

Elective planning: Important points

Students are required to undertake a four-week, full-time elective placement as part of their degree. The elective enables students to broaden and diversify their personal and professional development.

Students are responsible for organising their own electives. The exception is for Perth and country WA hospital placements.

Local Elective Application Forms, acceptance and confirmation emails/letters, Elective Learning Proposals, Travel Forms (for those travelling interstate and overseas), and proof of medical indemnity and travel insurances must all be forwarded to the Administrative Officer (Electives), Kylie Howard, by set deadlines. These are all available on Blackboard.

Overseas – plan 18 months in advance.

Refer to the DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) website: smartraveller.gov.au. Electives in countries that are Level 1 and 2 are typically approved by UNDA's risk assessment manager. **Electives in Level 3 and 4 countries are not approved.** Level 1 and 2 are green and yellow; level 3 and 4 are orange and red. Travel advice can change suddenly. Sign up for updates. If in doubt about the country/level ask the AO (Electives) prior to applying.

Overseas electives typically require an outlay of \$4000-\$6000 but can be more. OS-Help Loans will not be available for electives in 2019 and unlikely in 2020. It is also unlikely that Federal Government grants will be available. There may be some scholarships available. Plan to cover all expenses yourself.

South Africa – make copies and courier applications. Don't mail. Mailed applications tend to get lost or can be delayed for months.

Tanzania – if you are organising your elective through a private company check with the AO (Electives) first. One company was unreliable in 2018. This impacted on students' experiences.

Be realistic when choosing an elective. Think about how your plans will affect you and your family, and consider your goals and limitations (expenses, timelines, how you will feel by the end of a busy year, etc). Overseas electives, particularly those in developing communities, are not for everyone. Only academically strong students should consider overseas electives.

Interstate – plan 18 months in advance.

Perth hospitals – UNDA, UWA and Perth hospitals have an agreement that elective placements must be organised by elective coordinators. For UNDA that's the AO (Electives). **Students mustn't seek out their own placements, even if they have contacts, friends, relatives or mentors in hospitals.** This agreement ensures that there is one point of contact between the universities and hospitals, and that hospitals/staff are not overloaded with requests/elective students.

Country WA hospitals – elective placements in country WA hospitals are coordinated by the Rural Clinical School of WA. There will be an online application process made available by RCS. Until then, students must contact the AO (Electives) with preferences. The AO (Electives) will liaise with RCS.

Split placements – the idea behind the four-week elective placement is to offer students an in-depth experience at one site. An exception is made for students undertaking two-week placements with the RFDS. These students are required to do their second two weeks elsewhere. The Dean is currently reviewing electives and specifically whether split placements will be allowed going forward.

For everything else, refer to the Medical Elective Handbook 2019 (on Blackboard).