Pathways to Medicine

Options | Career Information

Gaining entry to a medical course is the first step in becoming a fully qualified medical practitioner. Other steps are:

![Diagram showing medical student (4-6 yrs.), intern (1 yr.), residency (1+ yrs.), registrar (2+ yrs.), and specialist.]

Pathways to entry to medical courses for Queensland students

There are three main pathways:

- Direct entry
- Graduate entry
- Provisional entry

Note, while initial medical qualifications in Australia have traditionally been at the bachelor degree level, several medical schools have recently moved to a doctor of medicine (MD) program or a dual pathway B Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine, where graduates receive a master’s degree.

Direct (or undergraduate) entry

Students can apply for entry to undergraduate medical courses in Year 12. Undergraduate medical courses are usually five - six years in length. The following institutions offer this pathway. The websites for the institutions have been listed for you to access up-to-date information about the courses.

- Bond University (QLD) [https://bond.edu.au/program/bachelor-medical-studies](https://bond.edu.au/program/bachelor-medical-studies) (dual pathway)
- University of New South Wales (NSW) [http://med.unsw.edu.au/about-medicine](http://med.unsw.edu.au/about-medicine) (dual pathway)
- Western Sydney University (NSW) [https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/medicine/som/course_areas/medicine_becoming_a_doctor](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/medicine/som/course_areas/medicine_becoming_a_doctor)

New Zealand medical courses with direct entry:

- University of Otago [http://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/qualifications/mbchb.html](http://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/qualifications/mbchb.html) (students complete a common Health Science year before applying for admission to second year medicine)
Pathways to Medicine

OPTIONS | CAREER INFORMATION

The information you need to obtain includes:

- Years 11 and 12 subjects: prerequisite subjects (i.e. subjects you must have successfully studied to gain entry); assumed subjects (i.e. these are not prerequisites, however it is assumed that you have studied them previously); recommended subjects (i.e. subjects that are not prerequisites or assumed, but would be helpful); some courses do not require any specific subjects.
- Previous OP cut-offs (or equivalent ATAR) if available.
- The application process (this process may begin early in the year and may include several steps).
- Who do you apply to (e.g. QTAC, the institution, an interstate tertiary admissions centre, or more than one of these)?
- Cut-off dates for applications.
- Is UMAT required?
- Is an interview and/or completion of an application form part of the application?
- Are scholarships available?
- Can I do another degree with medicine (e.g. B Science/B Medicine)?
- What teaching approach does the medical school have?
- Are there quotas for Indigenous and/or Rural applicants?
- Are there other special entry programs/pathways for Year 12 students?

Graduate entry

Students who have successfully completed an undergraduate degree (in any field) can apply for graduate entry medical courses (usually 4 years in length). Contact the following institutions for information about their graduate entry medical courses, entry criteria (which may include prerequisite subjects, a minimum GPA, GAMSAT and/or an interview) and application processes (e.g. do you apply through GEMSAS?):

- Australian National University (ACT) [http://medicalschool.anu.edu.au/study/degrees/mchd](http://medicalschool.anu.edu.au/study/degrees/mchd)
- Griffith University (QLD) [https://degrees.griffith.edu.au/#](https://degrees.griffith.edu.au/#) (search for Doctor of Medicine)
- University of Notre Dame (Fremantle, WA) [http://www.nd.edu.au/fremantle/courses/postgraduate/medicine/md](http://www.nd.edu.au/fremantle/courses/postgraduate/medicine/md)
- University of Notre Dame (Sydney, NSW) [http://www.nd.edu.au/sydney/schools/medicine](http://www.nd.edu.au/sydney/schools/medicine)
- University of Queensland (QLD) [https://www.uq.edu.au/study/program.html?acad_prog=5578](https://www.uq.edu.au/study/program.html?acad_prog=5578)
- University of Western Australia (WA) [http://www.meddent.uwa.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/md-overview](http://www.meddent.uwa.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/md-overview)

Provisional entry in Queensland

The following Queensland institutions offer provisional entry to graduate entry medical courses. Students apply for this type of entry in Year 12. If successful, they are guaranteed a place in a graduate entry medical course (usually 4 years in length) after successfully completing an undergraduate degree, without having to sit for GAMSAT.

Griffith University (GU) School of Medicine

Year 12 students apply for entry to the Bachelor of Medical Science (MD Provisional Entry for School-Leavers). This program provides secondary school leavers with an intensive two-year degree that allows guaranteed entry into GU’s Doctor of Medicine program on completion of the degree (with a GPA of 5.0 or better and a pass in the subject 'Human Skills for Medicine'). The Bachelor of Medical Science is offered at both the Nathan and Gold Coast Campuses.

The application requirements for this course are:

- Must be a current Year 12 student or an applicant who has completed Year 12 no more than three years prior to application and who has not previously attempted tertiary study at diploma level or higher.
- Academic achievement - OP or equivalent; perquisite: English (4SA); assumed knowledge: Maths B (4SA), and one of Biological Science, Chemistry or Physics (4SA).
- QTAC application.

The GU Subject Bonus Scheme, OP 1 – 6 Guarantee Scheme and the Gold Coast and Logan Campus Priority Access Scheme do not apply to this course. However, the Rural Priority Scheme will apply (25% quota for students from specified rural areas).

The University of Queensland (UQ) School of Medicine
https://future-students.uq.edu.au/apply/doctor-of-medicine/overview

Year 12 students apply for Doctor of Medicine (MD) (Provisional Entry for School-Leavers) and/or Doctor of Medicine (MD) Provisional Entry for School-Leavers (Bonded Medical Places). Successful applicants enroll in any undergraduate degree program at the University of Queensland (see recommended undergraduate programs at https://medicine.uq.edu.au/pathways-medicine). If provisional entry students achieve the required grade point average (GPA 5.0) over the duration of their first degree, they are guaranteed a place in the medical program.

To be eligible for a place, students must meet the following criteria:

- Must be in their final year of secondary school at the time of application.
- Academic achievement - OP 1 or equivalent, English (4SA). Also must meet the prerequisites for the undergraduate study pathway chosen.
- Competitive overall score in UMAT. The UMAT Section 1 score is used as a tie-breaker for applicants who have the same UMAT score.
- QTAC application.

The UQ Subject Bonus Scheme does apply to this course but the UQ OP Guarantee Scheme does not.

University of the Sunshine Coast (Sippy Downs)

This highly competitive program provides provisional direct entry (subject to entry requirements) to Griffith University’s Doctor of Medicine program.

The Bachelor of Medical Science program is restricted to high-achieving secondary school students who have completed Year 12 no more than three (3) years before admission. Applicants must not have previously attempted any tertiary study at diploma level or higher since completing year 12. Enrolments are capped at 20 places each year.
Pathways to Medicine

Graduates who gain a GPA of 5.0 or better and with a minimum Pass grade in MED300 Human Skills for Medicine will be offered provisional direct entry into the Griffith University Doctor of Medicine (MD) graduate-entry program to become accredited medical practitioners.

Recommended prior study - Maths B (4SA); One of Biology, Chemistry or Physics (4SA). NOTE: special entry schemes including Access USC and the Educational Access Scheme (EAS) do not apply.

Some interstate universities have similar entry pathways into graduate entry medical programs for Year 12 students. For example:

University of Melbourne – Guaranteed entry into graduate degrees
https://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/high_achievers_programs/graduate-course-guarantees

University of Sydney – Double degree medicine undergraduate entry

University of Western Australia – Direct pathways for high school leavers

UMAT

The Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) is used specifically to assist with the selection of students into the medicine, dentistry and health science degree programs at undergraduate level for many Australian and New Zealand universities (a list of institutions and programs requiring UMAT can be accessed from the UMAT website).

Students register online at http://umat.acer.edu.au/ to sit for the test. The registration due date for UMAT is the 1 June 2018 and the test date is 25 July 2018. The website has a downloadable information booklet and practice questions can be purchased from the site. Several organisations provide UMAT preparation programs. The following are a selection:


It is not mandatory to do a UMAT preparation program, but it is highly recommended to prepare for the test by doing practice tests to become familiar with the types of question and the time limitations.

Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme

The BMP Scheme is an Australian Government initiative to provide more doctors to locations (called Eligible Locations) that are considered by the Department of Health to need qualified medical practitioners. The BMP Scheme provides funding for additional Commonwealth supported medical school places at Australian medical schools. From 2016, 28.5 % of all first-year Commonwealth Supported Places in Australian medical schools are expected to be bonded through this scheme. In return, after completing their medical course, participants agree to work in an Eligible Location in Australia for a total of 12 months. The application and selection process for the scheme is the responsibility of the universities. The 2018 information booklet about the BMP Scheme can be downloaded at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/BMP-2016.

Rural background schemes

Rural areas of Australia often have limited access to educational opportunities and medical services. To assist in addressing this ongoing challenge, many universities allocate a proportion of their medical places to students from a rural background. These schemes will differ from institution to institution.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alternative entry programs

Most universities have alternative entry programs for Indigenous applicants. The entry requirements and application processes for these students are specific to each institution.

Helpful links

- Graduate Entry Medical School Admission System (GEMSAS) - http://www.gemsas.edu.au/
- Graduate Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT) http://gamsat.acer.edu.au/
- Medical Schools in Australia and New Zealand, Australian Medical Council http://www.amc.org.au/accreditation/primary-medical-education/schools