
Health and Wellbeing Collaboration (HAWC) Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Health and Wellbeing Collaboration?

The Health and Wellbeing Collaboration is a volunteer program which is an integral and innovative approach to the education of our future health care workforce. The program has several purposes:

- We aim to impart a person-centred approach to healthcare which is best taught through experiencing healthcare from different people's perspectives. Through this program students will have the opportunity to observe healthcare in action and follow people and their progress as they navigate their own healthcare.
- In addition, the opportunity for students to integrate theoretical training with practice with real people in the early stages of their education is an ideal way to ensure a deeper learning experience. Students will observe and practise foundation skills as they learn them in the classroom. These may include Interview skills, observation and analysis of movement, basic assessment skills, measurement of activity levels and response to exercise. Students may also track health indicators, health incidents and events.

Our collaborators, or HAWCs, are people who volunteer to allow our students to visit them periodically. Anyone can be a HAWC. We need people of all ages.

What are the benefits of participating as a HAWC?

We hope there will be many benefits of volunteering as a HAWC.

- You will be contributing to the education of future healthcare workers in an innovative new degree at Macquarie University.
- Your students will, over time, perform assessments of your mobility and balance which may provide valuable information to you.
- When competent, students may use assessment findings to suggest exercise and physical activity programs which will be tailored to your health goals and needs.

How available do I need to be?

- At no point do we want your appointments with our students to be intrusive or a burden so ultimately it is up to you when you are available. We do however hope you will be available approximately once every 2-3 weeks for a few hours for students to visit and interact with you. The students will visit you approximately 4 times across the semester.

When will I start and how long will the program run?

Our volunteer programs run twice a year, from March to June and then again from August to November.

Students will contact you to arrange a suitable time and place for your initial interview. Each program runs for approximately four months (or one university semester) but the length of your involvement is completely up to you.

Do I have to provide my whole medical history and/or health records?

If you do not want to disclose personal information, then that is your right. However, if you choose to provide a brief medical and social history, your students will be better able to complete an assessment and later provide advice. Students are trained in privacy, confidentiality and professional behaviour prior to commencing the HAWC program.

Do I receive treatment for my existing (or new) illnesses?

No. The HAWC Program assists students in the development of skills of initial assessments and measurement of problems. When competent, students may provide general advice on issues like mobility aids, factors affecting risk of falls or appropriate exercising.

What happens to my personal details?

All personal details provided by you will remain confidential. All information will be used only by our students as education material and if shared in a group or discussion, all identifying information will be removed.

***Privacy Policy:** The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Macquarie University respects your right to privacy and is committed to protecting the privacy of information we hold about you. Personal information supplied to us is only used in education-related activities. Information resulting from interactions with your students may also be used within the Faculty. In this case, all information identifying you will be removed. Students will have been trained in privacy and confidentiality requirements prior to attending appointments.*

Can I change my mind?

Yes. If you are unhappy with the program for any reason, please contact a member of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences HAWC Team immediately and we will discuss your concerns. You are free to withdraw from the program at any time.

OK, I am interested. What do I do now?

Please complete the attached Expression of Interest form and return it to us at the address below.

HAWC Coordinator

Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences

Level 3, 75 Talavera Road,

Macquarie University, NSW 2109, Australia

E: fmhs.placements@mq.edu.au

T: (02) 9850 2793

A member of the HAWC Team will contact you to conduct a brief training session which will explain the HAWC program and allow you to ask any questions.

Testimonials

"I welcome the opportunity to be part of developing great health care workers and have recommended the program to a number of people."

"I was most impressed with the professionalism of both students who visited me. It was a pleasure to converse with them and I trust that it will have been a useful exercise for them."

"If my students are representative of all students you are training, then our future health care is in exceptionally intelligent and caring hands. It was interesting for me to learn what motivates young adults to choose health care as a future profession. Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in this initiative. "

Thank you again for participating in this innovative education initiative.