



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) Graduate Entry

TODAY'S STUDENTS, TOMORROW'S HEALTH PROFESSIONALS





The School of Dentistry welcomed its first Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) students in 2013. We hope the following information will assist you in making a decision about your future career.

As part of the significant curriculum reform at The University of Western Australia, the Bachelor of Dental Science (BDSc) has been replaced by the postgraduate qualification Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD). By offering the DMD at postgraduate level, UWA is in line with leading universities across the world.

The benefits for the students include:

- Greater career opportunities within a global workplace

- Improved links with industry and professional practice
- A strong foundation and knowledge base from the undergraduate degree
- An advanced learning environment at postgraduate level
- Significant research component
- Early clinical contact

Dentistry as a career requires a high degree of dedication and excellent manual dexterity skills.



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Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)

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

The Doctor of Dental Medicine course will be integrated in its delivery, with scientific information being contextualised and embedded in the curriculum both horizontally (i.e. within the same year) as well as vertically (i.e. across the years).

Emphasis will be placed on the acquisition of relevant knowledge in the basic medical sciences to support the staged development of clinical dental competencies and skills. Early clinical contact is pivotal to the course and students will enter the clinic from the first semester of their study.

The course is divided into two phases: (i) The build-up phase (semester 1-4) which aims at providing students with the essential clinical competencies and skills and (ii) the broadening phases (semesters 5-8) in which the clinical competencies and skills are expanded and contextualised in a patient-centred care model.

Length of study

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	
UNDERGRADUATE: Bachelor degree ❶			POSTGRADUATE: Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) ❷					

Notes:

❶ Bachelor degree in any discipline (minimum 3 years).

❷ Graduates of the BPhil(Hons) will study for a total of 8 years.

The changes

All applicants wishing to study dentistry at UWA will have to complete an Australian undergraduate bachelor degree (minimum of three years) or equivalent before completing the postgraduate dental qualification. On completion of the DMD, 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 DMD

The DMD had its first intake of graduates in 2013, and will provide dentists from 2017.

Number of places available

There are 50 graduate places for domestic applicants and 6 graduate places for international applicants in the DMD for 2013 and 2014 entry.

The number of places will decrease, from 2015 onwards because of the school leaver pathways students joining the course.

Pathways and quotas will form part of these places.

Pathways

Applicants will be able to 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 will be available for Indigenous applicants, Choose Dentistry Broadway Pathway, and Choose Dentistry Rural Pathway applicants both at school leaver and graduate levels.

Choose Dentistry (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 Dentistry 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/contentlocator to determine your Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Area (ASGC-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 Dentistry. 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

Standard Pathway

Applicants not eligible for any of the pathways listed above should apply for the Standard Pathway.

Admissions Information

As there are no specific prerequisites for the DMD, an applicant's undergraduate degree can be in any chosen field of study. There are no restrictions placed on the length of time since the bachelor degree was completed.

Length of degree

Regardless of an applicant's undergraduate study, the length of the DMD 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 dentistry. 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).



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)
- Suitable GAMSAT score
- Interview
- Manual dexterity and spatial awareness admission tests
- Fulfill requirements for Broadway, Rural or Standard Pathways

International Applicants

- Australian bachelor degree or equivalent with minimum GPA of 5.5 (weighted average of approx 65% as calculated by the Faculty)
- Suitable GAMSAT or MCAT score
- Interview
- Manual dexterity and spatial awareness admission tests

Selection process

- Applicants will be short-listed for interview based on GAMSAT/MCAT^③ performance and GPA.
- Applicants will have to complete a manual dexterity test and a spatial awareness admission test at the time of interview. The results for these tests will not be used in the final ranking, but will determine if an application proceeds to the final ranking.
- Final ranking for a place will be based on GAMSAT/MCAT^③, GPA and Interview.
- For rural applicants, a rural rating will be included in the ranking

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 (approximately equivalent to 65% as calculated by the faculty). 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, 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.

Deferrals*

International applicants offered a place in the DMD will not normally be able to defer this place to the following year.

*subject to final approval

^③ 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 GAMSAT.



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 in 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, 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 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 DMD application.

- Thresholds for GAMSAT and MCAT are determined annually and will be determined on how the peer group has done.
- Both GAMSAT and MCAT scores are valid for two years.
- An application without a valid GAMSAT or MCAT score will not be considered.



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 (GAMST 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 dental 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.

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 and additional time for the spatial awareness and manual dexterity admission tests.

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.

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 dentistry



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 at the end of September / beginning of October. All domestic applicants must attend their UWA graduate entry dentistry interview in Perth in person.

International applicants will be able to attend an interview in Malaysia or Singapore in July or 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 as this is how the Faculty communicates with applicants. 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 dental 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.

Manual dexterity and spatial awareness admission tests

The Spatial Awareness test is a 30-minute paper-and-pencil test produced by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). The test will be undertaken by applicants when they attend their selection interview and will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

The test result will not be used in final ranking of applicants, however applicants will need to have passed the test in order to be included on the final ranked list.

The Manual Dexterity test uses a virtual reality dental machine and

tests manual coordination. The Manual Dexterity Test will be a practical test undertaken by domestic applicants when they attend their selection interview. International students will sit the Manual Dexterity Test in Perth once they commence their DMD studies. The test will be a requirement for applicants in the selection process, however the results obtained will only be used for research purposes and will not form part of the selection process.

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 degree study at an Australian university will automatically meet the University's English requirement. Please see admissions.uwa.edu.au/undergrad/requirements/english for further information on English Competency.

There are no other prerequisite subjects.

Enrolment requirements

All applicants made an offer for the DMD 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 Senior First Aid Certificate and Health Screening. Please see below for student registration requirements. These are all required prior to the commencement of semester 1.

Registration

Following successful completion of this course, graduates will be able to register with the Dental Board of Australia as a dentist and enter the profession immediately.

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.dentalboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx

Eye sight requirements

There are visual requirements for the DMD and students could fail and be excluded if they do not have these visual requirements. Applicants are recommended to have an eye examination to determine if they have any vision defects which will interfere with their ability to practice as a dentist. Vision defects that can be corrected, such as the wearing of glasses, should be done so prior to enrolment.

Application process

Domestic applicants apply directly to the Faculty Admissions Office. The application form is available at meddent.uwa.edu.au/admissions. Applicants should check the Faculty Admissions website for the application deadline.

International applicants should apply through the UWA International Centre and check the Faculty Admissions website for the application deadline.

Credit or exemptions

As the course is postgraduate no credit or exemptions can be granted from undergraduate courses.

Rankings

Both domestic and international applicants are ranked on their GPA:GAMSAT (/or MCAT⁴):Interview. Rural applicants have a rural rating applied. Each of these components are weighted equally.

⁴ International applicants can sit either GAMSAT or MCAT. Domestic applicants can only sit GAMSAT



GROUP OF EIGHT

Course Information

studyat.uwa.edu.au

**askUWA—
answers online anytime**

ask.uwa.edu.au

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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 entry requirements and course content at any time.