



Toowoomba Hospital Our People, Our Stories



Toowoomba is a great sized hospital with access to all the core intern rotations for good exposure and learning of the essentials. Very approachable and supportive education and intern support staff. Friendly camaraderie between all the fellow interns and staff. The consultants and registrars are generally supportive, approachable and willing to teach.

As intern hours go, the hospital admin is working to minimise intern fatigue. Low maintenance lifestyle, easy distance to Brisbane if needed.

Dr Emma Lee – Intern 2010



I was attracted to Toowoomba for Intern year for several reasons:

- It has a good reputation for education and an enjoyable workplace/ friendly staff culture.*
- A dedicated social group for junior doctors as well as the opportunity to join other social groups.*
- Financial incentives for working*

in a rural area, including the reimbursement of relocation expenses and HECS Reimbursement Scheme.

- The town is large enough – having plenty of shops and restaurants, but it also doesn't have the traffic woes and chaos that Brisbane has (it's not too big!).*
- Real estate is affordable to rent or buy (as I did – I have a large 3brm duplex in a nice area for about \$250k – you won't find that in Brisbane!).*
- Opportunity to undertake a rural term in your intern year.*
- Small enough group of interns that you're not lost in the crowd – the staff can get to know you personally.*

Dr Lucy Ingram – Intern 2010

Junior Doctor Training

'I am so glad that I came to Toowoomba' is a regular comment from junior doctors after their first few weeks of internship, when they have had time to reflect on their exciting new career.

The Medical Education Unit at Toowoomba Hospital looks after junior doctor training and has established an excellent reputation within the State, being seen to be on the forefront of teaching and learning. Clinical teachers foster ongoing learning and maintain a high standard of professional practice.

As an intern you will be well-supported through regular, personal contact with your peers and this collegial support, together with close supervision in a supportive environment, will enable you to become a confident and skilled practitioner.

The Director of Clinical Training (DCT) and the Medical Education Officers at Toowoomba Hospital are actively involved in guiding and supporting your training. Your progress is continually measured through mid-term and end of term interviews during each of your rotations to ensure that your learning needs and expectations are met and that your work environment and supervision ensure a positive experience. Any concerns are swiftly addressed. The DCT acts as an advocate for junior doctors and offers individual career advice to ensure that you are aware and can take advantage of the many opportunities available to you in planning your future.

About Toowoomba Hospital

Toowoomba Hospital, part of the Darling Downs – West Moreton Health Service District, is a 263 bed hospital providing surgical, orthopaedic, obstetric, paediatric and neonatal care in Special Care Nursery, anaesthesia, intensive care and high dependency care, medicine including oncology and renal, and emergency medicine. The Hospital has a large 57 bed acute Mental Health Unit.

Last year the Emergency Department saw 41,770 presentations of which 18% were admitted. There were 1,864 babies born. A total of 7,256 operations were performed.

The Hospital serves a large catchment area throughout southern inland Queensland including to the South Burnett and South West of the State. About 30% of all patients come from outside Toowoomba city.

The University of Queensland's Rural Clinical School is also based at the Hospital, with 30 third year students and 20 fourth years on campus for their current academic year.

Toowoomba, the Garden City

Well known as the 'Garden City', Toowoomba is home to nearly 100,000 people, and is the regional capital for the Darling Downs, serving a population of more than 250,000 people. Toowoomba is only 125 km west of Brisbane, and is a treasure trove of tradition and culture on the edge of the Great Dividing Range. Experience the four seasons and the colour and amazement in one of the lush parklands or reserves of the city. Toowoomba's climate can best be described as pleasant, with temperature ranges averaging a cool 5° to 16° in winter and a mild 17° to 27° in summer.

<http://www.toowoombaholidays.info/>

Support is the key

Toowoomba is a great place for you to undertake your internship. We understand that if you want good staff to help, you need to provide support. The support and dedication to training is something we are proud of, and hope you will consider when choosing where to work as an intern.

Every day, specialists are providing teaching, rounding and caring with interns and registrars. Almost all of our interns stay with us through their PGY2 year and a number stay on as PHOs or registrars. Our consultants support their juniors' career aspirations.

Toowoomba is a hospital which is working well; staff specialist vacancies are only occasional and the numbers of specialists have increased.

Our rural terms are in hospitals with onsite senior medical officers. Your roles are supernumerary. You get even more hands-on experience in birthing, emergency care, surgical assisting and anaesthesia. We have chosen which hospitals interns go to based on the calibre and stable staffing of our senior doctors.



Good luck with finishing your degree. I look forward to welcoming you to Toowoomba in 2012 as an intern, and supporting you in your future medical career.

Dr Peter Bristow
Executive Director Toowoomba Hospital/
Executive Director Medical Services

Flood Club

The Flood Club is the Resident Medical Officers' Society and has been running for several years. The Club's main function is as a social outlet for members and their families, but it also plays an advocacy role in negotiating with medical administration at times.

The Flood Club is active in organising social events such as bowls days, kegs, trivia nights, balls, and anything else that a member might have a passion for. The events are not exclusively for RMOs. In fact, staff from all streams of the hospital are encouraged to be a part of the club and the festivities.

The Flood Club understands that many of the medical and allied health staff don't have family or friends in Toowoomba initially and aims to encourage social activities and a greater involvement in the community as well. For those considering coming to Toowoomba Hospital, the Flood Club encourages you to make the move and get involved in our flourishing hospital social life.



Dr Alistair Hamilton – President 2011

2012 Intern Term Rotations

Terms available at our facility:

Five terms – four @ 10 weeks and one @ 12 weeks

Core Terms:

- Emergency Medicine
- Medicine (*Available as: General Medicine*)
- Surgery (*Available as: General Surgery, Orthopaedics*)

Elective Terms:

- Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Paediatrics
- Psychiatry
- ENT
- Anaesthetics
- Rural Hospital term (Stanthorpe and Warwick Hospitals)

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Toowoomba

