Elective Grants Program for Medical Students

10 Grants of $3,000

$1,500 for you + $1,500 for the community

Together we can make a difference!
“As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest.”

Nelson Mandela

When you choose to undertake an elective in a developing community, not only are you giving yourself the opportunity to experience medicine from a different perspective, you have the potential to make an enormous impact on the community you visit.

In these communities, where often medical staff and resources are extremely limited, you will be an invaluable extra set of hands and can make more of a difference than you ever thought possible.

At MIGA, we share your commitment to developing communities and encourage you to apply for our Elective Grants Program to maximise the benefit of your placement.

Through the Program, MIGA provides financial assistance to medical students undertaking their university elective in developing communities. Since the Program’s launch in 2004, we have supported over 80 medical students who have participated in electives all around the world.

**Through the provision of funding, MIGA aims to:**
- Bring medical skills to communities in desperate need
- Provide medical or other aid to the community in a key area as identified by you, and
- Enrich your learning experience through exposure to new cultures and the delivery of health care in a different setting.

Inspired by the passion so many students have shown for global health, this year we have increased the number of Grants available. We are proud to offer the Elective Grants Program and are excited by its potential to provide immersive learning experiences and bring much needed medical skills to even more communities around the world.

**Supporting Medical Students in Developing Communities**

For the purpose of the Program, we consider ‘Developing Communities’ to be those that are poor and marginalised, where people struggle to:
- Control their own development
- Achieve equitable treatment, and
- Maintain a healthy and sustainable environment.

Whilst there are many countries overseas that meet these criteria, there are also Indigenous communities within Australia and its territories that are considered ‘developing’. We encourage applications from students undertaking electives in developing communities both in Australia and overseas.

For more information and to apply visit [www.miga.com.au](http://www.miga.com.au)!
‘Performing excellent quality healthcare can help a small number of patients, but spreading knowledge and skills among the local community has a ripple effect that can empower and create true improvements in public health.’

Emily Rayers
Kiunga Hospital, Papua New Guinea
At MIGA we are passionate about ensuring Indigenous people are better represented in the medical profession. As part of an initiative introduced in 2013, each year we set aside one of the ten Elective Grants to award specifically to an Indigenous medical student applicant interested in pursuing an elective placement in a developing community. Please note Indigenous medical students are encouraged to apply for all Elective Grants offered by MIGA.
Am I eligible?

The Elective Grants Program is open to current medical students in Australia who:
• Are medical student members of MIGA
• Are enrolled in an accredited course of medical study in Australia for the purpose of obtaining registration as a medical practitioner
• Wish to complete an elective program in a developing community between 1 March 2018 and 28 February 2019. The elective must be recognised by your university or medical school as part of your studies.

Please note MIGA is unable to accept joint Applications for Grants. Students travelling together are free to submit their own individual Proposals for an Elective Grant, however, there is no guarantee each of the students will receive a Grant.

Full details of the Program’s terms and conditions are available from our website.

Not insured with MIGA?
Thankfully, student membership is free!

To join, simply visit our website and complete the online Application Form for automatic and immediate confirmation.

Please note MIGA is unable to accept joint Applications for Grants. Students travelling together are free to submit their own individual Proposals for an Elective Grant, however, there is no guarantee each of the students will receive a Grant.

Full details of the Program’s terms and conditions are available from our website.
Preparing my Proposal

The Proposal is a matter for you to consider, as we do not define a required format, word count, or set layout to follow. Instead, we encourage you to be creative and really show us what’s different about you, your elective and what you plan to achieve!

No matter how you choose to prepare your Proposal, to assist our judging panel in their decision making we do encourage you to cover the following points as a minimum:

- When and where you will be undertaking your elective
- Full details of your interest in medicine in the developing community and/or country where you are proposing to undertake the elective
- How you will help to make a difference
- Your aims in completing the elective, including what you hope to learn and achieve in the community
- Any previous experience in developing communities or countries
- Specific details about how you propose the $1,500 donation to the hospital or community will be used
- Any additional information you believe will help to support your submission.

The $1,500 donation should be used for a purpose that supports the needs of the hospital, clinic or health unit where your elective will be undertaken. For example, it could be used for a cache of drugs or medical supplies, surgical equipment, or to support a specific program.

How do I apply?

To be considered for an MIGA Elective Grant you will need to:

1. Prepare your Proposal
   This is a key component of your application that allows you to communicate what’s different about you and your elective. Before commencing, make sure you review the ‘Preparing my Proposal’ section.

2. Complete the Elective Grants Program Online Application Form available on our website at miga.com.au/elective-grants-program
   This Form requires your contact and elective details and asks you to nominate your Proposal submission method.

3. Submit your Proposal by one of two methods
   Electronic Submission
   The Proposal can be submitted electronically by uploading it, and up to three other supporting documents, using the Online Application Form.
   Hard Copy Submission
   To submit your Proposal in hard copy select this option on the Online Application Form and send it by mail to MIGA using the cover sheet available from our website.

Both your Online Application Form and Proposal (regardless of submission method) must be received by MIGA by 5pm (CST) on Friday, 31 August 2018.
I found myself having to be creative when discussing ‘lifestyle change’ when there is no place to go walking, leisurely swimming is non-existent and white rice is the staple food available. As I learnt more about the culture it became easier to communicate freely with patients and make suggestions that were tangible and accepted.

Hayden Burch
Preah Kossamak Hospital, Cambodia

Key dates to remember

Each year, the Program is open for Applications between May and August, with recipients announced in October.

The specific dates for the 2018 Program are:

**Applications open**
Tuesday, 1 May 2018

**Applications close**
Friday, 31 August 2018 at 5pm (CST)

**Application outcome announced**
Mid-October 2018

**Eligible elective dates**
1 March 2018 to 28 February 2019 (or as otherwise agreed in writing with MIGA)

**Please note** If you are undertaking your elective within the eligible dates but before the recipients are announced, you will be awarded the Grant retrospectively if your Application is successful. This applies to students undertaking electives between March and October 2018.
2017 MIGA Elective Grant Recipients

Adarsh Das
University of Western Australia
Saint Augustine Medical Services Hospital
Saint George’s, Grenada
$1,500 community donation use: Donations to the GrenAIDS and Sweetwater charities, providing assistance to those suffering from sexual abuse and HIV/AIDS.

Emily Rayers
Griffith University
Kiunga Hospital
Kiunga, Western Province, Papua New Guinea
$1,500 community donation use: Purchase of a foetal doppler, pulse oximeters with adult and child leads, and a blood pressure machine and cuffs.

Sailesh Narsinh
Flinders University
Lady Willingdon Hospital
Manali, Himachal Pradesh, India
$1,500 community donation use: Financial assistance to run the village out-reach health camp program which recently lost government funding.

Lucy Mitchell
University of Sydney
Gizo Hospital
Gizo, Solomon Islands
$1,500 community donation use: Purchase of much-needed medical equipment for the hospital, including pulse oximeters, a digital thermometer, a stethoscope and gloves.

Hayden Burch
University of Melbourne
Preah Kossamak Hospital
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
$1,500 community donation use: Production and installation of 15 aluminium water filters in the Kampong Speu Province.

Samara McNeil
(Indigenous Grant Recipient)
James Cook University
Hospital Adolfo Guevara Velasco
Cusco, Peru
$1,500 community donation use: Provision of medical supplies to an outreach clinic in the Amazon Rainforest visited as part of Samara’s elective.

What are you waiting for?
Your medical skills are needed desperately.
Submit your application today, because together we can make a difference.
I was fortunate to accompany the medical outreach camp team. Day camps were set up in available clinic spaces, local schools or monasteries. It was normal to see upwards of 200 patients a day between the two junior doctors and myself, which was an excellent opportunity for me to learn from these two brilliant young ladies.

Sailesh Narsinh
Lady Willingdon Hospital, India

Be inspired by their life-changing experiences

To see the potential of an Elective Grant we encourage you to view the reports of our past recipients available on our website! These students visited regions all over the world and have incredible stories and photographs to share.
I found there was a greater reliance on history and examination and entirely different expectations about outcomes. Not only did patients wait for many, many hours (or sometimes overnight) to be seen in the ED, they patiently tolerated more pain and more uncertainty than I have seen commonly reflected in medical culture in Australia.

Lucy Mitchell
Gizo Hospital, Solomon Islands

MIGA’s free insurance protection for medical students

Why do students need insurance?
As a medical student you never quite know when you could become involved in a medical emergency. Even if you consider yourself a sensible, conscientious student you are not immune to legal or disciplinary action. It’s important to remember you don’t need to be at fault – you might unknowingly get on the wrong side of someone or simply be in the wrong place at the wrong time. It can happen easily and quickly escalate out of your control.

Why take unnecessary risks when you can ensure you’re covered by MIGA at no cost to you?

What’s in it for me?
MIGA offers free insurance protection for medical students, with automatic cover for:
- Elective and scholarship placements
- Clinical placements
- Emergency medical assistance you provide (also known as Good Samaritan Acts)
- Medical Board and Tribunal matters
- Coronial inquiries and criminal investigations.

There are also many other benefits relevant to your study and future as a doctor:
- Access to the Elective Grants Program
- Free 24/7 medico-legal support and advice
- Free intern insurance
- Regular emails including easy-to-enter online competitions
- Access to our Bulletins and other educational material.

Insurance policies available through MIGA are issued by Medical Insurance Australia Pty Ltd. MIGA has not taken into account your personal objectives or situation. Before you make any decisions about our policies, please read our Product Disclosure Statement and Policy Wording and consider your personal needs. Call MIGA for a copy or visit our website.
About MIGA

MIGA is a national provider of medical indemnity insurance and associated services to the medical profession across Australia. We have been supporting and protecting the medical profession for over 117 years.

At MIGA, our philosophy is focussed on being there for our clients. ‘Always’ expresses our commitment to providing the highest level of personal service and professional support. Whether it is arranging your insurance, dealing with a claim or seeking advice or information, you can always rely on us.

Join online today

To be protected by our FREE medical student insurance, visit www.miga.com.au and complete our simple online Application Form. It only takes a few minutes, with confirmation sent straight to your inbox!
Always the first choice for your medical indemnity insurance and protection

General Enquiries and Client Service
Free Call 1800 777 156
Facsimile 1800 839 284

Claims and Legal Services
(During Office hrs and 24hr emergency legal support)
Free Call 1800 839 280
Facsimile 1800 839 281
miga@miga.com.au
www.miga.com.au