

Information for GP Supervisors of Year 1 & 2 Medical Students

Western Sydney University offers a 5 year undergraduate MD program starting in 2019. The first two years use problem based learning tutorials, practicals, lectures and bedside teaching to cover the basic and clinical sciences in each of the body systems, including history taking, physical examination and procedural skills. Students also learn about communication, professionalism, population health and social determinants of health, and will be documenting their learning in a portfolio. From third year onwards students apply their knowledge through immersive learning in clinical attachments in hospital and community medical, surgical and subspecialty (including mental health, paediatrics, O&G and oncology) settings. MD students will be required to complete a scholarly project in Years 3 – 5 that may involve research, an educational or community development project.

Our Year 1 and 2 students are keen to observe real medicine at the coal face, and general practice placements are a great opportunity for them to apply some of the theory they are learning on campus. They will have covered nutrition and metabolism topics in Year 1 Semester 1. In Year 1 Semester 2 they study gastrointestinal, cardiovascular and respiratory cases. In Year 2 Semester 1 they address renal, musculoskeletal and neurological topics.

Although students will only be in the early stages of medical school, they will value:

- opportunities to watch and practice history taking and physical examinations
- opportunities to discuss with you topics such as
 - Communication techniques and developing rapport with patients
 - Professional and ethical issues
 - Medical conditions related to systems they are studying on campus
 - The role of general practice in the Australian health care system.

Patient consent is of course required for any interaction with students. Verbal consent should be documented in the patient notes, and patients should be aware that they can withdraw consent at any stage.

In Year 1 Semester 2 students will ask you to suggest a patient with a chronic condition they could interview for a written “Patient Story” assignment that explores how the chronic condition impacts the patient’s life. This will be marked on campus. In Year 2 Semester 1, they will ask you for a patient they can interview for a “Patient Journey” assignment. They will ask you to mark a 10-minute verbal presentation of this case, describing how the patient accesses and navigates the health system. This case study will also be submitted in a written format to be marked on campus. Additionally you will be asked to complete a “Clinical Attachment Assessment” for the student at the end of each semester. This is a great way of providing feedback for the student on progress they have made so far.

Please see the Year 1 & 2 Clinical Attachment Descriptor for more detail on learning outcomes, the role of the GP supervisor, and examples of the assessment forms. If you require further information, please contact the Department of General Practice.

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