



JAMES COOK
UNIVERSITY
AUSTRALIA

The JCU Rural Experience



jcu.edu.au/ruralhealthmatters

Innovative education that also invests in communities

JCU provides truly unique educational experiences from the point of entry into medical school through to specialist General Practice Fellowship, under the University's innovative GP training program. JCU is the only university in Australia that provides postgraduate GP training.

The journey begins with a clear vision and training pathway for high school graduates who are interested in pursuing medical careers as generalists with a broad scope of clinical practice.

The JCU medical program attracts students who care about living in and serving communities. In addition, the program appeals to high school students living in regional and rural Australia, where many communities struggle to grow and sustain a permanent medical workforce.

Upon graduation, students are encouraged to stay and further their specialty training in the north. JCU has partnered with northern Queensland Hospital and Health Services and other health care providers to map specialty training pathways for junior doctors. The initiative is known as NQ Regional Training

Hubs and helps to bolster the specialist workforce for the communities its services. Tied into this initiative is General Practice as a specialty, of which JCU is the training provider.

The JCU GP training program adds on the success of the medical school. The program has forged links between undergraduate and postgraduate training, allowing students to graduate as doctors and then embark upon specialist GP training throughout regional Queensland.

The program's unique model of training enables GP registrars to live, learn and work alongside inspirational educators, supervisors and mentors in diverse rural, remote and regional locations.

Committed to closing the gap, the program has established training posts in numerous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services across the state, where cultural educators and mentors provide additional learning support.

Unique medical experience

24%

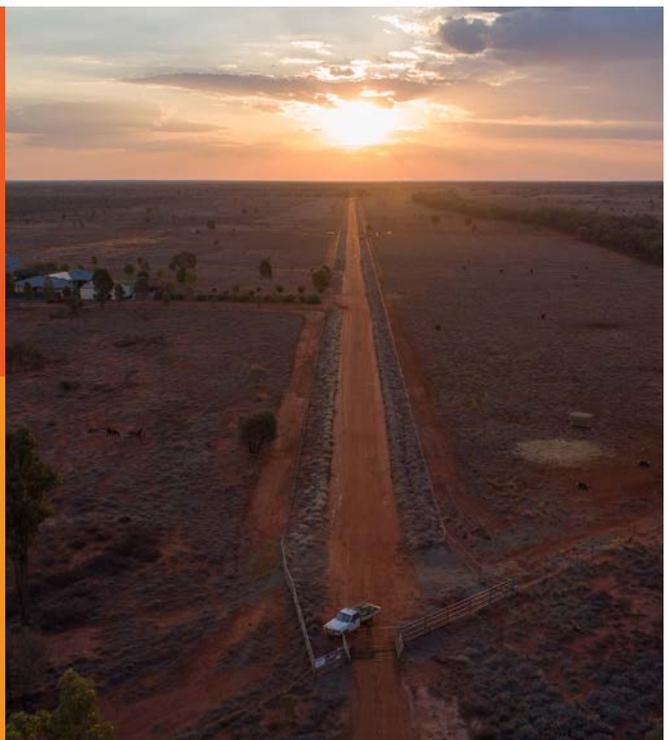
of registrars enrolled in the JCU GP training program are JCU medical graduates

51%

of GP training applicants in 2017-18 came from regional, rural and remote communities

68%

of applicants successfully placed in the program in 2019 came from regional, rural and remote locations



The JCU Experience

THE JCU EXPERIENCE STARTS IN YEAR 1 OF THE BACHELOR OF MEDICINE, BACHELOR OF SURGERY



"I chose JCU because there is a lot of emphasis on the rural community and I want to be a doctor that doesn't just treat the patient but brings education and teaches them about the diseases and how to overcome them."

ANDREAS ASTIER
JCU Medicine student

PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES DURING MEDICAL SCHOOL

The degree includes multiple rural placement experiences, across the six years. Placements allow students to obtain all of their training from start to finish, outside major metropolitan areas. These opportunities foster an aptitude and passion for a career in rural and remote health.



"The rural placements are one of the best things about JCU. When you're out there and you're on a team of maybe three or four other people, you get to do so much more than you ever would in one of the big hospitals."

DR KAVESHAN PATHER
JCU Medicine Graduate

SUPPORTING INTERNSHIP

On completion of the degree, JCU graduates enter the hospital system to work as interns.



"We are trying to grow our own highly skilled doctors who want to be here and have all the competencies and capabilities they require to help sustain a rural medical workforce. From medical school, JCU seems to target students with an interest in working regionally and rurally... We are pretty excited by the synergy this has created between JCU and our health service."

DR ANNETTE TURLEY
CQHHS Director of Clinical Training

JOIN MEDICAL EDUCATOR TEAM

JCU offers specialists the opportunity to join the University as medical educators, supervisors or adjuncts to train future doctors.



"Growing up and going through medical school and registrar training, I had a lot of respect for some wonderful medical educators that taught me over the years. I always remember thinking I would really love to do what they do and inspire people the way they inspired me."

DR CIARA ROSS
JCU Medicine Graduate & Medical Educator

SUPPORTING SPECIALIST TRAINING

JCU works in partnership with hospital and health services via NQ Regional Training Hubs to support junior doctors choosing a pathway that allows them to train in regional Queensland. Doctors apply to their desired College and stay in the north for all or the majority of their training.



"There's a very large perception that you have to do your specialist training in a major city, and it does depend on the college, but for most you can start or complete some, if not most, of your training in a regional centre."

DR ALISHA THOMSON
JCU Medicine Graduate
Psychology Registrar, TTH

SPECIALIST GP TRAINING

Junior doctors who have chosen to specialise in General Practice join the JCU GP training program, which enables them to train in diverse regional, rural and remote locations across North Western Queensland - fully supported by regional training teams - until they achieve Fellowship.



"On any given shift, we manage a variety of primary care, chronic disease, emergency presentations and everything in between. You never know what is going to walk through the door. You have to be confident in your clinical and consultation skills and work together with your team."

DR EBONNEY VAN DER MEER
JCU Medicine Graduate & GP Fellow



JAMES COOK
UNIVERSITY

AUSTRALIA