

# FAQs – Clinical Placements



## How do I tell you where I want to go for my placement?

All students must nominate online at [Check your Preclinical Status](#) for all their placement units by the deadline date. Dates are announced via [College Central](#) and sent to students via their student email account.

## Do I have to nominate for all of my placement units for the degree at once?

No. Students are required to nominate and enrol for each placement online in the year they plan to do the placement.

## Is my nomination an enrolment in to a placement unit?

No. Following confirmation in to a SB, students will then be able to enrol themselves. Unit pre-requisites and pre-clinical compliance must be met.

**Can I leave all of my placement units until the end of my degree?**

No. Students are expected to follow a recommended study plan. To offer students the best learning opportunity, study plans do not recommend that students leave all their placements to the end of the degree.

**Are all placement units offered in all semesters?**

No. Students should regularly refer to the unit offerings on the CDU Course Catalogue.

**I failed a pre-requisite unit; can I still do my placement?**

No. Students need to successfully complete all pre-requisite units and enrol in the relevant placement unit before they can attend placement.

**When will I find out when my placement will be?**

Clinical placements are given at the discretion of the health care facilities. The Placement Office staff will negotiate with these facilities on behalf of students. The Placement Officers will notify students by email when a suitable placement is secured and will endeavour to give at least four weeks' notice of the start date.

Sometimes a placement may be offered at short notice, if this occurs the Placement Officers may assign this immediately to a student or may contact a number of students and offer it to the first available person.

**If I nominate a health facility as one of my preferences, does this mean I will go to that facility?**

No. The Placement Office will do their best effort to meet the preference. College students may need to attend placements at health facilities that they did not nominate preferences for.

**Where will I go on placement?**

Students will be advised via their CDU student email account of their placement with at least four weeks' notice where possible. The Placement Office endeavours to source placement within a student's home state and as close as possible to

where the student lives, however, as placements are all given at the health facilities' discretion this does not always happen. *Students may need to travel outside of their local area and possibly outside of their home state in order to attend placement.*

**I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student; can I do my NUR344 & NUR346 placements before the NUR343 CTB?**

No. The third-year simulation block is a pre-requisite for all third-year clinical placements.

**Can I decline a clinical placement that is assigned to me by the Placement Office staff?**

There can be significant consequences for progression when a clinical placement is declined. If this becomes necessary, you should immediately discuss the reasons for declining with the Unit or Course Coordinator. An early discussion supported with evidence (e.g. medical certificate) may permit the Coordinator to develop alternative options or support a Unit Withdrawal.

**Other students have heard about their placements, why haven't I?**

Placements are offered at the health facilities discretion. When an appropriate placement becomes available, students will be notified with a provisional confirmation email. The Placement Officers holds class lists of student names and maintains records of students' details to ensure everyone is given a placement in a timely manner in order to progress and nobody is 'forgotten'.

**Will I attend/complete placement in the semester I am enrolled in?**

The Placement Office work hard to secure placements within the enrolled semester. As placements are offered by health facilities and is dependent on their availability, a placement may not commence until very late in the semester or during a semester break.

To help the Placement Team, students are encouraged to advise if they are able to travel extended distances. In some circumstances this can open up further placement options. It is important to continuously maintain pre-clinical compliance currency as this can help you take up short-notice placements if they come up.

### **How far will I have to travel from my home to attend placement?**

The Placement Office will seek placements for students within a 1 to 2-hour travel distance of their suburb/town wherever possible. Students may need to travel throughout their home state, and if this occurs, the Placement Office will also advise if the facility has discounted accommodation available.

There are times when students may be required to travel interstate, however this is uncommon.

*Travel and accommodation costs are met by the student.*

### **Can I go on placement in another state?**

Generally not. If this occurs, you will need to have current pre-clinical compliance for the additional state or territory.

### **Can I do just 2 or 3 days a week for my placement; or shorter shift hours?**

No. Clinical placements are *not* offered on a part-time basis. Clinical placements are on a full-time shift basis so that you are a student member of the clinical team. Students are provided the same shift hours as clinical staff (usually 8-hours and can include weekends, evenings, and night shifts.).

### **I have an exam during placement, what should I do?**

Examinations should be discussed with the Unit Coordinator and Placement Officer prior to attending placement. If the Placement Office have advance notice from the student, they can try to negotiate with the healthcare facility so that the student can have that day off placement (and make the missed shift up later). NOTE: makeup shifts and rostered days off are all issued at the discretion of the healthcare facility.

### **I have just found out that I am pregnant, what do I do about my placement?**

Pregnancy does not preclude students from attending clinical placement; however, some clinical placements may be potentially harmful to the developing foetus and to the pregnant student. Pregnant students are expected to notify the Clinical Coordinator and Placement Office of their pregnancy and expected due date. Students will not be allocated to a placement in area where there may be particular health and safety issues, e.g. radiation, working with infectious disease, cytotoxic drugs and anaesthetic gases.

For health and safety reasons, the College reserves the right to not permit a student to attend a placement if the student is in the third trimester of pregnancy or within the first 8 weeks after birth.

### **If I know dates when I am unavailable for placement what should I do?**

A student may email a request to the Placement Office for preferred dates. However, the Placement Office cannot guarantee that they will be able to meet this request. Students are expected to be available to attend placement once they are enrolled in their placement unit. If a student knows they will be unavailable, they should discuss withdrawal from the unit with their Unit Coordinator.

### **Can I organise my own placement with a health facility?**

No. Students are not authorised to contact Health Facilities or other universities to negotiate clinical placements. Instead, we ask that students provide the Placement Team with information about potential placement opportunities. Cold calling health facilities or universities to see whether they have available placements or whether they take students is not permitted.

### **Can I organise my own shifts and rosters?**

No. All rosters are drawn up by the health facility staff who take staffing and preceptoring requirements into account. If a student is concerned about a roster they are given, they need to direct their request through to the Placement Office at [Nurplaccoord@cdu.edu.au](mailto:Nurplaccoord@cdu.edu.au).

### **I missed some shifts during placement because I was sick or there was a public holiday. What should I do? Do I need to make up the time?**

Students must not attend clinical placement while unwell as this can place patients at risk.

Students should check with the Health Facility if rostered to a Public Holiday. You will be expected to attend the shift if the Health Facility is able to provide preceptoring as usual. If not, you will need to contact the Placement Office to ensure they are aware to arrange for the missed hours of placement to be made up.

Students must notify the health facility, the Unit Coordinator, and the Placement Office as soon

as possible if they will not be able to attend a placement due to illness or another unforeseen circumstance. In almost all cases, you will be required to make up the time. Students should always identify the contact person for the clinical placement and the process to follow should they be late or absent. It is a professional responsibility to inform the health facility if they are unable to attend a rostered shift or will be late.

**I am ordinarily employed as a health care professional (e.g. EN, paramedic, etc.); will this make a difference to my clinical placements?**

No. All students are assessed against the requirements set out in your Clinical Assessment Portfolio. It is important to always realise that the aim of the clinical placement is to successfully work toward meeting the learning outcomes in the portfolio.

**Can I do my clinical placement at my place of employment?**

Possibly – with conditions. The Unit Coordinator for the clinical unit needs to be assured that conflicts of interest are excluded. Avoiding a conflict of interest usually means that students must not attend placement on the wards where they are rostered as an employee and should not be preceptored or evaluated by a staff member who they regularly work with or are in a line management role.

**Is my lunch break counted towards my placement hours?** As in any workplace breaks are not included in working hours. Therefore an 8 hour shift will mean an 8 ½ hour day. (assuming the normal half an hour for lunch).

**I have to attend an orientation day outside of my placement dates. Does this count towards my placement hours?**

Yes. Orientation is included in the placement hours.

**Am I part of the work-force?**

No. All healthcare students have supernumerary status while on clinical placements. This means students are additional to the workforce requirement and staffing ratios. Students are present in the placement setting as a learner and not as a member of staff.

**Do I get paid while on placement?**

No. Students are not covered under an employment contract while on an authorised clinical placement and payment for students on placement does not apply.