

Intern Training Program 2025

Pharmacy Department University Hospital Geelong



**Barwon
Health**



About Barwon Health

Barwon Health serves a geographically dispersed population through two major sites in Geelong, as well as smaller sites stretching down the coast and Colac.

Barwon Health is one of the most comprehensive service providers in the state, covering the full spectrum from emergency and acute to mental health, primary care, community services, aged care and subacute/rehabilitation. It is the tertiary referral centre for the Western District (servicing a population of around 500,000).

Barwon Health's areas of speciality include cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery, intensive care, infectious diseases, maternity, neurology, oncology, orthopaedics, paediatrics, palliative care, psychiatry, renal medicine, respiratory medicine, and aged care.

University Hospital Geelong has approx. 450 acute inpatient beds and is located in central Geelong. The McKellar Centre, situated in North Geelong, provides residential aged care services as well as rehabilitation and palliative care.

University Hospital Geelong is a major teaching hospital associated with Melbourne, Deakin and Monash Universities.

Learn more: www.barwonhealth.org.au



University Hospital Geelong

About the Pharmacy Department

The Pharmacy Department is staffed by 119 EFT staff across University Hospital Geelong, the rehabilitation and aged care site (McKellar Centre) and the private hospital (St John of God). The staffing consists of 74 EFT pharmacists, 6 intern pharmacists and 39 support staff.

A high degree of specialisation exists in clinical pharmacy roles (e.g. cardiology, emergency, gastroenterology, general medicine, infectious diseases, intensive care, mental health, neurology, oncology, paediatrics, renal, and surgery), clinical trials, medication safety, medicines information, antimicrobial stewardship and radiopharmacy. At the McKellar Centre pharmacy provides specialised services to rehabilitation and palliative care patients.

The department has a dedicated education team, led by an experienced full-time education pharmacist and supported by two additional enthusiastic educators (2 EFT education staff across student, intern and residency programs).

The Pharmacy Department is actively involved in undergraduate and postgraduate pharmacy education. Pharmacy practice research is a focus with local and collaborative projects with universities, and other healthcare facilities.

Pharmacy is innovative in its approach to practice with robotic dispensing and inventory system. Quality use of medicines and medication safety activities are led by pharmacy across campuses. Pharmacy technicians support clinical pharmacists and undertake sterile and oncology preparation.



Meet Eliza...

"I am thoroughly enjoying my pharmacy intern year at Barwon Health. My favourite part of the program is the opportunity to rotate through most hospital wards and to choose two elective rotations! The support from Barwon Health is one of the strengths of the intern program and is one of the main reasons I applied to work here. Our pharmacy educators are always promptly available and checking in on us. They have facilitated the Monash ITP and IFP programs for several years and are aware of when you have a higher workload! I have never doubted my decision to put this hospital as my first preference."

Eliza Lanyon (2020)



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Pharmacy Intern Program

The pharmacy intern program is a balance of structured learning and practical training rotations.

Until the end of August, the intern will spend time in*:

- Introductory clinical rotations (clinical orientation)
- Dispensary, as well as familiarisation to aseptic services, medicines information, medication safety, antimicrobial stewardship, oncology and radiopharmacy
- Clinical rotations through specialised ward services such as cardiology, renal, gastroenterology, neurology, rehabilitation, as well as general medical and surgical wards
- Allocated research week

In the final four months of the year the intern will*:

- Manage their own patient load, suitable to this stage of development working under indirect supervision of nominated supervisors.
- Further develop clinical and communication skills as well as time management, independence and prioritisation.
- Complete elective rotations (e.g. paediatrics, emergency, psychiatry, oncology, ICU, maternity, other Barwon South West regional hospitals)

**subject to amendment*

Meet Martin...

“The intern program offered by Barwon Health is incredibly holistic and is designed to support an intern from the ground up. It is structured in such a way that it allows us to develop our fundamental processes and learn about the multiple facets of hospital pharmacy, before further challenging us with specialised clinical rotations in order to build on our knowledge as pre-registration pharmacists. I found this particularly useful when transitioning from community to hospital pharmacy as many of the hospital processes do not always come naturally to me, but with the incredible support offered by all pharmacy staff, especially the education team, I was able to quickly get up to speed. The preceptor has two education-oriented days per week to support what can sometimes be a challenging, yet rewarding, year.”

Martin Curkovic (2020)



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Pharmacy Intern Program



Additional Information

- Planned intern tutorials are held once weekly for one to two hours. These sessions are steered by pharmacists within the department, as well as guest speakers, including community pharmacists and specialist nurses. The interns are expected to prepare for and contribute to sessions. Interns will also be supported in the preparation for the written and oral exams.
- Barwon Health offers an incredibly rich support network for interns, including;
 - Education team
 - Full-time education pharmacist, 0.5 EFT intern preceptor, 0.5 EFT student coordinator
 - Individual mentor pharmacist for each intern
 - Supportive pharmacy staff – including pharmacists, technicians and support staff
 - Regular and ongoing feedback and follow-up
 - Professional and/or mental health support
- Interns gain experience in conducting a research project, alongside a skilled pharmacist supervisor. In the past, a number of these projects have been presented at conferences.
- Barwon Health is an accredited Monash University 'Intern Foundation Program' site with Credentialed Clinical Educators. This program, in conjunction with the Monash Intern Training Program allows interns to complete either a Graduate Certificate or complete the Monash MPharm.

Meet Mia...

"The intern program at Barwon Health has exceeded my expectations. Each intern is paired with a junior pharmacist 'Mentor' which is something I love about this program. My mentor and I meet weekly for coffee to complete practice exams, get advice about clinical practice as well as talk about personal things. Barwon Health as a whole has a very supportive and friendly culture. All staff members are always willing to help and offer advice throughout the intern journey. I moved to Geelong for the job at Barwon Health which has allowed me to immerse myself into the community through local netball and making friends outside of work."

Mia Fallon (2020)



About Geelong

Geelong is Victoria's second largest city and is situated on Corio Bay, less than an hour drive from Melbourne.

Geelong offers an excellent balance of first class facilities combined with a relaxed attitude. The new waterfront offers fantastic views of the bay. The Geelong City precinct has two shopping centres, an abundance of cafes and restaurants, nightclubs and cinemas.

Sport is an important leisure activity for the people of Geelong with various sporting activities offered including footy, netball, soccer, basketball and cricket. Of course, it is the home of the Australian Rules football team the Geelong Cats.

Geelong is only a short drive from the famous surf beaches of Victoria and the start of the magnificent Great Ocean Road.


Barwon
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Learn more:
www.geelongcity.vic.gov.au
www.visitgreatoceanroad.org.au

Meet Jenny...

“The structure of the pharmacy intern program has allowed us interns to gain exposure to a range of general and speciality areas where I have gained a solid foundation to expand upon – examples of specialist rotations completed so far are cardiology, renal medicine, gastroenterology and psychiatry led by specialist pharmacists. As interns, we are provided with plenty of support from experienced and knowledgeable pharmacists, and we are highly encouraged to develop our independence skills in preparation for when we become registered pharmacists. I have developed a greater appreciation for the roles of clinical pharmacists, and their role in the multidisciplinary team to provide holistic patient-care. I feel very fortunate to be completing my internship in a well-supported environment, especially one that’s continuously pushing me to become better.”

Jenny Huynh (2020)



Contact Us

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