



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 to 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. These 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

Acceptable supporting documentation includes:

- Supporting letter from a GP, School, University or Workplace:
 - It must be on an official letter head
 - It must detail your full primary rural living address
 - It must include the specific dates that you resided at the address
 - It must include details verifying 5 years consecutively or 10 years cumulatively

- Documents that show your primary residential address eg. Invoice's for telephone, rates, rent or bank statements can be provided but must be accompanied with;
 - A statutory declaration from a parent (if you were under 18 at the time and the bills are in the family name). OR
 - A statutory declaration from you, the applicant (if you were over 18 at the time, as the bills must be in your name).
 - Documents must display yours or your parent's/guardians names
 - Documents must display your full primary rural living address
 - You must provide documentation for each year you are claiming for eg. If you are claiming for 5 years of consecutively rural living, you will need documentation for each of the 5 years, one document for the start of each year and one for the end of each year. If you are claiming for 10 years cumulative then the documentation must support 10 full years and documentation will be needed for each time period, one document for the start of each time period and one for the end of each time period.

Important Information

- Letters of support and statutory declarations must include the full name of the applicant, the rural address history and time periods.
- Supporting documents do not need to be certified. The exception to this is letters that have been written specifically in support of your claim. These must be original letters.
- Your documents must be of high resolution quality.
- School reports are not sufficient supporting documentation as they do not include your rural residential address.
- Ensure your documentation supports 5 years consecutively or 10 years cumulatively
- 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 in a rural setting.
- 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.

Contact Information

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