



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Doctor of Medicine (MD) Graduate Entry

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Health Professionals





The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences has replaced the MBBS with the Doctor of Medicine (MD), which will have its first intake in 2014 and will graduate doctors from 2018 onwards.

We envisage continuing our tradition of graduating excellent junior doctors, with a broad educational base including well-developed scientific and clinical knowledge, skills in professional practice, and a strong appreciation of societal and individual health issues.

Through curriculum reform at The University of Western Australia, our graduate-entry professional degree course will be consistent with other leading universities across the world.

The new MD curriculum will provide a number of benefits for students and patients:

- **An advanced and efficient learning environment at postgraduate level with increased use of innovative teaching and information technologies.**
- **Improved integration of scientific, clinical, professional and societal health issues.**
- **Contextualised and case-centred curriculum to improve relevancy and retention of learning.**
- **Graduates who are prepared and equipped for internship with appropriate knowledge, skills, and professional attributes.**

The Faculty has welcomed our inaugural intake of students to the MD course in 2014 and hope that the following information will assist you in making your decision about your future studies at UWA.



Winthrop Professor Ian Puddey
Dean, Faculty of Medicine,
Dentistry and Health Sciences

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

The world is changing rapidly, and so are leading universities. At UWA, we want to make sure that our graduates continue to be well prepared to contribute to society as it undergoes further transformation.

Studying medicine at postgraduate level will allow our graduates to develop exceptional communication and research skills, in addition to critical thinking skills and to have a level of maturity that will distinguish them as global citizens.

As part of our significant curriculum reform, the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) program has been replaced by the postgraduate qualification, the Doctor of Medicine (MD).

The changes

All applicants wishing to study medicine at UWA will have to complete an Australian undergraduate bachelor degree (minimum of three years) or equivalent before entering the postgraduate medical qualification. On completion of the MD, graduates will have both an undergraduate and a postgraduate degree ensuring they have a well-rounded education as well as the specialist skills needed in their professional career.

The MD

The MD has commenced in 2014, providing doctors from 2018.

Length of study

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8 [ⓐ]
UNDERGRADUATE: Bachelor degree [ⓑ]			POSTGRADUATE: Doctor of Medicine (MD) [ⓐ]				
Notes: [ⓐ] Bachelor degree in any discipline (minimum 3 years). [ⓑ] First intake 2014. [ⓒ] Graduates of the BPhil(Hons) will study for a total of 8 years.							

A medical graduate of UWA will:

- **Have high quality knowledge and skills.**
- **Be up to date with evidence based practice.**
- **Be accessible to patients and colleagues.**
- **Be aware of social responsibility to the community and country.**
- **Be a team member and able to work collaboratively.**

Number of places available

There are 209 graduate places for domestic applicants and 30 graduate places for international applicants in the MD.

Approximately half of these places will be available for School Leaver Pathways and half for graduate entry.

Pathways and quotas will form part of these places.

Pathways

Applicants can apply as a school leaver for one of the school leaver pathways or as a graduate through one of the Graduate Pathways.

A number of places are available for Indigenous applicants, Choose Medicine Broadway Pathway, Choose Medicine Rural Pathway applicants both at school leaver and graduate levels.

Choose Medicine Broadway Pathway

An applicant is eligible for consideration as a Broadway applicant

if they completed Year 12 at one of the schools involved in the Broadway programme. For information on the schools please refer to www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/broadway

Choose Medicine Rural Pathway

An applicant is eligible for consideration as a rural applicant if their principal home address has been in a defined rural area of Australia (ASGC-RA 2-5) for a minimum of 5 years (consecutive or cumulative) from commencement of primary school. Please refer to www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/content/locator to determine your Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Area (ASGC defined RA).

Applicants should refer to the Faculty Admissions website for supplementary forms regarding rural and Broadway eligibility.

Indigenous applicants

The Faculty encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to consider applying for entry into Medicine. In addition to the Graduate Pathways and the School Leaver Pathways there are alternative pathways available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants. These are available through the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health. For further information please contact the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health (CAMDH) at camdh.uwa.edu.au

Admission Information

As there are no specific subject prerequisites for entry to the MD, an applicant's undergraduate degree can be in any chosen field of study.



Length of degree

Regardless of an applicant's undergraduate study, the length of the MD will be 4 years. A student with a three year bachelor degree will study for a total period of seven years to obtain a qualification in medicine. A student with a bachelor degree of four or five years' duration will study for a total of eight or nine years respectively (on the basis of proceeding straight from one degree to the other).

Degree and University

The Faculty Admissions Office considers all Australian bachelor degrees equally and does not give preference or apply scaling to any particular degree or university.

Recommended Subjects

It is recommended that applicants have basic knowledge of biology/human biology, chemistry and physics; therefore it may be useful to consider this when selecting units (Year 12 physics, 1st year university level biology/human biology and chemistry).

Selection Process

- Applicants will be short-listed for interview based equally on GAMSAT/MCAT^① performance and GPA.
- Final ranking for a place will be based equally on GAMSAT/MCAT^①, GPA and Interview.
- For rural applicants, a rural rating will be included in the ranking.

^① Only international applicants can sit either GAMSAT or MCAT and the test sat will be used for short listing and final ranking. Domestic applicants can only sit the GAMSAT.

Entry Requirements

Domestic Applicants

- Australian bachelor degree or equivalent with minimum GPA of 5.5 (weighted average of approx 65% as calculated by the Faculty in conjunction with the GEMSAS Consortium)
- Suitable GAMSAT score
- Interview
- Fulfill requirements for Broadway or Rural Pathways

International Applicants

- Australian bachelor degree or equivalent with minimum GPA of 5.5 (weighted average of approx 65% as calculated by the Faculty in conjunction with the GEMSAS Consortium)
- Suitable GAMSAT or MCAT score

Prerequisites

All applicants must meet the University's requirement for English language competence (ELC). Applicants who have completed at least two successful years of full time or equivalent undergraduate study at an Australian university will automatically meet the University's ELC requirement. See studyat.uwa.edu.au/elc for details. There are no other prerequisite subjects.

Academic Achievement

All applicants will be required to meet the minimum academic threshold of a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 5.5 on a 0-7 scale (weighted average of approx 65% as calculated by the Faculty in conjunction with the GEMSAS Consortium). No extra weighting or scaling is given to particular bachelor courses, course content or university. The GPA is calculated on the most recent 3 years of study. Further bachelor study, full time Honours, Graduate Certificates, Graduate Diplomas and Masters by Coursework study are considered in the calculation if it falls within the valid period of study. A small bonus will be awarded to applicants with a completed Masters by Research. PhD applicants will be automatically awarded a GPA of 7.

Admission Tests

GAMSAT

All domestic applicants are required to sit GAMSAT. Registration for the test normally opens in October and closes in January. The test is usually held in mid-March. Applicants can sit the test during their penultimate year of study. Test scores are valid for two years, so if an applicant does well in the test they can either hold that score or attempt to better it the following year.

Sitting the test the year before graduating may be more time efficient; if an applicant does not do as well as hoped in the GAMSAT during their penultimate year, they can sit the test the following year without having to take a year off between studying and applying for the course. There are three sections in the test: Reasoning in Humanities and Social Sciences,

Interviews

Purpose of the Interview

The interview process allows the applicant the opportunity to provide additional information to that already provided during other stages of the selection process. The interview is one of three components used to rank applicants – the others being the admissions test (GAMSAT for domestic applicants and either GAMSAT or MCAT for international graduates) score and academic achievement. The interview can help to improve an applicant's overall ranking.

The purpose of the interview is to encourage an applicant to share information about themselves and their views, on a selection of topics that fall within the wide range of attributes that are often seen as desirable in medical practitioners.

The interview

The interview is structured and therefore there is no opportunity for applicants to talk about their achievements and skills outside the scope of the actual questions asked; i.e. there are no generic questions at the end that enable applicants to list their accomplishments and so on. The questions are read out as they are written down, so that every applicant is asked the same question in exactly the same way.

There are no trick questions and no one right answer. The questions are designed to encourage interviewees to think and to explain their reasoning. The questions can be scenario based, awareness based, or experientially based, but the assessment is evidence based, – that is interviewers can only rate interviewees on what they say.



Written Communication, and Reasoning in Biological and Physical Sciences. The Science section is double weighted in the overall score and equates to approximately first year university level chemistry and biology and about Australian year 12 level physics.

The minimum score required is 50 overall and 50 in each section. An applicant should refer to the Faculty Admissions website if a score slightly below 50 in one section is achieved. For further information on GAMSAT please refer to gamsat.acer.edu.au

MCAT

As the GAMSAT is not available worldwide, international applicants may sit the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) instead of the GAMSAT (Domestic applicants can only sit the GAMSAT). The MCAT is a standardised, multiple choice exam, that assesses problem solving, critical thinking, writing skills and knowledge of science concepts and principles. The minimum requirements are 8 (Verbal reasoning), 8 (Physical

Sciences), 8 (Writing Sample) and 8 (Biological Sciences). For more information refer to aamc.org/students/mcat. An applicant should contact the Faculty Admissions Office if they achieve a score below the minimum requirements for advice on competitiveness and eligibility.

Results must be submitted at the same time as the MD application.

- ✦ **Thresholds for GAMSAT and MCAT are determined annually and will be influenced by the peer group's performance.**
- ✦ **Both GAMSAT and MCAT scores are valid for two years.**
- ✦ **An application without a valid GAMSAT or MCAT score will not be considered.**

Rankings

Both domestic applicants and international applicants are ranked on their GPA: GAMSAT (/or MCAT for international applicants): Interview. For rural applicants, a rural rating will be included in the ranking. Each of these components are weighted equally.

This is why it is important for the interviewers to take notes and for the interviewees to give more than one sentence answers.

Length of Interview

Applicants are asked to arrive an hour before the interview time. This is for registration (including the signing of a confidentiality agreement) and for pre-reading. The interview itself usually lasts up to 50 minutes.

Attire

The Admissions Team works to ensure that each component of the selection process is fair to all applicants. Applicants should not wear any uniform, accessories or badges, which identify membership of a particular organisation. This is to avoid the perception that bias has entered the selection process. Applicants do not need to dress too formally but should dress as if attending a job interview. They should be smart, comfortable, but not too casual and to have layers in case they become too warm or cold.

What to Bring

Applicants are asked to bring along photographic ID – this can be a passport or drivers licence or school card.

Interview Topics

The list of criteria for the interview has been consolidated into 9 topics, three of which will be constant across years:

- **Communication Skills**
- **Graduate Presentation Exercise**
- **Motivation/Commitment to a career in medicine**

The remaining four criteria will be selected each year from the following six:

- **Awareness of social diversity**
- **Ethics and values**
- **Provision of assistance**
- **Self-awareness**
- **Trust and trustworthiness**
- **Working with others**

Interview Notification

Invitations for interviews are based equally on GAMSAT (or MCAT score for international applicants) and GPA score. Interviews will be held for domestic students in September. Please note that although domestic applicants can apply to up to six graduate medical schools across Australia, they only have the opportunity to be interviewed by one medical school. All domestic applicants must attend their UWA graduate entry medicine interview in Perth in person.

International applicants will be able to attend an interview in Hong Kong or Singapore in July or in Perth in August/September. Please contact the Faculty Admissions Office to find out if interviews will be conducted in other locations. Location of preference should be indicated on the application form. All applicants must attend their interview in person. Interviews are not offered by teleconference, video conference or Skype.

Applicants should advise the faculty Admissions Office of changes to their email address. Upon accepting an interview invite applicants will be sent further information about the interview which includes general advice about preparing for the interview and the topics that will be covered in the interview for that year.



Interview Preparation

The best preparation is having received the interview topics to research them and practice one-to-one interview situations. It is not recommended that applicants seek coaching regarding the possible questions that have been used in previous years, or that they attend the various medical interview preparation courses. Each year, after the completion of the interview process, all questions are evaluated. Questions are then rewritten for the following year.

Studies have shown that receiving specific 'training' for the interview is counter-productive. 'Trained' versus 'natural' responses may conflict with each other, which may lessen an applicant's overall performance.



Internship and Student Registration

For registration as a medical practitioner in Australia all graduates are required to complete a 12 month pre-registration internship in an approved hospital. Priority for internships is given to all Australian citizens and permanent residents. At present international graduates are only accommodated if sufficient intern places are available.

All internationally qualified applicants for student registration or applicants who qualified for registration in Australia but did not complete their secondary education in English, must demonstrate that they have the necessary English language skills for registration purposes. For further information refer to www.medicalboard.gov.au/registration-standards.aspx

The Government has some regulations relating to practicing medicine for further details refer to meddent.uwa.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/apply-professional/registration-md

Enrolment Requirements

Applicants made an offer for the MD will not be able to enrol in the course until they have completed, or shown proof of having commenced, the paperwork for the Police Clearance, Australian First Aid Certificate and Health Screening. These are all required prior to the commencement of semester 1.

Credit or Exemptions

As the course is postgraduate no credit or exemptions can

Application Process

Domestic applicants should visit the GEMSAS or Faculty Admissions Office websites for further information on how to apply and for the application deadline.

International applicants should apply through the UWA International Centre by the first Friday in June.



be granted from undergraduate courses or graduate entry MBBS courses.

Bonded Medicine

The Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme was initiated by the Federal Government and implemented in 2004 by Australian universities offering medicine. In accordance with the Department of Health and Ageing, 25% of all Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) in medicine have been designated as BMPs. Applicants are encouraged to visit health.gov.au/bmpscheme for further information on the scheme. Please note that applicants must be Australian Citizens or Australian Permanent Residents in order to be considered for a BMP.





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WESTERN AUSTRALIA



GROUP OF EIGHT

Course Information

studyat.uwa.edu.au

askUWA— answers online anytime

ask.uwa.edu.au

Faculty of Medicine,

Dentistry and Health Sciences

Faculty Admissions

The University of Western Australia

M501, 35 Stirling Highway

Crawley WA 6009

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Email: meddentadmissions@uwa.edu.au

au

meddent.uwa.edu.au/admissions

The International Centre

The University of Western Australia

M352, 35 Stirling Highway

Crawley WA 6009

Tel: +61 8 6488 3939

international.uwa.edu.au

GEMSAS

Email: info@gemsas.edu.au

gemsas.edu.au

Information in this publication was compiled in February 2014, but is subject to change from time to time. In particular the University reserves the right to change the content/entry requirements/course content and number