

Victorian Hospital Pharmacy Intern Program expansion

Hospital Fact Sheet & FAQs

About the Victorian Hospital Pharmacy Intern Program

The Department of Health and Human Services (the department) provides direct financial support for health services to employ intern pharmacists. The positions are supported with approximately 60% of an intern salary (not including on-costs) paid by the department under the Training and Development Grant: Transition to practice funding stream.

For more information about funding visit: [Training and Development Grant webpage](#)

The Victorian Hospital Pharmacy Intern program is supported by the department as part of its aim to improve the health and wellbeing of all Victorians by ensuring an available, accessible and adaptable health workforce.

How many intern positions are available?

The department is expanding the existing hospital pharmacy intern positions (80) available to graduating pharmacists. Over three years between 2020 and 2022, an additional 20 positions are being provided to Victorian Hospitals, resulting in a total of 100 supported internships by 2022.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) for additional positions

How do I apply for the additional intern positions available in 2021?

The program is facilitated by The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA). Expressions of Interest for the additional five internships in 2021 must be completed via the SHPA online portal.

1. Read all information provided in this fact sheet
2. Applications for the positions to be funded in 2021 must be submitted before **11.59pm Sunday 15 March 2020 AEST**.
3. Results will be announced in April 2020.

Why is SHPA facilitating the EOI?

SHPA coordinates graduate student intern applications and transparently matches candidates for co-funded internships each year, therefore, they have been contracted to now facilitate the Hospital Expressions of Interest for the additional positions. Assessment and allocation of all supported positions will be conducted by the department.

What organisations are eligible to apply?

Publicly funded hospitals located in Victoria can apply.

When can I apply for 2022?

Expressions of interest for additional positions in 2022 will be announced at a later date.

How does the Department allocate the additional positions to hospitals?

Different priorities will apply for each allocation of additional positions to give a range of hospitals the opportunity to apply for funded internships. Both hospitals new to the program, and hospitals with historic positions who are applying for additional positions, will be reviewed against the same criteria.

2020 priority

Priority for the first five additional internships provided in 2020 were given to health services in rural and regional areas.

2021 priority

Priority for the second five additional internships to be provided in 2021 will be given to those that have not previously participated in the Victorian Hospital Pharmacy Intern Program.

2022 priority

Priority for the remaining 10 additional internships to be provided in 2022 will be given to other hospitals and health services, particularly those with an identified history of difficulty in recruiting junior staff members and/or of having to retrain community pharmacists to work in the hospital environment.

Priority overall

Priority overall will also be given to applicants with innovative training models, for example, where the training program is conducted in partnership with another health service or specialist hospital.

Criteria for allocation of positions

Four questions are included in the EOI application to ascertain organisation capacity, they are outlined below.

1. **Intention**

Outline why your organisation is applying for the additional funded intern positions and the deliverable that you want to meet. Please include specific information on how taking on interns would help produce deliverables, such as how it could increase your service and help achieve organisational goals.

2. **Services provided**

Describe your organisation's experience and expertise in the delivery of pharmacy services. Include information about the number of departmental staff (including pharmacists and technicians), bed numbers, services provided by pharmacy and sites at which interns would work.

3. **Workforce Training**

Outline the expertise and commitment of the pharmacy workforce in your organisation to deliver a high-quality intern training program and the expected outcomes for the intern. Include information about the number of senior staff employed, any qualifications in clinical education, partnerships with other facilities and professional development opportunities.

4. **Supervision Support**

Outline the intended model of supervision and support for an intern training program. Include information on orientation activities, allocation of FTE for supervision, mentoring arrangements, and planned provision of education and training.

Will the priority areas and criteria change in subsequent years?

The final decision for internship funding is made by the department, and the criteria and priorities for additional positions is subject to change at any time.

Allocation of intern positions

Can organisations partner to share an intern position?

Yes, joint applications are welcomed. There must be a primary applicant and funding will be paid to the primary applicant only if successful. It is the responsibility of the health services to share the funding as they agree. For information on partnership arrangements in other professions that could be used to guide the development of a collaborative pharmacy intern training program, please contact [Allied health workforce](#).

Who assesses and allocates the positions?

Assessment and allocation of all supported positions will be conducted by the department.

Does this change the allocation of the 80 existing positions?

The original 80 Victorian Hospital Intern Program positions will not be changing in the next three years.

Graduating student application information

What is the process for students?

In May 2020 SHPA will hold their Victorian Hospital Intern Program information night, hospitals are invited to speak directly with students about the positions available in 2021.

Students begin the application process in July 2020, the matching process is completed between August and September 2020.

Where can the supported intern positions be advertised?

Applications for the original 80 positions and the additional 20 positions (by 2022) must be made through SHPA's Victorian Hospital Intern Program to ensure a transparent and fair matching process.

For further assistance contact SHPA

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