

New South Wales Medical Students' Council



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International Students Officer 2018

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NSWMSC

9 medical schools
(8 NSW + ANU)

5,700 medical students

Connect, Collaborate
and Advocate



NSW MSC

Policies are available online <http://www.nswmsc.org.au/policy.html>

- International Students 2018
- Mental Health & Wellbeing 2017
- Bullying and Harassment 2017
- New Medical Schools 2017
- Rural Medical Training 2017
- Indigenous Medical Students 2017
- LGBTIQ+ Health 2017



International Medical Students (IMS)

This presentation concerns IMS as international full fee paying students who are studying onshore medical degrees with temporary residency status.

IMS are not guaranteed an internship position.

- NSW 2018 IMS enrolment = 1049
39% of national no. of new enrolments
- NSW 2017 No. of IMS Graduates = 179
40% of national no. of graduates
- NSW 2018 Internship Offers to IMS = 99
10% of NSW total no. of internships

Number of International Graduates across Medical Schools in Australia from 2006-2016

| University | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Adelaide | 36 | 41 | 48 | 38 | 40 | 21 | 24 | 24 | 29 | 24 | 18 |
| ANU | | 1 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 7 |
| Bond | | | | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Deakin | | | | | | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Flinders | 26 | 27 | 22 | 28 | 14 | 19 | 19 | 11 | 18 | 19 | 25 |
| Griffith | | | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 |
| James Cook | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 20 | 26 | 13 |
| Melbourne PG | | 13 | 11 | 17 | 19 | 17 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Melbourne Total/UG/MD (a) | 74 | 72 | 77 | 80 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 86 | 21 | 32 | 29 |
| Monash PG | | | | | | 5 | 6 | 5 | 15 | 5 | 7 |
| Monash UG | 52 | 39 | 52 | 74 | 94 | 65 | 61 | 57 | 48 | 44 | 60 |
| Newcastle/UNE | 16 | 15 | 18 | 21 | 21 | 20 | 29 | 23 | 32 | 23 | 28 |
| Notre Dame Sydney | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Notre Dame WA | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| UQ | 9 | 20 | 51 | 67 | 77 | 98 | 127 | 114 | 94 | 111 | 97 |
| Sydney | 33 | 47 | 55 | 54 | 35 | 32 | 38 | 48 | 43 | 66 | 56 |
| Tasmania | 12 | 13 | 14 | 21 | 11 | 28 | 16 | 12 | 25 | 21 | 20 |
| UNSW | 32 | 23 | 39 | 36 | 55 | 36 | 46 | 58 | 53 | 56 | 66 |
| UWA Total | 7 | 4 | 10 | 15 | 25 | 27 | 21 | 28 | 30 | 25 | 36 |
| Wollongong | | | | | 4 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 7 |
| WSU | | | | | | 0 | 9 | 7 | 23 | 13 | 9 |
| TOTAL | 288 | 316 | 401 | 465 | 474 | 457 | 504 | 497 | 469 | 492 | 484 |

(a) Graduate-entry graduates reported separately from 2008 (included in Melbourne total until 2007)

Note: Domestic student numbers include New Zealand citizens

2006-16
 ↑ 1.7 times

Internship

“Prevocational trainee positions offered by Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) are two-year positions and enable the trainee to complete their first and second postgraduate year (PGY) in a single network”

- Essential for general registration with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)

Pathways

1. Aboriginal Medical Workforce Pathway
2. Rural Preferential Recruitment Pathway (**40% IMS**)
3. Direct Regional Allocation Pathway (**53% IMS**)
4. Optimised Allocation Pathway (**6% IMS via late vacancy**)
- [5. the Junior Doctors Training Pathway (JDTP), replaced the Commonwealth Medical Internship (CMI)]

NSW Health Priority List for 2018 Clinical Year Intern Recruitment

| Priority Category | Definition |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 | Medical graduates of NSW universities who are Australian/New Zealand citizens or Australian permanent residents (Commonwealth Supported Place and Domestic Full Fee paying). This priority category is guaranteed an intern position in NSW. |
| 2 | Medical graduates of interstate or New Zealand universities who completed Year 12 studies in NSW who are Australian/New Zealand citizens or Australian permanent residents (Commonwealth Supported Place, Domestic Full Fee paying or NZ equivalent). |
| 3 | Medical graduates of interstate or New Zealand universities who completed Year 12 studies outside of NSW who are Australian/New Zealand citizens or Australian permanent residents (Commonwealth Supported Place, Domestic Full Fee paying or NZ equivalent). |
| 4 | Medical graduates of NSW universities who are not Australian/New Zealand citizens or Australian permanent residents and who hold a visa that allows them to work or are able to obtain a visa to work. |
| 5 | Medical graduates of interstate or New Zealand universities who are not Australian/New Zealand citizens or Australian permanent residents and who hold a visa that allows them to work or are able to obtain a visa to work. |
| 6 | Medical graduates of Australian Medical Council accredited campuses that are located outside of Australia or New Zealand who are not Australian/New Zealand citizens or Australian permanent residents and who hold a visa that allows them to work or are able to obtain a visa to work. |

Internship

2018 Clinical Year

Total = 999 Intern positions (↑ 7 from 2017)

Applications received = 1404 (Tier 1=865)

further ↑ 2% predicted graduation number in 2019

Tier 1 (guaranteed allocation = 784/865

Tier 2&3 interstate graduates = 109

Tier 4 **IMS**= 99 recruited (↑ 24 from 2017)

[Four positions in NSW not filled due to late withdrawals]

Difficulty in estimating the number of IMS who missed out

- there is no tracking of any graduates who goes interstate
- No feedback from IMS who obtain internship training in home countries or not

Recent changes surrounding IMS

- worsening competition for internship spot in NSW/ACT due to disproportional and diverging increase of graduates and available internship spots
- missing details of the Junior Doctors Training Pathway (JDTP) replaced the Commonwealth Medical Internship (CMI) e.g. unknown number of spots available for 2018 clinical year
- abolishment of 457 visa subclass in April 2017 and introduction of Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visa in March 2018: more barriers to permanent residency, i.e. registration to specialty colleges

Baseline Stressors

- Higher risk & prevalence of mental health illness & suicide in medical students, particularly vulnerable IMS
- financial burden e.g. English language test at admission & graduation; full fee tuition fees; lack of rural clinical subsidy

Survey

Methodology

A 27-item online survey was developed in July 2018. Data collection started on 3 August for 3 weeks, with promotion via NSWMSC social media channels and councilors.

The questionnaire construction took some reference to internship-related items included in the AMSA National Student Survey 2017 and AMSA ISN CMI Survey 2018, in addition to open-ended questions that encourage feedback about general international student experience in NSW.

Participation was voluntary with lucky draw incentive of two \$50 food delivery vouchers for students who responded before 20 August, 2019. The vouchers and their cost will be organised by NSWMSC.

Inclusion Criteria:

- Currently enrolled in a NSW medical school.
- International student status

Survey

Results:

130 responses collected by 24 August 2018

8 excluded:

4 students from outside of NSW (3 Flinders+ 1 UQ);
3 domestic students;
and 1 repeated entry.

122 responses were included in subsequent analysis.

Figure 1. Universities represented in this survey.

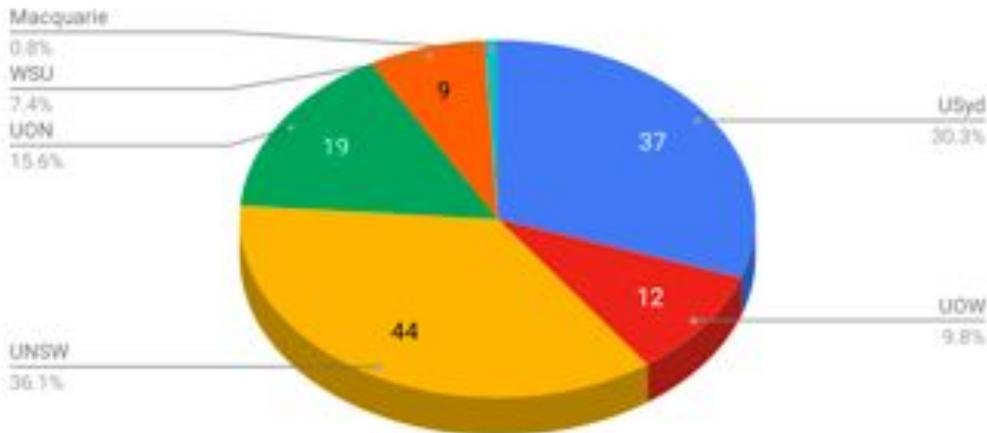
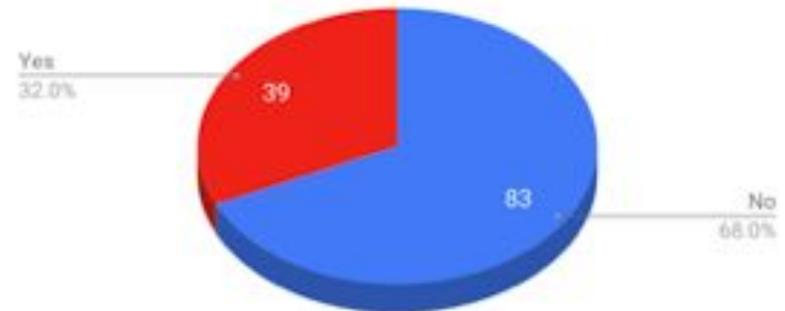


Figure 3. Proportion of students in final and non-final years.



Survey

Unique challenges → anxiety & sig. concerns
[7.9/10]

- the disproportional increase of both domestic and international medical student numbers ahead of internship and vocational training places in NSW;
- the NSW Health Priority List for internship;
- recent postgraduate VISA changes;
- ongoing clarification of the Junior Doctor Training Pathway;
- heavy financial burden; and
- the inconsistent support towards rural and regional clinical training during medical program are key features noted in a recent survey.

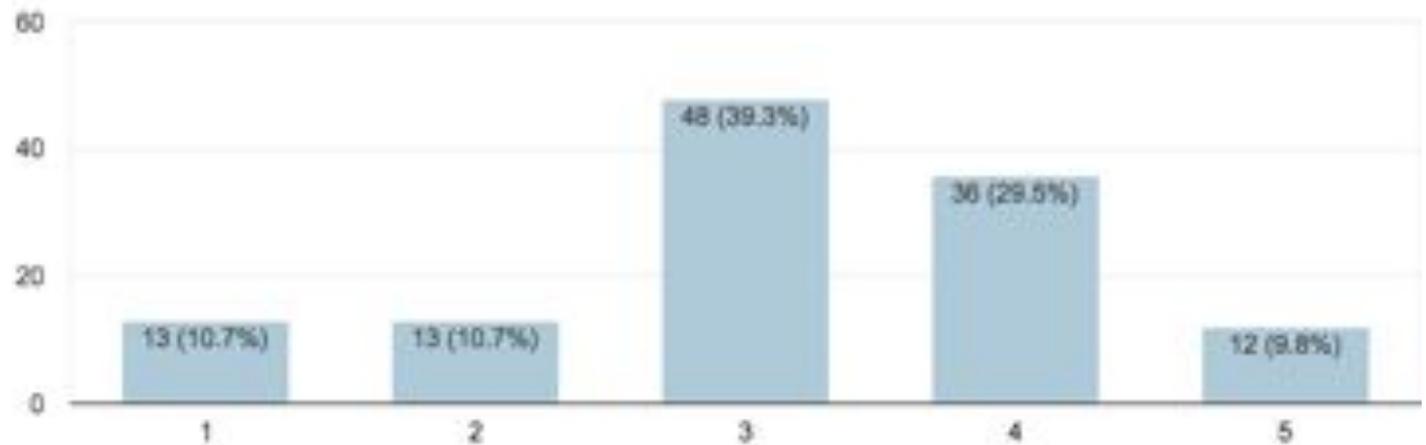
Survey Findings

- Most respondents also said they began medical education in Australia under the impression that they will gain full registration by completing internship in Australia (yes=51.2%; maybe=37.1%).
- nearly 60% of respondents were willing to undertake internship in a rural/remote area, and 35% would consider the option.
- lack of access to rural clinical placements, with confusion among survey respondents of the same medical school
- Generally, respondents welcomed the continuation of the CMI/ new JDTP as the 5th pathway to obtain internship
- Average 79/100 as highly concerned about internship and job prospects in NSW

Survey Findings

How likely will you recommend studying medicine in Australia to your family and international friends?

122 responses



Survey Findings

In general, what has been positive about your international student experience in NSW?

- *“Respect from colleagues. International student advocates providing information for other internationals.”*
- *“I love the people here, from students to clinicians and friends I met in NSW. Felt like I have grown my passion in medicine and ready for expanding my career in the future.”*
- *“New culture and a great university experience thus far”*
- *“The lifestyle and friends”*
- *“Great facilities, culture and education recognition”*
- *“Integrated form of teaching”*
- *“Great place to live”*
- *“The multicultural aspect of Australia and the lifestyle”*

Survey Findings

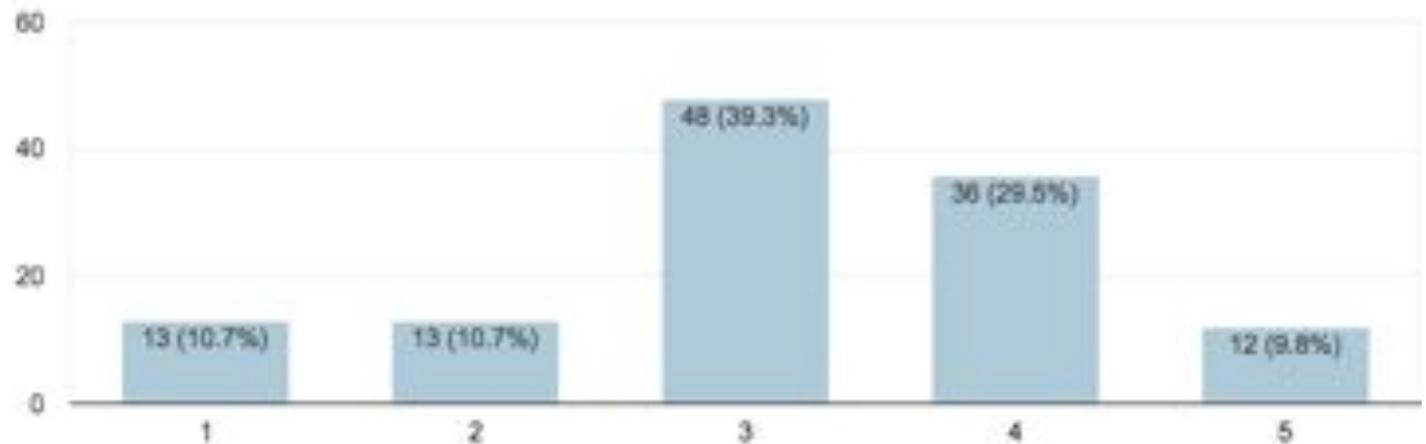
In general, what has been negative about your international student experience in NSW?

- *“Sexism/ harassment within the medical community”*
- *“Living costs” // “INTERNATIONAL FEES”*
- *“Financial stress over the 4 years has been the worst thing. I am over a quarter of a million dollars in debt...I couldn't imagine how I would feel if I didn't have an internship (the relief I felt when I got the email from HETI was enormous)”*
- *“Internship insecurity” // “Job prospects”*
- *“Exposure to rural clinical settings which is limited to local students only.”*
- *“The lack of information on what we international medical students need to do to work here. Like visa type etc.”*
- *“Lack of social support”*
- *“Racism”*

Survey Findings

How likely will you recommend studying medicine in Australia to your family and international friends?

122 responses



Policy - International Students 2018

NSWMSA believes that:

1. All medical students are entitled to obtain internship places after graduating from NSW medical schools.
2. International medical students are an important part of the Australian medical community
3. Transparency and proactive communication is necessary to inform and support current and prospective international medical students in NSW
4. Medical schools, state and federal governments share responsibility in managing the number of medical students admission and the graduate numbers to match internship availability and continued training positions.

Full policy: <http://www.nswmsa.org.au/policy.html>

Policy Actions

NSWMSC calls upon the NSW/ACT Medical Schools & MDANZ to

- Ethically recruit IMS
 - Proactive communication with prospective students & recruitment agencies with transparency of data regarding prospects of internship
 - Adjust recruitment numbers to match postgraduate training opportunities
- Support IMS financially via
 - acknowledgement of their English proficiency upon graduation, and provide training where necessary
 - Support the provision of transport concession of IMS
- Provide rural clinical placement and equal funding opportunities to IMS, as they are more likely to enter rural/ regional internship

Next plan of action

- survey findings were welcomed by HETI, who will present the data and NSWMSC recommendations to MDANZ on 7 December, 2018
- the policy will become an advocacy blueprint for NSWMSC to carry on the support and representation of IMS in 2019
- incoming committee will consider mentorship program
- here at ISANA, Henness welcomes questions, discussions, connections and input

Stay connected!



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NSW Medical
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