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







Or, who you can contact from your University if you have any concerns or complaints

University	Contact Name	Contact Telephone	Ethics Approval No.
University of Melbourne	Professor Dawn DeWitt	02 5823 4582	0722686
Australian National University	Professor Amanda Barnard	02 6125 1419	2007/2246
University of Queensland	Dr Diann Eley	07 4631 5459	2006000958
University of Tasmania	Professor Judi Walker	03 6430 4561	H0009137
University of South Australia	Mr Kuda Muyambi	08 8647 8154	H119-2004 RM Code 628
Flinders University	Associate Professor Lucie Walters	08 8726 3914	4098
University of New South Wales	Dr Lee Krahe	02 6582 7540	HREC 07070
Monash University	Ms Laura Major	03 9905 1521	CF 083235 2008001570
University of Sydney	Ms Julia Wild	02 6885 7990	20100618
University of Wollongong	Professor Nicky Hudson	02 4221 4111	NSA10/002

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 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 Wollongong 17. 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. <u>If yes</u> , 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 othe	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	
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 remove 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
comp	oleted	your bas	ic me	dical	deg	ree?								

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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)

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. managing a hospital)	18. Non-Specialist Hospital Practice (e.g. career as a medical officer in a hospital)
19. Rehabilitation Medicine	20. Other:
21. Other:	22. Other:

Q 13. As part of your medica	ai career are y	ou interes	tea in beco	ming inv	oivea in:				
Q 13a. Medi	cal teaching	☐ 1. N	lo 🗌 2. Y	es 🗌	3. Undecide	ed			
Q 13b. Rese	arch	☐ 1. N	lo 🗌 2. Y	es 🗌	3. Undecide	ed			
In the following section we are interested in how you came to a decision to attend a Rural Clinical School (RCS)									
Q14. How long did you spend at the RCS? months									
Q15a. Were you required to attend the RCS by your medical school? 1. No 2. Yes									
Q15b. If yes, please indicate why: \[\textstyle 1. Bonded medical place \[\textstyle 2. Rural Bonded Scholarship Scheme \[\textstyle 3. Allocated by faculty involuntarily \[\textstyle 4. Other: \textstyle									
Q16a. Was your Rural Clinic	al School enro	olment you	r first choi	ce?					
1.No 2.Yes	☐ 3. N/A								
Q16b.If not first choice, whe	Q16b.If not first choice, where was it on your rankings?								
$\square 2^{nd} \square 3^{rd} \square 4^{tr}$									
Q16c.How many choices did	d you have?								
Q17. How important were each of the following in deciding whether to attend the RCS?									
	not at all important 1	2	3	4	very important 5	N/A 6			
17a My spouse/partner's needs									
17b My children's needs									
17c Other family members' needs									
17d My friends									
17e Extracurricular activities									
17f Social opportunities									
17g Cultural/religious issues									
17h Academic reputation									
17i Patient access									
17j Transportation costs									
17k Availability of paid part-time employment									
17I Scholarship support									
17m Cost of accommodation at rural campus									
17n Cost of accommodation at city campus									

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 you	ur decision	this factor	was a:					
		positive influence	Neutral		gative luence	N/A				
18a	My spouse/partner's needs	1	2		3	4				
18b	My children's needs									
18c	Other family members' needs									
18d	My friends									
18e	Extracurricular activities									
18f	Social opportunities									
18g	Cultural/religious issues									
18h	Academic reputation									
18i	Patient access									
18j	Transportation costs									
18k	Availability of paid part-time employment									
181	Scholarship support									
18m	Cost of accommodation at rural									
	campus									
18n	Cost of accommodation at city campus									
	In the following section we are interested in feedback on your experiences at a Rural Clinical School (RCS)									
	uring your rural clinical school experi rther training?	ience, were yo	u able to a	ppropriat	ely deve	elop skills for				
		strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree				
		1	2	3	4	5				
19a	I was able to develop my knowledge base									
19b	I was able to develop my procedural skills									
19c	I was able to develop my written/oral or presentation skills	case 🗌								
19d	I was able to develop my physical examina skills	ation								
Q20a. W	Q20a.Would you recommend your RCS to other medical students? 1. No 2. Yes									
Q20b.W	hy/why not?									

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

			strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree		
			1	2	3	4	5		
	21a	The environment was conducive to learning							
	21b	The educational experience met my expectations							
	21c	I saw a sufficient number of patients							
	21d	I was well prepared for examinations							
	21e	I was able to achieve my learning goals							
	21f	I was able to participate actively in patient care							
	21g	I had access to postgraduate trainees to assist my learning							
	21h	I had access to adequate Information Technology to assist my learning							
	21i	I felt I was an important part of the clinical team							
	21j	Given my time over I would go to the RCS again							
	21k	I would spend more time at the RCS if I could							
	211	My clinical school experience increased my interest in rural training and rural practice							
	21m	I would prefer a rural internship/basic training after my clinical school experience							
	21n	I would consider rural practice after my clinical school experience							
Q2	2. D	id you own/have a non-university car while	vou were	attending :	the RCS?				
		_	,	.					
		☐ 1. No ☐ 2. Yes							
Q2		hile based at your metro medical school hiversity (e.g. family) accommodation?	ol, did you	ı have ac	cess to	free/subs	sidised non-		
		☐ 1. No ☐ 2. Yes							
Q2		Thile based at the RCS did you have a commodation?	access to	free/subs	idised no	on-RCS	(e.g. family)		
		☐ 1. No ☐ 2. Yes							
Q2	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:							
	Q	25b. <u>lf yes,</u> please specify from which setti	n g : 🗌 1. Rı	ural or [2. Metro)			
	Q	25c. <u>lf yes,</u> what was important about that e	experience	?					
									

Q26. Please respond to each of the following items concerning your rural clinical supervisor	Q26.	Please resi	pond to each	of the following	a items concerning	a vour rural clinical	supervisors:
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		strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree
Мус	clinical supervisors:	1	2	3	4	5
26a	Gave adequate help and advice					
26b	Were approachable					
26c	Were enthusiastic					
26d	Assisted me in identifying my learning needs					
26e	Treated me with respect					
26f	Facilitated a learning environment					
26g	Gave me sufficient autonomy in clinical setting					
26h	Gave constructive feedback					
26i	Were excellent role models					
26j	Provided me with access to people with a wide range of health problems					
26k	Provided me with appropriate clinical responsibilities					
261	Provided opportunities for continuity of patient care					
26m	Facilitated the development of my decision-making about patient management					
26n	Provided appropriate supervision of my clinical decisions					
260	Overall my clinical school provided an excellent clinical education					
	er than your RCS (regional medical al medical experiences?	school) c	linical exp	erience,	have you	ı had any othe
[☐ 1. No ☐ 2. Yes:					
Q27	7b. <u>lf yes</u> , please give details:					
Q27	7c. <u>If yes,</u> how much additional time training experiences? :	e have yo	u spent i	n rural c	ompulso	ry and elective
	Number of weeks:					

Q28. Please respond to the following statements concerning your beliefs about rural practic

		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						
28b	There are good opportunities for employment in rural areas						
28c	There are good opportunities for career advancement in rural areas						
28d	Staff are more supportive of each other in rural areas						
28e	Professional isolation is a problem when working in rural areas						
28f	Rural practice provides greater opportunity for clinical practice autonomy						
28g	There are things I enjoy doing in rural areas						
28h	Rural areas have good social opportunities						
28i	Rural areas have insufficient recreational facilities						
28j	People in rural areas are very friendly						
28k	Working in a rural area means being too isolated from friends						
281	Rural practice will be too isolated						
28m	Rural practice is too hard						
Q29a	.Do you intend to sub-specialise (e.g. Or ☐ 1. No ☐ 2. Yes	ncology, He	ead and Ne	ck Surge	ry)?		
	_						
Q29b	.If yes, would you like to practise rurally available in rural areas?	y if the spe	eciality pos	st-graduat	e trainin	g and jobs	were
	☐ 1. No ☐ 2. Yes						
	In the following section we are interest	ested in fin	ding out a	bout your	backgro	ound	
Q30a	.Place of Birth:						
	☐ 1. NSW ☐ 2. WA ☐ 3. SA☐ 5. NT ☐ 6. QLD ☐ 7. VIO☐ 9. Country other than Australia: Pleas	c _	4. ACT 8. TAS				_
Q30b	.lf born in another country, please indica	ate year of	arrival in A	ustralia: _			_
Q31.	Do you speak a language other than Eng	glish at ho	me (or as a	first lang	juage)?		
	☐ 1. No ☐ 2. Yes:	Please list:					
Q32.	Do you consider yourself to come from	a rural bac	kground?	□ 1.	No [] 2. Yes	

Q33. Are you an:				
4. Temporary entry permit (e.g. ir	status (excluding those atternational students)	e who have New Zealand citizenship)		
Q34. Do you identify yourself and do oth	ers identify you as?			
1. Of Aboriginal origin 2. O	f Torres Strait islander	origin 3. Not applicable		
Q35. Please indicate the type of location	, within Australia, you	ı have lived in the longest:		
☐1. Capital city☐ 2. Major urban centro☐4. Smaller town (10,000-24,999)☐5	,	,		
Q36. What was the name and postcode of in Australia?	of your secondary/hig	gh school for your final year at school,		
Q36a. Name of secondary/high sch	nool:			
Q36b. Town/Suburb:		Q36c. Postcode:		
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)				
Name of completed degree(s)	Year of Completion	Name of University		
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			
Q42b. If <u>yes,</u> number of children under 16 years of age:				

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?
Q44.	What was the worst thing about your rural clinical school experience?
Q45.	What would you suggest could be done to improve the rural clinical school experience in the future?
Q46.	Compared with your peers at other metro Clinical Schools, your Clinical School experience was?
Q47.	What would encourage you to choose a rural hospital for some/most of your post medical school training?
Q48.	What things would encourage you to consider further rural practice?
Q49.	Do you have any further comments concerning your decision to select RCS?
Q50.	Do you have any additional comments concerning your rural clinical school experience (e.g. educational experience, supervision etc)?

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