International Students’ Flexible Study Arrangements

Guidelines for Community Specialty Block

International students may apply to complete ONE of the Year 3 or 4 Clinical Rotations in their country of origin, subject to prior approval. This entails an evaluation of the syllabus content, clinical experience and assessment standards of the replacement term in comparison to the equivalent Block in the SMP. This is not an opportunity to experience medicine in any international location, but only in the student’s country of origin. This placement must not be with a relative.

How to apply. Students wishing to undertake the Community Term overseas should

1. Read the attached minimum requirements of the Community Term - overseas.
2. E-mail Drew Barr (andrew.barr@sydney.edu.au) to ascertain whether places for overseas placement are available (a limit of 5 students per clinical school per Term is applied).
3. If placements are available, gain ‘in principle’ approval of your plans by emailing an outline of your intended placement plans to the Community Specialty Block representative at your Clinical School. The ‘in principle’ approval is for eligibility, approval of country and that places are available at the clinical school for that term. It is not an approval for the actual placement.

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4. Gain written (e-mail) approval from the proposed Supervisors in your country of origin to attach to your application.

5. Complete an ‘SMP Overseas Student Substitute Rotation Application Form’. Drew will forward this to you.

6. Obtain the signed approval of the Associate Dean of the Clinical School and the above named academic member of staff at your clinical school.

7. E-mail or post the completed and signed form to Drew Barr. The form will then be forwarded to the Stage 3 coordinator for approval. The Executive Officer of your clinical school will be notified as to whether the application is approved. If you do not hear from your EO, please contact them.

8. Please note that all application procedures and approvals must be completed at least 16 weeks prior to the commencement of the term, or before the student leaves Australia – whichever is earlier.
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Community Specialty Block - Minimum requirements

The **minimum requirements** for recommendation by the Community Specialty Block Committee to the SMP Committee are as follows:

1. **Duration of the replacement term.**

   - The replacement term will be at least seven weeks in duration.
   - The replacement term must occur entirely in the country of origin ie it cannot be ‘split’ between Australia and the country of origin.
   - The replacement term must be taken as a single block of seven weeks ie cannot be split into two or more separate blocks separated in time.
   - **Students must return to Australia to take part in Week 8 of the term with local students and participate in assessment activities. The only exception to this is for students undertaking the placement in Term E who will remain overseas for an approved elective term. For these students the minimum replacement term is eight weeks duration and taken as a single block (not split in time). These students will be required to participate in a Community Term assessment workshop prior to the commencement of Term G (date to be notified). Please note that the results for the Community Term will be released after a successful completion of these assessment requirements.**

2. **Clinical placements.**

   - The replacement term will consist of one 4 week rural and one 3 week urban placement. These must be in one urban and one rural location.. Term E students (as above) will complete two 4 week placements.
   - Each placement will include at least 16 (urban) and 32 (rural) half day sessions spent mainly or exclusively in clinical contact (a half day lasts at least three and a half hours). This includes the required community placements, as well as sessions in the GP practice.
   - Clinical placements will include at least one half-day clinical placement in a sexual health medicine clinic, and at least one half-day in a rehabilitation medicine facility.
   - The term must occur at the same time as the local term.
   - Placements cannot be with family members.
3. **Reports.**

Students will be provided with a detailed list of requirements in lieu of face-to-face sessions, lectures and workshops at a pre-placement orientation workshop. This workshop is compulsory for all students.

4. **Assessments.**

Details of assessment requirements will be provided at the orientation workshop.

5. **Community Term placement folder.**

   Students will be provided with a Community Term folder (International) which must be completed by the end of Term and returned to the Community representative at their Clinical School. The folder should include:
   
   ➢ Reports and Assessments signed by supervisor where necessary as outlined in folder
   
   ➢ Evaluations of clinical placements - completed Student and Supervisor evaluation (amended if necessary to reflect the planned experience).

6. **Orientation and assessment workshops.**

   International students undertaking the Community Specialty Block in their country of origin are required to attend:
   
   ➢ **Orientation workshop** – An orientation workshop to be attended by all students doing Community term overseas at each student’s clinical school before the start of the Community Term. Dates times and venues of workshops will be provided to the student when liaising with Community Block academics.
   
   ➢ **Assessment workshop for Term E students** - date to be advised.

Students should be aware that if their reports and other submissions fail to meet the required standards or are not submitted by the due date, or if they fail to complete the planned placement experience, then they may be required to repeat the Rotation.
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Guidelines for Community Specialty Block

Contract

I have read and understand the document International Students’ Flexible Study Arrangements Guidelines for Community Specialty Block 2011 Minimum requirements and agree to abide by these requirements.

Student’s name and SID:

Student’s signature:

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