

Victorian Rural Medical Scholarship (VRMS) Scheme

2020 Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. How do I apply for the VRMS scholarship?**

The VRMS 2020 application form will be available online from 9am 4 May 2019 until 5pm 29 June 2020:
<https://www.jotform.com/build/200758314890862>
- 2. I have a Bonded Medical Place. Am I eligible to apply for the VRMS scholarship?**

Yes. As the Bonded Medical Place does not attract a scholarship so you are eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship.
- 3. I have a Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship for which I receive a tax-free income. Am I eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship?**

No. You are not eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship if you are in receipt of other scholarships, cadetships or bursaries with a combined total of more than \$7,000 per year.
- 4. I receive a RAMUS scholarship. Am I eligible to apply for VRMS scholarship?**

No. You are not eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship if you are in receipt of other scholarships, cadetships or bursaries with a combined total of more than \$7,000 per year.
- 5. I really want to work in rural Victoria, but I gave my top preference to a metropolitan health service. Am I eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship?**

No. To be eligible to apply for a VRMS scholarship, you must give your top three preferences in the intern computer match to a minimum of one and maximum of three regions offering Rural Generalist Internships and no metropolitan health services as per the VRMS Guidelines.
- 6. Which health services are considered rural for the purposes of the VRMS?**

Albury Wodonga Health, Bairnsdale Regional Health Service, Bendigo Health Care Group, Gippsland Rural Intern Training program, Goulburn Valley Health (Shepparton), Mildura Base Hospital, Northeast Health Wangaratta, Southwest Healthcare Warrnambool
- 7. What is the Rural Generalist Internship?**

The Rural Generalist Internship is a rural intern training model where trainees are based in a small rural health setting with core rotations to larger hospitals and non-core rotations to GP practices or community health settings. There are five regions in Victoria offering these internships. Please see the Victorian Rural Generalist Training Program Fact Sheet on the VRMS application page.
- 8. If I quit during my intern year and/or second year, do I have to pay back the VRMS scholarship?**

Yes. If you do not complete your return of service (ROS) obligation, you will be required to pay back a percentage or all of the scholarship that has been paid to you.
- 9. Will my employer know that I have received a VRMS scholarship?**

Yes. The PMCV will contact your employer to monitor your return of service obligation.
- 10. Does the two-year Return of Service (ROS) obligation have to be served consecutively?**

No. The two-year ROS obligation must be discharged within a period of three years following graduation from medical school.
- 11. I am receiving Centrelink student payments. If I am successful in obtaining a VRMS, how will this impact my payments?**

You are advised to consult with your accountant about the impact of the VRMS on any Centrelink payments you receive. You may request the VRMS to be paid as a lump sum or in instalments with payments completed no later than 31 December 2020.
- 12. Is the VRMS tax free?**

No, the VRMS scholarship is not tax free and you are advised to consult with your accountant about the impact of the VRMS on your personal financial situation.

Contact: If you have any further questions about the VRMS, please contact the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV) via allocations@pmcv.com.au