

Council 1 2024 - Policy Callouts

[Application Form](#)

Overview

AMSA policy lies at the beating heart of our advocacy work. All reports, actions and releases are grounded in policy. AMSA policies cover approximately 80 topics that affect medical students and the communities they live in. Each policy document is written by medical students and voted on by medical students at AMSA National Council. The documents combine the latest evidence about an issue with the values and perspectives of Australian medical students in order to codify AMSA's view.

We are currently looking for medical students to join our policy writing teams for Council 1. Being involved in policy writing gives you the opportunity to **actively participate in AMSA's advocacy**, providing your voice on the issues affecting Australian medical students while also **developing your own policy and advocacy skills** in a collaborative and supportive environment. **No previous experience is needed to apply**, with AMSA very proud to have given countless medical students their first experience with policy. Many current AMSA volunteers, including members of the executive, first engaged with AMSA by joining a policy team.

Callouts will close on **Friday 26th January, 2024** at **23:59 AEDT**.

Policy Topics for Council 1, 2024

A description of each policy can be found [here](#):

1. 🍊 Medical School Admissions
2. 🍊 Medical Students with Dependents
3. 🍊 Rural Training Pathways
4. 🍊 Primary Care
5. 🍊 Racial Discrimination and Cultural Diversity
6. 🍊 Pandemics and Epidemics

Timeline

Your involvement with AMSA as a Council 1 Policy Author will last about 2.5 months, with a 4 week break for the review period. The timeline for Council 2 Policy is outlined below:

Callouts: Close Friday 26th January 2024, 23:59 AEDT

Writing Period: Saturday 29th January 2024 - Sunday 3rd March 2024

Review Period: Monday 4th March 2024 - Saturday 24th March 2024

Post-Review Period: Sunday 25th March 2024 - Sunday 7th April 2024

Council 1: Saturday 13th April 2024 - Sunday 14th April



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Policy Author Role

Below is a description of the requirements of the Policy Author role. If you're new to AMSA policy, it might be helpful to read it before completing your application. **If you're a policy veteran, feel free to skip ahead and get stuck into your application!**

Each policy author forms part of a team of medical students from around the country to produce and review a policy document. All of these tasks are completed with the support of a policy mentor and other team members. The tasks involved include:

1. Attending a one-hour policy induction meeting
2. Researching the literature on the topic of the policy.
3. Attending meetings with your policy team (approx. twice weekly).
4. Writing a section of the policy background.
5. Working with your team to develop the policy's position statement and action points.
6. Preparing brief survey questions for Think Tanks.
7. Addressing feedback provided by each of Australia's medical schools during the review period.
8. Presenting your policy at AMSA National Council with your team.
9. Completing a short-term advocacy project with your team based on one of the key policy points (*optional, but encouraged*).

One to two members of the team will also take on the role of **Lead Author**. Please note that the role of Lead Author will be **application-based** for Council 3, 2023. This role involves:

1. Arranging and directing policy team meetings.
2. Ensuring the team is working to the deadline.
3. Preparing policy author comments.

You will be invited to present your policy to AMSA National Council, where medical student representatives from across the country will have the opportunity to ask you questions and move minor amendments to the policy. They will subsequently vote on the policy, with a 2/3 supermajority needed for the policy to pass and be adopted as AMSA's official stance.



Supporting You

Writing policy involves skills that many medical students do not have a chance to develop during their studies. As a result, it can be a little intimidating! We pride ourselves on fostering a friendly environment in which to develop your policy skills, and giving you the **training** and **ongoing support** you need to become policy experts. This includes **policy mentors**, dedicated and knowledgeable former policy authors whose role is to provide advice and be a source of support - particularly for new policy authors!

We are all students with study to do and busy lives outside of medicine, and sometimes things come up that might make it difficult for you to commit to policy in the way you had intended. **Your wellbeing is our number one priority**, so if there is a change to your circumstances we will work closely with you to ensure that your wellbeing takes priority, and that you are able to continue with policy in an altered form if you choose.

Contacts

Wrapping your head around AMSA policy can be tricky at first. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the contacts below; we often field questions from interested policy authors!

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Document Details

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