

Alfred Health Pharmacy Internship

Frequently Asked Questions

How are the intern rotations structured?

Our intern rotations cover a wide variety of areas, with a strong focus on clinical development. You will spend over 75% of the year in clinical rotations! In addition to clinical rotations, you will also spend time in both inpatients and outpatients dispensaries, aseptic preparation and Medicines Information.

Can I choose the clinical areas I am interested in?

Yes, you can choose where to go in your elective rotation. This could be Emergency, Infectious Diseases, Oncology, Intensive Care or whatever interests you! The other clinical rotations are core rotations, and important to your development as a young pharmacist. These include Surgical, General Medicine, Cardiology and Aged Care.

Do I get to see other campuses?

The majority of the intern year will be located at The Alfred, Prahran campus. However, you will have the opportunity to spend time at both Caulfield Hospital and Sandringham Hospital during your clinical rotations.

Do you have a dedicated orientation program?

Yes! You will undergo orientation and introduction to the overall department for your first week. Additionally, you will have a three-week clinical orientation in a clinical team, ensuring you are not being thrown in the deep end from the first day. The role of the clinical orientation is to develop essential skills in basic clinical pharmacy processes and become familiar with the workplace environment.

Do you have a mentoring program?

Yes! Each intern is allocated both a Mentor and a Supervisor for the year. A Supervisor is a pharmacist who has completed their intern year recently and can provide invaluable support and insight throughout the year. Supervisors also spend countless hours organising practice exams in the lead up to the Pharmacy Board Oral exam. Mentors are Senior pharmacists, who will assist you in the development of a research project.

Will I have the opportunity to undertake a research project?

Yes! At the Alfred, we have a strong focus on research and development. You will have the opportunity to pick an area you are interested in and participate in governance and a research project in that area. This is where your Senior Mentor assists you! You will have one dedicated day per week to work on your project.

Are there any practice exams to prepare for the Pharmacy Board Oral?

Yes. Multiple practice exams are provided during the year to help you become familiar with the structure of the exams and the questions expected. Practice exams are organised with your Supervisor, which are additional to four exams run by the department under strict exam conditions, to simulate the real environment

How often do you run intern tutorials?

Our tutorials run once per week, from 3:30 – 5PM. The program covers clinical topics run by our clinical pharmacists, as well as OTC topics and exam revision. This year, we have also started running research tutorials, to equip you with the tools necessary to undertake a research project. Our tutorial program also incorporates our Nicotine Replacement Therapy and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Credentialing Modules – which help support an extended scope of practice for our pharmacists.

Will I have to work weekends?

Yes, but weekend work only commences a few months into the year and equals out to approximately one in seven.

Can I take annual leave during my intern year?

Yes, you will have one week of annual leave rostered during your intern year!

Does the Alfred have a preference for graduates from a particular University?

No! We hire interns from every University in Victoria and do not discriminate between any of the pharmacy courses. Our interns come from everywhere.

Are you offering the Monash Intern Foundation program?

Yes, the Alfred was a pilot site for the program in 2016 and we will continue to offer this program next year.

Is the Alfred a competitive and stressful place to do my internship?

No! The intern year is already a very stressful and demanding year, and at the Alfred, we try to support you through the process as much as possible. We have a dedicated Education Team to guide you through any tricky parts of the year, and weekly catch-ups as a group to discuss any issues.

Will I have a job at the end of my intern year?

Maybe! This is a very difficult question to answer, as it is hard to predict the future. However, taking into consideration the amount of time and energy we invest in our interns; please be assured that we want to keep you as a pharmacist!

What opportunities do you have for pharmacists staying on?

The Alfred has many opportunities for our pharmacists! We provide multiple further Credentialing Modules to continue expanding your practice, the Alfred Clinical Pharmacy Fellowship Program and a Clinical Pharmacy PhD Program. If you would like any further information on any of these programs, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions!

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