



A Partnership For Rural Health

Your Rural Medical Pathway Starts Here

La Trobe University and the **University of Melbourne** are proud to offer a transformative rural medical pathway.

This unique partnership **supports regional students** from undergraduate study through to becoming qualified doctors, all within rural Victoria.

Why It Matters

Rural and regional communities face a chronic shortage of medical services. This pathway directly addresses that gap by training future doctors in the communities they'll serve.

**Guaranteed pathway
for rural students to
become rural doctors¹**

Start **STRONG** at La Trobe



Undergraduate studies at La Trobe University

Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Medical)

Locations / course codes:

Albury-Wodonga (SBMMW)
Bendigo (SBMMB)

Duration: 3 years full-time

Intake: Semester 1 (March)

Exclusively for 17 rural and regional students per year

Why study at La Trobe?

- Guaranteed pathway¹ to the Doctor of Medicine (Rural Pathway) at the University of Melbourne
- Designed specifically for rural and regional students, prioritising those who want to return and practise in regional communities.
- Train in Australia's largest rural health school, featuring state-of-the-art laboratories and simulation facilities designed for interprofessional and scenario-based learning, providing authentic rural healthcare experiences
- Small, supported cohort with close academic guidance and a strong sense of community at Bendigo or Albury-Wodonga

Course overview and career outcomes

Learn how cell and molecular biology, biochemistry, anatomy, physiology, pharmacology and immunology are applied to understand and treat disease.

Explore the human body - its structure, function, and how illness develops - along with the drug strategies used to manage disease.

Develop practical skills to investigate the molecular basis of acute and chronic conditions, apply biomedical research methods and communicate scientific information effectively.

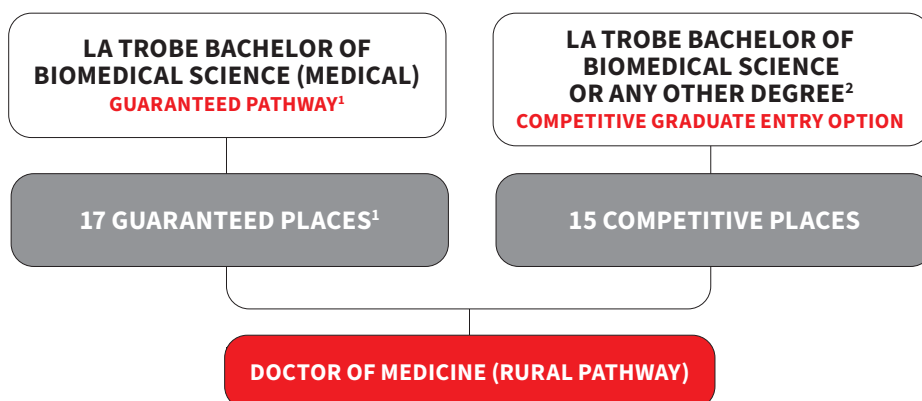
This end-to-end rural medical training program is designed to address the chronic shortage of doctors in rural, regional and remote areas. When you complete your Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Medical) at La Trobe, you'll be guaranteed¹ a Bonded Medical Place in the Doctor of Medicine (Rural Pathway) at the University of Melbourne commencing in Shepparton.

If you don't proceed to the Doctor of Medicine, you'll graduate well-prepared for roles in biomedical, biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries as well as in hospitals and government departments. You will also be suitable for roles in medical sales and health communication.

Eligibility requirements and selection process

- Lived in MMM2-7 rural/regional areas for 5 consecutive or 10 cumulative years, and preferably completed Years 11 and 12 at a regional school
- Minimum ATAR of 80+ (unadjusted)
- VCE Units 3 and 4: 30+ in English (EAL) or 25+ in English
- Timely submission of Rurality Form with appropriate regional living evidence
- Selection via joint La Trobe/UniMelb process including Multi Mini Interviews (MMIs) held in December
- The number of applicants interviewed will depend on size of eligible applicant pool and interview availability
- For full details of admission requirements and selection processes please visit: latrobe.edu.au/courses/bachelor-of-biomedical-science-medical

Contact us:
biomed.medical@latrobe.edu.au



1. The University of Melbourne requires students to have a WAM (weighted average mark) of 70 or higher and a continued commitment to regional living whilst completing the course in order to guarantee a place in the Doctor of Medicine (Rural Pathway) program in Shepparton.

2. Of any undergraduate program at any Australian university.

3. QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024: Medicine; Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject 2024: Clinical and Health.

Advance your medical career at the University of Melbourne

Postgraduate studies at the University of Melbourne

Doctor of Medicine (Rural Pathway)

Location: Shepparton campus first year, options to branch out across Northeast Victoria from second year

Duration: 4 years full-time

Intake: February

32 students: 17 from La Trobe University's Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Medical) degree and 15 regional graduate entry students

Why choose this pathway?

- Entire medical degree delivered in rural Victoria
- Clinical placements in aged care, women's health, child and adolescent health, mental health, and general practice
- Access to world-class training and hospital partnerships
- Melbourne Medical School ranked #1 in Australia and #14 globally for clinical medicine³

Regional graduate entry option

- Any undergraduate degree within 10 years
- Minimum GPA of 5
- Students of rural origin, 5 years continuous or 10 years cumulative
- No GAMSAT required
- Apply directly to the University of Melbourne in May (not through GEMSAS)

Course overview

- **Year 1:** Foundations of clinical practice in Shepparton
- **Year 2:** Clinical placements in Echuca, Shepparton or Wangaratta
- **Year 3:** Rural Pathway specialty training in primary care (aged care, mental health, women's and child health) – in Rural Pathway Longitudinal Placement Locations through northeast Victoria
- **Year 4:** Advanced clinical training at the Rural Clinical School locations



"I was born and raised in Mildura, and my goal has always been to return home as a doctor to serve the community I love. The Rural Medical Pathway offered me an accessible and meaningful way to study medicine alongside other rural students, in communities much like my own.

Over the past seven years, studying through the rural pathway has been the most challenging and rewarding experience of my life. During my time at La Trobe, I had the full university experience — thriving academically, playing local netball, and building lifelong friendships and professional networks. The support and genuine care from university staff made a huge difference, and their commitment to our wellbeing and success made my experience exceptional.

Studying rurally has given me incredible hands-on clinical experience. Training in smaller hospitals meant I was more involved in patient care and had closer relationships with clinicians who were generous with their time and invested in teaching. This has helped me feel confident and well-prepared as I transition into my internship. Staying regional throughout my studies allowed me to remain connected to my community, family, and the lifestyle I value. I'm proud to be returning home to Mildura to begin my medical career, and I know the Rural Medical Pathway has shaped me into the doctor I've always hoped to become."

Dr Abigail Rowe

Rural Medical Pathway graduate



A guaranteed¹ pathway for rural students to become rural doctors



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE



“The pathway gave me the skills, knowledge and connections to serve my community. Training in regional settings has given me the chance to see a wide variety of patients and the experience of healthcare in smaller, close-knit teams. It has shown me how important adaptability, teamwork, and community are in medicine. These experiences have given me a deeper appreciation for both the challenges and the rewards of regional healthcare, and for the strong sense of connection that comes with working in these environments.

Staying regional throughout my studies has made me feel more connected to the communities I’ve lived and worked in. There’s something meaningful about being part of a smaller community where you see familiar faces both inside and outside the hospital.”

— Oscar McGraw, Cohuna

You’ve done the research Now get in touch for expert course advice

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