



# Looking for hosts in Blackwater for future doctors

WEDNESDAY 20 AUGUST to SATURDAY 23 AUGUST 2025

140 year 1 medical students from The University of Queensland (UQ) will be attending a 3 day rural community immersion throughout Central Queensland, Darling Downs/South West Queensland and Wide Bay. The program will see them visit local industry, schools, medical centres and hospitals and participate in community activities.

This can be a life-changing experience for the students. Research shows that early introduction to rural medicine and repeat exposure to rural placements positively influences a student's intention to enter the rural workforce.

Living in a rural community is unique, and many of the students will not have had exposure to rural life, or life in your town. Our goal is to provide them with an authentic rural experience that will give them an understanding of what it is like to live in your community, and region, and inspire them to become rural doctors.

## Your commitment

Hosts are asked to provide bedroom/s for 2-4 students for 3 nights, as well as breakfast and some dinners (students can assist with this); live no more than 30min from town and be able to assist with transport to/from town in the morning and evening; share what it is like to live in your town; come along to a Thank You event with the students.

## Homestay families will receive \$150/student

Students may wish to stay in touch following their visit, return to do some seasonal work, medical placements or join a mentoring program connected to the area. As a result of this experience, we hope that some students will wish to return to your town/region or another part of rural/remote Queensland as a doctor in the future.



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### How long do the students require homestay for?

- Students will spend three (3) nights with their homestay family.

### How many students can stay in my home?

- We ask that families take a minimum of two (2) students but ideally no more than four (4).

### How will I know who my students are?

- You will receive an email prior to the event with your assigned student's names and details.
- Students will be invited to contact their homestay family prior to arrival to introduce themselves.
- When you arrive to collect your students, a UQ representative will connect you with your students.

### Can single people host students?

- Yes, single people are more than welcome to host.

### Can students share a bedroom and bathroom?

- Same sex students can share a bedroom but must have their own bed. Bathroom facilities can be shared by all students. We ask that you provide linen be provided for your students.

### Am I expected to arrange activities for the students?

- There will be time scheduled into the program for students to spend with their respective homestay family. Some families use this time to show students around their property, visit community places of interest, or to socialise at home with close family and friends.

### Are there activities that I should attend?

- UQ invites you to join us for a Thank You event for homestay families and community members involved in the program, during the students visit..

### Will I be paid?

- Yes, you will be paid \$150 for each student who stays in your home. Homestay families will be emailed a Homestay Payment Information form before the event to complete and return.

### Do I need to provide meals?

- We ask that breakfast is provided by the homestay family. You will be notified of any special dietary requirements prior to your students arriving.
- A minimum of one (1) group dinner at the University's expense will be provided (see "Am I required to participate in the immersion program?"). We ask for the remaining one or two (1-2) dinners be provided by the homestay family.
- Morning/afternoon tea and lunches are provided to students as part of the program.

### Do I have to provide transport?

- Yes please. Students will need to be picked up from and dropped off at a designated location in your community daily, to be advised closer to the date.

### Are there any activities that students shouldn't be involved in whilst on immersion?

- It is not recommended that students are involved in activities that pose a higher than average risk to student safety.
- Any use of farm equipment (e.g. quad bikes) is prohibited.
- Students are not to engage in activities that they are not licensed, qualified and/or trained to do.

### Will I see the students again?

- The students may choose to return to your community for a clinical placement in the coming years of their study so there may be a second opportunity to become a homestay host with UQ.
- Your UQ rural immersion students will welcome staying connected with you.

### Am I covered by UQ Insurance?

- UQ students will be covered by UQ public liability and personal accident insurances. UQ travel insurance will also apply for the duration of their approved travel. Please request the UQ Student travel brochure if you would like more information about what will and won't be covered.
- If you have concerns about your coverage, please check your existing policy/ies (farm public liability/home and contents) to see what you are covered for.

## For further information, please contact:

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