

# Scholarships for rural students studying medicine

RAMUS is an Australian Government initiative.



The RAMUS Scheme assists selected students with a rural background to study medicine at university. The Scheme is aimed at increasing the number of doctors practising in rural and remote communities across Australia.

RAMUS scholarship holders receive financial support to help them overcome the financial barriers they face as rural students studying medicine, especially the costs of having to move and live away from home while studying. RAMUS payments help scholarship holders to meet accommodation, living and travel costs while at university.

In addition, the Scheme supports scholarship holders to develop their knowledge and understanding of working as a medical practitioner in rural areas and to maintain and strengthen their ties to rural Australia.

Scholars are mentored by a rural doctor, are members of their university's student rural health club and are strongly encouraged to take part in other rural activities, such as supervised clinical activities in rural areas and promoting careers in health to rural school students.

RAMUS scholarship holders are not required to work in a rural area after they graduate from university (ie scholars are not bonded) but they are given every encouragement to follow a rural medical career for some or all of their working life.

RAMUS scholarships are awarded through an annual competitive application process. About 150 scholarship places are awarded each year. The RAMUS Scheme supports 587 current scholarship holders.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF HOLDING A RAMUS?

- ➔ \$10,000 each year during completion of a standard medical degree at the scholar's chosen university;
- ➔ mentoring by a rural doctor;
- ➔ eligibility to apply for funding support to attend selected professional conferences; and
- ➔ free online access to the Australian Journal of Rural Health.

## AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A RAMUS?

To be eligible for RAMUS you must:

- ... be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia;
- ... have lived in a defined Australian rural area for a minimum of five consecutive years, or eight cumulative years, from your fifth birthday up to the time of starting your medical degree;
- ... be enrolled or have applied to study in an accredited Australian undergraduate or graduate-entry medical degree (you can apply for RAMUS in any year of medical studies, or if you have applied to study medicine but don't yet have a confirmed university place); and
- ... not be receiving other scholarships, bursaries or cadetships worth more than \$7,000 each year.



If your application is successful, you must also agree to:

- ... undertake appropriate rural activities;
- ... have a rural doctor as a mentor; and
- ... be a member of the university's student rural health club.

# HOW ARE SUCCESSFUL RAMUS APPLICANTS SELECTED?



Scholarships are awarded to those eligible applicants who rank the highest against the following selection criteria:

- ... rural experience, based on the length of time spent living in eligible rural locations from the age of five, up to a maximum of 12 consecutive years. Scaling will be applied to locations, so that the more remote a location the higher the weighting. Having attended a rural primary school for at least one year will also be taken into account;
- ... financial need, based on taxable income for the previous two financial years and an estimate of income for the current year; and
- ... commitment to working in rural Australia in the future, based on stated intentions and demonstrated previous experience of and/or commitment to rural communities.



Applicants whose applications receive a higher ranking against these criteria will be offered scholarships first. Because of the limited number of scholarship places, not all eligible applicants can be offered a scholarship.

The Application Guidelines will include:

- ... the detailed eligibility criteria;
- ... a list of the eligible medical courses; and
- ... full details of the rural background, financial need and commitment to future rural practice selection criteria.



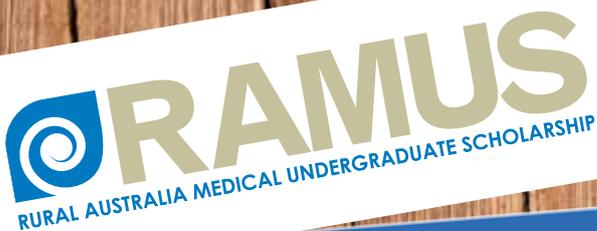
The National Rural Health Alliance administers the RAMUS Scheme on behalf of the Department of Health. The Alliance is the peak non-government body working to improve the health of Australians in rural and remote areas.



**There is an annual application round for RAMUS.**

Applications open early November and close mid January each year.

Application Guidelines for each application round will be available online at <http://ramus.ruralhealth.org.au> when applications open in early November.



**Applications open early November and close mid January**

For more information go to <http://ramus.ruralhealth.org.au>

or contact RAMUS at:

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