Pathways to Medicine

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

- Medical student (4-6 years)
- Intern (1 year)
- Resident Medical Officer (1+ years)
- Registrar (3-7 years)
- 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 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/medical-program](https://bond.edu.au/program/medical-program) (dual program)
- University of New South Wales (NSW) [http://med.unsw.edu.au/applying](http://med.unsw.edu.au/applying) (dual program)
- University of Western Sydney (NSW) [http://www.uws.edu.au/medicine/som](http://www.uws.edu.au/medicine/som)

The information you need to obtain includes:

- Years 11 and 12 subjects: prerequisite subjects (i.e. subjects you must have 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 part of the application?
Career Information

- Are scholarships available?
- Can I do another degree with medicine (e.g. B Science/B Medicine)?
- What teaching approach does the medical school have?

Visit the following websites for information about medical schools in New Zealand:

- University of Otago [http://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/qualifications/mbchb.html](http://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/qualifications/mbchb.html)

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 completed degree, a minimum GPA, GAMSAT and 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)
- Deakin University (VIC) [http://www.deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/find-a-course](http://www.deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/find-a-course) (search for ‘Medicine’)
- Flinders University (SA) [http://www.flinders.edu.au/courses/postgrad/course-index/health-medicine.cfm](http://www.flinders.edu.au/courses/postgrad/course-index/health-medicine.cfm)
- Griffith University (QLD) [https://degrees.griffith.edu.au/](https://degrees.griffith.edu.au/) (search for ‘Medicine’)
- University of Notre Dame (Fremantle, WA & Sydney, NSW) [http://www.nd.edu.au/fremantle/courses/undergraduate/medicine/mbbs.shtml](http://www.nd.edu.au/fremantle/courses/undergraduate/medicine/mbbs.shtml)
- 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)
- University of Wollongong (NSW) [http://coursefinder.uow.edu.au/index.htmlPssSourceSiteId=UOW_Main](http://coursefinder.uow.edu.au/index.htmlPssSourceSiteId=UOW_Main) (search for ‘Medicine’)

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; passes in Senior English and Maths B, plus one of Biological Science, Chemistry or Physics. The GU Subject Bonus or OP 1 – 6 Guarantee Schemes do not apply to this course. However, the Rural Priority Scheme will apply (25% quota for students from specified rural areas).
- QTAC application.
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). To be eligible for a place in these courses, 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, with a pass in Senior English (also meet the prerequisites for the undergraduate study pathway chosen). The UQ Subject Bonus Scheme does apply to this course but the UQ OP Guarantee Scheme does not.
- UMAT.
- QTAC application.

Successful applicants enroll in any undergraduate degree program at the University of Queensland (see suggested undergraduate programs at [https://medicine.uq.edu.au/node/329](https://medicine.uq.edu.au/node/329)). 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.

**Universities in other states may have similar provisional entry pathways.**

**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/](http://umat.acer.edu.au/) to sit for the test. The registration due date for UMAT is usually in early June and the test date is in late July. 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 question types and the time limitations.

**Student financial support schemes**


**Helpful resources**

- Graduate Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT) [http://gamsat.acer.edu.au/](http://gamsat.acer.edu.au/)
- Graduate Entry Medical School Admission System (GEMSAS) [http://www.gemsas.edu.au/](http://www.gemsas.edu.au/)