



## Monash University MBBS – Extended Rural Cohort stream Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### General Information

The following information applies to the Monash MBBS Extended Rural Cohort (ERC) stream only. Please note there are differences between the selection criteria and application processes of the ERC stream offered by Monash University and the University of Melbourne. Applicants interested in the ERC stream offered by the University of Melbourne should contact the University of Melbourne ([www.medicine.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.medicine.unimelb.edu.au) or 03 8344 5890) for information.

#### 1. What is the Extended Rural Cohort (ERC) stream?

The ERC stream is a collaborative initiative between Monash University and the University of Melbourne. It has been developed to provide an extended rural training option for students interested in practicing medicine in a rural or regional location.

In recent years, the Australian Government has been addressing rural medical workforce shortages through a number of initiatives, including the introduction of the Rural Undergraduate Support and Coordination (RUSC) and Rural Clinical School (RCS) programs as an integral component of medical schools based at metropolitan universities. Through these programs, all Commonwealth-supported students spend a minimum of 4 weeks in a rural or regional setting and 25% of these students spend a further two semesters (or more) in rural clinical placements during the three clinical years of their course.

In the Monash ERC stream, students will undertake the first two years of the course, which cover basic medical and behavioural sciences, at the Monash Clayton campus. They will then spend five of their six clinical semesters in rural clinical placements. One clinical semester will be spent in a metropolitan hospital setting.

The extended rural placement that is available to students enrolled in the ERC stream will enable students to establish the social and professional links that will facilitate their return to rural communities for further training and to practice medicine.

#### 2. Where will the Monash ERC course be offered?

The course is offered at the Clayton campus of Monash University. The first two years of the course will be primarily taught at the Clayton campus in south-east metropolitan Melbourne. The three clinical years (years 3, 4 and 5) will be mainly based at the Bendigo and Mildura Regional Clinical Schools, with students being taught at various hospital and community-based locations in northern rural and regional Victoria.

#### 3. Will any of the ERC course be taught at metropolitan hospitals?

Yes, students will spend one clinical semester in a metropolitan hospital setting.

#### 4. Where can I find out more about clinical placements in northern Victoria?

Further information about the Bendigo Regional Clinical School and the Mildura Regional Clinical School can be found at <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/srh/>.

#### 5. How long is the Monash ERC course?

Five years. Students may also elect to complete a one-year Bachelor of Medical Science research degree during their program, for a total of six years of study.

## **6. How does this course compare to the current medical course offered at Monash University?**

Students enrolled in the ERC stream of the Monash MBBS course will study the same five-year undergraduate-entry MBBS course offered at the Clayton campus, which is an integrated, theme-based curriculum. The curriculum that is taught in the rural clinical placements will address the same educational objectives as that being taught in metropolitan placements, although the actual clinical location may provide a unique contextual flavour to the material. The ERC stream of the Monash MBBS course will provide students with the same outstanding medical education as the current MBBS course. Monash University has been delivering clinical education at rural sites for over 15 years and students undertaking rural clinical placements receive an equivalent – if not better – clinical education than their metropolitan counterparts.

## **Information for Prospective Students**

### **7. How many students will be in the ERC stream?**

The student intake into the Monash ERC stream each year will be 30 Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs – see question 20 for further information). The University of Melbourne will enrol 30 students into its graduate-entry ERC stream. Students should note they must apply separately for admission to the Monash University and University of Melbourne ERC streams.

### **8. Am I eligible to apply for the Monash ERC stream?**

The ERC stream is only available to:

- Current Year 12 students, or
- Applicants who have completed VCE (or equivalent) no more than two years previously and have not undertaken any tertiary studies since then.

International students are not eligible to apply for admission to the ERC stream.

### **9. What is the admission procedure for the ERC stream?**

Students who wish to be considered for admission to the Monash ERC stream must apply through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) and must nominate the VTAC code for this stream (28151) in their list of preferences.

All applicants who have included any Monash MBBS code in their list of VTAC preferences will be contacted by the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences in October with information about the ERC stream, the Dean's Rural List and the Dean's Indigenous List. Applicants who are eligible for the Dean's Rural List or the Dean's Indigenous List are encouraged to apply to be considered for a place in the course via these pathways.

Applicants will be invited for interview based in their performance in the aptitude test (see questions 10 and 11, below).

### **10. What are the prerequisites for the ERC stream of the Monash MBBS course?**

- Students studying Year 12 are required to obtain a study score of at least 30 in English and Chemistry.
- All applicants are required to sit an aptitude test. UMAT (Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test) is the aptitude test required for admission to the Monash MBBS course.

### **11. What if I didn't sit the UMAT?**

The UMAT is run once a year in July. If you missed sitting it this year, you might consider waiting until a year to apply for a place in the ERC stream and sitting the UMAT next July. Remember, people who have completed VCE within the last two years are eligible to apply.

### **12. How will students be selected for the ERC stream?**

Selection into the ERC stream of the Monash MBBS will be based upon a combination of:

- UMAT
- ENTER
- Performance in a semi-structured interview



