

## **Mater Health Services**

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### **Dr Stephen Walker**

Hello, my name's Stephen Walker, I'm an emergency physician at the Mater Hospital and also the Director of Clinical Training. The Mater Hospitals are in fact a private organisation, run by the Sisters of Mercy, but we do contracted public work for the States. So essentially here on campus we have three public hospitals, the Adult's, the Mother's and the Children's Hospitals where junior medical staff would do the majority of their work.

The Adult's Hospital is a 200 bed general, surgical and medical facility with most specialties of surgery and medicine represented. The Children's and Mother's Hospitals are tertiary level referral centre for the State.

Here at the Mater, I think an Intern would get a broad experience through a broad range of medicine and surgical disciplines in a very pleasant environment.

But rather than me tell you why you should come to the Mater, why don't I leave it to some of our current Interns to tell you.

### **Dr Nicholas Cocco**

My Name's Nicholas Cocco and I'm one of the Interns at the Mater this year. I decided to come to the Mater because there's a large range of things available at the Mater for Interns with a Mother's, Children's and Adult's Hospital all on campus. Despite the size of the Hospital, you still won't get lost amongst a hundred other Interns here, there's only around 23 here this year.

The Mater offers a large choice of rotations for Interns. The three compulsory rotations of surgery, medicine and the emergency department for between ten and twelve weeks, which are common to all hospitals and many elective rotations. There is also an opportunity to go to Bundaberg for a surgical rotation where your accommodation will be provided.

### **Dr Alison Clark**

Hi, my name's Alison Clark and I'm an Intern at the Mater Hospital this year. One of the reasons I chose to go to the Mater this year was because as a medical student, I found my most interesting rotations were anaesthetics and paediatrics and I knew as a Mater Intern that I would have a better opportunity at getting more experience in those areas.

### **Dr Nicholas Cocco**

The education at the Mater for Interns is very good. One week prior to starting work there's an orientation week where there's some education and

some housekeeping. After this, whilst working, there are three one hour education sessions every week for Interns which are pager free. This means someone answers your pager and deals with your phone calls during the session and you can devote your time to the education. If for some reason, you're unable to attend the sessions, all the information is provided online in a module so you don't miss out on any teaching.

### **Dr Alison Clark**

The Mater Hospital is a private organisation which treats public patients. With regards to pay and conditions, it's similar to Queensland Health. There are a few slight variations. I've always found that overtime's been paid at the Mater Hospital and in regards to ward call, we do not do ward call as Interns, which is great news, but we do, however, do remote call. Now, for those of you that don't know, remote call is when you're on call overnight and if they need extra assistance in the emergency department or in a theatre, then you get called in to assist.

### **Dr Nicholas Cocco**

The Mater also has an RMO Society. The RMO Society is very active in arranging social events, such as end of term functions and mid-term functions. There are also a lot of helpful residents around if you are having trouble getting your head around the job in your first year. The other thing that we have is a RMO common room which has things like PCs and phone and lockers, and just somewhere to have a bit of peace and quiet.

### **Dr Alison Clark**

Facilities at the Mater are, I think, quite good, and the Mater is situated just across the road from the busway which makes it easily accessed by public transport. For those of you that do decide to drive, there's lots of car parks around and you will not have a problem getting one at any time of day. Staff have discounted parking fees which is taken straight out of your pay. Around the Mater there are lots and lots of cafes for those of you that do want an extended lunch, and onsite at the Hospital we also have a gym and a pool for those that want to have some relaxation time as well.

### **Dr Stephen Walker**

I suggest you consider doing your internship year here at the Mater Hospital.