

Social Work Field Education

South Australian Rural Placement Student Information

Rural placements are usually undertaken in a student's **final placement**. The exception being students living in rural locations.

Students who live in country (rural) South Australia will be able to express an interest in undertaking their placements in the location where they live. These students are prioritised in rural placement matching.

Placement opportunities may also be available for MSW students living in Adelaide who wish to undertake a placement in a country (rural) area.

There are restrictions for MSW international students in undertaking a rural placement associated with their Visa requirements. MSW students can undertake no more than 22.5 units of study externally over the course of their program, and in any semester, students must be enrolled in at least 4.5 units internally.

Student expectations

Undertaking a rural placement is a significant commitment for students and placement organisations. Students need to be well prepared including:

- being motivated and understanding that rural placements can be critical to workforce planning in rural areas. Students should think about their motivation and whether they would be committed to staying in a rural area (if employment should be available after the completion of a placement).
- being organised to relocate for 18 weeks. Issues to consider are separation from family and friends, pausing or giving up part time jobs, changing rental arrangements and so on.
- holding a drivers licence and having access to a car. There is no public transport in many of these locations. Students often need access to a car to travel to placement and access local services.

Subsidies:

Domestic students:

- Are eligible to apply for accommodation and travel support to assist them undertaking a rural placement. Accommodation through Rural and Remote Health SA is free with a \$200 refundable security deposit.
- Students travelling within South Australia may receive a predetermined amount to cover fuel expenses (equivalent to one return trip from Adelaide to your placement town) or a standard return ferry fare for students traveling to Kangaroo Island.
- Free internet is provided at Flinders University Rural & Remote Health SA campus locations.

International students may be eligible for subsidies to support them in completing a rural placement. This support is available through the College of Education, Psychology and Social Work, conditions apply.

International Students

- May be accommodated where there is a vacancy available through the Flinders Rural & Remote Health SA that will not be required for a domestic student. The cost of accommodation to international students is \$150 per week.

If accommodation is not available through the Flinders Rural & Remote Health program international students may be eligible to apply for financial support through the College of Education, Psychology and Social Work to subsidise costs for accommodation, and travel expenses for one return car trip (from Adelaide to your placement location).

Where are placements located?

SA Country and remote locations where students have previously undertaken placements include:

- Ceduna (8.0 hours drive from Adelaide)
- Coober Pedy (9.0 hours drive from Adelaide)
- Kangaroo Island
- Mt Gambier (4.5 hours drive from Adelaide)
- Port Augusta (3.5 hours drive from Adelaide)
- Port Lincoln (7.5 hours drive from Adelaide)
- Port Pirie (2.5 hours drive from Adelaide)
- Riverland (2.5 hours drive from Adelaide)

Placement organisations

Our key rural/remote placement partners are SA Health, Department of Child Protection and Centacare Country SA. Depending on opportunities, placements have been offered at organisations including Department for Correctional Services, Centrelink and other non-government organisations.

Placement availability

Placement availability is determined by the number of offers made by host organisations. Expressing an interest in a rural/remote placement doesn't guarantee you will be matched to a rural/remote placement.

How do I express an interest in a rural location?

Students can express interest by ticking the 'Apply for a Rural Placement' box on InPlace.

If tick this section on InPlace, you will not be considered for a metropolitan placement unless a suitable rural placement can't be sourced.

How do I find out more about rural placements?

A Rural & Remote Placement Information session will be conducted prior to each placement block. Details of this online presentation will be available on the Social Work Field Education Placements FLO site. For further enquiries contact swplacements@flinders.edu.au