

RIDE ALONG PROGRAM

RFDS OBSERVATIONAL STUDENT ATTACHMENT

APPLICANT GUIDELINES



1 Purpose

RDWA recognises the value positive educational experiences have in encouraging health discipline university students to consider careers in rural.

The objective of the Ride Along Program is to offer early year university medical and nursing students an opportunity to increase their understanding of support available to patients and health care providers in country communities.

Students are offered a one-day observational attachment with a RFDS retrieval crew every Saturday and Sunday of the year, excluding public holidays.

Students experience 'a day in the life' of a RFDS flight crew and develop an appreciation of the role the RFDS plays in helping patients access primary health care and emergency services.

The program encourages students to explore the role RFDS plays more fully in rural health care provision, understand the escalation pathways available to rural doctors and the value of these services to the communities they visit.

2 Scope

The Ride Along program is delivered in partnership with the RFDS.

Ride Along offers early year students studying medicine, nursing, or midwifery at any of the three SA universities an opportunity to spend a full day in an observational role with an RFDS flight crew. Overseen by the rostered flight nurse, students respond to and travel with their allocated team on tasked flights. While RFDS SA/NT primarily respond to in state patient requests, some attachments may venture across the borders to NSW and VIC.

In three distinct rounds each of the state's university's medical and nursing students are offered an opportunity to apply for this experience. Application rounds fall roughly across the following timeframes:

- University of South Australia: applications open February for a Wednesday 28 February 2024 orientation session.
- University of Adelaide: applications open June for a Tuesday 2 July orientation session.
- Flinders University: applications open September for a Tuesday 23 October 2024 orientation.

There are up to 34 places available for each university cohort.

3 Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the current opportunity you will be:

- Over 18 years
- A first- or second-year student in medicine, nursing or midwifery at your SA university;
- A member of your university's rural health club, or interested in joining the rural club;
- Under 120kg at the time of your scheduled attachment;
- Fit tested for a N95 face mask
- Able to attend the compulsory orientation session at the RDWA on the specified date; and
- Available for at least two Saturdays and Sundays between four-month period allocated to your university.

The online form will have all the privacy and information consent and applicant declarations you will need to complete.

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If you are selected, RFDS will provide full details of the terms and conditions of participating in an observational attachment at the orientation session. You will be free to accept the terms or not accept them. If you do not wish to accept the terms you will not be able to participate in the flight.

4 How to Apply

Uni SA: Applications open Wednesday 1 February 2024 and close Thursday 10 February 2024.

You must be available to attend the RFDS Orientation from 5.30-7pm on Wed 28 February 2024, and available to participate in the program on a weekend between 2 March and 30 June 2024.

Uni of Adelaide: Applications open Tuesday 11 June 2024 and close Friday 21 June 2024

You must be available to attend the Ride Along Orientation from 5.30-7pm on Tue 2 July 2024 and available to participate in the program on a weekend between 6 July and 27 October 2024

Flinders University: Applications open Monday 30 September and close Friday 11 October 2024.

You must be available to attend the Ride Along Orientation from 5.30-7pm on Wed 23 October 2024 and available to participate in the program on a weekend between 2 November 2024 and 9 February 2025.

If you meet the eligibility criteria you can apply for the experience using the online application form on RDWA website. Students will be asked to describe their interest and/or intention to consider rural training and careers. Applying for a place at the experience does not guarantee that an offer to attend will be made.

5 Assessment and notification

All applicants will be notified of their application outcome by email. RDWA will assess applications by reviewing your application against the eligibility criteria. If your application does not provide enough information for us to make our assessment, we may contact you for more information.

Where RDWA assesses the application as ineligible, we will advise you in writing the reasons for the decision.

If you are offered a place to participate, we will send an email inviting you to attend the relevant orientation session. You must be available to attend the session offered to participate in the program. You do not need to accept the offer to attend if you have changed your mind.

More Information

The program is delivered in partnership with RFDS SA <https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/sant/>

There are up to 34 places available for each university cohort.

This is not a merit-based selection; however, preference is given to applicants who have not previously been on an observational attachment.

If we receive more than 34 applications, all applications will enter a random selection draw. A small number of students may be offered a standby position in case of late cancellation. Students on standby must be available to attend the relevant orientation session.

To learn more about the experience talk to our student support team on 8234 8277 or at futureworkforce@ruraldoc.com.au

Effective 19 January 2024