



Western Health

PHARMACY DEPARTMENT

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Western Health Pharmacy Internship FAQ

How is the intern year structured?

The intern roster consists of 12 x 4 week rotations, with interns allocated to both the clinical and dispensary setting throughout the year. Interns will spend 60% of the year in a clinical environment.

Dispensary rotations consists of outpatients, inpatients and manufacturing (both sterile and non-sterile). This split gives interns the opportunity to experience a broad range of hospital based pharmacy practice and also provides a variety of ward environments in which to develop fundamental clinical Pharmacy skills. Interns are also able to attend an Antimicrobial Stewardship or Acute Pain Management Service ward round during the year to observe multidisciplinary team collaboration.

What clinical rotations are offered during the intern year?

We review our program yearly and make changes based on feedback from the previous year's interns so rotations may vary. Rotations may include Respiratory medicine, Infectious diseases, Neurology, Aged Care, Cardiology, Orthopaedics and General surgery to name a few.

Can I choose an elective rotation during the intern year?

Unfortunately you will be unable to choose an elective rotation throughout the year, however we review our intern program yearly and take into account feedback from the previous year's interns and make changes accordingly.

Will I have the opportunity to visit other hospital campuses?

Interns are primarily based at the Footscray and Sunshine campuses throughout the year (50:50 split). You will have the chance to visit Joan Kirner Women's and Children's during orientation week and will receive presentations on Williamstown Hospital and Sunbury Day Centre.

Are interns rostered to weekend shifts?

Yes, interns are rostered to Saturday shifts, usually from March, and work 1 in every 6 Saturdays throughout the year at Sunshine Hospital. Shifts are usually from 8.30am to 12.30pm approximately.

How are interns orientated?

Interns have a full week of orientation at the start of the year to become familiar with the intern program, the pharmacy department and expectations for the year ahead. Interns also have a clinical intensive week to learn the

basics of clinical pharmacy prior to their ward rotations and also a manufacturing intensive training week to learn aseptic techniques prior to their manufacturing rotation.

Do you have a mentor program?

Each intern is mentored by early career pharmacist who recently completed their internship at Western Health & who will be a form of support throughout the year. Interns also have 3 to 4 intern preceptors and the Senior Education Pharmacist who is also available to provide educational and emotional support throughout the year.

Are there any practice exams to prepare for the end of year Pharmacy Board oral Exam?

We run 5 to 6 oral practice exams for each intern throughout the year. These are run under board exam conditions with 2 Pharmacists supervising and providing invaluable feedback in order to prepare interns for the final exam.

Practice exams are reviewed and updated each year to refresh content and ensure it is up to date.

Is there any preparation for the mid-year APCAT written exam?

We have a full day of study dedicated to APCAT exam as well as 1 additional tutorial. The APCAT study day is run by the Education Pharmacist, Preceptor Pharmacists and newly qualified Pharmacists. Preparation consists of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and calculations.

How often are intern tutorials run and what topics are covered?

Intern tutorials run once weekly every Thursday from 4pm to 5.30pm throughout the year. Tutorial topics focus on a broad variety clinical disease states (applicable to both hospital and community pharmacy practice) and pharmacy law.

The tutorials are run by 3 preceptors and also involve senior specialised pharmacists where applicable.

Can I take annual leave during my intern year?

Yes, interns are entitled to 5 weeks of annual leave per the current enterprise bargaining agreement however interns usually accumulate their leave to ensure they reach their supervised practice hours prior to exams satisfactorily. On average, most interns take a total of 1 week of leave during internship.

Does Western Health offer the Monash Intern Foundation Program (IFP)?

Yes, Western Health offer Monash Intern Training and Intern Foundation Program.

Are there opportunities to undertake research at Western Health?

Western Health is passionate about research and a research project can be undertaken as part of the Monash Intern Foundation Program.

What are the job prospects like at Western health after my internship?

Western Health usually retain all interns on as casual Pharmacists until more permanent opportunities open up. This depends year to year and there are no guarantees

What opportunities are there for early career Pharmacists at Western Health?

Western Health is provisionally accredited site for SHPA Pharmacy Residency Program.