

GP Synergy Medical Student General Practice Scholarship

Program Outline 2017
UoN | UoW



Australian Government
Department of Health

G P S Y N E R G Y

advancing medical training

1 About GP Synergy

GP Synergy is a leading provider of general practice education, delivering a diverse range of prevocational and vocational general practice training experiences across NSW/ACT.

Our reputation for excellence in general practice education is a reflection of our commitment to providing the highest quality training experience for trainees at any stage of learning.

2 About the GP Synergy student scholarship

The GP Synergy General Practice Scholarship provides medical students studying at a university located within GP Synergy training boundaries with \$2,000 to support their medical studies. In return, scholarship recipients are required to prepare a general practice research project in-conjunction with their university's academic GP unit (or equivalent) and undertake a general practice community placement.

General practice research plays an important role in primary health care provision. Academic GP units (or equivalents) have been established in most medical schools in recognition of this importance.

The scholarship program provides a platform where medical students can meaningfully explore opportunities available in academic general practice and the general practice profession, or further an existing interest in these areas.

3 Benefits of the scholarship

Participating in the GP Synergy General Practice Scholarship is a great way of trying out research and general practice under the supervision of some of the most experienced, widely recognised and respected academics, and practising GPs. The scholarship presents students with a unique opportunity to widen their perspective on research and the general practice profession, and build important professional networks.

Recipients of scholarships will learn more about research and the general practice profession. They will acquire new skills, knowledge and perspectives that will serve to benefit them throughout their medical studies and clinical endeavours.

Importantly, recipients' involvement will meaningfully contribute to the evidence base for general practice and primary care outcomes for the community.

"This program is exceptional in achieving its goal to encourage students to enter academic general practice. Without this scholarship I am not convinced I would ever have understood the importance, possibilities or appeal of academic general practice and am grateful GP Synergy has developed such an innovative scholarship."

Emma Kozianski, previous scholarship recipient.

4 Scholarships available

GP Synergy is offering two scholarship positions annually at each of the following universities located within GP Synergy's training boundaries:

- Australian National University (ANU) – 2 scholarships
- University of New England (UNE) – 2 scholarships
- University of New South Wales (UNSW) – 2 scholarships
- University of Newcastle (UoN) – 2 scholarships
- University of Notre Dame (UND) – 2 scholarships
- University of Sydney (USYD) – 2 scholarships
- University of Wollongong (UoW) – 2 scholarships
- Western Sydney University of (WSU) – 2 scholarships

5 Scholarship requirements

Successful scholarship recipients will receive \$2,000 towards their medical studies. In return, scholarship recipients are required to complete the following **mandatory** requirements:

1. Attend an induction meeting with GP Synergy and submit a project plan by **21 April 2017**.
2. Participate in a general practice research project in conjunction with their university's academic general practice unit (or equivalent) and prepare a report about the project.
3. Undertake a 16 hour community GP placement in a GP Synergy accredited training facility. This facility must be in a rural or remote (RA 2-5) area or be an Aboriginal Medical Service and will be coordinated by GP Synergy. Where travel and accommodation is required, this will be coordinated/subsidised by GP Synergy and a meal allowance provided.
4. Keep GP Synergy informed of their progress by remaining in email/phone contact with GP Synergy's Academic Medical Educator throughout their placement.
5. Participate in evaluation activities:
 - a. upon completion of the community placement
 - b. upon completion of the program.
6. Fulfill all requirements by **20 January 2017**.

The following activities are **optional** for students, but **highly encouraged**:

1. Attend a one day GP Synergy Foundations of Research Workshop (held on a Saturday in Feb/Mar). Where students require travel and accommodation to attend, this will be coordinated/subsidised by GP Synergy and a meal allowance provided.
2. Undertake a poster presentation at the 2017 GP Education and Training Conference being hosted by GP Synergy between 16-17 August 2017 in Sydney. Where students require travel and accommodation to attend, this will be coordinated/subsidised by GP Synergy and a meal allowance provided.

5.1 General practice research scholarship component

Scholarship recipients are required to participate in a general practice research project under supervision of their university's academic general practice unit (or equivalent).

This project is required to be in an area relevant to general practice. It may be an existing project that the university is currently undertaking, or it may be a new project developed by the student.

The aim of this component of the GP Synergy scholarship is for students to meaningfully engage in general practice research. The amount of time and type of involvement required of a student is to be discussed and agreed between the student and the university at the outset of the scholarship.

Students are required to demonstrate meaningful engagement in the program through a project report to be submitted at the conclusion of their research participation. This report needs to demonstrate:

- a summary of the key components and outcomes of the research project
- an explanation of the student's active participation in the research project in any of the following areas:- initial project development, data collection, data analysis/interpretation, literature review, etc.
- the student's understanding of the research process, importance of research in general practice and its application to primary care outcomes.

5.2 Community placement component

Scholarship recipients are required to undertake a 16 hour community placement. Students will be placed with a GP Synergy mentor for their community placement. This may be a GP Synergy registrar, supervisor or medical educator.

Where can community placements be undertaken?

The community placement must be completed within GP Synergy's training boundaries, within a GP Synergy accredited training practice in a rural and remote (RA 2-5) location and/or a GP Synergy accredited Aboriginal Medical Service. Please visit our website for maps of our training regions: www.gpsynergy.com.au

GP Synergy will discuss with students their preferred placement location/s and where required, will subsidise reasonable travel, accommodation and meals for any placements undertaken.

Who will arrange the community placements?

All community placements will be coordinated by GP Synergy.

When can community placements be undertaken?

Community placements are required to be completed by 24 November 2017.

Timing of placements will take into consideration students' study commitments and availability of mentors. Upon allocation with a GP mentor, students and mentors can liaise to make specific arrangements.

Community placements can occur across consecutive days (this is the preferred timing for rural placements where a student is required to travel) or across a number of dates.

What insurance is available to cover students during community placements?

Students are required to have their own medical indemnity for community placements. Medical indemnity is free for students with a number of providers.

Where students require Workcover insurance, insurance can be obtained through IC Firths. GP Synergy will reimburse students with this cost up to \$130. Further information will be provided to students prior to the commencement of their placement.

Can the community placement meet existing university requirements?

Students should discuss with their university whether the GP Synergy community placement is able to form part of any existing community placement requirements. Please note – community placements will be required to be in facilities arranged by GP Synergy as specified above.

6 Application and selection process

6.1 Application dates

The following application dates apply to students at the following universities:

- UoN and UoW

Item	Date
Scholarship applications open	24 October 2016
Scholarship applications close	5pm AEST 2 December 2016
Applicants notified of outcome	By 9 January 2017
Deadline for successful applicants to accept offer	5pm AEST 16 January 2017

6.2 Eligibility

At most universities, medical students enrolled in any year of medical training at one of the participating universities are invited to apply*.

To be eligible to apply, applicants are required to:

- be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- be enrolled as a medical student in one of the participating universities for the 2016 year and intending to be a student at their university in 2017
- be able to meet the scholarship participation requirements.

6.3 Application process

To apply for the GP Synergy General Practice Scholarship Program students are required to complete the application form on the [GP Synergy website](#) by the specified date and provide proof of their medical student enrolment with their university for 2016.

Important:

In the application, students are asked to outline what research project they are considering participating in (such as an existing project at their university) or their idea/s for new research project.

Applicants are **strongly encouraged** to discuss their application with their university's academic general practice unit to find out what research opportunities may be available within the university or discuss their ideas for a new research project. A list of contacts for each university are provided overleaf.

Applications should demonstrate:

- who the student has contacted at their university to discuss research project opportunities
- what project/s, or research topic/s, the student is considering for the scholarship

- what level and type of involvement the student anticipates having in an existing project, or the preliminary research method proposed for a new project.

IMPORTANT NOTE: GP Synergy is unable to support scholarship applications that rely solely on GP registrars, GP supervisors, training facility or GP Synergy staff as their research participants.

Academic university contacts

Uni	Contact	Position	Phone	Email
UoN	Prof Dimity Pond	Professor School of Medicine and Public Health	02 8204 4450 / 4461	charlotte.hespe@nd.edu.au
UoW	Professor Andrew Bonney Associate Professor Judy Mullan	Graduate School of Medicine	02 4221 5964	abonney@uow.edu.au jmullan@uow.edu.au

6.4 Selection process

All applications will be reviewed by the GP Synergy Scholarship Committee.

Applications will be reviewed against set criteria and scored. Referees of the highest scoring applicants will be contacted. Pending referee outcomes, shortlisted applications will be finalised with the nominated GP Academic Unit contact at each university.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome by the date specified in section 6.1.

7 Scholarship payments

Successful scholarship recipients will receive an initial grant of \$1000 upon submission and approval of a one page project plan following their induction meeting with GP Synergy.

Recipients will receive the remaining \$1000 on completion of all requirements.

Travel subsidies and allowances for students will be reimbursed at the time incurred.

8 Scholarship completion deadlines

Scholarship recipients are required to have completed a project plan and attended an induction meeting with GP Synergy by 21 April 2017. Failure to meet this initial deadline may result in withdrawal from the program.

All remaining requirements of the scholarship must be completed by 20 January 2017.

9 Scholarship support

GP Synergy has a medical educator dedicated to general practice research who will oversee and provide support to scholarship recipients during the program.

10 Scholarship withdrawal

If a student decides they are unable to complete the program they may be required to return all or part of the funding they have received.

This will be reviewed on a case by case basis in discussion with GP Synergy's Director of Education and Training who will take into consideration the reason for withdrawal and progress the recipient has made towards fulfilling scholarship requirements at the time of withdrawal.

11 Further information

For further information about the GP Synergy General Practice Scholarship Program, please contact us on applicant@gpsynergy.com.au or call us on 1300 477 963