

Get Real Experience and Try (GREaT) Nursing and Midwifery Work Experience Program

The Get Real Experience and Try (GREaT) Nursing and Midwifery Work Experience Program has been developed to encourage high school students to experience nursing prior to studying it with a State Training Provider or at university.



The program has been developed for Year 10 high school students to experience the many aspects of nursing and midwifery in a clinical setting while observing the team in action.

Over 5 consecutive days students will rotate through many areas previously not available to school students to find out what it's really like to be a nurse or midwife and what nurses and midwives really do.

Sometimes young people disregard the option of nursing or midwifery based on preconceived, and often incorrect, ideas – usually based on what they see on TV. This program provides students access to observe nurses and midwives, who are highly educated health professionals, as they lead the care provided to patients.

What opportunities does the program offer me?

This exciting 5 day program will provide you with the following unique opportunities.

Experience the many aspects of nursing and midwifery in a clinical setting

You will:

- observe nurses and midwives doing their job, in their workplace, at one of the participating WA public hospitals
- rotate through several clinical areas to shadow a nurse or midwife mentor into places such as critical care and general wards.

Observe the nursing and midwifery team in action

You will observe various procedures, depending on the areas they visit, such as:

- bathing a newborn baby
- applying wound dressings
- setting up intravenous therapy.

You may also be given the opportunity to perform approved on-the-job activities, including things like (but not limited to):

- practicing the correct hand washing technique
- gowning and gloving
- attending in-service education programs.

Decide if nursing or midwifery is the right career choice for you

You will have the opportunity to observe and discuss the many aspects of a nursing or midwifery career with real nurses and midwives, plus:

- have a chance to discuss your experiences at the end of the program
- gain further information about the different nursing and midwifery career pathways available to you.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for this program, you need to be:

- a Year 10 student
- participating in a formal work experience program at school
- able to get consent from your parents or guardian to participate
- interested in a career in nursing or midwifery
- able to submit a current copy of your immunisation record.

Where is the program offered?

There are a number of student placements on offer throughout Western Australia. The following health sites are currently participating, although additional health sites may be added:

- Armadale Hospital
- Fremantle Hospital
- Geraldton Regional Hospital
- King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women
- North Metropolitan Mental Health Service (various sites)
- Osborne Park Hospital
- Rockingham General Hospital
- Royal Perth Hospital
- Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
- South Metropolitan Mental Health Service (various sites)

- WA Country Health Service (various sites).

When will the program run?

The program will run between school terms 2 to 4.

The exact intake dates will vary between each hospital and students can submit up to 3 placement preferences upon application.

When do applications open?

Applications for the program are open during Term 1 each year.

How do I apply?

Students are encouraged to discuss their interest in this program with their school career counsellor or their VET coordinator prior to submitting an application.

Before students apply

Schools are encouraged to discuss the following points with students prior to their application:

- clearance to attend their placement for 5 consecutive days
- the appropriate dates and sites to apply
- any issues the student may have regarding consent, transport and immunisations
- why the student is interested in this program.

Online application

Application for the program will occur in 2 stages:

- **Stage 1** – Primary eligibility screening (for students)
- **Stage 2** – Secondary eligibility screening (for career counsellors).

Stage 1: Primary eligibility screening

For 2016 placements, applications will be open between 1 February and 18 March 2016.

Students will be asked to provide the following information:

- personal details
- emergency contacts
- school details (including career counsellor information and contact details – see below)
Kaylla Broad
Kaylla.broad@cewa.edu.au
08 9920 0535
- health site preference(s) – see below
Geraldton.

NurseWest will contact the school's career coordinator via email if the student is successful with Stage 1 of their application to advise that Stage 2 needs completion.

Stage 2: Secondary eligibility screening (information for career coordinators/teacher)

The school career coordinator/teacher will then be asked to electronically submit the following documentation on behalf of the student for the next stage of their application:

- signed copy of GREaT consent and confidentiality forms
- a signed student character reference letter. Students will require a short written reference from the school in regards to the following attributes:
 - attendance
 - behaviour
 - academia (are they working towards studying for their WACE?)
 - their expressed interest in health care.
- a copy of the school's insurance cover and certificate of currency (for private schools only)
- a school approved passport sized photo of the student – to help us process identification badges
- a copy of the student's current immunisation record.

Confirmation of work experience placement

A confirmation email will be sent to you and the student if their application is successful. This email will include all the relevant information about the students' work experience placement, including their assigned health site, date of orientation and relevant contact information.

What next?

1. Write a 200 word explanation about why you'd like to participate in this program and get it to Miss Broad.
2. Miss Broad will check your school attendance, behaviour and academic record for this year with the Director of Students.
3. Successful applicants will be emailed the link to apply for the program (online)
4. Online applications must be done before closing date. See *Stage 1: Primary eligibility screening* on the previous page for additional information to be included in your application.