

RURAL GENERALIST PROGRAM

Employer Support Requirements



Please complete page 3 and submit this document with your online application.

This Information Sheet provides an overview of the James Cook University (JCU) Rural Generalist Program (RGP) for allied health professionals and provides details of organisational support requirements for participants being admitted to the RGP.

Program overview

A 'rural generalist' health professional delivers a broad range of healthcare services to meet the needs of a rural or remote community. Rural generalists usually provide care across the lifespan, work in different healthcare settings, and in geographically dispersed and culturally diverse communities. Rural generalists aim to deliver high quality, safe, effective and efficient services as close to the consumer's community as possible.

James Cook University in collaboration with QUT and the Allied Health Professions' Office of Queensland has developed the Rural Generalist Program (RGP) for seven professions: occupational therapy, nutrition and dietetics, physiotherapy, medical imaging, pharmacy, podiatry and speech pathology.

The RGP is a work integrated learning pathway consisting of two domains: Rural Service Delivery and Rural Generalist Practice. An overview of the structure of the RGP and module selection requirements can be accessed via the JCU website.

Level 1 Rural Generalist Program (pathway)

Structure

The Level 1 RGP (pathway) requires completion of 12 modules. Each module is 6 weeks in duration and requires 22 hours of study time. Participants who successfully complete 12 modules will be eligible to receive a Certificate of Completion. The Certificate of Completion can be used as supporting documentation in an application for 6 credit points of advanced standing on entry to the Level 2 RGP course.

How to Apply

Participants apply through the JCU online application portal which can be accessed on the RGP website: www.jcu.edu.au/rgp. Participants must attach a completed RGP Authority Form and relevant academic transcript to their application. Successful applicants will receive an offer letter. Once participants accept their offer and are admitted to the program, a JCU staff member will liaise with the participant to process their individual module enrolments.

Costs

The fee for each module in the Level 1 RGP is \$650 (GST excl). Multiple payment options are available and participants are required to complete the RGP Authority Form to indicate payment method. This form must be attached to the participant's application through the JCU online application portal. Modules can be paid for one at a time. Payment method may be changed at any point through notification to dthm.aqs@jcu.edu.au. Refer to the Fees and Admission Dates menu on the RGP website for further information.

In addition to module enrolment fees, the participant or employers may also incur costs for attending suggested training courses that are available outside the RGP, purchasing study materials and resources, and for telecommunications and data costs associated with the online learning study mode. The Level 1 RGP has no mandatory travel requirements to attend face-to-face teaching at JCU.

Duration and study schedule

The Level 1 RGP is self-paced. It is currently planned to offer each module three times per year, though this may be varied due to demand. Participants can apply to be admitted to the RGP as indicated on the JCU RGP website: www.jcu.edu.au/rgp. It is possible to complete the program in approximately 12 months by studying multiple modules simultaneously. The maximum allowed duration of enrolment is 24 months. Module study planners can be accessed under the Resources tab on the JCU RGP website: www.jcu.edu.au/rgp

Organisational support requirements

The Level 1 RGP (pathway) is a work integrated learning program, which requires organisations to commit to supporting participants who are enrolled in the program. Participants will require access to the following:

Formal professional support

The participant will engage in regular, formal professional supervision or mentoring with a senior profession-specific colleague consistent with requirements for early career practitioners in the employing organisation.¹ Most supervision models recommend approximately one hour per week is allocated for inexperienced professionals.

Local work integrated learning support

An experienced health professional of the same profession as the participant will be co-located or highly accessible (onsite and available >50% work hours). The health professional should have or be developing skills in training and education. The role is anticipated to require 60-90 mins per week of learning-focussed engagement with the participant including:

- advising on module selection to match the development plan to organisational requirements;
- guiding contextualisation of learning activities to the local context e.g. identifying relevant organisational policy documents or clinical pathways of relevance to module topics;
- reviewing and providing supportive feedback to the participant on specific learning activities;
- demonstration or supervised practice of clinical or professional skills that are in development and;
- support to identify and access local or organisational training resources that may assist general development goals or work on modules e.g. local inservice program, online training available to employees, method of accessing organisation library resources.

Resources

- Computer, organisation intranet (where relevant) and internet in the work unit.
- Resources relevant to the organisation and/or profession (e.g. data systems, clinical equipment).

Allocated work time

- As the Level 1 RGP is a work integrated learning program, some activities will require access to resources and systems, discussions or meetings with colleagues, and other activities that need to be done in work time. Modules involve 22 hours of study time and are 6 weeks in duration. The majority of study time will need to be undertaken in the workplace.

Service development project

- It is mandatory for Level 1 RGP participants to be involved in developing, implementing and evaluating a rural generalist service development project in their workplace such as development or expansion of telehealth, delegation to allied health assistants, skill sharing, or inter-agency partnerships. As participants are early career professionals they are not expected to be independently responsible for the project. It is expected that projects will be sponsored and led by a manager or senior team member with ongoing engagement of relevant project stakeholders.

Participants applying to complete single modules

If you are applying to enrol in one or more individual modules only and are unable to meet the above Organisational Support Requirements, please contact the RGP Program Coordinator to discuss.

¹ Examples of formal professional support models include: Queensland Health (2011). *Professional Supervision Guide: Allied Health Professional Support Program*; Health Education and Training Institute (2012). *The Superguide: a handbook for supervising allied health professionals*; Western Australia Country Health Service (2008). *Professional support: Clinical supervision for allied health professionals*.

RGP AUTHORITY FORM

1. PARTICIPANT DETAILS

Given Name(s)

Surname

Position title

Organisation

Facility / Team / Unit

Email

SELECT 1 PAYMENT METHOD:

Option 1. Credit card. JCU will contact you to provide instructions. Payment due 4 days before the start date of registered module.

Option 2. One invoice per module. Complete section 2. BILLING INFORMATION DETAILS below.

ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Operational manager details

Name

Position title

Contact phone number

Email

I have read the information in the Employer Support Requirements and acknowledge organisational support requirements will be met for the Level 1 Rural Generalist Program participant above.

Operational manager: Signature

Date

2. BILLING INFORMATION DETAILS

Organisation name:

(Responsible for payment of invoice)

ABN

Contact Officer for Billing

Name

Position title

Contact phone number

Email

Postal address

State

Postcode

Authorisation of payment option and billing information.

I agree to the payment option indicated above in section 1. PARTICIPANT DETAILS.

Organisation delegate: Name

Position title

Signature

Date