



Doctor Support Unit



Working as one team for doctors

2027 Intern: Frequently Asked Questions Rotations

What rotations are available?

Our [2027 South Metropolitan Health Service \(SMHS\) Proposed Junior Doctor Placement](#) flyer outlines the intern, resident and registrar rotations available.

SMHS offers a unique collection rotations for interns:

- Terms exclusive to SMHS: Burns; Cardiothoracic surgery; Endocrinology; Hyperbaric medicine; & tertiary Neonatology.
- Our newer rotations include: Obstetrics & Gynaecology; Paediatrics; & Palliative Care.

If there are specialties of interest to you within SMHS that may not be offered at an intern or resident level, many units are supportive of offering Observerships during which you can gain work experience using your professional development leave.

How are rotations allocated?

1. SMHS intern contracts must be confirmed, first, with selection based on your job application.
2. The Doctor Support Unit (DSU) then issues an *Intern Term Preference Form* with a due date of ~2 weeks.
3. Interns must then rank all 135 rows from 1 (highest ranked) to 135 (lowest rank), with each row outlining the exact order of the five rotations on offer.
4. DSU then amalgamates this term preference data for all 135 interns, and matches each intern to the highest possible preference (i.e. **typically within your top 1-15 ranked rows**, noting this was achieved for 97% of the SMHS interns in 2026).



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How do you increase your chances of being allocated (or not allocated) certain rotations?

How you rank the rows on your *Intern Term Preference Form* is important

You will be allocated the highest possible preference (i.e. **typically within your top 1-15 ranked rows**, noting this was achieved for 97% of the SMHS interns in 2026). With this in mind, it is important you ensure all the rotations in the higher ranked rows you are comfortable with if you are allocated these. If there are rotations you wish to avoid, then rank these as low as possible.

What are the 2027 rotation dates?

The Postgraduate Medical Council of WA (PMCWA) publishes the [Term Dates](#), which are:

Intern Orientation	11 January 2027	15 January 2027	1 week
Term 1	18 January 2027	28 March 2027	10 weeks
Term 2	29 March 2027	13 June 2027	11 weeks
Term 3	14 June 2027	22 August 2027	10 weeks
Term 4	23 August 2027	31 October 2027	10 weeks
Term 5	1 November 2027	16 January 2028	11 weeks

Can I swap rotations?

Yes, you can swap rotations with another intern as long as you will both still meet your [PGY1 requirements](#), and are both agreeable to the swap. However, please be aware it is unlikely those who secure popular rotations (e.g. neonatology, paediatrics, medical specialties) will want to swap. The Stanley Medical Officers' Society (SMOS) offers a [Facebook group](#) to facilitate rotation swaps.

Once a Term Swap Form is submitted, the DSU carefully checks that each intern will still meet the [PGY1 requirements](#) before approving the swap to proceed.





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Are there any compulsory rotations I need to complete?

Yes, as per the [PGY1 requirements](#) all interns must complete clinical experience in the following:

- A – Undifferentiated illness care (e.g. ED, AMU, Neonatology)
- B – Chronic illness care (e.g. Geriatrics, Rehabilitation, Psychiatry)
- C – Acute and critical illness care (NB: all rotations include this clinical classification)
- D – Perioperative/procedural care (e.g. General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery)
- Emergency Medicine rotation (WA intern requirement only)

Will I receive a Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) rotation?

Yes, every intern is allocated a FSH rotation. However, you can swap rotations as long as you will both still meet your [PGY1 requirements](#). Though we encourage interns to have at least one term in a tertiary hospital like FSH, as the experience is useful regardless of what career stream you later choose.

Will I receive an 'offsite' rotation (e.g. Fremantle Hospital (FH), Peel Health Campus (PHC), Rockingham General Hospital (RGH), Albany Hospital, or Northam Hospital)

Yes, every intern is allocated at least one 'offsite' rotation to provide exposure to different sites and clinical settings, as well as to ensure fair distribution of offsite rotations across our 135 interns.

To support our interns with ranking rotations, the *Intern Term Preference Form* is structured so that rows are grouped to the 'offsite' rotation(s) included, as indicated by the sub-headings. How you rank the rows on your *Intern Term Preference Form* is important. Allocations are made based on preferences, with DSU aiming to offer each intern the highest possible preference (i.e. typically within your top 1-15 ranked rows, noting this was achieved for 97% of the SMHS interns in 2026).



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What travel and/or relocation allowances are available?

Rural rotations (x6)

- **Albany Hospital:** accommodation and a relocation allowance of \$400 for a return trip to and from Albany is available.
- **Northam Regional Hospital:** accommodation and a kilometre allowance for driving your car to Northam Hospital at the start of term, and from Northam Hospital at the end of term is provided.

Peel rotations (x3)

- Using a K1 Kilometre Allowance Form you can claim for 30km difference between Rockingham and Peel to and from work.
- If you are rostered to two (2) or more night shifts; or an evening shift, before a day shift (i.e. ED) you can request PHC overnight accommodation in hotel-style rooms.

Supporting your transition from medical student → intern

Pre-internship

Unique to SMHS, we offer a **two-week pre-internship placement (Oct-Dec)**** which includes:

1. **“Shadowing” the intern you will be replacing in Term 1, 2027.**

This is achieved by SMHS issuing our 2027 Intern rotation allocations as early as possible, before WA university compulsory two-week pre-internship placements occur.

2. **Pre-internship two-day workshop** (i.e. day 1 & 2 of your placement) which covers:

- Prescribing basics, including hands-on practice med charting
- Several clinical simulated scenarios



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- IV access practical workshop
- Referrals 101: radiology & specialty referrals
- IV fluids introduction
- Task prioritisation and time management tips
- Communication skills

****Note:**

UWA & Curtin University medical students: the abovementioned opportunity is currently only in place for WA universities with a compulsory two-week pre-internship placement as part of the final year curriculum (i.e. UWA & Curtin University).

UNDA & interstate/overseas medical students: SMHS is working closely with UNDA to explore incorporating the same opportunity in the UNDA curriculum for their final year medical students in future years. In the meantime, UNDA and interstate/overseas medical students for our 2027 intake will be offered the opportunity to voluntarily attend a dedicated “Pre-internship two-day workshop” and a period of clinical shadowing. This will be advertised once 2027 SMHS Intern contracts are finalised.

Orientation

As part of your contract, all WA Interns are paid to attend a compulsory one-week Intern Orientation Week from 11 January 2027 to 15 January 2027, which at SMHS includes a “shadowing day” during which you shadow the intern you will be replacing from Term 1, 2027 (i.e. Monday 18 January 2027).



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How can I make the most out of my Internship year?

Embrace every opportunity with curiosity and openness, take genuine interest in your patients, and invest in building strong, respectful relationships with the people you work alongside. Allow yourself to learn from mistakes, they're an essential part of growing into a confident doctor and make supporting one another a daily practice. Above all, stay engaged, stay kind (to yourself and others), and enjoy the journey you're on.

Teaching opportunities

Teaching opportunities

The DSU offers an extensive range of hospital-wide teaching opportunities throughout your internship and career with SMHS. Please view our [SMHS Sample Medical Education Teaching Calendar](#), which highlights how many opportunities are available over a sample month. Specialties also offer department level teaching, typically weekly.

Research

Research

SMHS is a research-oriented institution with many world leading clinical researchers. The DSU can help connect you with the SMHS Research team for mentorship opportunities. Plus, from PGY2 onwards, you will be able to apply for one of our four new exciting dedicated and funded SMHS Research positions at 0.5FTE (i.e. half-time)!



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Wellbeing support

Wellbeing support

There are multiple avenues interns can explore during times of distress or when you have a workplace or personal concern, including, but not limited to approaching the DSU, Pastoral Care, Staff Psychological and Wellbeing Support, the Stanley Medical Officers' Society and our approachable Consultants and Registrars.

Working conditions

Rosters

SMHS rosters are issued at the latest two weeks in advance of when they start.

These are all published on the DSU SharePoint page.

Within SMHS, interns work nights only in the Emergency Department, where you are always well supervised and supported.

Leave

Annual and Professional Development Leave applications can be submitted to the DSU using a simple easy to use Microsoft Form published on the DSU SharePoint page.

Leave applications receive a response within 1 to 2 weeks from DSU.



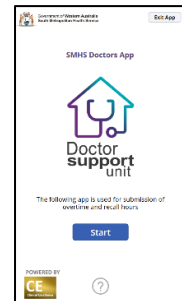
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Overtime

Overtime can be submitted to the DSU using a simple easy to use Overtime App. The Head of Department (HOD) receives an alert to approve your overtime instantly and is processed for payment within 2 weeks. This helps the HOD to assess ongoing service provision and staffing requirements and helps them to better support your wellbeing.



Other working conditions

For a full list of working conditions please view the

[WA Health System – Medical Practitioners – AMA Industrial Agreement 2024](#)

Internship requirements

What are the PGY1 and PGY2 requirements?

For more information, please visit the below pages:

- [PGY1 Requirements \(PMCWA\)](#)
- [PGY2 Requirements \(PMCWA\)](#). Note: you can still undertake surgical/perioperative rotations and meet PGY2 requirements.



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Application

How do I apply for an intern position?

To apply for a 2027 SMHS intern position (i.e. from 11 January 2027 to 16 January 2028) please visit: [2027 Intern Recruitment \(PMCWA\)](#)

Applications open: Tuesday, 5th May 2026

Applications close: Tuesday, 4th June 2026 at 12 noon (AWST)

How do I make my application stand out?

Demonstrate genuine enthusiasm for patient care, drawing on any relevant experiences that show your commitment. Show that you understand and embody the SMHS values, linking them directly to what you've learned and achieved as a medical student. We're looking for driven, dynamic and fun doctors who bring energy, curiosity and a positive attitude to their teams.

Who should I list as references?

Consultant staff who you have worked closely with are preferable.

If you have any other questions, please contact to the:

Doctor Support Unit (DSU)

Phone: (08) 6152 3634

Email: DSU.MedEducation@health.wa.gov.au