Background

Monash’s Department of General Practice is a world leader in research and teaching. The Department, located in Notting Hill, Melbourne, Australia, was founded in 1975. In 2001 it became part of the School of Primary Health Care, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. Other Departments and Centres within the School of Primary Health Care include:

- Community Emergency Health and Paramedic Practice
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Social Work
- Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria (CDDHV)

Primary Care Research includes:

- Developmental Disability
- Healthy Ageing
- Problem Gambling

The Department of General Practice is one of the largest general practice teaching departments in Australia with over 30 full-time equivalent academic, research and professional staff. It has an enviable history with large numbers of national and international alumni, an extensive range of influential textbooks and with past and current leaders of Australian general practice having emerged from its ranks.

The Department of General Practice provides opportunities for general practitioners and family medicine physicians, at all stages of their careers, to enhance their knowledge and skills through a range of postgraduate learning opportunities. The Department is proud to extend these opportunities to doctors located outside Australia to undertake a customised postgraduate fellowship within the Department of General Practice. These fellowships are designed to meet the needs of the individual and their employer or sponsor. Our new fellowship programme, redesigned in 2012, is outlined as follows.

Objectives

The primary objective of this programme is to enhance the learning experience in general practice/family medicine of the postgraduate fellows through the development of their own knowledge and skills base in their selected areas of clinical interest.

The secondary objectives are to provide the postgraduate fellows with:

- An understanding of the Australian healthcare system
- An understanding of academic general practice/family medicine within Australia
- An understanding of the interface between academic general practice/family medicine physicians and general practitioners/family medicine physicians who are working directly in the clinical care of patients
- Research skills
- Skills in undergraduate teaching.

The programme objectives will be met by the successful completion of the following:

- Research project
- Log book for clinical placements
- Presentation to the Department of General Practice on the research project or clinical placement
- Completion of assessment tasks via short courses/self directed learning
- Satisfactory mentor report.
Research
The fellow will gain an understanding of the nature of research and gain skills in qualitative and quantitative research. They will be required to successfully complete within the term of their fellowship a short project. Fellows will be supported in their research by an academic mentor. It is anticipated that the research will be of publication standard.

Log book
The fellow will gain an understanding of current clinical practice and guidelines in their selected area of study through their attendance and participation at clinical placement sites.

Not all learning takes place within a framework of primary care and acute systems. The growing numbers of community based organisations can provide additional experiences. To reflect this, we have included in our new postgraduate programme the opportunity to undertake voluntary placements.

Verification of their work will be via a validated log book that is signed by the placement supervisors.

Presentation
The fellow will gain presentation skills and the opportunity to discuss and receive feedback on their research project or clinical placement learnings.

Self-directed learning
The fellow will increase their knowledge base through extensive self-directed learning. This will enhance their clinical practice giving them a better understanding of morbidity in a general practice setting and an understanding of the use of systems of care in prevention and treatment.

Teaching
The fellow will gain skills in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of undergraduate programmes. During this time they will be supported by an academic staff member.
Delivery

The postgraduate fellowship programme is delivered in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Fellows are attached to the Department of General Practice at Notting Hill and will be supervised by senior staff from teaching and research areas.

Clinical and voluntary placements will take place at a number of Monash affiliated general practices, hospitals and/or voluntary settings (not for profit organisations) throughout the Melbourne area. You may be required to travel to placement sites as not all are adjacent to Monash at the Notting Hill Campus. Clinical and/or voluntary placements will be a maximum of 100 sessions or 300 hours per twelve month period or pro rata. All placements are unpaid. Clinical placements are in an observership capacity only.

Postgraduate fellows will be attached to the Department of General Practice for five days per week, undertaking clinical or voluntary placements at external sites or engaged in self-directed learning, research or teaching (approximately 35 hours per week). When fellows are not engaged in clinical placement activities they will be predominately on site where they will be engaged as members of the Department of General Practice.

Duration

Applicants have the option, depending on the agreed structure of the postgraduate fellowship programme provided, to be attached to the Department of General Practice in Melbourne for periods of either 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24 months.

Specialised Areas in Family Medicine

The Department of General Practice offers customised placement exposure and research. Fellows must advise the Department of their desired specialised areas in family medicine prior to arrival. The following areas of study are available:

- Women’s Health
- Child Health
- Diabetes
- Chronic Disease Management
- Aged Care
- Mental Health
- Addiction Medicine
- Palliative Care

Recognition

All of our programmes are highly regarded both nationally and internationally. These programmes are endorsed by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). On successful completion of the programme the University will issue a non award certificate. For those fellows wanting to undertake the MFM they would need to complete an Application for Admission available on the Department of General Practice website and forward all required documentation, together with a completed Credit Application, to the Graduate Studies office.

Course fees

There is a set course fee for this programme. The course fee includes:

- Orientation
- A short course allowance (including an introduction to research component)
- A conference allowance
- A research allowance
- A teaching allowance
- An allowance for a designated mentor

Clinical and/or voluntary placements. A 12 month programme, for example, may include up to 100 sessions or 300 hours of unpaid observational clinical attachments or unpaid voluntary placements.

Changes to programmes

Please note that any changes to programmes after they have been agreed may result in increased fees and/or a delay in a new programme being designed and approved.

Management of the programme

Management of the programme will be undertaken by the Department of General Practice.

Visa

Upon approval for entry into a postgraduate fellowship programme, Monash University will nominate the trainee for an Occupational Training visa through the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), Australia. The nomination process will be undertaken by Monash HR.

Entry requirements

Applicants must be currently registered by the Medical Board in their respective State or have a qualification which is eligible to be registered in a State of the Commonwealth.

A minimum of two years of current work experience in Family Medicine is preferred.

Applicants must obtain sponsorship from their own countries.

Students are expected to be proficient in English and must satisfy the minimum English Language requirements of the university. The requirements are: an IELTS minimum of test score of 6.5 with no individual band score less than 6.5 (see www.ielts.org), or a TOEFL minimum score of 580 with a Test of Written English (TWE) score of at least 4.5, or a minimum test score of 237 in the computer-based TOEFL with an Essay Rating (ER) of at least 5 (see www.ets.org and select TOEFL).

Some of our placement sites may require you to have a police check and a children’s check.
Articulation to award courses

Articulation may be possible to award courses in Family Medicine.

Please see the following web link:

Further information and an Application form

Graduate Studies Office
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Monash University
Building 1, 270 Ferntree Gully Road,
Notting Hill Victoria 3168
Australia

Email: genprac@med.monash.edu.au
Ph: 61 3 99024495
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