

Clinical Placements

Frequently Asked Questions

Rise, and shine.

- **How are Placements organised?**

Placements are organised in collaboration with a variety of Health Facilities. Service Agreements must be in place for a student to attend a Placement in any given Facility. Students can be placed anywhere from Brisbane to the Fraser Coast depending on Placement availability.
- **Can I arrange my own Placement?**

No, students must not contact any Site or Facility to ask about a Placement at any time. Placements are arranged by the Clinical Placement Coordinators only.
- **Can I change groups?**

You can email nursingplacements@usc.edu.au with a request to change groups. We will do our best to accommodate changes according to the number of Placements available in each group. Alternatively, you can find someone to swap with and both parties must email the Nursing Placements Office with the request and the C.E.C will have the final decision.
- **Can I change Site/Facility?**

Once placed you are not usually changed unless there is a specific relevant reason. This change will depend on availability.
- **Can I attend the same Facility twice?**

You may be allocated to the same Facility twice, but not to the same ward or department.
- **I don't have a car, what do I do?**

All costs associated with Placement are the student's responsibility. The student must ensure that they arrive on time for their allocated shifts. If you do not have a car you must find alternative transport, this is not always easy on the Sunshine Coast as it has minimal to offer in public transport. One option is to find other students who could offer you transport. These arrangements are not the responsibility of the University.
- **If my shift commences at 7am, public transport only starts at 7am - what happens?**

You must find alternative transport as you must arrive to your shift on time. A solution may be carpooling.
- **Can I attend the Facility if I have a family member who works there?**

Yes, but not in the same area. For example if your Mother/Father were to work at Nambour General Hospital (NGH) you would still be able to go to NGH but not to the same ward/area where they work.
- **Can I attend the Facility if I work there?**

Yes, but not in the same ward/department in which you work. For example, if you work at Nambour General Hospital you can still be placed at the hospital but not in the same ward/department where you are working.
- **When do I find out where I am going?**

When Placements have been confirmed from the clinical areas, student allocations will be visible on WILS approximately 4 to 6 weeks prior to your Placement commencement date.
If pre-clinicals are not current you will not be placed.
- **Can I request a particular area to do my Placement in? E.g. surgical ward, aged care?**

Students are unable to make requests for Placement sites or wards. Rural and Remote Placements are an exception to this.

➤ **I am interested in doing a Rural & Remote Placement, how do I apply?**

At the beginning of each Semester the Placements for Rural & Remote will be made available to students who can email an expression of interest for these Placements. Rural & Remote Placements will only be available in the Blocks Placements.

➤ **When can I do a Rural & Remote Placement?**

Placement in Rural & Remote is not available for NUR103/141/117 or HLT123.

In other groups there are limited places available. Students will need to fund their own costs associated with these Placements. Some places provide accommodation for a minimal fee.

➤ **Mandatory Pre-Clinical Documents – Blue Card, Police Check etc.**

To be eligible to commence Placement, there are 8 Mandatory pre-clinical documents that you are required to obtain. For further information on your mandatory requirements, please logon your WILS online and click on the Mandatory Requirements button. As soon as you commence your studies you should apply for your Blue Card, applications for a Blue Card must be done in person at the Placements Office (H1.G.66).

MOST IMPORTANTLY commence all your immunisations, Hepatitis B can take up to 6 months to complete.

Without a full and current set of documents you will be **unable to attend Placement**.

➤ **I live in Brisbane, will I be placed in Brisbane?**

There are limited clinical Placements available in Brisbane. We are unable to guarantee a Placement there as the majority of Placements are available on the Sunshine Coast.

➤ **My Placement is more than an hour away, why?**

Your Placement could be anywhere from Brisbane to the Fraser Coast. You may have to attend a Facility more than an hour away, this is sometimes unavoidable as it depends on availability of Placement offers.

➤ **Do I do nights shifts? Do I do shifts on the weekend? What time do shifts start and finish?**

In first year, you will be expected to do morning and afternoon shifts depending on your Facility. This is usually Monday to Friday.

In second year, you will be required to attend morning and afternoon shifts depending on your Facility. This is usually Monday to Friday but could include night duty, there may be the possibility of weekend shifts at some time depending on the offers of Placements from the Sites and the facilitation/preceptor model used by a Facility.

In third year, you will be required to attend morning, afternoon and night shifts. Monday to Sunday seven days a week depending on your roster and Facility.

➤ **If I start a Placement and only finish part of the Placement, do I receive credit for the days that I have completed or do I have to do the whole Placement again?**

If you do not finish your Placement and do not pass the overall subject then you will have to repeat the whole course both on campus and on Placement.

➤ **If I miss a day on Placement, do I have to make it up?**

YES, if possible while you are on Placement by doing longer days or additional days, discuss and organise this with your facilitator. If you are unable to complete your hours while on Placement your Facilitator will notify the Clinical Placement Office and additional hours will be arranged for you to complete at a later time. This may or may not be at your current Placement site. Grades will be withheld until all of the hours are completed. If you do not complete your hours you will be unable to progress to your next Placement and this could affect your overall program progression.

➤ **What do I do if I am injured while on Placement?**

In accordance with the Queensland Workplace Health & Safety Act 1995, the University must keep a record of every work injury, work caused illness and dangerous event. In the event of a workplace injury, work caused illness, workplace accident or near miss, please complete the [WIL Placement Injury/illness/Near Miss incident form](#).