



# teaMMed

Global Health Initiatives

*Choose your own adventure...*

## TEAMMED ELECTIVES GUIDE



A publication by TeamMED; Monash University's Global Health  
Initiatives Group: [www.teammed.org](http://www.teammed.org)



This guide has been created by TeamMED as a service to Monash medical students. Although due care has been taken to ensure the guide's accuracy, the club will not accept any responsibility for any errors or omissions.

TeamMED is not affiliated with the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences. All students are advised to read all Faculty process and policy regarding electives for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

The information in this guide has been sourced from a variety of resources – please see the list at the end of the guide for further details. In particular, we'd like to acknowledge the AMSA/AMA: Guide to Working Abroad.

A medical elective, whether it be the compulsory final year placement or a placement undertaken during the holidays can be a potentially exciting and life changing adventure. Unfortunately, when you first sit down to plan your experience, it can be difficult to know how to go about the whole process:

*Where do I start?*

*Who can I talk to?*

*Where is the best place to go?*

*How do I know what the right elective is for me?*

TeamMED to the rescue! This is a simple, practical guide on how to organise a successful elective. The guide was written mainly for Monash medical students. The information is contextualised to Monash University and the medical faculty. We have endeavoured to ensure the information in this guide is as up to date and accurate as possible. If you have any comments or pick up any mistakes, please let us know: email [teammed@monashclubs.org](mailto:teammed@monashclubs.org)

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*This guide is designed to take you step-by-step through the process of planning an elective. Although we have provided the template, how you use the information and where it takes you is completely individual! We hope the tips in this guide will become a stimulus for you to generate your own plans and ideas, and help you work towards a fun and fulfilling elective experience.*

*Good luck*

# Organising an adventure...

The best approach in organising your adventure is to follow these simple steps: focus, search, match, apply, confirm. We will deal with each of these in turn.

## FOCUS

One of the hardest parts of elective planning is getting started! You are bombarded with information and there are so many options it can all seem a bit overwhelming. Step back, and ask yourself four important questions:

1. What do I want to achieve from this placement?
2. What health setting do I want to engage in
3. Where do I want to do my placement
4. Do I want to go solo or with an organisation

In thinking about these questions, it can be very helpful to talk to past students who have done an elective themselves and perhaps share some key interest with you. Organisations like TeamMED can help you get in touch with other students who have done overseas medical placements in the past. There are also a range of volunteer programs arranged by professional companies – they can also be a valuable starting point, but remember that they will usually have a vested interest in having you join their program.



# Organising an adventure

## 1. What do I want to achieve from this placement?

It is important to understand what you want from your placement before you go. There are a number of professional and personal benefits that medical students stand to gain by doing an overseas elective.

Some examples are listed in the table below. There is also the chance for students to contribute to the hospitals and communities they visit. This will be discussed more later on.



Personal	Professional
To contribute to the health of the host community	To experience the reward of helping people in real need
To understand better the health and needs in other countries	To experience more about a particular country or live within a foreign country
To gain an appreciation of a variety of health care systems	To explore the possibility of working or living abroad at a later date
To gain further experience in a particular area of medicine not available in Australia	To develop skills in leadership, flexibility, resourcefulness, cultural safety and self-management
To challenge one's professional abilities	To gain experiences that contrast with those available in Australia
To work in a different clinical setting and gain unique clinical experience	

# Organising an adventure

## 2. What health setting do I want to engage in?

Development aid aims to provide long-term support to hospitals with poor medical resources and infrastructure. Development settings appeal to many students who would like to travel and experience a different culture or medical system. Opportunities may include spending time at a tertiary centre, engaging with primary healthcare facilities, or joining a specialist short mission which provides a specialist service that is usually not available to the local population, such as Operation Smile, who facilitates free surgery to repair cleft palates for children around the globe.

Humanitarian aid, in contrast, provides acute, short-term medical assistance in situations like natural disasters, war, and epidemics. Generally, this is more appropriate for doctors with at least two years of work experience.

Some medical students prefer to do their electives in a well-resourced setting. These electives are often ideal for students who are targeting hospitals that are renowned for a specialty they are interested in, or who are exploring the possibility of working or studying abroad at a later date.

Lastly, some students may decide that they would like to take a break from clinical work and try their hand at public health, research, or teaching.



# Organising an adventure

## 3. Where do I want to do my elective?

In order to narrow this down to a specific country, you may want to think about:

- The resources of the healthcare system and training opportunities available
- Personal safety
- Language barriers
- Ease of the application process
- Cost
- Recreational activities

When considering your personal safety in a particular country, a quick tool to use is the Australian Government website – [smartraveller.gov.au](http://smartraveller.gov.au). The website classifies countries into four security levels:

1. Exercise normal safety precaution
2. Exercise high degree of caution
3. Reconsider your need to travel
4. Do not travel.

In addition, it is always helpful to talk to as many people as possible who have undertaken similar electives. Otherwise, student reviews on medical elective databases are a valuable source of information.

# Organising an adventure

## 4. Shall I go with an organisation?

There are pros and cons involved in planning your own trip or signing up for an elective arranged by an established organisation. Generally, going with a company may be more costly but offers the convenience of an established program and insurance for a smooth-running elective. It might be advisable to go with an organisation if you are travelling alone to a developing country and the hospital that you are liaising with does not have a formal program for overseas students.

There are different types of organisations you can apply to: commercial organisations, non-governmental organisations, and your local university global health clubs. It is important to find out the values and priorities of these organisations, including their religious affiliations. For Monash University, TeamMED runs annual trips to

Nepal, Tonga, Uganda and India. Ignite's subcommittee Friends4Fiji has an exchange program with a school in Fiji. Work the World is an example of a commercial organisation.



Going with an organisation	Going solo
Mitigate much of the personal risk	Lower budget trips
Have well-established clinical support systems	Greater sense of self-management and accomplishment
Offer additional training on cultural safety, personal security and clinical practice in the resource-poor setting	Immersing into the local culture by travelling independently or in a small group
Organise logistics and travel arrangements	Greater sense of self-management and accomplishment
Provide a sociable environment by bringing together students doing overseas electives	

# Organising an adventure

## SEARCH

Explore a range of resources including Internet search engines, commercial organisation websites, medical elective databases, and personal or professional contacts. At the back of your mind, consider which placement will best align with your goals, comfort zones, and capacity to contribute. A list of useful resources you can use as a starting point are included at the end of this guide.



## MATCH

After shortlisting a few placements that best match your goals, conduct further research on the healthcare facility, the community, the job, and the living conditions before making any final commitments.

Once again, smartraveller.gov.au is a valuable website that provides detailed and up-to-date travel advice on many countries. There is information about entry and exit requirements, safety and security, local laws and customs, and health issues. You may also choose to register your travel with them.

Healthcare facility	Community	Job	Living conditions
Patient capacity	Health demographics	Responsibilities	Accommodation
Health services	Major diseases	Level of supervision	Amenities
Training opportunities	Population	Language spoken	Food
Library/Other resources	Religion		Internet access
Religious affiliations	Industry/agriculture		Climate
	Infrastructure		
Transport			

# Organising an adventure

# Organising an adventure

Introduce yourself

Dear Dr...

*My name is John and I am a final year medical student at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. As part of our course, we have the opportunity to undertake a 6 week medical elective in a field and location of our interest. I have a strong interest in Paediatrics, particularly in a low resource setting, and am keen to gain first-hand experience in this area during my elective. Given this, I am interested as to whether your hospital might be able to offer me an elective placement this year.*

Current level of medical experience

*Previously as part of my medical degree, I have undertaken 9 weeks in paediatrics in both a tertiary hospital and community setting. I have also undertaken terms in general medicine and surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, psychiatry and a range of medical and surgical specialties.*

*I have previous experience working in a low-resource setting, having taken part in a volunteer medical trip to Nepal in 2010 for 3 weeks, where I assisted in a rural health clinic. I am fluent in English and French.*

*If possible, I would like to undertake my elective during September-October this year for a 6 week period. I would also be interested in undertaking some research during my elective, if this would be appropriate. If there are any medical resources that would be of use, I would also be keen to make some arrangements to bring them over during my placement.*

*I have attached a copy of my CV for your reference. Please let me know if there is any other documentation you would like, and whether you think your hospital would be appropriate for my elective placement.*

*Yours Sincerely,  
John Smith*

Motivation and expectations of the placement

Other relevant experience

Desired dates

## APPLY

Most applications will need to be sent via email. It may take time for your application to be processed. If you do not hear from the institution, it may be wise to follow up with another email or a phone call. It may also be worthwhile applying for more than one placement simultaneously. Things to include in an email application are covered on the previous page.

## CONFIRM

Once an application has been approved, be sure to accept the offer in a timely manner, and thank the facility for the opportunity. You may also clarify any outstanding questions that you may have. Remember to confirm your arrival one to two weeks prior to your arrival.



# Organising an adventure

# Pre-departure preparation

## FORMAL ELECTIVES

The year 5 elective is a placement of at least 6 continuous weeks, at one institution with one supervisor taking overall responsibility and in one specialty. Upon completion of the elective, you will need to hand in a write-up of the elective and supervisor report – these are both hurdle requirements for successful completion of Year 5D.

It is important to note Faculty changes regarding the allocation of Year 5D elective dates. Students are not be able to request allocation for certain dates for electives – all students will be randomly allocated their elective rotation. However, it is possible to organise to swap elective dates with other students.

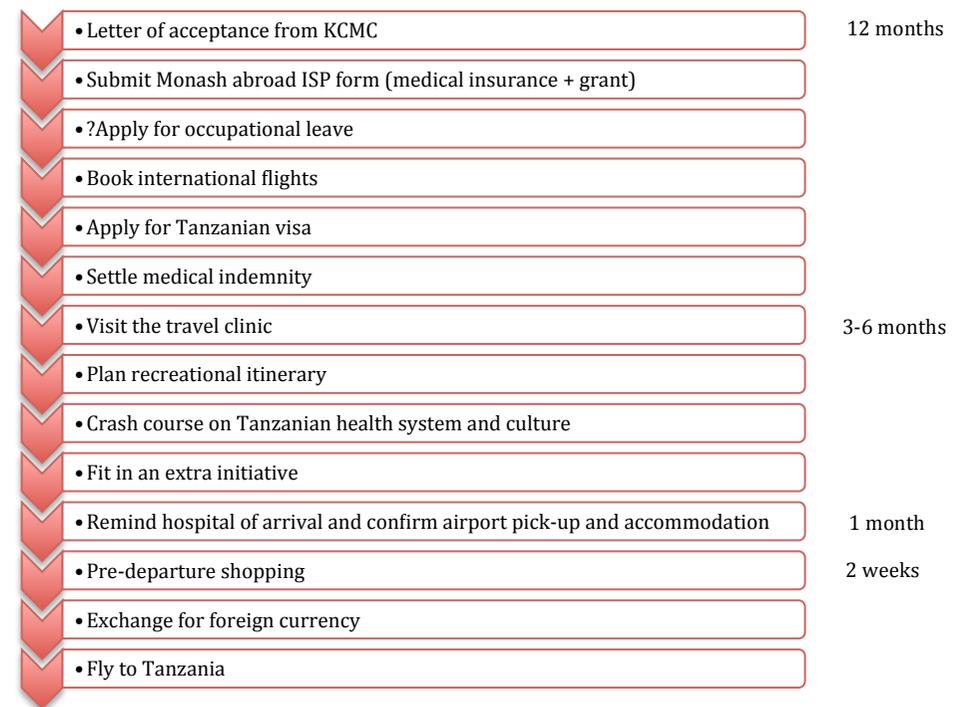
After you have secured confirmation from your host institution, you will need to submit an application to the Monash Abroad International Study Program for your elective to be approved. The faculty will email this application form to you, and it will also be available on Moodle. Elective applications will not be approved unless they are to be completed in the rotation (elective) that has been allocated to you.

Students have been advised not to confirm or pay any fees for electives until the faculty has approved these dates and the elective placement.

Take note of the accessibility of money exchangers and ATMs in your vicinity and consider applying for a travel credit card. 13

## PREPARATION TIMELINES

It is prudent to begin preparation at least 6-12 months in advance. Working backwards from the placement starting date, draw up a timeline with all the tasks that you need to complete.



# Pre-departure preparation

## THE 'TEN Cs' FRAMEWORK

1. **Communication**  
Determine the local languages and your requirement for translational aids
2. **Correspondence**  
Develop a plan to stay in touch with home
3. **Climate**  
Investigate weather patterns and how they might impact on your work and travel plans
4. **Culture**  
Undertake a cultural analysis and consider what concession in behaviour and dress modifications you may have to make
5. **Costs and currency**  
Plan how you will manage your money while travelling, and develop a budget
6. **Customs and cargo**  
Research local customs and laws and how they apply to your intended activities, movements, and behaviours; also consider baggage restrictions
7. **Clothing**  
Consider your clothing requirements for work (eg: scrubs) and play (eg: sports attire) and make sure these are culturally appropriate; don't forget personal protective equipment, including gloves, masks, eyewear and enclosed footwear
8. **Current and converters**  
Assess your requirements for electrical converters based on the country's electrical standard
9. **Clearance and certification**  
Ensure you have considered Australian and International immigration requirements, and have a valid visa and passport
10. **Contingency**  
Buy a travel insurance policy and consider other safeguard measures

# Pre-departure preparation

## TRAVEL HEALTH

It is essential that all travellers seek expert advice with respect to travel health. Make an appointment with a travel doctor at least three to six months before you depart. Immunisations and chemoprophylaxis for vector-borne diseases may be necessary depending on where you are travelling. In addition, you may need to carry antiretroviral treatment if there is any risk that you could be exposed to HIV. Consult the travel doctor about the post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) product of choice. Some health funds will reimburse the cost of the drugs, which can be expensive. You can also access some information about health risks and immunisations required for different countries via the CDC website: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

You should also make every attempt to stabilise chronic medical conditions prior to departure and make sure you have sufficient supplies of your long-term medications (eg: contraception). In addition, don't forget to bring an adequate supply of contact lenses, solutions and/or spectacles, and remember to wear an alert bracelet or necklace if relevant.

Regardless of where you are travelling, you should carry a first-aid kit, with pharmacological and non-pharmacological products.

Most importantly, you must have comprehensive travel insurance policy; this will facilitate access to medical treatment in the event that you require it. Note that Monash Abroad offers complimentary comprehensive travel insurance for overseas placements once all your paperwork has been submitted and approved.

# Pre-departure preparation

## BUDGET

It would be prudent to set up a budget prior to your trip and record your expenditure throughout the trip. Don't forget to consider the following:

- transport, including flights, car rental, public transport, taxis
- accommodation
- any tuition fees charged by the hospital
- insurance
- food
- recreational activities



An example budget might look something like this:

ITEM	COST
Airline ticket to Kilimanjaro International airport	\$2000
Transport to and from airport	\$60 x 2 = 120
Tanzanian visa	\$100
Resident's permit at KCMC	\$95
Insurance/Indemnity	\$120
4 weeks housing at KCMC	Free
Daily expenditure (food, transport...)	\$150
6 day climb at My Kilimanjaro	\$500
4 day safari	\$80 – 120/day
Day trip to Arusha	\$3
Trip to Zanzibar island (round trip airline ticket)	\$190
Miscellaneous (souvenirs)	\$50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3800</b>

After doing a pre-trip budget, remember to have additional cash available for any emergencies. Find out the actual currency of your visiting country and whether the people have a preferred currency.

## FUNDING

Monash prides itself for being a gateway to overseas experiences. Notably, Monash Abroad supports your formal 5<sup>th</sup> year elective and any other student-led non-credit program with a travel scholarship and comprehensive travel insurance. You can easily opt into the Monash Abroad Travel Scholarship in the International Study Program application form. Find out more about various other Monash scholarships and loans that are available:

<http://www.monash.edu/study-abroad/outbound/financial/>

Email: [monash.abroad@monash.edu](mailto:monash.abroad@monash.edu)

## MEDICAL INDEMNITY

It is important to have medico-legal cover when you do overseas medical placements. There are several companies that would provide free insurance for medical students doing clinical and voluntary electives and scholarship placements, including John Flynn scholarships. Become a member and apply for an elective cover.

## REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Registration requirements differ between countries. For example, the USA is known for their onerous medical registration requirements whereby many USA hospitals require international students to undertake a licensing examination (USMLE) and an English language assessment (TOEFL). For most other hospitals, a certificate of good standing from your university normally suffices. Be sure to find out more about the registration requirements before you go.

# Pre-departure preparation

## ACCREDITATION AND RECOGNITION OF TRAINING

At the end of your placement, ensure that you have fulfilled all the necessary requirements of your formal elective (eg: obtaining supervisor report). Even if it is a non-credit bearing placement, it would be advantageous to obtain a letter from your supervisor detailing your elective period, clinical exposure, and other contributions to the host institution. This record of your placement will invariably prove useful down the track, and may be used when applying for internship. It is good advice to obtain the letter prior to the end of your rotation – otherwise, you may face difficulties, especially in a small/rural hospital where the administration may be messy or the doctor turnover rates may be high.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL PREPAREDNESS

Travelling and working abroad can be immensely rewarding, but also stressful. Different settings offer challenges in different forms and intensities. Some strategies to reduce or manage stress during your placement may include:

- List your expectations and goals for the trip
- Talk to others who have been on similar overseas placements
- Educate your family and friends about the potential impact your work may have
- Pack a range of recreational material
- Plan to have some 'down-time' when you return home
- Debrief: some people keep a private journal of their activities and thoughts while others prefer sharing their experiences (eg: by keeping a travel blog)

# Pre-departure preparation

## GENERAL TIPS

### TRAVEL TIPS

- Research your host country and institution thoroughly. Bring along a travel guide (eg: Lonely Planet and an up-to-date map)
- Be very clear about what you are and aren't prepared to do; what is safe and not safe. Know the risks you are taking, and be as prepared as possible
- Be psychologically prepared. Be prepared to love and hate the experience all at once, and embrace those conflicting emotions
- Learn, practice, and speak as much of the local language as you can. Learn basic medical terminology including basic anatomy (abdomen, head, legs), symptoms (pain, vomiting, diarrhoea), investigations (blood tests, x-rays), and medications (oral rehydration solution, paracetamol)
- Where feasible, go with someone else – these experiences are hard to explain to someone who hasn't been there
- Don't expect to save the world

### SAFETY TIPS

- Ensure a third party knows your intended destination, route, and arrival details
- Minimise the valuable you carry, and carry essential items in your hand luggage
- Assess the safety of proposed forms of transport
- Act confidently in an unfamiliar environment; don't flaunt your vulnerability
- Clarify if it is safe to wander the streets alone, especially at night and if you are female
- Be wary of un-uniformed taxi drivers and ask to see identity from those claiming to be policemen or security guards
- Act conservatively and in accordance with local customs. Adhere to instructions from

## Extra initiatives

If you are well organised, there are additional ways you can contribute to your host community, especially if you are visiting a developing country.

### PROVIDING MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Before you depart, find out whether you can bring something of value to your hosts. For instance, the facility might be in short supply of commonly used medicines, disposable products, portable equipment or reference and educational materials.

Ask your host facility directly for a list of what they need. Avoid bringing over a 'standard' box of equipment or equipment that requires ongoing expensive supplies in order to prevent wastage and non-sustainable contribution respectively.

TeamMED has a resource program. Our medical supplies are sourced from hospital donations. Contact us 6 weeks in advance and we'll give you more information about what we can offer, as well as some logistical advice.

### FUNDRAISING

You may consider doing some fundraising to make a donation to the hospital that you are visiting. Find out how the hospital would like to receive the donation (eg: cash, bank cheque or transfer to an account). Obtain an official receipt for the money that you donate. Enquire exactly where this money would be channelled to and for what use.

There are many fun and creative ways to do fundraising. You may also use your fundraiser as an avenue to advocate about the medical situation in your visiting community.

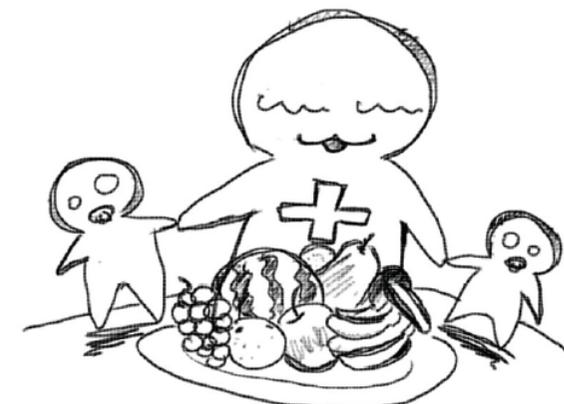
## Extra initiatives

### HEALTH PROMOTION

Preventative care is an important aspect of health in all countries, but especially developing countries where treatments for established disease may be less available. Research the common illnesses in your developing country. Find out the best means of educating the public – producing a poster/brochure to hand out in clinics, conducting an information session to nurses, visiting primary schools to teach children about healthy diets. Beware of cultural differences when delivering your health messages and try to contextualise health and lifestyle advice to the local communities. In order to do this, it is important to seek advice from locals or other people engaged with the community, to ensure it is acceptable and relevant to your target group.

### ADVOCACY

You may choose to take on the role of an advocate upon returning from your trip. Being an advocate involves identifying the root cause of a problem, raising awareness and educating the community and lobbying support for the cause.



## Coming Home

It is important to debrief after attending an overseas elective. There are several ways to do this – some suggestions include:

- Talking to family and friends about your experience
- Debriefing with a senior health professional
- Writing out your thoughts
- Making a presentation to others interested in working in similar areas
- Writing an article for a newsletter or a medical elective database

Some important topics to reflect about include your expectations of the trip, your roles and responsibilities in the clinical setting, the highlights and challenges that you faced, potential improvements to the trip and ongoing or newly identified community needs.

TeamMED has generated a trip debrief form, which is available on our website for you to download and complete if you wish.



## Ethical guidelines for overseas medical placements

It is important to consider what footprints you will leave behind as a medical student working overseas. Strive to have mutual benefits for yourself and the host institution.

Ethical principles for Australian doctors doing overseas work – adapted from AMSA:

1. Recognise that a patients' rights are universal
  - WHO minimum standard of patients' rights – "that all patients have a right to privacy, to the confidentiality of their medical information, to consent or to refuse treatment, and to be informed about relevant risk to them of medical procedures"
2. Put your host community's interests first
  - What are the community's needs? Is there a gap that needs filling?
3. Give local trainees priority
  - Training doctors require tutor supervision and teaching during ward times, practice on clerking patients and opportunities to assist in the surgical list
4. Emphasise education
  - Make an effort to work with local staff to identify, and then fill, skills and information gaps
  - Ensure there is an educational and capacity-building element to your trip
5. Think long-term sustainability
  - Think about 'big pictures' issues
  - Empower local staff to create enduring structural changes (eg: prescribing choices, clinical decision-making, resource management, staff recruitment and training and data collection).

# Ethical guidelines for overseas medical placements

## Monash Student FAQs

6. Do not use the 'developing world' for practicing your skills
  - If you wouldn't do it back home, don't do it abroad
7. Practice quality medicine
  - Provide the highest standard of care to the greatest number of patients with the human, pharmaceutical and equipment resources available.
  - Use your colleagues to guide your practice of medicine
8. Know your limits
  - For the safety of you, your local colleagues and your patients, you need to know when you are reaching your limits both personally and professionally
9. Have a focus
  - Define a job description before starting, and review and refine your responsibilities as your placement continues
  - It is easy to fall in the trap of doing 'a little bit of everything', but it is to everyone's advantage that you focus on your strengths, and where the community need it greatest
10. Consider the broader implications of your presence
  - Cultural, social and educational difference all result in power imbalances and a degree of social disruption



### **Must the elective placement be clinical, or is it possible for it to be research based?**

The elective does not necessarily have to be undertaken in a clinical environment. It can be undertaken in any health or medicine related area of interest to you: in a community, education, clinical or research setting.

### **Can I do my 6 week elective at any time during the year?**

Your elective must be a minimum of 6 weeks and has to be undertaken in your elective block. The 6 weeks MUST be continuous e.g you cannot do a 3 week placement, followed by a vacation, followed by a further 3 weeks elective placement. You MUST complete a minimum 6 week placement in ONE location, in ONE area of clinical medicine or research, under ONE medically trained supervisor.

### **Are the random allocations of the elective block provisional?**

No, the elective blocks have now been allocated and are confirmed. If you submit a swap and it is approved; however, you will get an automatic email from Medways confirming the amended dates.

### **If my elective is during Rotation 1, am I allowed to start my elective before Rotation 1 begins?**

No, you are not permitted to start your elective earlier than the Rotation 1 start date.

## Monash Student FAQs

***The place I have chosen for my elective charges a tuition fee. Will this be reimbursed by Monash University?***

Unfortunately this will not be reimbursed. The Faculty has clear policies that it does not cover the costs of fees levied by external institutions for electives.

***I am an international student and I will be doing my elective in my home country. Am I eligible to receive the Monash Abroad travel grant?***

All eligible students who travel overseas for their elective will receive the travel grant. This includes students who undertake their elective in their home country.

***The country I would like to do my elective in has a DFAT warning stating 'reconsider your need to travel'. Will I be allowed to go?***

Please refer to the 'Pre-departure Advice for International Study Programs' available on pages 3-9 of the Monash Abroad application form.

## Monash Student FAQs

***My elective is due to start in a few weeks' time, but the arrangements I had made have just fallen through. What should I do?***

Please contact the Year 5D administrative officer and we will help arrange an alternative elective. ([mbbsadmin.year5@monash.edu](mailto:mbbsadmin.year5@monash.edu))

***I have submitted an elective application to the Faculty but I've been offered another elective that I would rather do. Can I undertake the new elective instead?***

No, once an elective application has been submitted to the Faculty, you will not be allowed to change under any circumstances.

***I would like to go overseas for my elective, but don't know where to find information about possible placements. Do you have any suggestions?***

There are quite a few books published which deal specifically with information about possible electives worldwide. Also recently, the Faculty in cooperation with MUMUS has established a database where current students can provide information available, but we expect that in time this will increase. The database can be accessed on the MUMUS website in the Year 5D section. (<http://mbbs5d.med.monash.edu.au>). Additionally, there is an elective database accessible at The Electives Network for free via MDA National.

## Monash Student FAQs

***My elective HOST has asked for written verification that I am a Monash University student. Where can I obtain this???***

Many elective placement hosts require documentation supporting your request for an elective placement. The following covers the standard requirements:

- Enrolment verification (good standing) letters must come from Central Student Services. This letter can be obtained by telephoning the University's Student Services Centre on 9902 6011.
- Administrative letters indicating that the elective is a compulsory part of the course can come from MBBS Student Services
- Administrative forms to be completed can be dropped off and collected at 27 Rainforest Walk (previously Building 15) MBBS Student Services
- Academic letters/forms or references should come from the Directors of Clinical Teaching at the clinical sites. Students should seek advice from the Clinical Site Administrator at their site.

Central students can send emails requesting administrative letters to either [mbbsadmin.year5@monash.edu](mailto:mbbsadmin.year5@monash.edu) or [mbbsstudentservices@monash.edu](mailto:mbbsstudentservices@monash.edu).

## Useful resources

- A Guide to Working Abroad, for Australian Medical Students and Junior Doctors, AMSA/AMA
- Beyond Borders, Hamish Graham – A medical student's guide to a successful overseas placement
- A Medic's Guide to Work and Electives around the World, Mark Wilson – a guide to help you plan your elective with information and hospital details for over 100 countries around the world

Medical placement databases:

- MUMUS: <http://www.mumus.org/>
- Insight, University of Adelaide: <http://www.insight-health.org.au/resources2/electives-database>
- University of Queensland Medical Society: <http://uqms.org/electives/index.php>
- Trauma.org: a database of trauma and critical care elective placements around the globe: <http://www.trauma.org/archive/resources/electives/electives.html>
- MIGA elective grants program: <http://www.miga.com.au/content.aspx?p=57>
- Christian Medical Fellowship: <http://www.cmf.org.uk/international/electives.asp>

There are a large number of commercial organisations that you can approach:

- Projects abroad: <http://www.projects-abroad.org/about-us/>
- Work the World: <http://www.worktheworld.com/>
- International Volunteer HQ: <http://www.volunteerhq.org/>

Monash University global health groups:

- <http://www.teammed.org/>
- <http://www.ignitehealth.org.au/>

Organisations that do short specialist missions:

- <http://www.operationsmile.org/>