Clinical placement selection process and notification

Developing a range of skills and competencies

Clinical experience is gained through placement in a variety of venues. The School attempts to give each student a variety of clinical placements, i.e. medical (both acute and chronic), surgical, specialty, aged care, and community to ensure exposure to as many clinical settings as possible and to develop a range of clinical skills and competencies.

Checking your placement

It is the student’s responsibility to check their allocated placement for the topic on the clinical placement website. Go to: http://nursing.flinders.edu.au/students/index.php?id=53, and click on the topic code. Students should check the site regularly for changes.

As far as possible, clinical placements and venue information will be placed on the ‘Clinical placements’ page on the School’s website several weeks prior to placement.

Keeping your information current

Students are placed in venues so that there is reasonable equity in travel distance for each student. Taking this into account, the residential address recorded on the University’s student records system helps determine the location of placement. Students should ensure their current residential address is correctly recorded.

Changes to student information can be made by going to iFlinders, https://i.flinders.edu.au or by contacting Enrolment Services, telephone (08) 8201 3950 or 1300 360 351 (local call fee).
The placement process

As venues require prior notification of attendance, the student list is forwarded to them approximately four weeks prior to the placement.

Students should **not** arrange their own placements with a venue.

- **Undergraduate nursing students**

  All students will be placed in a DEU in the first instance. If the number of students exceeds the number of places in a DEU, students will be chosen randomly for a block placement. If a DEU placement becomes available students from the block placement may be allocated to the DEU vacancy.

  Students will be assigned to a different DEU or block each semester, except in first year where students will normally be assigned to only one DEU or block.

- **Riverland students**

  Students attend a block placement each semester. 1st year students undertake two days per week over a three week period; 2nd and 3rd year students undertake four to five days per week over a four to eight week period. Riverland students are responsible for checking the 'Clinical placements' page on the School’s website (under the appropriate topic code) on a regular basis for changes.

  Clinical experience is gained through placement in a variety of Riverland settings. Students can apply to undertake one clinical placement in Adelaide metropolitan block placement and can apply for one rural and remote placement, but must undertake all other placements in the Riverland.

- **Undergraduate midwifery students**

  Midwifery experience is gained through placement in metropolitan, rural and community settings.

  In the Bachelor of Midwifery (18 month program—Pathway 2), students are placed in either metropolitan hospitals or, if rural, in their own geographical area for first semester and part of second semester. First semester focus is on normal pregnancy, birth and the post-natal period. In second semester students are
required to undertake some of their placement in a major metropolitan hospital where the focus is on pre-existing, and complications of, pregnancy, birth and the post-natal period.

Students in the Bachelor of Midwifery (3-year program—Pathway 1) will undertake placements with nursing students during the first year of study. In second year, students will be placed in a metropolitan hospital for two days per week for 15 weeks each semester. In third year, students will be placed in a midwifery clinical venue in first semester and will take on caseload practices in second semester (if available). There will be a mixture of placements with the possibility of rural and interstate placements.

- **International students**

  International students will attend DEUs and block placements. They will also be expected to ensure they are able to get to their placement either by car or public transport as some traveling may be required.

  It would be helpful to arrive in Australia well ahead of clinical placement starting dates to ensure that transport is arranged in time for placement. Please check the ‘Clinical placement calendar’ at: [http://nursing.flinders.edu.au/students/index.php?id=317](http://nursing.flinders.edu.au/students/index.php?id=317) on the School's website for clinical placement dates and compulsory meeting dates for clinical.

- **Postgraduate nursing and post-registration midwifery students**

  Postgraduate students undertaking clinical placements will be notified by their relevant topic/stream/course coordinator at the beginning of each semester.


- **Requesting venue changes**

  In exceptional circumstances, students may request a change of placement.

  An *Application for special consideration for clinical placement* form is available from the School’s ‘Clinical placements’ page, [http://nursing.flinders.edu.au/students/index.php?id=53](http://nursing.flinders.edu.au/students/index.php?id=53). This should be completed and submitted to the School Office via the assignment chute as quickly as possible, and if applying after placements have been posted, by the due date.

  Each request will be considered on an individual basis; however, changes may not be possible. **Notification of any change** will be made on the ‘Clinical placements’ page on the School’s website (under the appropriate topic code).

  Where a change to a clinical placement has been approved, but a placement is not yet available, the student will be placed on a waiting list while remaining in their allocated placement. This does not mean a change is guaranteed. A change can only be arranged if another placement becomes available. Changes can occur right up until the time the placement begins.

  If a change has not been made prior to the compulsory pre-clinical meeting on-campus, the student on the waiting list should attend the pre-clinical meeting for the venue to which they had previously been assigned.

- **Swapping clinical placements**

  If a student wishes to swap a clinical placement with another student, the same criteria will apply as for all clinical placements. Previous placement of the student will be taken into account.

  Completing an *Application for swap of clinical placement* form does not guarantee the swap will be approved. If the swap is approved, notification will be made on the ‘Clinical placements’ page on the School’s website (under the appropriate topic code).
Requests for clinical placement

The only time a student can request a clinical placement is in the topic NURS3104 Nursing 6. In this topic students are able to submit three preferences to the Clinical Placement Office via an application form. Students will be advised via their student email address when these forms are available. These requests cannot be guaranteed.