

## Flinders University

### Doctor of Medicine and Bachelor of Clinical Sciences / Doctor of Medicine

#### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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**This list of FAQs is not exhaustive, but it does reflect the most commonly asked questions in relation to studying medicine at Flinders University. Please check other web pages for more detailed and additional information. Note that the information contained herewith is currently accurate however Flinders University reserves the right to change its policies and procedures.**

#### **1. What are my chances of an internship?**

Flinders University is not able to provide a guarantee of a medical internship to its Adelaide-based medical students. Internships do not fall under Flinders University's authority and are managed by the State and Territory governments of Australia. Each state or territory government undertakes its own internship application process and they reserve the right to have their own allocation process and priority ranking lists offering internships. In South Australia the South Australian Medical Education and Training (SA MET) Unit currently manages the allocation of internship places. All medical students are advised to check their website (<http://www.samet.org.au/>) for details of the process in South Australia.

Australia currently has more medical student graduates than the number of internship places in Australia. Graduate projections show that this will continue for the next few years and that this will affect graduates from all states and territories of Australia, including South Australia. The matter of internships is complex and Flinders University is unable to give advice to applicants on this matter as it falls outside of its jurisdiction. The University encourages all medical students to consider their options following graduation.

International medical students should seek information about their home country's internship and registration provisions. All possible avenues for undertaking an internship in home countries or other countries should be explored in the event that an internship is not available in Australia.

#### **2. Does Flinders require any pre-requisite subjects?**

No

#### **3. Is there an age limit?**

No. However, international students in the Bachelor of Clinical Science/Doctor of Medicine need to be at least 18 years of age at commencement of the Course (or else accompanied by a parent/guardian).

#### **4. Can you recommend any preparation courses for Graduate Australian Medical Schools Admissions Test (GAMSAT), Undergraduate Medical Admissions Test (UMAT), International Student Admissions Test (ISAT) for the Flinders interview?**

No. Flinders does not recommend or endorse any preparation courses.

#### **5. I am a New Zealand citizen. Am I eligible to apply as a domestic student?**

Yes although there have been recent changes to the type of places you could be offered. Up until 2013 New Zealand citizens were only eligible for unbonded Commonwealth Supported Places. From 2014 onwards, New Zealand citizens who were New Zealand Special Category Visa (SCV) holders as at 26 February 2001 are considered to be the equivalent of a permanent resident for the purpose of the Migration Act 1958. These New Zealand citizens are referred to as 'protected' SCV holders and the Department has now determined that they are eligible for a medical place in the Bonded Medical Place (BMP) or Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship scheme.

#### **6. Is it possible to study the MD on a part time basis?**

No. The MD is only offered as a full time course.

**7. I am currently enrolled in a medical program elsewhere and want to undertake a clinical rotation based at Flinders University. Can I?**

If you are a medical student currently enrolled in a medical course elsewhere and you will be in the final year of your degree when undertaking an elective placement, you may be eligible to apply for a clinical rotation at Flinders. You should submit your application via the following weblink:

<http://www.flinders.edu.au/medicine/sites/course-administration/visiting.cfm> .

**8. I am already qualified as a doctor but I want to undertake postgraduate specialisation training at Flinders University. Can I?**

Postgraduate specialisation is not undertaken in the University system in Australia. You may find it useful to contact the individual professional colleges representing your interest (for example the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons) and the relevant state government authority (for example the South Australian Medical Education and Training).

**9. I graduated with a BMBS or MD from Flinders University and now require a Dean's Letter or Verification of my qualifications. Who can I contact?**

All requests for a Dean's Letter should be sent to Andrea Scott ([andrea.scott@flinders.edu.au](mailto:andrea.scott@flinders.edu.au)) in the first instance for referral to the Medical Course Director. A simple request for verification that you graduated from Flinders University should be directed to [Maria.Russo@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Maria.Russo@flinders.edu.au).

**10. I wish to apply for medicine at Flinders. How can I find out more information?**

Domestic applicants please read the information provided at the following website:

[http://www.flinders.edu.au/medicine/sites/medical-course/medicine\\_home.cfm](http://www.flinders.edu.au/medicine/sites/medical-course/medicine_home.cfm)

**11. I am currently enrolled in another graduate entry medical course and want to transfer into Flinders. Is this possible?**

Transfers into Flinders Doctor of Medicine (MD) are not usually possible. Requests may discretionally be considered on a case-by-case basis in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances, usually on compassionate grounds. If you are currently enrolled in another graduate entry program in Australia, meet Flinders Course Rules\* and wish to apply for consideration, please send the following to [Emma.Travers@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Emma.Travers@flinders.edu.au):

- a. A signed letter requesting consideration for possible transfer including a detailed description of the reasons for your request. Indicate whether or not you have previously applied to Flinders to study medicine (and if so in which year).
- b. A copy of the GAMSAT test score which originally was used for selection into your current course .
- c. A copy of your current academic transcript detailing performance in medical studies thus far.
- d. A copy of the undergraduate degree used as a basis for selection into your current studies.

Further consideration of your application may be contingent upon receipt of additional information that may be requested from you.

If you are not currently enrolled in another medical school in Australia or are enrolled in another medical school outside of Australia, you cannot apply for a transfer into Flinders Medical Course and should apply for admission using the standard application process (GEMSAS for domestic students and directly to Flinders for International students).

**12. What does Level 5 English requirements mean?**

International students must satisfy Flinders University's English language proficiency requirements for admission. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.flinders.edu.au/international-students/study-at-flinders/entry--and-english-requirements/english-language-requirements.cfm>

**13. Is the 6 year Bachelor of Clinical Sciences/Doctor of Medicine double degree program accredited by the Australian Medical Council?**

Yes.

**14. Who can apply as an International Student?**

If you are not an Australian citizen or Permanent Resident or a New Zealand citizen, you can apply as an International Student who will pay full tuition fees.

**15. I am applying for Australian Permanent Resident status. Can I still apply as an international student?**

It is strongly recommended that you resolve your immigration status before applying. A change of status to Australian Permanent Resident before enrolment would mean withdrawal of any offer of an international place. Those who acquire permanent residency status during the course would, in general, continue as full fee paying students.

**16. Are there any scholarships for international students?**

Please refer to [Scholarships at Flinders University](#) for any scholarship opportunities.

**17. Can international students undertake clinical placements in rural Australia?**

Various options for the location and format of Year 3 in the Doctor of Medicine are offered. After appropriate information sessions part way through Year 2 of the Doctor of Medicine, students are asked to nominate preferences for the location of their Year 3 study. It is possible for international students to undertake rural placements, and some have done so in the past. However prospective international students should be aware that the formal conditions of many domestic places mean that there may be reduced or even no rural places available for international applicants at some locations, and this may vary year to year. Click [here](#) for further information.

**18. I don't hold a science-based Bachelor's degree. Am I eligible to apply for graduate entry?**

Flinders accepts applicants who hold a Bachelor's degree in any discipline and from any recognised tertiary institution.

**19. Does Flinders have a '10 year rule' for graduate entry?**

No. Graduate applicants who hold a Bachelor's degree older than 10 years are eligible to apply for entry.

**20. What are the minimum Section Scores for GAMSAT?**

GAMSAT is required for all domestic graduate applicants and may be used by international graduate applicants. The normal minimum GAMSAT scores are Section 1 = 50, Section 2 = 46. Section 3 = 50 (Total = 50). Due to the competitive nature of entry into medicine, the final cut-offs for entry are typically significant higher than these minimums.

**21. How is the total (aggregate) GAMSAT score calculated?**

Overall score = (1 x Section 1) + (1 x Section 2) + (2 x Section 3) / 4

**22. What is the minimum GPA required for graduate entry into Flinders MD?**

There is no minimum GPA currently required. However a GPA of 5.5 (out of 7) or above is usually considered competitive. This equates to a good credit average or higher across all topics / units studied in your undergraduate degree. After applicants have been selected for interview (based on 100% total GAMSAT score for domestic applicants) Flinders uses a ranking list for place offers based on equal weighting of your weighted GPA; GAMSAT and interview score. A higher score on one component can offset a lower score on another.

**23. Is postgraduate study considered in Flinders GPA calculation for graduate applicants?**

No. Flinders' GPA calculation is based solely on your most recently completed undergraduate degree. We do not take any higher Degrees such as a Master's Degree or PhD into consideration.

**24. I suffered disadvantage during my undergraduate degree and it affected my overall GPA. Can I receive special consideration for graduate entry?**

No. Flinders must use the GPA as formally recorded on the academic transcript for your Bachelor's degree. However Flinders does have several policies which help applicants with lower GPAs to genuinely be considered.

- a. Interview offers are determined solely by your GAMSAT score which is a national standardised entry test thus giving you an opportunity to demonstrate your capacity regardless of your GPA.
- b. Flinders has no minimum GPA.
- c. GPAs are weighted in favour of final year to mitigate any transition issues experienced in Year 1 of an undergraduate degree.
- d. Flinders equally weights an individual's GAMSAT total score with their weighted GPA and Interview score giving applicants the opportunity to offset a lower score on any one component by higher scores on the other.

**25. How can I find out more about the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences / Doctor of Medicine (BCS/MD)?**

You can visit the web site: <http://www.flinders.edu.au/courses/undergrad/bclsbmbs/> or come to the Open Day (usually in August)

**26. I have completed first year of Medical Science (or Health Science, Optometry etc). Can I transfer into the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences?**

There is no lateral transfer to the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences. You could apply for entry to the Graduate Entry MD after you complete your degree. For further information see: <http://www.flinders.edu.au/medicine/sites/medical-course/admission-overview.cfm>. The course is only available to applicants with no record of study at higher education level.

**27. I have accepted an undergraduate place in the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences. Which stream (Medical Science or Health Science) is a better preparation for Medicine?**

Both streams include topics in biology, chemistry, physiology and communication skills, which provide the preparation for entry to the four-year MD component. The Medical Science focus emphasises the biomedical sciences that underpin virtually all fields of medical science. The Health Sciences option emphasises biological and psychosocial sciences in a health and healthcare context. The choice depends on your personal interests.

**28. Will I be seeing patients in the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences course?**

There is no patient contact until the MD.

**29. If I decide not to study Medicine after the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences, what are my options?**

A student who is not eligible to progress to the Doctor of Medicine component will be permitted to transfer to either the Bachelor of Health Sciences or the Bachelor of Medical Science.

A student who withdraws from the double degrees program after successfully completing the first three years will be awarded the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences.

In both cases, students can still subsequently apply for admission to the MD via the graduate entry pathway.

**30. Is entry into the Doctor of Medicine guaranteed if I am enrolled in the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences / Doctor of Medicine and pass all undergraduate topics with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 5? Does it depend on the performance of all the applicants?**

If you maintain a Grade Point Average of 5 and pass all topics throughout the two years of the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences you will progress through to the Doctor of Medicine. You will not be ranked against other peer students at that time.

**31. If I do not have Grade Point Average  $\geq 5$ , will I graduate with a Bachelor of Clinical Sciences after two years?**

You will still need to do an extra year of study but depending on the topics you undertake you could exit with a Bachelor of Medical Science or Bachelor of Health Science.

### **32. Can I get recognition of prior learning (credit transfer)?**

No. Applicants for the Bachelor of Clinical Studies / Doctor of Medicine must not have a record of study at higher education level.

There is normally no credit transfer for graduate entrants, even for prior medical course studies as Flinders MD is a graduate entry course. This means that all applicants have prior learning, and it is impossible to compare the curriculum used by other medical schools with Flinders curriculum.

### **33. I have completed a two year accelerated undergraduate degree. Am I eligible to apply as a graduate entrant?**

Yes, providing your degree is equivalent to a 3 year Bachelor's degree.

### **34. What is the Special Entry to Interview Scheme in domestic graduate entry and how do I apply?**

Domestic applicants who have outstanding academic records but whose overall GAMSAT scores are slightly below the cut-off may be invited to interview in a "Special Entry to Interview" category. While the Admissions Committee determines cut-offs for this group each year - past practice has been to consider applicants with overall GAMSAT scores within 2 to 4 points of the main cut-off. Normally those falling within this sub-group must have a grade point average of at least 6 (on the GAMSAT 7 point scale) in each of the last 3 years of their degree. Applicants who are eligible for this scheme will be identified automatically as part of our selection processes. An invitation of Special Entry to Interview is at the discretion of the Admissions Committee. Whether such interviews are offered and the range of GAMSAT scores covered within these offers if made depends on the composition of all applicants' scores which cannot be pre-determined.

### **35. Will I be considered for entry if I miss out on achieving minimum GAMSAT Section scores - even by 1 score?**

No, not normally. For domestic applicants these minimum scores are programmed into the Graduate Entry Medical School Admissions System (GEMSAS) so if you do not meet these minimum scores (with the possible exception of sub quotas or special pathways) your name will not appear on the list of potential applicants which Flinders considers for interview offers.

### **36. I missed the GAMSAT cut-off for interview by 1 score. Can I receive special consideration?**

No. Many applicants miss out by 1 GAMSAT score and believe that there were mitigating circumstances that should now be considered. However there are more applicants than there are places and many applicants miss out by 1 score. There is no fair way to assess relative disadvantage or mitigating circumstances for the numbers of individuals who miss out by 1.

### **37. I am applying for the Doctor of Medicine (graduate entry). What are my chances of receiving an interview offer?**

Flinders currently only uses the total GAMSAT score to identify applicants to interview. As this varies every year according to who applies it is impossible to predict your prospects of an interview. The minimum score each year varies across sub quotas. History does not always predict the future but in 2013 the GAMSAT cut off for offer to interview for main entry (i.e. for applicants who are ineligible for any sub quotas) was a minimum of 67. This cut off has generally increased by one to two points each year over the last few years. It is unknown what it will be from year to year.

### **38. Will Flinders calculate my weighted GPA for me for graduate entry?**

No, not normally. We will endeavour to answer questions you may have about your weighted GPA and associated eligibility but it is normally not possible for us to calculate your weighted GPA for you. GEMSAS usually calculates these on our behalf. For further information about GPA calculations please review the GEMSAS Admissions Guide available from the GEMSAS website.

**39. I have a highly unusual academic record in terms of units studied in my undergraduate degree. Can you assess this before I apply for medicine at Flinders?**

If you are uncertain about the acceptability of your academic record as being equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree you should email Emma.Travers@flinders.edu.au and summarise the nature of your query explaining what you have completed. Ensure you attach relevant academic transcripts to your email. This should be done as soon as possible before the annual application round opens as it may need to be considered by the Admissions Committee which only meets monthly.

**40. How do you determine who receives a domestic place offer for the Doctor of Medicine (Graduate entry)?**

Your interview score and weighted GPA are each converted to a percentage and added to your GAMSAT total score. Scores are converted to an overall score out of 100. Applicants are then ranked and place offers made in order of this ranked list.

**41. I will be overseas or interstate during the domestic interview period. Can I interview via Skype or similar?**

No. We do not offer Skype or telephone interviews for domestic applicants. Applicants are required to travel to Adelaide for the interview. We make the interview dates known well ahead of time and expect applicants to plan to attend in person. We require our interview panel to meet with domestic candidates face to face and we aim to have the same process for everyone.

**42. If I am offered a domestic interview can I nominate a specific date and time?**

No. Many people travel from interstate and nearly all have existing work commitments so it is unfair to accommodate individual needs for one person and not another. However should you have exceptional circumstances that you believe warrant special consideration you should email Jennie.McCulloch@flinders.edu.au and detail the full circumstances. It will be considered executively by the Chair of Admissions.

**43. I have completed a Bachelor of Health Sciences or a Bachelor of Medical Science at Flinders. Am I eligible to compete in the Health Sciences / Medical Sciences sub quota for graduate entry?**

Yes. Up to 10 places are reserved for applicants who hold a Health Science or Medical Science degree from Flinders. You will be automatically identified as eligible for this sub quota on the basis of the information you submit in your GEMSAS application. You do not need to apply for this sub quota separately.

**44. I have received an offer of place. Can I defer for one year?**

Deferral is not possible in the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences / Doctor of Medicine as this is a Course Rule.

In the case of domestic and international graduate applicants, it is not normally possible. However in the event of exceptional and unforeseen circumstances a request may be considered on a case-by-case basis once an offer has been received for Adelaide places only. Under no circumstances are deferrals permitted for domestic students in the Northern Territory Medical Program as specified by the Northern Territory Government (which funds these places).

**45. How do I apply as a domestic graduate applicant for a Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship (MRBS) place?**

You will be asked to nominate your place type preferences (of which the MRBS is one) when you apply via the online application form through GEMSAS. You do not need to apply for these places separately.

**46. I am a permanent resident but previously held a Humanitarian visa. In 2013 for 2014 entry you had a pilot sub quota for previous holders of this visa. Is this to be offered in 2014 for 2015 entry?**

Yes. In August 2014 this was approved as a continuing sub quota of up to 4 places. Anyone who self identifies (and subsequently provides the appropriate documentary evidence) as having held such a visa will automatically qualify for this sub quota when they apply through GEMSAS.

**47. When are the domestic interviews for the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences / Doctor of Medicine?**

There are currently no interviews for domestic applicants for the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences course. Ranking for offers of places will be based on an entry score combining ATAR (90%) and a UMAT-derived score (10%), which will be based mainly on sections 1 and 2 of the test.

**48. When will UMAT (required for domestic undergraduate entry) be held?**

For further information see the UMAT web site: <http://umat.acer.edu.au/>

**49. What is the UMAT score cut-off for the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences / Doctor of Medicine?**

We do not have this information. Note that ranking for offers of places will be based on an entry score combining ATAR (90%) and a UMAT-derived score (10%), which will be based mainly on sections 1 and 2 of the test.

**50. What ATAR is needed for domestic students applying for admission into the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences / Doctor of Medicine in Adelaide?**

It is expected that domestic applicants will need to achieve an ATAR of 95 or above (after the addition of any relevant bonus points for special access schemes) to be competitive for a double degree place in Adelaide. Ranking for offers of places will be based on an entry score combining ATAR (90%) and a UMAT-derived score (10%), which will be based mainly on sections 1 and 2 of the test.

**51. I have applied for the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences / Doctor of Medicine (domestic places). When I will find out if I have been accepted into the course?**

First round offers will be made by SATAC in early January. For further information contact:

Admissions/Prospective Students Office  
Flinders University, GPO Box 2100, Adelaide SA 5001  
**Phone:** (08) 8201 3074 or 1300 657 671 (local call cost)  
**Fax:** (08) 8201 2580  
**Email:** [admissions@flinders.edu.au](mailto:admissions@flinders.edu.au)

**52. How do I know if my degree from outside Australia is acceptable as a basis for an international application?**

In general Bachelor's degrees from Canada, the US, UK, Singapore and Malaysia are acceptable as a basis for applying. If in doubt about the suitability of your degree, you can email [internationalapply@flinders.edu.au](mailto:internationalapply@flinders.edu.au) to check. Provide details of the University where you undertook the degree and the name and duration (years of full time study) of the degree.

**55. What MCAT or GAMSAT score (or GPA) would I need to be competitive as an international graduate applicant?**

A key hurdle for international graduate applicants is to be shortlisted for a Flinders international interview. Decisions on which international applicants to list for interview are based on a combination of weighted GPA and an admissions test score (MCAT or GAMSAT). The cut-off for interview depends on who applies in any given year, and so it varies every year depending on the applicants. In previous years, an MCAT score of about 29 (or GAMSAT score of about 60 with minimum Section scores of 50 for Sections 1 and 3 and 46 for Section 2) with about a credit GPA has been competitive for an interview. We will normally expect minimum MCAT scores of 8/8/8 (24 total). Please note that the GPA calculation gives greater weight to the later years/more advanced subjects in your degree so if your grades improved through your undergraduate studies your wGPA that will increase your GPA when represented as a weighted GPA.

**56. When will international applications be open in 2015?**

Opening dates are yet to be determined so please check our website in late December 2014. It is likely to be in the first 1-2 months of 2015.

**57. When is ISAT (required for international undergraduate applicants) held?**

For further information see the ISAT web site: <http://isat.acer.edu.au/>

**58. When will I find out if I have been accepted as an international student into the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences/Doctor of Medicine double degree course for commencement in 2015?**

We anticipate offers will commence from late August 2014 onwards. For further information about interviews please refer to our website.

<http://www.flinders.edu.au/medicine/sites/medical-course/undergraduate-pathway-international-applicants/admissions-requirements.cfm#Interview>

**59. If I complete an online international application before 30 June 2014 for the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences/Doctor of Medicine double degree, do I need to complete a SATAC form as well?**

Do not apply via SATAC for this program. You must apply directly to Flinders University using its own online application system for medicine.

**60. Can I, as an international student, transfer to other health care courses at Flinders University after completing two years of Bachelor of Clinical Sciences?**

International students can apply to transfer but not to all courses. The University's Admissions team would liaise with you on your courses of interest at Flinders.

**61. Can I transfer from another degree into the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences/Doctor of Medicine?**

No.

**62. I am already enrolled in another undergraduate degree but as yet do not have any formal academic record of higher education studies as I have not completed any subjects. Can I apply?**

Yes. You can apply and providing you have not completed any subjects by the closing date for applications you will be deemed eligible to apply.