

Pharmacy Internship 2023

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



How many interns do you take?

Barwon Health will take six interns in 2023. These intern positions are government funded. This means that they are restricted to applicants from Victorian pharmacy schools. Unfortunately we cannot accept international applicants.

Is a previous student placement at Barwon Health necessary to be a successful applicant?

No, previous student placement at Barwon Health is not mandatory to be successful in receiving a Barwon Health internship. We have employed many interns who have not completed a placement with us. While previous placements may be a useful tool to gauge the suitability of an applicant, we consider many factors when choosing interns.

Are you more likely to employ Geelong applicants?

We do not choose interns according to where they live, or what university they attend, applicants will be chosen on their own merit. In applying to Barwon Health, we assume that you are willing to either move to Geelong or are committed to commute to Geelong.

Do I have to move to Geelong in order to be successful?

The intern year can be one of the most difficult years in your life. Commuting daily to Geelong may add extra pressures. In the past, interns have either chosen to move to Geelong or travelled from the Western suburbs at the furthest. Frequent V-Line

services are available to Geelong and the hospital is within walking distance or a short bus ride from the station.

What do you look for in your interns?

We are seeking enthusiastic interns who are eager to start their hospital pharmacy career. Additionally, the qualities we look for in our interns are: hardworking, team-orientated, showing initiative, willing to learn and attention to detail.

Do you interview every applicant?

In the past, we have endeavoured to interview every person who applied for a Barwon Health internship. We aim to provide every applicant the opportunity to present for an interview. However, depending on the number of applicants in these current pandemic circumstances, we may use a screening approach prior to offering interviews. This will be based on your cover letter, CV and Vidcruiter responses; and we may potentially utilise other resources. *Please refer to 'Selection Process' document for more information.*

What questions do you ask during the interview?

Our questions are generally based on situational and behavioural qualities and experiences. At times, we may add clinical reasoning questions.

How do you pick your interns?

We use a number of different methods to determine the most suitable candidates. These methods may change from year to

year depending on the demand on intern positions, but may include cover letter and CV, written responses, group and individual interviews, as well as referee checks. This allows the applicant to display their strengths through various methods. You will be informed of the interview format in an email.

How and when will you communicate with applicants?

Correspondence with applicants will be mostly via emails. The timeline of organising and conducting interviews, as well as notification of successful application will be in accordance with SHPA intern selection process and guidelines.

What support do you provide to your interns?

Barwon Health pharmacy has a full-time Education Pharmacist, as well as an Intern Coordinator with 2-3 days per week specifically dedicated to intern education. Each intern will also be paired with a pharmacist mentor. The department has a very positive educational culture with pharmacists providing exceptional support to interns.

What is your intern program structure?

Please see our additional information leaflets for more details on our intern program structure. In addition, Barwon Health is a credentialed Monash Intern Foundation Program (IFP) site, with all interns having successfully completed the program since its pilot in 2016.

What is the job security beyond the intern year at Barwon Health?

Historically, we have retained most if not all interns after each intern year. Many have gone on to complete a residency program and have rewarding careers.

Having said that, the organisation is continually changing and hence there are no guarantees that interns will be offered positions post intern year completion.

What other professional opportunities are available after the intern year?

Barwon Health pharmacy is an accredited SHPA Residency site and runs a successful Foundational Residency program.

How does Barwon Health differ to other hospitals?

Barwon Health is the major regional referral hospital for Southwest Victoria. It is similar in size and range of services to metropolitan hospitals. As the main hospital in the region, it caters for both the adult and paediatric population.

Our pharmacy department is innovative in its approach to practice with specialised practice in outpatient and outreach clinics. Despite its size, Barwon Health has a real regional community feel, providing a relaxed workplace and collegial friendships amongst staff.

Traffic in Geelong is quite minimal (you are almost always within 20 minutes of your destination) and there is free parking in the hospitals' surrounding streets. Geelong's waterfront, within 5-10 minutes walking distance from the hospital, has fantastic views of the bay. There are many regional wineries to explore and Geelong is only a short drive from the famous Victorian surf beaches and the start of the magnificent Great Ocean Road, providing a wonderful work-life balance.