Bachelor of Health Science Rural Background Criteria

For the purpose of admission to the Bachelor of Health Science program, rural background is defined as primary residency for 5 years consecutively or 10 years cumulatively in an Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Area (RA) 2-5.

If you have lived in an Australian rural area, ASGS-RA 2 to 5, for 5 years consecutively or 10 years cumulatively, you may be eligible for consideration in rural schemes and sub-quotas. You will need to complete the Rurality Section in the Bachelor of Health Science Supplementary Form and then submit supporting documentation with your application. You can check your ASGS-RA status by clicking here.

The ASGS-RA Classification System

The ANU will use the ASGS-RA guidelines in the processing of Rurality Claims for admission to the Bachelor of Health Science. Similar guidelines are also used by the Graduate Entry Medical School Admissions System (GEMSAS) in the processing of Rurality Claims for admission to postgraduate medicine programs.

The ASGS-RA is a geographical classification tool developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The purpose of the RA structure is to classify data from census collection districts into broad geographical categories, called Remoteness Areas (RAs). The RA categories are defined in terms of ‘remoteness’ – the physical distance of a location from the nearest urban centre based on population size. Under this classification system remoteness is updated each census. The most recent classification is the one by which we will assess your rurality.

The ASGS-RA system is made up of 5 categories:

- RA-1 Major city
- RA-2 Inner regional
- RA-3 Outer regional
- RA-4 Remote
- RA-5 Very remote

If you have lived in an ASGS-RA 2-5 area for 5 years consecutively or 10 years cumulatively and wish to be considered for rural schemes and sub-quotas, you will need to provide documentary evidence to substantiate your claim. You can check your ASGS-RA status by clicking here.

Supporting Documentation

The following types of supporting documents are acceptable to provide:

1. A letter from your GP, School, University or Workplace which verifies your primary rural living address.
2. Documents that show your primary rural living address e.g. invoices for car insurance, electricity, gas and phone bills, rental receipts and bank statements.

Both need to demonstrate that you have lived at an address within a RA2-5 location for 5 years consecutively or 10 years cumulatively. This does not have to be at the same address as long as all of the addresses that you are claiming for are within a RA2-5 location.

See page 2 for detailed information.
1. A letter from your GP, Dentist, School, University or Workplace:
   - It must be on official letterhead.
   - It must detail your full name.
   - It must detail your full primary rural living address.
   - It must include the specific dates that you resided at the address (according to records).
   - It must include details verifying 5 years consecutively or 10 years cumulatively.

You can provide multiple letters to demonstrate that you have lived at a rural address for 5 years consecutively or 10 years cumulatively.

2. Documents that show your primary rural living address e.g. invoices for car insurance, electricity, gas and phone bills, rental receipts and bank statements:
   - Documents must display your full name or your parent’s/guardians full name.
   - Documents must display your full primary rural living address.
   - Documents submitted under your name must be accompanied with a statutory declaration signed by you confirming that you were living at the address (outline address) during the relevant period of time (outline dates). Download the Commonwealth statutory declaration form here.
   - Documents submitted under your parent’s/guardians name must be accompanied with a statutory declaration signed by your parent’s/guardians confirming that you were living with them at the address (outline address) during the relevant period of time (outline dates). Download the Commonwealth statutory declaration form here.
   - Documents must be provided for the beginning and end of each year that you are claiming e.g. if you are claiming for 5 years consecutively, you may need to provide up to 10 documents. If you are claiming for 10 years cumulative, you may need to provide up to 20 documents.
   - Documents must include details verifying 5 years consecutively or 10 years cumulatively.

Important Information
   - You do not need to provide certified copies of letters or documents. They must be scanned in colour and must not be re-sized i.e. of high quality and legible.
   - If your primary rural address has changed during the period you are claiming, letters and/or documents must detail your rural address history and time periods.
   - Letters and documents with a PO Box address will not be accepted.
   - School reports and invoices for rates and taxes will not be accepted.
   - Time spent at a rural holiday home or secondary living address will not be considered. The address must have been your primary living location for the time period/s you are claiming.
   - You cannot claim time in the future as part of the 5 or 10 years, as there is no way to establish proof that you will continue to reside at this address.

Contact
Website: health.anu.edu.au
Email: science.enquiries@anu.edu.au
Phone: +61 2 6125 2809
DATE: XX/XX/XX

To whom it may concern

Name: Applicant XXX
ID (if applicable): 123456

This letter is to certify the primary residential address for the person above in support of their rural background claim.

According to our records the primary residential address for Applicant XXX is:

10 Rural Road
Woop Woop
NSW 2222

Applicant XXX has resided at this residential address from January 2014 to January 2021

This letter has been generated at Applicant XXX request. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely

College of Health and Medicine
The Australian National University