2. New Zealand citizen
- 3. Australian permanent resident status (excluding those who have New Zealand citizenship)
- 4. Temporary entry permit (e.g. international students)
- 5. Status other than one of the above: Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q34. Do you identify yourself and do others identify you as?**

- 1. Of Aboriginal origin
- 2. Of Torres Strait islander origin
- 3. Not applicable

**Q35. Please indicate the type of location, within Australia, you have lived in the longest:**

- 1. Capital city
- 2. Major urban centre (>100,000)
- 3. Regional city/large town (25,000-100,000)
- 4. Smaller town (10,000-24,999)
- 5. Small rural community (<10,000)
- 6. Remote centre/area

**Q36. What was the name and postcode of your secondary/high school for your final year at school, in Australia?**

**Q36a.** Name of secondary/high school: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q36b.** Town/Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ **Q36c.** Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q37a. During your secondary/high school years, was your principal home address in Australia outside of a capital city or major urban centre? (e.g. Gosford-Wyong, Newcastle, Wollongong, Queanbeyan, Blue Mountains, Geelong, Gold Coast-Tweed Heads, and Townsville-Thuringowa)**

- 1. No
- 2. Yes:

**Q37b. If yes, please indicate the number of years you lived there:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q38a. Did you attend a secondary/high school in Australia outside of a capital city or major urban centre? (e.g. Gosford-Wyong, Newcastle, Wollongong, Queanbeyan, Blue Mountains, Geelong, Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville- Thuringowa)**

- 1. No
- 2. Yes: **Q38b. If yes, please indicate the number of years:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q39. Please list the details of any University degrees you have completed in the table below:**

<i>Name of completed degree(s)</i>	<i>Year of Completion</i>	<i>Name of University</i>
1.		
2.		
3.		

**Q40. Your marital status:**

- 1. Single
- 2. Separated
- 3. Divorced
- 4. Living with partner
- 5. Married
- 6. In a relationship but not living with partner
- 7. Widowed

**Q41. Occupation of partner: (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q42a. Do you have any dependants?**  1. No  2. Yes

**Q42b. If yes, number of children under 16 years of age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q42c. Number of other dependants for whose care you are financially contributing:** \_\_\_\_\_

*In this section we would appreciate it if you could give us more detailed feedback on your experience at the Rural Clinical School*

**Q43. What was the best thing about your rural clinical school experience?**

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**Q44. What was the worst thing about your rural clinical school experience?**

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**Q45. What would you suggest could be done to improve the rural clinical school experience in the future?**

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**Q46. Compared with your peers at other metro Clinical Schools, your Clinical School experience was.....?**

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**Q47. What would encourage you to choose a rural hospital for some/most of your post medical school training?**

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**Q48. What things would encourage you to consider further rural practice?**

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**Q49. Do you have any further comments concerning your decision to select RCS?**

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**Q50. Do you have any additional comments concerning your rural clinical school experience (e.g. educational experience, supervision etc)?**

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*Some of the questions are taken or adapted from the Council of Deans of Australian Medical Schools (CDAMS) "Medical Schools Outcome Database Project", 2007; or adapted from Adams M, Dollard J, Petkov, J. "Development of a questionnaire measuring student attitudes to working and living in rural areas" EJRHH 5:327 (online) 2005. Used with the author's express permission.*

**Thank you for your time and input - it is greatly appreciated.  
Please return the Questionnaire in the self-addressed, postage paid envelope provided.**