

### **Administrative Process carried out by Jillian Tourelle, Trainee Intern Coordinator, DSM**

Each August the Strategy, Analytics & Reporting Unit (aka Planning & Funding) request estimated domestic medical trainee intern numbers for the following year. This is broken down to:

- Estimated eligible interns who are non-graduate-entry medical interns
- Estimated eligible interns who are graduate-entry medical interns (students eligible for bulk payment).

Note: A 'graduate-entry' student is a student who has completed a bachelor's degree or higher-level qualification before entering the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery programme.

This information is sent back to TEC by the Strategy, Analytics & Reporting Unit. The University then receives funding from TEC from the estimated numbers.

### **October**

Students who are graduate-entry medical students are contacted and asked if they wish their TI grant in Bulk or monthly payments. If they wish to receive their TI grant in bulk this is paid on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of December.

### **February of following year of TI Grant implementation**

The Strategy, Analytics & Reporting Unit make contact to obtain actuals for the TI grant of the previous year eg payment frequency of TI payment (monthly/bulk), numbers of months TI was supported (some TIs may take time out and not receive their full grant in the given year), dollars delivered to the student, TI intake year.

### **Information supplied to Trainee Interns before commencing TI year:**

On 1 December 2015, the Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment (Hon Steven Joyce) announced changes to student loan borrowing that would enable eligible graduate-entry students in long undergraduate programmes to be able to apply for an extra 1 EFTS of student loan support on top of the 7 EFTS they can already access.

Additional to this welcome development, the Minister has determined that eligible graduate-entry medical students may now access the Medical Trainee Intern Grant as a lump sum at the beginning of their final year. Up until now, this grant was available only as a monthly stipend.

In order to meet the criteria for a lump sum-payment, a student must:

- Be a graduate-entry medical student undertaking their sixth year of MB ChB study<sup>†</sup>;
- Have confirmed to the University that they wish to receive their trainee intern grant as a lump-sum rather than as a monthly stipend.

[† For the purposes of this eligibility, a graduate-entry entry student is defined as any student who has completed a bachelors' degree or higher qualification (e.g. bachelors' with honours) prior to entering the MBChB programme, regardless of whether or not entry to the MBChB has been gained via the formal graduate-entry pathway.]

Students opting for the lump sum-payment option should be aware that, should they withdraw from MBChB study prior to completing the sixth year, they may be liable to return a portion of the trainee intern grant.

Please note that the lump sum payment option is not available for first year entry category students (HSFY).

### **Further information provided during TI Orientation**

The training grant comes from Vote Education funding and is only administered by the University of Otago for the Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington Campuses. The funds are forwarded to the University monthly and are distributed to the Trainee Interns' bank accounts for payment on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month. The process for banking the Trainee Intern grants is that these are banked on the evening of the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month via the bank transfer service. In real terms this means that they will have access to the funds from the following day although they may be available late in the evening of the date they are processed.

The training grant is \$26,756 per annum (GST exempt) and paid in 12 monthly payments of \$2,229.66. This grant is non-taxable. **It is important to note that those intending to apply, or receiving Student Allowance payments through Studylink, understand that the training grant is classed as income, and you do not qualify for both.**

The Trainee Intern year normally runs from approximately mid- November for a period of 12 months. The first payment is made on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of December (6 December 2023) and the last in November (6 November 2024) the following year. TIs can only receive the grant once.

JTouelle  
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