



TUMSS Clinical School Allocation Policy

1. TUMSS accepts that the Tasmanian School of Medicine (TSoM) needs to disperse students amongst the three clinical schools for fourth and fifth year, and that at least 25% of Commonwealth funded students need to be allocated to the Rural Clinical School
2. TUMSS believes that the process to be used in the allocation of students to clinical schools for both fourth and fifth year should be made entirely clear to students prior to allocation in third year
 - a. This should include making clear to international students their relative chances of being allocated to the Rural Clinical School when compared against Commonwealth funded students
3. TUMSS believes that the allocation of third and fourth year students to clinical schools for the following year should take place sufficiently early in the year so as to allow students sufficient time to prepare for any relocation that may be required the following year
 - a. The time of year presently utilised by the TSoM for this purpose is thought to be reasonable
4. TUMSS believes that students should be provided with sufficient information on the programs and support services available at all 3 clinical schools to enable them to make a fully informed choice as to their preference of clinical school
 - a. Presently, students feel they are only provided with sufficient information regarding the Rural Clinical School, and very little on the Launceston and Hobart Clinical Schools
 - b. In the future, TUMSS will look to take on some of the responsibility for providing students with the information required to make fully informed choices by organising information sessions for second and third year students
5. TUMSS believes that the best system of allocating students to clinical schools is one in which:
 - a. Early in both fourth and fifth year, students indicate their order of preference of clinical schools for the following year, and are at the same time invited to provide any reasons for why they absolutely need to be allocated to their first preference
 - b. Students considered to have provided significant reason for absolutely needing to be allocated to their first preference (along with supporting evidence where applicable) should be allocated to their clinical school of first preference
 - i. TUMSS believes that reasons which should be considered significant include things along the lines of:
 1. Marriage/de facto relationship (as defined by the *Family Law Act 1975 (Cth)*) in the city of first preference (providing the partner must also remain in the city of first preference)
 2. Having a mortgage in the city of first preference
 3. Having dependent children based in the city of first preference



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4. Having previously undertaken an intercalated honours year and wanting to continue with research
 5. Having other extraordinary reasons for special consideration in the city of first preference (e.g. severely ill family member, extreme financial hardship etc.)
 - ii. TUMSS believes that reasons which should NOT be considered significant include things along the lines of:
 1. Not having a drivers licence
 2. A relationship in the city of first preference with anyone other than a spouse, de facto partner or child
 3. Having a part-time job in the city of first preference
 4. Owning a pet in the city of first preference
 5. Being a member of a club/society in the city of first preference
 6. Having lived the majority of one's life in the city of first preference (including both those based in Hobart as well as those who may have lived in the north previously and want to go back)
 7. Wanting to enter a certain specialty later in one's career
 - c. Students considered not to have provided significant reason for absolutely needing to be allocated to their first preference should then be entered into a draw from which names are drawn at random
 - i. When a student's name is drawn:
 1. They should be allocated to their clinical school of first preference if places remain at that clinical school
 2. If no places remain at the clinical school of first preference, they should be allocated to their clinical school of second preference if places remain at that clinical school
 3. If no places remain at the clinical school of second preference, they should be allocated to their clinical school of third preference
 6. TUMSS believes that students who've signed on for either a bonded medical place (BMP) or a Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship (MRBS) should not be forced, any more than a student with a standard Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) without an MRBS, into allocation to the Rural Clinical School for either penultimate or final year
 - a. Underpinning this belief is the fact that prior to accepting bonding, BMP/MRBS students were not informed of any differences that would exist in the method used to allocate them to Clinical Schools when compared with standard CSP students with no MRBS. If this practice were to change, TUMSS could potentially support a differing method of allocation
 - b. This isn't to say that they shouldn't perhaps be given preferential allocation if their preference is to be allocated to the Rural Clinical School, since this may provide them with valuable experience in a rural setting

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7. TUMSS believes that, when allocating students to clinical schools for their final year, students who were allocated to their clinical school of second or third preference for their penultimate year should be allocated prior to students who were allocated to their clinical school of first preference for their penultimate year (thus providing students who did not receive their first preference with preferential allocation)
 - a. TUMSS believes this will go some way to placating those students who did not receive their first preference for fourth year
 8. TUMSS supports the introduction of a fair and transparent exchange service administered by TSoM for students wishing to 'swap' clinical school allocations after the allocation process has been completed