SHPA Students’ Guide to Hospital Pharmacy Internships in NSW

Written and compiled by SHPA NSW Branch
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Disclaimer

This Guide has been created as an aide to support students applying for NSW hospital pharmacy internship positions. Individuals reading this document should conduct their own research into each job application.

The SHPA NSW branch takes no responsibility for updating this document or for student’s not receiving job applications on the basis of this Guide.

Always address the selection criteria for each individual job application.

Acknowledgements

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Overview: hospitals in New South Wales

Public hospitals

NSW Health is responsible for managing and funding health services in a wide range of settings, from multi-purpose health centres from remote communities to large metropolitan teaching hospitals. There are more than 220 public hospitals and health services in NSW, which provide free health care to Australian citizens and permanent residents. Services provided at public hospitals include emergency care, elective and emergency surgery, medical treatment, maternity services and rehabilitation programs.

NSW public hospitals are broken down into eight Local Health Districts (LHDs) that cover the Sydney metropolitan region and seven LHDs that cover rural and regional New South Wales. In addition, two specialist networks are established which focus on children and paediatric services (Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network) and forensic mental health (Justice and Forensic Mental Health Network). A third network operates across the public health services provided by three Sydney facilities operated by St Vincent’s Health, these include St Vincent’s Hospital and the Sacred Heart Hospice at Darlinghurst, and St Joseph’s at Auburn. For more information go to: http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/lhd/pages/default.aspx

NSW public hospital pharmacy internships

Many NSW public hospitals provide structured training programs for intern pharmacists to provide you with experience in dispensing, clinical services and medicines information. The programs occur during working hours and are conducted alongside the intern training program that you are required to complete to be eligible for registration as a pharmacist. These additional training sessions will assist you to gain the competencies required for registration as pharmacists and specialisation in hospital pharmacy.
Private hospitals

Pharmacy departments within private hospitals are privately owned and operate similarly to a community pharmacy. They usually sell over-the-counter medications, unlike public hospital pharmacies. The largest private hospital groups in Australia include:

- Catholic Health Australia [http://www.cha.org.au/]
- Ramsay Health Care [http://www.ramsayhealth.com.au/]
- St John of God Healthcare [http://www.sjog.org.au/]

NSW private hospital pharmacy internships

NSW private hospital pharmacy internships are very similar to community pharmacy internships. They generally do not have a structured program like the public hospitals.
How to apply for a NSW internship

Public hospitals
NSW Health has an online recruitment system, called eRecruit, where you can submit your application online. After you submit your application online you are notified of its receipt immediately. You may also track the progress of your application throughout the recruitment process and can elect to be notified when certain positions become available in the future. A further benefit to applying online is that you can build your profile with your resume/curriculum vitae, copies of your qualifications and credentialing that can be used when applying for other positions in the future.

You can make an account with eRecruit and subscribe to new job alerts. Typically, public hospitals advertise for two weeks whilst some rural hospitals may advertise for longer. It is important to pay careful attention to the closing date as late applications are rarely accepted. Additionally, it is worth keeping a copy of the position reference number and recording the hospitals you have applied for in a table to track changes. Occasionally candidates may be invited to an interview via an email that merely quotes the reference number.

The recruitment process includes: advertising the vacancy, short-listing applicants, interviews, conducting referee checks, undertaking employment screening (criminal record check, NSW Health Service Check Register and employment health assessment) and offering the position to the preferred applicant(s). Although a separate application must be submitted for each position you wish to apply for, some hospitals may choose to conduct their interviews together.

For the latest vacancies, visit [https://nswhealth.erecruit.com.au/](https://nswhealth.erecruit.com.au/)
Intern positions are also advertised at:

Private hospitals
Recruitment for private hospitals is similar to recruitment for community pharmacies, as they are privately owned. These jobs are not advertised via NSW Health but are usually advertised on job search websites such as Seek and pharmjobs.com.au. Also, like many community pharmacies, some jobs may not be advertised and it is recommended that you contact the private hospital pharmacy directly about future internships.

Relevant websites include:
Other states and territories

In the public sector, every state and territory has a different process for recruiting pharmacy interns. Some states and territories have only one application for all their hospitals and one interview to prioritise their candidates. Other states and territories, like NSW, advertise each position individually and require a separate application and interview for each hospital. This process can change year-to-year and if you’re interested in moving interstate, visit the relevant health department recruitment websites for further details. It is important to remember that although NSW advertise their positions around August and September every year, other states and territories can advertise as early as February.

Relevant public sector websites:

Many hospitals receive over 150 applications for only one to three positions, so it is important that you stand out. If you want to get a job you must prepare for your interview. Read the selection criteria for the position and think about a real-life example of how you have proven you meet each criterion. Read the SHPA Standards of Practice for Clinical Pharmacy Services. Practice answering typical interview questions (see below). And of course, dress neatly and turn up to your interview on time.

Some standard interview questions include:

- Tell us about yourself?
- Why do you want to work at this hospital?
- Why should we choose you for this position?
- Why do you want to be a hospital pharmacist?
- Where do you see yourself in 5 years time?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- Tell us about a time when you demonstrated:
  - Initiative?
  - Good communication skills?
  - Teamwork?
  - Time management skills?
  - Problem solving skills?

You could also be asked about some standard clinical scenarios such as:

- Identify issues with a medication chart and contact the prescriber if necessary
- Counsel on a new medication to a patient/carer
- Demonstrate how to use a device
- Time management and prioritising tasks

**Always address how you meet the selection criteria for each individual job application.**
As an intern, you can apply for a special 18-month membership. You do not have to work in a hospital to be a member. SHPA’s membership is diverse, reflecting changes in health care. In addition to hospitals, members work in community pharmacy, academia, research, industry, government, consultant pharmacy and a range of quality use of medicines projects, medication safety, clinical governance and medicines management programs. SHPA is the only professional pharmacy organisation with an especially strong base of members practising in public and private hospitals and other facilities. Young pharmacists make up a third of all hospital pharmacy positions, many of whom are leading change.

### What SHPA can offer you

SHPA can offer the following

- You can use SHPA materials to prepare for important job interviews and show that you are a ‘current, informed and connected’ pharmacist.
- Exclusive to SHPA members, shpacpd supports your lifelong practice as a current, informed and connected pharmacist and helps you meet annual CPD requirements with access to the following resources:
  - Continuing education lectures on DVD and online with online assessment questions.
  - Free subscription to the Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research.
  - SHPA e-news and national bulletins that provide timely updates.
  - Online resources such as the Medicines Information Training Workbook, Paediatric Pharmacy Learning Package and Leadership and Management courses.
  - Clinical pharmacy seminars, face-to-face lectures, symposiums and conferences.
  - The SHPA networks are a great way for young pharmacists to identify role models and mentors.
  - Opportunities to work on SHPA committees with like-minded colleagues and specialists to advance pharmacy services and practice standards.
  - SHPA’s annual national medicines management conference attracts hundreds of delegates and includes more than 200 short papers and posters, many coming from young pharmacists.
- You can also keep up-to-date with the profession by following SHPA on [Twitter](https://twitter.com), [Facebook](https://facebook.com), [Google+](https://googleplus.com) and [LinkedIn](https://linkedin.com).
- Visit [www.shpa.org/Join](http://www.shpa.org/Join) to find out more.
For the purpose of this hospital pharmacy internship guide, only public hospitals will be presented as the number of pharmacy internships offered at private hospitals may vary depending on ownership and managerial changes. Nearly 30 hospitals in the NSW public sector offer pharmacy internship positions.

**Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital**

Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital is a principal referral hospital forming part of the South Western Sydney Local Health District. The hospital has been designed to offer quality care in modern, purpose-built facilities. The hospital has teaching and research links to the University of New South Wales, University of Sydney and University of Western Sydney.

**Number of beds**

433 beds.

**Specialties offered**

Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital offers a wide range of general medical and surgical services and sub-specialty services. They include an oncology unit, coronary care unit, dialysis unit, emergency department, acute aged care and aged psychiatry units, intensive care unit, paediatric unit, psychiatric unit and a rehabilitation ward. The hospital also runs various outpatient clinics including a diabetes centre, eye clinic, hepatology clinic, drug and alcohol clinic, gastroenterology clinic, anorectal clinic, respiratory clinic and a renal clinic. The hospital has recently been recognised for its specialised 24/7 acute stroke thrombolysis centre.

**Number of internships usually offered:**

Two positions.

**Highlights from their intern training program:**

In adjunct to the Intern Training Program, Bankstown Hospital provides graduates with exposure to a variety of specialty settings and dispensary procedures. Opportunities to provide clinical interventions during ward rounds and offer education or advice in regards to drug enquiries. Opportunities to participate in quality improvement activities within the hospital.

**Website**

Blue Mountains Hospital

The Blue Mountains Hospital is part of the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District. It is located in Katoomba and operates in conjunction with Springwood Hospital. Outpatient clinics and services operating at the hospital include hydrotherapy, physiotherapy, dental, antenatal, psychiatry and sexual health.

**Number of beds**
86 beds.

**Specialties offered**
The hospital offers general medicine, maternity, mental health, palliative care, rehabilitation and respiratory services.

**Number of internships usually offered**
One position.

**Website**

Concord Repatriation General Hospital

Concord Repatriation General Hospital is part of the Sydney Local Health District. Concord Hospital is located on the Parramatta River near the Sydney Olympics Homebush site. It was formerly administered by The Department of Veterans’ Affairs until July 1993, when Concord was officially integrated into the New South Wales Health System and renamed Concord Repatriation General Hospital. It maintains its links with the veteran’s community.

**Number of beds**
550 beds in the main hospital plus 180 at the Concord Centre for Mental Health.

**Specialties offered**
The hospital offers a comprehensive range of specialty and sub specialty services including a number of tertiary and secondary referral services. Many of these are recognised throughout Australia as centres of excellence. They include the burns unit, colorectal surgery unit, the molecular biology and genetics laboratory, the aged and extended care department, the bone and mineral unit and gastroenterology unit.

The pharmacy department provides all services associated with a major teaching hospital including inpatient and outpatient dispensing, clinical pharmacy, investigational drugs, aseptic and cytotoxic production and quality activities.

**Number of internships usually offered**
Two or three positions.
Highlights from their intern training program

- A rotation may be offered between Concord Repatriation General Hospital and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. There may also be a rotation at the Concord Centre for Mental Health and rotation at the oncology pharmacy.
- Opportunity to experience a number of wards following clinical pharmacists including cardiology, ICU, urology, orthopaedics, neurology, respiratory, burns unit, renal, colorectal and gastroenterology.
- Opportunity to participate in various educational sessions including training junior medical doctors and the new graduate nurses. There is also the opportunity to attend weekly grand rounds.
- Intensive tutorials covering clinical, legal and primary health care topics.

Website

Dubbo Base Hospital

Dubbo Hospital forms part of Western NSW Local health district that services more than 40 geographical locations. The city of Dubbo is located in the central western area of NSW and is situated approximately 410 km northwest of Sydney. Modern-day Dubbo is ideally located at the intersection of major routes for road, rail and air transport. Continual growth has seen the city’s population exceed 41,000, with a catchment population in excess of 120,000. Dubbo Health Service is a major rural referral health service within the region, providing a range of inpatient and outpatient services including a twenty-four hour emergency department.

Number of beds
Approximately 100 to 200 beds.

Specialties offered
The major services catered for by Dubbo hospital include emergency, obstetrics, imaging, pathology, surgery, mental health unit, dialysis, paediatrics, intensive and high dependency care, diabetes, specialist medical centre, coronary care, oncology, physiotherapy, ambulatory care and breast screens.

Number of internships usually offered
One or two positions.

Website
**Gosford & Wyong Hospital**

These hospitals are part of the Central Coast Local Health District.

**Number of beds**

Gosford Hospital has 500 beds.

Wyong Hospital has approximately 300 beds.

**Specialties offered**

Gosford Hospital is the main hospital within the Central Coast Local Health District offering a range of specialties including: the mixed renal, endocrine and gastroenterology ward; cardiac; respiratory; neurology; geriatrics; maternity; paediatrics; mixed medical and surgical wards. Gosford hospital has one of the busiest emergency departments in the state with more than 60,000 presentations each year. With intensive care and coronary care units, Gosford caters for patients requiring critical care.

The hospital also has an onsite mental health ward and an outpatient service for Special Access Scheme (SAS), section 100 and clinical trial medications. The cancer care pharmacy caters for an oncology ward, with pharmacists manufacturing cytotoxic medications as well reviewing chemotherapeutic regimens.

Wyong Hospital is the most northern hospital within the Central Coast Local Health District and is located within the suburb of Kanwal. It provides: medical, surgical, maternity, geriatric, mental health and rehabilitation services. The Gosford Hospital intern position incorporates a six-week rotation at Wyong Hospital where dispensing, clinical ward activities, manufacturing, teaching and research are a major focus of the training program.

Long Jetty and Woy Woy are smaller hospitals within the Central Coast Local Health District with a major focus on rehabilitation and transition from hospital care to community-based treatment. Overall, specialties provided on the Central Coast include: respiratory, palliative care, oncology, neurology, renal, geriatrics, paediatrics, maternity, emergency, intensive care, general medicine and surgical, ophthalmology, ENT, orthopaedics, psychiatric, ambulatory care, cardiac, gastroenterology and acute and chronic pain.

**Number of internships usually offered**

Three positions.

**Highlights from their intern training program**

- six to eight week rotation at Wyong Hospital
- facilitating patient medication information seminars
- helping provide junior medical officer education programs
- rotation in pharmaceutical manufacturing
- extensive clinical training in ward based scenarios
- dedicated staff and resources specifically available to interns
• relaxed central coast lifestyle.

Websites

Goulburn Base Hospital

Goulburn Base Hospital is part of the ACT Network. It is approximately two hours’ drive from Sydney and an hour's drive from Canberra.

Number of beds
Approximately 250 beds.

Specialties offered
The hospital provides acute care services including acute medical, surgical, intensive care and mental health.

Number of internships usually offered
One position.

Highlights from their intern training program
Experience in both hospital and community pharmacies.

Website
**John Hunter Hospital**

This hospital forms part of the Hunter New England Local Health District. The John Hunter Hospital is a major tertiary referral and teaching hospital and is one of only four major trauma centres in NSW, which means it provides expertise in a range of medical fields. John Hunter is located in New Lambton, Newcastle, which is approximately 150 km from Sydney.

John Hunter Hospital also houses one of three designated children's hospitals in NSW. Services include a neonatal intensive care unit, general paediatrics, surgery and trauma, adolescent and day stay facilities.

The pharmacy department employs approximately 70 people, including 22 pharmacists' positions (as full time or part time work). The department provides all the comprehensive services associated with a major tertiary referral hospital including clinical pharmacy services, drug distribution, dispensing, drug information, clinical trials, and the provision of comprehensive extemporaneous and sterile manufacturing and cytotoxic re-constitution.

**Number of beds**

Approximately 650 beds.

**Specialties offered**

Infectious diseases, neurology, coronary care, renal transplant, adolescent mental health, gastroenterology, aged care and rehab, endocrinology, orthopaedic surgery, general medicine, respiratory, intensive care, cardiac surgery, emergency medicine, obstetrics and gynaecology services.

**Number of internships usually offered**

Two positions.

**Highlights from their intern training program**

- Intern rotation throughout the year involves two weeks on the wards shadowing pharmacists alternating with two weeks in the dispensary, providing medication counselling to patients and carers. Specialty clinical pharmacist areas include Neurology, Intensive Care, Renal, Cardiology, Infectious Diseases, Paediatrics, Surgery, General Medicine and Geriatrics.
- Key training opportunities include regular tutorials coordinated by the district pharmacy educator to develop clinical skills and hospital specific knowledge. There is also the opportunity to attend medical Grand Rounds and weekly Continuing Education sessions.

**Website**


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**Lismore Base Hospital**

Lismore Base Hospital forms part of the Northern NSW Local Health District. It is a regional referral hospital, providing care to over 23,700 patients every year. The hospital undertakes over 8,100 surgical procedures annually.

**Number of beds**

Approximately 250 to 500 beds.
Specialties offered
Lismore Base Hospital provides a range of services including cancer treatment, coronary care, dialysis unit, emergency, intensive care, obstetrics, orthopaedics, paediatric unit and psychiatric services.

Number of internships usually offered
One position.

Website

Liverpool Hospital

Liverpool Hospital is the lead hospital servicing the population of the South Western Sydney Local Health District. The hospital, provides health services to a culturally diverse and expanding population of over 850,000 people. The pharmacy department offers the full range of pharmacy services, including numerous outpatient clinics in a busy and ever-changing environment. The Ingham Institute of Applied Medical Research is the new research facility partnering with Liverpool Hospital with a team of 200 leading researchers and clinicians.

Number of beds
858 beds

Specialties offered
Liverpool Hospital provides an extensive range of services in many areas of medicine, surgery, emergency medicine, trauma, critical care, mental health, drug and alcohol, oncology, aged care, brain injury rehabilitation, obstetrics and gynaecology, neonatology and paediatrics.

The pharmacy department provides a clinical pharmacy service, as well as the full range of dispensing services to inpatients and outpatients of the hospital, including an investigational drugs service, aseptic and cytotoxic service.

Number of internships usually offered:
Two positions.

Website

Maitland Hospital

The Maitland Hospital services the Upper and Lower Hunter Regions including Maitland, Cessnock, Kurri Kurri, Singleton, Muswellbrook, Dungog and Raymond Terrace. The hospital is located 35 minutes from Newcastle.

Number of beds
158 beds.

Specialties offered
Maitland Hospital provides a comprehensive range of services including medical and rehabilitation, surgical and day surgery,
maternity and child, mental health, dental, renal and diagnostic services. It also includes an adult coronary care and high dependency unit. Allied health service offered by the hospital includes occupational therapy, speech pathology, dietetics, psychology, physiotherapy and social work services.

Number of internships usually offered

One position.

Website


Manly Hospital & Mona Vale Hospital

Manly and Mona Vale hospitals are situated on Sydney’s scenic northern beaches. Mona Vale Hospital, together with Manly Hospital, forms the Northern Beaches Health Service.

Mona Vale Hospital and its community health services have served the local community since 1964. The rapidly developing pharmacy teams are dedicated to delivering excellent patient care with expanding roles, such as placements within emergency medical units.

Number of beds

Manly Hospital has 217 beds.
Mona Vale Hospital has 156 beds.

Specialties offered

The hospitals provide acute care services, including orthopaedic, medical, surgical, paediatric, mental health, emergency and intensive care. Non-acute inpatient services include adolescent counselling, dental and podiatry clinics, rehabilitation and aged care services. Outpatient services include mental health, drug and alcohol, oncology and renal dialysis clinics.

Number of internships usually offered

One position.

Highlights from their intern training program

• As the only intern working between both hospitals, expect to be rotated between each hospital every few months. This provides immediate variety in the workplace as well as the opportunity to work with different pharmacists in a variety of specialties and facilities.
• There is also an extensive learning plan with many resources carefully assigned to you by both of your site-specific preceptors.
• Key training opportunities: observe specific pharmacy services such as an established infectious diseases pharmacy program and newly implemented mental health services at the Manly mental health unit.
• Several off-site work experience activities are arranged including time at McBeath’s manufacturing company and fortnightly tutorials with interns at Royal North Shore Pharmacy department.
• As the site assigned for piloting an exciting new online medication management system there is also opportunity to better understand how technology advances impact on medication use in smaller hospitals.
• The very nature of a smaller public hospital environment is charming and it is easy to become familiar with co-workers from other backgrounds. Furthermore the beach is only a five minute walk away, and a great way to spend summer after work.
Websites

Manning Hospital

Manning Hospital is situated in Taree and part of the Hunter New England Local Health District. It provides a broad range of specialist services to the residents of Greater Taree, Great Lakes and Gloucester areas.

Number of beds
160 beds.

Specialties offered
The hospital provides acute care services including cardiology, gastroenterology, general medicine, general surgery, renal medicine, maternity, ophthalmology and orthopaedics.

Number of internships usually offered
One position.

Website

Moruya Hospital

Moruya Hospital is part of the Southern NSW Local Health District. Moruya is situated 326 km south of Sydney, on the banks of the Moruya River.

Number of beds
Approximately 100 beds.

Specialties offered
The hospital provides acute care services including general medicine, general surgery, renal medicine and maternity.

Number of internships usually offered
One position.

Website

Orange Health Service

The Orange Health Service is an amalgamation of Orange Hospital and Bloomfield Hospital. It is a major rural referral health service located in central western NSW, three and a half hours drive from Sydney.

Number of beds
Approximately 200 to 500 beds.
Specialties offered

Orange Health Service provides a range of specialties including cardiology, gastroenterology, general medicine, renal medicine, maternity, orthopaedics, cancer care services and rehabilitation. The Bloomfield campus specialises in mental health, and provides one of the largest mental health inpatient services in regional Australia.

Number of internships usually offered

One position.

Website


Prince of Wales Hospital

Prince of Wales Hospital is a teaching hospital for the University of NSW and is located near a number of beautiful beaches in the eastern suburbs of Sydney (5 minutes from Coogee Beach and 15 minutes from Bondi Beach). It is approximately 8 km from the city. The Prince of Wales Hospital also incorporates The Prince of Wales Private Hospital, The Royal Hospital for Women and Sydney Children’s Hospital.

Number of beds

Prince of Wales Hospital has 440 beds.
Sydney Children’s Hospital has approximately 100 to 200 beds.

Specialties offered

Prince of Wales Hospital treats patients in most of the major adult specialties including cardiology, cardio-thoracic, neurology, neurosurgery, renal and renal transplant, emergency, intensive care, oncology, orthopaedics, gastroenterology, vascular and HIV medicine. The hospital has a large ambulatory care HIV centre (the Albion Street Centre) where there is a satellite pharmacy department.

Number of internships usually offered

Two to four positions.

Highlights from their intern training program

- Opportunities for vast clinical exposure at the largest hospital campus in Australia.
- Clinical rotations include key specialty wards at Prince of Wales and secondments to Sydney Children’s Hospital, Royal Hospital for Women and The Albion Centre.
- Numerous training activities including a two week research project rotation and monthly intern tutorials.
- There is also a seven week sterile manufacturing rotation that incorporates total parenteral nutrition, paediatric oncology and adult oncology clinical pharmacy services.

Website

Port Macquarie Hospital

Port Macquarie Hospital forms part of the Mid North Coast Local Health District (MNCLHD). The MNCLHD covers the following regions: Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo, Kempsey, Laurieton, Macksville, Port Macquarie, South West Rocks and Wauchope.

Port Macquarie is the major metropolitan hub of the Hastings Macleay region located on the scenic mid north coast of New South Wales where the Hastings River meets the Pacific Ocean, and is an easy four hours’ drive north of Sydney.

Port Macquarie Community Health Service provides a mix of prevention, early intervention, assessment, treatment, health maintenance and continuing care services to improve or maintain the health and well-being of individuals and participation in community development activities with community groups and other agencies.

**Number of beds**

Approximately 100 to 200 beds.

**Specialties offered**

The hospital includes specialist units for general medicine, surgery, day surgery, planned and emergency theatre service, coronary care, intensive care, obstetrics, paediatrics, emergency department, oncology, palliative care, rehabilitation, stroke, acute renal dialysis, high dependency and mental health and extensive range of outpatient clinics.

**Number of internships offered**

One position.

**Website**


Royal North Shore & Ryde Hospital

Part of the Northern Sydney Local Health District, Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) is tertiary referral teaching hospital is situated in the northern suburbs of Sydney. RNSH, together with Ryde Hospital, forms the North Shore Ryde Health Service.

Clinical pharmacy services are provided to almost all wards, the pre-admission clinic and the emergency department.

**Number of beds**

Ryde Hospital has 170 beds.
Royal North Shore Hospital has 600 beds.

**Specialties offered**

There is the main inpatient pharmacy as well as an outpatient/clinical trials pharmacy. There is also a specialised oncology pharmacy, an aseptic manufacturing suite, and a medicines information centre.

RNSH is a principal tertiary referral centre as well as a trauma centre. Some of the state-wide clinical services
RNSH is responsible for include:

- Severe burn injury
- Neonatal intensive care
- Spinal cord injury
- Interventional neuroradiology.

The Kolling Institute of Medical Research is located on the RNSH campus. Researchers and clinicians are involved in practical medical research, designed to bring breakthroughs in the laboratory to the patients’ bedside.

**Number of internships usually offered**

Three positions.

**Highlights from their intern training program**

- The clinical rotation program is split across two sites between Royal North Shore Hospital and Ryde Hospital, so you get experience both in a major teaching hospital and in a smaller hospital
- You’ll start your internship by first observing pharmacy services and then assume a patient case load on the wards under clinical supervision. You’ll gain experience in inpatient and outpatient pharmacy dispensing, and in a variety of wards from medical and surgical to rehabilitation
- You will have a number of different senior pharmacists as mentors in addition to having a very experienced and approachable preceptor providing fantastic guidance and support throughout the year.
- There is a fortnightly intern tutorial to improve your clinical knowledge and skills in addition to fortnightly department-wide education seminars on a variety of topics. You’ll also have the opportunity to conduct a research project such as an audit on prescribing patterns.

**Websites**


**Royal Prince Alfred Hospital**

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital is situated in Camperdown approximately 3.5 km from the CBD. Formed in 1882, the hospital is one of Australia’s major referral centres and the prime teaching facility of the University of Sydney.

The pharmacy department provides all services associated with a major teaching hospital including inpatient and outpatient dispensing, clinical pharmacy, investigational drugs, drug information, aseptic and cytotoxic production and quality activities. The department runs an extensive continuing education program and is heavily involved in the teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate students from various universities.

**Number of beds**

Approximately 700 beds.

**Specialties offered**

Royal Prince Alfred’s comprehensive range of services includes cardiology, cardiothoracic, emergency and intensive care, gastrointestinal, head and neck care, renal and respiratory medicine, liver and kidney transplant, oncology and haematology, rheumatology and orthopaedics, obstetrics and neonatal, vascular and neurology expertise, diagnostic imaging and interventional radiology.
Number of internships usually offered
One to two positions.

Highlights from their intern training program
- One week rotation may be offered between Concord Repatriation General Hospital & Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.
- Rotation through all areas within the pharmacy department. Rotation through hospital wards with a supervising pharmacist.
- The Pharmacy also has a strong commitment to continuing professional development and as a pharmacist intern you would be expected to contribute.

Website

St George Hospital

This hospital is part of the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District. St George Hospital is a large tertiary referral and teaching hospital, and one of Sydney’s designated major trauma centres.

Number of beds
550 beds.

Specialties offered
The major specialties provided by St George include cancer care, endocrinology, emergency medicine, intensive care, cardiology, neurosurgery, orthopaedics, immunology, infectious diseases and renal medicine. The pharmacy offers a wide range of clinical and distributive services, and has a busy cytotoxic compounding service, as well as extensive clinical trials support.

Number of internships usually offered
Two positions.

Highlights from their intern training program
- You’ll rotate through each of the hospital wards with a supervising pharmacist and eventual progression to servicing a ward independently.
- A session at the cancer care pharmacy with hands-on experience, assisting with aseptic manufacturing in sterile hood.
- The busy dispensary will teach you effective communication, teamwork and problem-solving skills.
- St George Hospital offers a wupportive learning environment that instils the concept of lifelong learning and continual education through grand rounds, CE talks, drug company talks, in-service and intern tutorials.
- The hospital is a very strong advocate for antimicrobial stewardship.

Website
St Vincent’s Hospital

St Vincent’s Public Hospital (St Vincent’s Health Network) is a tertiary teaching hospital servicing the inner city area of Sydney and providing a highly specialised referral centre for regional areas of NSW. The hospital has been at the forefront of innovations in cardiac, lung and bone marrow transplant, HIV/AIDS, oncology, palliative care, psychiatry, renal medicine and other specialties. The Pharmacy Department provides a clinical pharmacy service to inpatients and outpatients of SVH. The Pharmacy is co-located with the Department of Clinical Pharmacology in the Therapeutics Centre.

**Number of beds**

320 beds

**Specialties offered**

Specialties offered include cardiology; cardiothoracic surgery; heart, lung and bone marrow transplant; oncology and haematology; HIV and infectious diseases; intensive care; palliative care and rehabilitation; general surgery; geriatrics; psychiatry; neurology; respiratory medicine and community heart failure. SVH also houses one of Australia’s busiest emergency departments.

**Number of internships usually offered**

One to two positions

**Highlights from their intern training program**

- As an intern pharmacist you will work with a team of enthusiastic pharmacists with a range of clinical experience and you will be rotated through the different areas of the pharmacy.
- The pharmacy also has a strong commitment to continuing professional development and research in pharmacy practice and as a pharmacist intern, you would be expected to contribute.

**Website**


Sutherland Hospital

Sutherland Hospital is part of the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District and is located in Caringbah, a southern suburb of Sydney approximately 45 minutes from the city. The Sutherland Hospital was established in 1958 and has become a major metropolitan hospital. It mainly services the Sutherland Shire populations of 216,000, with 98% of patients living within the local area.

**Number of beds**

Approximately 300 beds.

**Specialties offered**

Sutherland Hospital offers a comprehensive range of services including orthopaedics, geriatrics, mental health, respiratory, oncology, cardiology, obstetrics, paediatrics, rehabilitation, intensive care and dialysis.
**Number of internships usually offered**

One position.

**Highlights from their intern training program**

- The Sutherland Hospital is a supportive environment with an enthusiastic team of pharmacists who encourage you to learn and develop your skills. You’ll get to work on different hospital specialty wards including neurology, oncology, cardiology, respiratory, gastroenterology, surgical, orthopaedics, intensive care, rehabilitation and aged care.
- The busy dispensary will develop your clinical knowledge and clinical review skills.
- You’ll get to attend medical and nursing meetings on the wards, as well as clinical education sessions and participate in weekly tutorials at St George Hospital.
- When you’re ready, you’ll also provide pharmacy services and be responsible for your own ward during your internship.
- You’ll interact with outpatients and process prescriptions for specialised medications including Section 100 and SAS drugs.

**Website**


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**Sydney Hospital & Sydney Eye Hospital**

Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital is Australia’s oldest hospital, and traces its beginnings back to 1788. Located in historic Macquarie Street the hospital is dominated by a series of magnificent buildings constructed in 1894.

The Pharmacy Department provides a comprehensive clinical pharmacy service, supplies medicines to inpatients and outpatients, provides medicines information and aseptic dispensing. The diverse specialties offered at Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital enable pharmacists to gain experience in the fields of ophthalmology, drug & alcohol, HIV, sexual health, hand surgery and general medicine to form part of a motivated and supportive multi-disciplinary team.

**Number of beds**

113 beds.

**Specialties offered**

Services provided by the hospital include: a state-wide tertiary referral facility for ophthalmology, a specialised hand surgery unit, general medicine and ENT surgery. The Sydney Eye Hospital is a quaternary referral unit, providing surgical and medical management of vitreo-retinal, corneal, glaucoma, oculo-plastic and oculo-oncology conditions.

**Number of internships usually offered**

One position.

**Highlights from their intern training program**

- The intern training program at Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital is structured to give you training in all aspects of pharmacy practice.
- You’ll get hands-on experience dispensing S100 drugs and counselling patients in the outpatient setting. You’ll also dispense medicines for clinical trials and medicines supplied via the SAS scheme.
- In the initial months you will accompany a pharmacist to wards and receive training in general medicine, drug and alcohol, ophthalmology and hand surgery.
- When competent, you will assume responsibility for the hand surgery ward and then general medicine patients. You will have the opportunity to participate in the monthly training intern sessions conducted at Prince of Wales Hospital.

**Website**


**Tamworth Hospital**

Tamworth Hospital is a major referral hospital providing services to north western NSW. It is part of the Hunter New England Local Health District.

**Number of beds**

288 beds.

**Specialties offered**

The hospital has specialist wards in general medicine, critical care, obstetrics, paediatrics, oncology, palliative care, rehabilitation, mental health and renal medicine.

**Number of internships usually offered**

Two positions.

**Website**


**The Children’s Hospital at Westmead**

The Children’s Hospital is part of a major health campus in the suburb of Westmead. It is located close to Parramatta and about 20 kilometres from Sydney Central Business District. The Children’s Hospital is a stand-alone service dedicated to paediatrics. It is one of the most well respected paediatric centres in the world, reaching beyond its walls to care for children in country areas and in their own homes.

It cares for patients from newborns to adolescents, with problems as simple as tonsillitis or as complex as cardiac disease needing open–heart surgery. A centralised pharmacy service aims to provide clinical and drug distribution services to all beds. Patients throughout the State of NSW receive dispensed drugs from the Outpatients service.

Patient safety is a primary focus of the pharmacy service and hospital pharmacists play an active role in the hospital’s Service Improvement Unit, whenever pharmaceuticals are discussed. The pharmacy provides teaching in paediatric pharmacology to students from many Universities both in an undergraduate and post-graduate format.

**Number of beds**

Approximately 300 beds.
Specialties offered
The Children’s Hospital at Westmead offers a vast array of specialty and sub-specialty areas, including but not limited to general medicine, surgical and orthopaedics, paediatric intensive care, gastroenterology, cardiology, neurology, burns and plastics, oncology, hepatic and renal transplants, mental health and psychological medicine, infectious diseases and neonatal care.

Number of internships usually offered
Two positions.

Highlights from their intern training program
• Completing an internship at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead provides a unique and highly specialised experience, distinct from most hospital positions. As one of the key paediatric facilities in the state, interns are exposed to the vast array of medical services and specialties required to cater for the individual needs of children.
• Following appropriate training and competency assessment, interns have the opportunity to provide a dedicated clinical pharmacy service on the cardiology ward and burns and plastics unit on a rotational basis.
• Unique clinical rotations in the cystic fibrosis clinic and pain management ward rounds.
• Opportunities to undertake clinical research.

Website
http://www.chw.edu.au/

Wagga Wagga Base Hospital
Wagga Wagga Base Hospital is the largest referral hospital within Greater Southern Area Health Service and one of the busiest rural referral hospitals in NSW, with approximately 17,500 admissions, 700 births and 6,800 operations each year.

Number of beds
242 beds.

Specialties offered
Wagga Wagga Base Hospital provides a broad range of specialties including medical, surgical, maternity, paediatric cardiology, gastroenterology, renal medicine, orthopaedic and rehabilitation services.

Number of internships usually offered
One position.

Website
Wollongong & Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital

Wollongong and Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital are located in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health district. Wollongong Hospital is located approximately one and a half hours travelling time from Sydney on the south coast of NSW. Wollongong Hospital is the Illawarra and Shoalhaven’s major referral and teaching hospital. Its Emergency Department is one of the busiest in New South Wales with around 50,000 presentations each year.

The pharmacy department offers a full range of inpatient and outpatient services, clinical pharmacy, clinical trials, and aseptic and cytotoxic services.

Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital is located in Nowra, approximately two hours’ drive from Sydney. The Hospital cares for 20343 patients every year. It is affiliated with The University of Wollongong and University of NSW.

**Number of beds**

Wollongong Hospital has approximately 500 beds.
Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital has approximately 100-200 beds.

**Specialties offered**

The specialties of Wollongong hospital include maternal, neonatal, paediatric, intensive care, emergency, nephrology, orthopaedic, gastroenterology, coronary care, respiratory medicine, mental health, renal and cardiology services. Wollongong Hospital also has the Illawarra Regional Cancer Care Centre, which is the largest cancer centre of the south coast.

Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital provides acute care services in gastroenterology, general medicine, general surgery, infectious diseases, renal medicine, maternity, ophthalmology and respiratory. It includes an intensive care ward, children’s ward and obstetrics unit.

**Number of internships usually offered**

One position at Wollongong.
One position at Shoalhaven.

**Highlights from their intern training program**

- Vast exposure to clinical situations including four-week rotations to cardiology, renal, ICU, cancer care, neurology and geriatric medicine.
- Rotations of two weeks to various general medical and surgical wards, emergency, Port Kembla Hospital and medical assessment unit.
- Full training in all aspects of the hospital pharmacy dispensary including S8s, Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN), sterile preparation, Extemporaneous preparation of pharmaceutical products and Inpatient, Discharge and Outpatient dispensing.
- Participation in weekly pharmacotherapeutic tutorials with University of Wollongong phase three medical students.
- Weekly tutorials with senior pharmacists on a variety of topics relevant to the hospital intern. Formalised inter-professional learning through the Illawarra Shoalhaven Health Education Centre.

**Websites**