

Guidelines

Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarship Program

Administered by Rural Workforce Agency Victoria

Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Guidelines 2017

Aims of the Program

The overall aim of the Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarship Program is to improve the retention of allied health practitioners working in rural Victorian locations. To meet this goal, the program supports rural allied health practitioners who have demonstrated their involvement in, and a commitment to, rural allied health practice to improve their skills and practice expertise through postgraduate studies.

By encouraging and supporting rural allied health practitioners to undertake postgraduate study, it is anticipated that the quality and retention of qualified practitioners working in rural Victoria will be improved. The financial support provided to practitioners through the scholarship program will assist them in meeting the additional expenses often borne by rural practitioners accessing education.

It is anticipated that the following impacts will result from the provision of postgraduate scholarships to rural allied health practitioners:

- Increased awareness of, and participation in, postgraduate study opportunities amongst allied health practitioners employed in a rural health services
- Improved acquisition of skills and practice expertise by allied health practitioners working in rural Victoria
- Increased retention of appropriately skilled allied health practitioners in rural health services

Who many apply?

Postgraduate scholarships are available for permanent or contract employees in rural Victoria (ASGC RA2-5) who intend to commence an eligible postgraduate course in 2017

Requirements and Eligibility

Postgraduate studies for which scholarships are available, are those including allied health discipline specific and non-discipline specific courses that are related specifically to the applicants role, such as: health management, health promotion and public health studies. (This does not include entry-level or undergraduate qualifications)

- Must be located in rural Victoria (Rural Victoria excludes metropolitan Melbourne and Geelong.)
- Scholarships will only be granted once per applicant per postgraduate qualification
- Scholarships are available for those applicants intending to commence study in
- 2017 only.
- If other funds are received from other sources, such as the Services for Australian Rural and Remote Health (SARRAH) Professional Scholarship Scheme to support postgraduate study, practitioners will be ineligible to receive a scholarship
- Scholarships are available to Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents only.
- Scholarships are only available to allied health practitioners within the eligible discipline list below:

Therapy Disciplines	Science Disciplines
Allied Health Assistant	Audiology
Art therapy	Biomedical Science
Chiropractry	Diagnostic Imaging Medical Physics
Dietetics and Nutrition	Medical Laboratory Science
Exercise Physiology	Nuclear Medicine
Music Therapy	Optometry
Occupational Therapy	Orthoptics
Oral Health (not dentistry)	Pharmacy
Osteopathy	Radiation Oncology Medical Physics
Orthotics and Prosthetics	Radiation Therapy
Physiotherapy	Radiography
Podiatry	Sonography
Psychology	
Social Work	
Speech Therapy	

Applicants must provide a brief report (750 words minimum)

That demonstrates:

- The relevance of postgraduate study to service demand both within the applicant's organisation of employment and in Victoria generally.
- The applicant's understanding of rural communities and practice
- The applicant's interest in, and commitment to rural practice in Victoria
- How the scholarship will assist the applicant in their post graduate studies.

Other supporting information required:

- A copy of your Curriculum Vitae
- One letter of reference
- Certified copies of your birth certificate and/or Passport
- Evidence of your employment (this must be separate to the employer reference provided.)
- Full information regarding postgraduate course to be undertaken
- Proof of enrolment (this must be included at the time of application)

What Support is available?

The level of funding for Postgraduate Scholarships varies according to the level of qualification being attained:

PHD	\$10,000
Masters	\$ 7,500
Graduate Diploma	\$ 5,000
Graduate Certificate	\$ 2,500

Funding will be provided in two equal payments:

- 50% upon commencement of Semester 1
- 50% upon successful completion of Semester 2

PhD, Masters, postgraduate diploma and postgraduate certificate courses will be considered.

Application Process

- Applications must be submitted to RWAV using the Postgraduate Scholarship Program Application Form, which can be accessed on the RWAV website, www.rwav.com.au
- Completed applications should be submitted no later than 5pm 31st March 2017. Mid-year intake applications should be submitted no later than 4th August 2017.
- Applicants must complete all sections of the application form, supply all requested documentation (as detailed above) and ensure the application form is signed (digital signatures are accepted) prior to submission.
- Completed applications should be submitted via email at alliedworkforce@rwav.com.au
- Please note that the total budget for the scholarship program is capped and therefore not all applicants that meet the criteria will necessarily be granted a scholarship.

Procedure for Approval

Completed applications will be processed within four (4) weeks of the closing date. After which time applicants will receive a confirmation email relating to the status of their application.

Only those applications which meet these guidelines and which contain all necessary information will be considered.

The total budget for the program is capped and therefore not all applications that meet the criteria will necessarily be granted a subsidy.

If your application is successful you will be expected to enter into a written agreement with Rural Workforce Agency Victoria. The agreement will set out the terms and conditions of which the scholarship is granted and must be adhered to at all times.

Terms and Conditions

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a written agreement stating that they will:

- Give preference to continuing to work in rural Victoria after completing their studies
- Provide immediate notification (within one month of occurrence) of a change of contact details or employment
- Provide notification of withdrawal from, or changes to their course of studies (within one month of occurrence).
- Provide RWAV with a copy of results for each semester of study undertaken within two months of semester completion. As well as providing a full transcript of results within two months of course completion.
- Participate in tracking and evaluation exercises in relation to their receipt of the scholarship
- Repay scholarship funding received if they fail to comply with the conditions of the agreement
- For the purposes of taxation, money from the scholarship scheme may be considered as income. Please seek independent advice from your accountant.

Further Information

If you require further information or have any queries in regards to requirements, please contact RWAV via email at alliedworkforce@rwav.com.au

These guidelines take effect are subject to revision by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Changes to these guidelines may only be made by, or with the approval of DHHS.