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UMAT and Medicine Guidebook

A Closer Look into the Medicine Career

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Make their Mark
for over 27 years

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1. Aim of Seminar

The Medicine Information Seminar aims to provide senior high school students with objective and impartial information concerning the medical profession that will help students make an informed decision about choosing medicine as a career. The seminar will cover all aspects of medicine including medical school admissions and the realities of being a medical student and of being a practicing medical doctor. The following information complements the presentations made by a careers advisor, a medical student, a junior medical doctor and a senior medical specialist on the day of the seminar.

Note: All the information in this booklet is accurate at the time of printing.

2. About Medicine

Medicine is a profession that focuses on diagnosing, treating, and preventing disease and other damage to the body or mind. Doctors have exceptional people skills and the ability to apply their medical knowledge with good clinical judgment to determine the proper diagnoses and medical treatment for patients. Hence, medicine is a discipline that requires academic *and* non-academic qualities.

3. Advantages & Disadvantages of Medicine

Just like every other career, medicine has both advantages and disadvantages.

Advantages of Medicine

- Preservation of life. Doctors have the privilege of preserving, protecting, and saving human life using effective medical treatments and interventions.
- Helping people. Doctors reach out to people on a daily basis and cause an immediate positive change in their health and quality of life.
- Building relationships. Doctors get the opportunity to build relationships and become intimately involved in people's lives within professional boundaries.
- Rewarding. The positive changes doctors make to peoples' lives are professionally and emotionally rewarding.
- Continuously evolving. The understanding and practice of medicine continuously changes which makes medicine interesting and innovative rather than dull and repetitive.
- Respected profession. The medical profession is highly respected in the community. People look up to doctors for their hard work and efforts in promoting and preserving health.
- Job security. Doctors usually have a stable job because there is a high demand for doctors in the community.
- Financial stability. Doctors earn a stable income.

Disadvantages of Medicine

- Physical, emotional and intellectual stress. Doctors generally work long hours and have heavy work loads, which can be physically and intellectually exhausting.
- Duration of medical training. Medical training, depending on the chosen specialty, can take more than a decade before full qualifications can be obtained.
- Professional demands. Medicine can be a time-pressured career as doctors have to continuously refine their medical knowledge, attend medical conferences, keep up with correspondences and maintain their medical practice.
- Family strain. The professional demands of a doctor may place a lot of strain on the doctor's personal life.
- Liability. The decisions doctors make in treating individuals bear serious health and financial consequences. Medical doctors have to pay huge amounts of money for medical insurance. Many doctors face claim, lawsuits and reviews of their decisions at some point in their careers.
- Being on-call. Doctors are often called upon outside normal working hours for a consultation by medical staff and/or to treat a patient(s). This may inconvenience many doctors.
- Managing difficult patients. Sometimes patients do not take advice, refuse treatment and have complex chronic illnesses which can be frustrating for doctors if they cannot do anything to help the patient.

4. As a Medical Student

Medical school can be both an exciting and stressful experience. You are expected to learn extensive and complex medical knowledge and clinical skills. You will have to learn independently, efficiently and consistently throughout the course. To learn medicine effectively, you must make sacrifices, manage yourself and your time, be self-motivated, persevere in your studies, be able to multitask and still manage to have a social life.

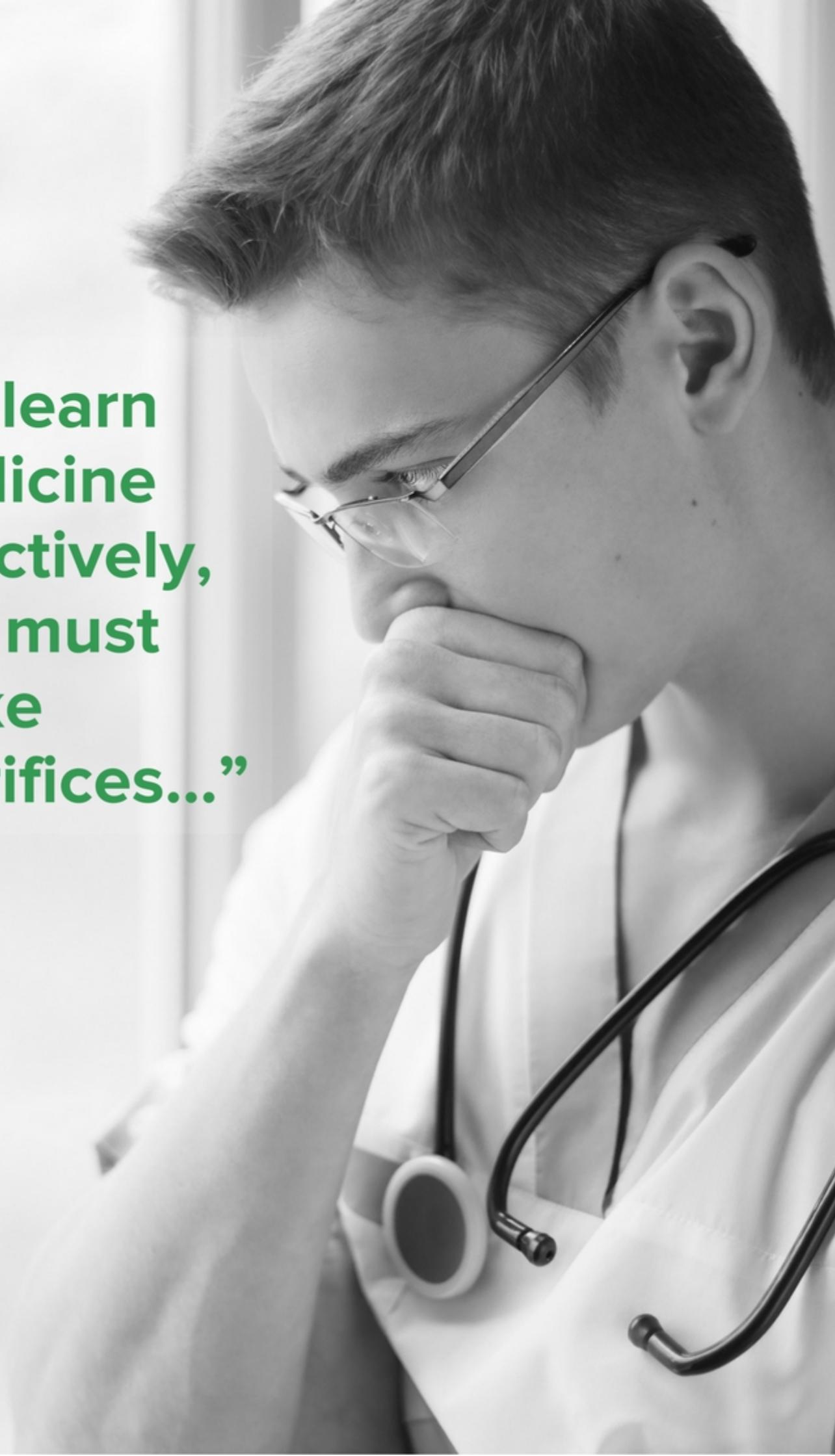
Although the structure of medical programs vary between universities, they all share common features. Medical programs are integrated, which means you will make connections between different areas in medicine in order to apply them to specific medical problems. For example, learning how to diagnose and treat a disease may require knowledge in cardiology (the heart), haematology (the blood) and endocrinology (hormones). Medical sciences and clinical sciences are usually integrated throughout the course with a more clinical focus as the program progresses.

In the early years of the program, you will perform simple medical procedures on your clinical days, such as taking the medical history of patients and analysing laboratory results. In the later years of the course, you will examine and medically treat patients under the supervision of a clinician.

You will learn medicine in different settings, including lectures, tutorials and laboratories; both at university and in hospitals. Learning will be both independent and in small groups (usually up to ten students) throughout the medical program. Many universities also have Problem Based Learning (PBLs) sessions where students work together in seeking solutions to particular clinical problems. In all phases of the program, you will be required to travel to various hospitals associated with your university. The number of hours spent at university and in hospital per week differs between universities. Timetables are not fixed and flexibility is essential.

Medical programs are also typically community-orientated. As a medical student, you will learn about factors that contribute to community health and disease, such as social, economic and occupational factors. You will also be trained to treat individuals as a whole, by focusing on the social and psychological aspects of disease as well as the biological.

**“To learn
medicine
effectively,
you must
make
sacrifices...”**



5. As a Doctor

As a doctor you will be working with people, especially the sick as well as allied medical staff, in a busy and critical environment. You will interact with people on a daily basis, gather medical information such as patient medical history; conduct physical examinations and analyse laboratory results; determine the most appropriate treatment protocol, administer medical treatment and monitor patient health. Doctors make difficult and challenging decisions on a daily basis which may carry grave consequences.

Doctors must have the following qualities:

- Good communication skills. The ability to effectively listen to and communicate with patients and other health care professionals such as nurses and radiographers.
- Courtesy. The ability to show kindness and respect towards patients and other health care professionals.
- Empathy. The ability to understand the thoughts and feelings of others. Must be able to 'put yourself in other people's shoes' without judging them in any way.
- Clinical competence. Must have appropriate medical knowledge. Doctors deal with people's lives, so making an error can have serious repercussions.
- Confidentiality. Patients often let doctors into their private lives. They disclose personal information to doctors which doctors must respect and protect.
- Ability to work in a team. The medical profession is multidisciplinary. A doctor must be prepared to work in a team of health care providers in order to manage patient health.
- Capacity for life long learning. Medical knowledge continuously changes. A medical practitioner must continuously update their knowledge in the field of medicine and practice according to the latest medical understandings i.e. you will need to study/learn throughout the entirety of your medical career.
- Good decision making. Must be able to make rational and sensitive decisions in circumstances of uncertainty based on the best available evidence/data.
- Professionalism. Doctors must interact with their colleagues, allied health and their patients in a professional manner.
- Ethical and moral standards. Doctors deal with people's lives, so it is essential that they are ethically minded and work with high moral standards.

6. Advice from Doctors & Medical Students

Below is some advice from doctors and current medical students to prospective medical students.

- “Speak to doctors and/or medical students about medicine in order to learn about the nature of the profession.”
- “Find a mentor/example of a doctor that inspires your career”.
- “Research medicine in order to discover if it’s something you are genuinely interested in”.
- “Read the biographies of doctors to learn about their careers and lifestyles. A librarian may be able to help you find biographies of medical doctors”.
- “Do some volunteer work in the field of medicine (if feasible) to observe the work of doctors. This may be a hospital or simply a local general practitioner”.
- “You must have a genuine interest to work with people and a genuine desire to help people and improve their health if you want to become a doctor”.
- “Self-sacrifice and a commitment to life-long learning are crucial in medicine”.
- “Medicine is physically and intellectually demanding. You must be perseverant, studious and able to work under stress if you want to pursue a career in medicine”.
- “UMAT [Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admissions Test] is just as important as the HSC/ATAR, so prepare for UMAT early and thoroughly; don’t compromise your UMAT score by neglecting UMAT and focusing only on your HSC subjects”.
- “Time management and learning to balance your professional responsibilities and personal life are essential skills. One needs to know that being a doctor shouldn’t overshadow our other roles in life - friends, partner, being a parent etc”.
- “Surround yourself with positive people who believe in you. Your parents and friends will be an essential support system if you decide to pursue a career in medicine”.

7. Categories of Medical School Entry

Australian Medical Schools generally offer four different categories of entry as briefly outlined below. To apply for any one of these places, you first need to apply to study medicine through the normal admissions process.

Note: Students in all four categories do the same course and undergo the same medical training.

7.1 Commonwealth Supported Places (formerly HECS)

This is the 'standard' entry category. These places have no bonding or scholarships attached to them.

7.2 Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme

A student who accepts one of these places is given the opportunity to study medicine and in return, must work in a District of Workforce Shortage of their choice for a period of one year upon completion of their studies. For further information about this scheme refer to:

www.health.gov.au/workforce/bmp/what.htm

7.3 Full-Fee Paying Places

Students in this category pay fees similar to the fees paid by international students, which is \$40,000 - \$50,000 per year for the duration of their medical study. The fee varies between different universities. No university in NSW offer full fee paying places for undergraduate students.

The following information has been adapted from the websites of the University Admissions Center (UAC), The University of NSW, The University of Newcastle, The University of New England, The University of Sydney and The University of Western Sydney. Students should check the admissions details of individual universities before applying for medicine.

**“Surround
yourself
with positive
people who
believe in
you...”**



8. Medical School Admissions

The University of New South Wales and the University of Newcastle have been the main universities in NSW that offer undergraduate medicine. In 2008, the University of Newcastle and the University of New England offered a joint medical program. The University of Sydney recently introduced a combined undergraduate Science-Medicine course, and the University of Western Sydney accepted its first cohort of students in its new undergraduate Medicine program in 2007.

8.1 University of New South Wales (UNSW)

The medical program at the UNSW is the only six-year undergraduate program that leads to the degrees of Bachelor of Medical Studies (BMed) and the Doctor of Medicine (MD), a higher level qualification and more internationally recognised degree to the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS). Students can also enrol in the combined Arts/Medicine program which is a seven-year program that leads to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Doctor of Medicine (BA, BMed/MD). The medical program at the UNSW is a popular program. In the admissions for 2009 there were in excess of 3500 applicants for the 156 standard (non-rural) entry places.

Selection Criteria

Student selection into the medical program at the University of NSW is based on a combination of academic merit (UAI), the UMAT score and interview performance. Students maximise their chances of being selected by achieving the highest possible scores in each of the three criteria.

- *Recommended Studies in High School*
There are no subject prerequisites. However, there is an assumed knowledge of Standard English and Chemistry is a recommended subject by the UNSW medical faculty.
- *Academic Merit*
Students applying on the basis of their HSC score have to attain a minimum ATAR of 96 to be considered for admissions. However, the average ATAR of successful applicants in recent years has been greater than 99.60. Hence, achieving the minimum academic score will not guarantee selection for an interview (the third criteria for selection into medicine).

- *UMAT*

All applicants must register and sit the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admissions Test (UMAT), which is designed to examine a number of non-academic personal qualities that are essential to the study and practice of medicine. The test is usually held on the last Wednesday of July for the year. In 2016, it will be held on Wednesday the 27th of July.

For further information about UMAT refer to the UMAT section below.

- *Interview*

Applicants are offered an interview (usually in late November or early January) based on their predicted academic merit (ATAR score) and their actual UMAT score. The interview based on an application submitted about a student's personal interests and attributes. In 2015, a total of around 500 interviews took place over the November and January interview periods.

Final offers are based on an equal scaling of academic merit, UMAT score and interview rating.

For complete details about the requirements of the UNSW medicine admission process and due dates, refer to: <http://med.unsw.edu.au/>

8.2 University of Newcastle & University of New England – Joint Medical Program

From 2008 onwards, a Bachelor of Medicine program was offered jointly by the University of Newcastle and the University of New England. The curriculum for this five year-undergraduate program is based on the current University of Newcastle program (medicine was not previously offered by the University of New England). It will be identical at both institutions; candidates will have the opportunity to select the site at which they would prefer to complete the program when they lodge their application.

Students are also invited to study subjects offered by other faculties such as the Faculties of Education and Arts and Science and Information Technology. For admissions in 2014 there were over 3000 applicants but these universities offer a total of 170 Commonwealth supported places into the joint medical program.

Selection Criteria

Student selection into the joint medical program is based on a combination of academic merit, UMAT score and interview performance. Students maximize their chances of being selected by achieving the highest possible scores in each of the three criteria.

- *Recommended Studies in High School*
There are no subject pre-requisites. However, chemistry and any two units of English are recommended subjects by the Universities.

- *Academic Merit*
Currently, Year 12 applicants must attain, at least, an ATAR of 94.30 (urban) or an ATAR of 91.40 (rural) as a minimum. The ATAR is considered a threshold for interview selection, and is not taken into account for final student selection.

- *UMAT*
A score of 50 must be attained in each section of the UMAT to be eligible for entry, with applicants then being ranked according to their Section 1 score. The higher the Section 1 score, the higher the chance of their selection into the Joint Medical Program. The usual cut off score for Section 1 is 59.

- *Interview*
Applicants are offered an interview (usually in November or December) based on their academic merit (ATAR) and UMAT score. The Multistation Mini Interview covers a wide range of issues relevant to the study and practice of medicine, whilst testing the applicant's underlying character, logical reasoning and problem solving skills, and motivations for studying medicine. Applicants will be required to complete the Multiple Skills Assessment and an online Personal Qualities Assessment.

Final offers are based only on UMAT Section 1 scores and interview scores, i.e. the ATAR score is only a threshold; it is not considered in the final student selection.

For complete details about admissions and due dates, refer to the website of the University of Newcastle at: <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/joint-medical-program>

or the University of New England at:

<https://my.une.edu.au/courses/2016/courses/BMED>

8.3 Western Sydney University (WSU)

The WSU Medical School is a relatively new school that is part of the College of Health and Science. The faculty accepted its first cohort of approximately 100 students in 2007. Medicine at WSU is an undergraduate five-year course that leads to the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS).

Selection Criteria

Student selection into the medical program at WSU is based on a combination of academic merit, the UMAT score and interview performance. Students maximise their chances of being selected by achieving the highest possible scores in their UMAT scores and interview performance. The ATAR is considered as a threshold.

- *Recommended Studies in High School*
There are no subject pre-requisites. However, Chemistry is a recommended subject by the University of Western Sydney.

- *Academic Merit*
Currently, students applying on the basis of their HSC score had to attain a minimum ATAR of 95.50 to be considered for admission unless they qualified as a Greater Western Sydney (GWS) applicant in which case the minimum ATAR was 93.50. The local government areas defined as GWS are the following:
 - Auburn Council
 - Bankstown City Council
 - The Council of the Shire of Baulkham Hills
 - Blacktown City Council
 - Blue Mountains City Council
 - Camden Council
 - Campbelltown City Council
 - Fairfield City Council
 - Hawkesbury City Council
 - Holroyd City Council
 - Liverpool City Council
 - Parramatta City Council
 - Penrith City Council
 - Wollondilly Shire Council

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The school also takes up to 3 students to complete a 7 year combined degree of Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and Bachelor of Arts (BA), which requires a 99.85 ATAR to be considered. All other criteria for this program are identical to the MBBS selection criteria.

- *UMAT*

Currently, the WSU converts UMAT scores by combining the score for Section 1, Section 2 and a half of Section 3 to produce a weighted mark. The higher this weighted mark is, the higher the chance of selection at final student selections.

- *Interview (MMI)*

Applicants are offered an interview (usually in December or January) based on their predicted academic merit (ATAR score) and their actual UMAT score. Like the JMP for Newcastle and New England, the interview covers a wide range of issues relevant to the study and practice of medicine, whilst testing the applicant's underlying character and motivations for studying medicine.

Final offers are based on interview rating.

For complete details about the requirements of the WSU admission process and due dates, refer to:

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/medicine/som/courses/undergraduate/applying_to_medicine

8.4 University of Sydney

At the University of Sydney students are able to combine the Bachelor of Science (Advanced), the Bachelor of Medical Science, the Bachelor of Art Advanced Honours, or the Bachelor of Commerce/Economics with the University's four-year graduate-entry Doctor of Medicine (MD) program. Students first complete their chosen undergraduate degree then enter the medical course.

You also have the option of combining a Bachelor of Music with the MD Program provided you pass the audition. The ATAR cut off for the Music pathway is 99.5.

These are extremely competitive courses given that hundreds of students nominate these courses as their first preference and the university only accepts up to 30 students for these combined medicine degrees.

Selection Criteria

Student selection into the medical program at the University Sydney is based on a combination of academic merit and interview performance. Students maximize their chances of being selected by achieving the highest possible scores in each of the two criteria.

- *Recommended Studies in High School*

There are no subject pre-requisites but there is assumed knowledge depending on the course chosen. Mathematics or HSC Mathematics Extension 1 is assumed knowledge for Science-Medicine and Commerce/Economics-Medicine; music for Music-Medicine; and for Arts Advanced Honours-Medicine the assumed knowledge depends on subject areas chosen.

- *Academic Merit*

Students must attain an ATAR of 99.95 for entry.

- *Interview*

Selected students will be required to attend an interview (formality). The interview covers a wide range of issues relevant to the study and practice of medicine.

Final offers are based on academic merit and interview score.

Note: UMAT is not required for admissions into the combined medical program at the University of Sydney.

For complete details about the requirements of the University of Sydney medicine admission process and due dates, refer to their undergraduate entry website:

<http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/study/md/double-degrees.php>

“The duration of medical training differs considerably for different medical specialities...”



9. Graduate-Entry Medicine

Graduate-entry medicine is offered by several Universities around Australia including The University of Sydney, The University of Notre Dame, The University of Queensland and The University of Melbourne.

Graduate-entry medical programs are generally shorter than undergraduate programs. Graduate medicine at the University of Sydney, for example, is a four-year program. The three basic admissions criteria for graduate medicine involve performance in:

1. A bachelor degree (in any degree) with required grade point average (results)
2. The Graduate Australian Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT)
3. Multistation Mini Interview (MMI)

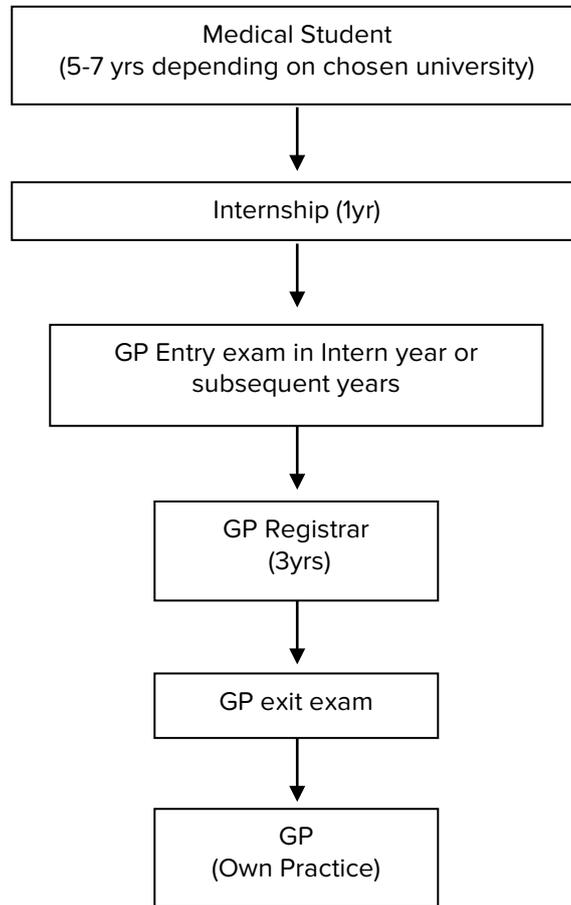
For further information about graduate-entry medicine and the admissions process, refer to:

<http://www.acer.edu.au/tests/university/gamsat/intro.html>

10. After Graduating

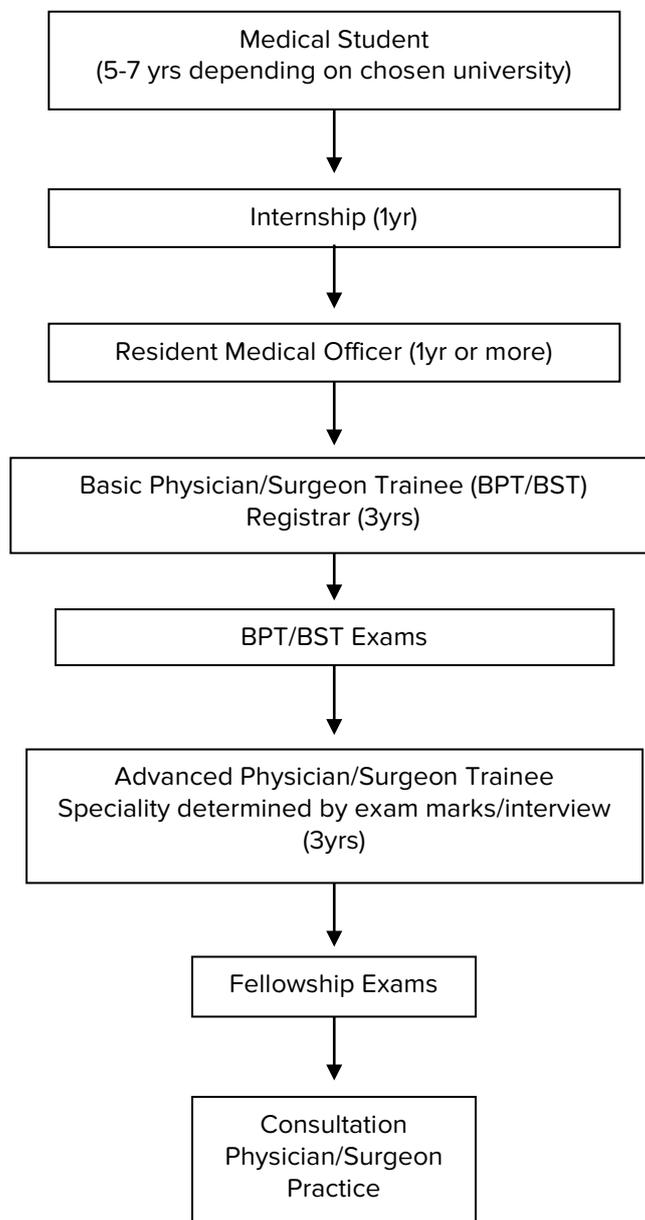
After graduating from medical school, you must work in a hospital for one year as a junior medical officer to obtain recognition as a medical practitioner with a State Medical Board. To become a specialist, further study and experience is required. The duration of medical training differs considerably for different medical specialties; for some specialties it may take more than a decade to become a fully qualified specialist. Below is a *general* schema of the medical training following graduation from medical school.

General Practitioner Pathway:



Note: Many people chose to do further study which includes either degrees in coursework or degrees in research done either part time or full time. This can vary from 6 months (e.g. graduate diploma) to 3 years (PhD) taken as full time load.

Physician & Surgeon Pathway:



Note: Many people chose to do further study which includes either degrees in coursework or degrees in research done either part time or full time. This can vary from 6 months (e.g. graduate diploma) to 3 years (PhD) taken as full time load.

11. Career Opportunities

There are many specialties and career options in medicine. The specialties can be broadly categorised into: General Practice (family doctor), medical specialties (diagnoses and treatment through non-surgical means) and surgical specialties (operations).

Some of the medical specialties include:

- Cardiology (Heart doctor)
- Dermatology (Skin doctor)
- Emergency Medicine (Doctor for initial treatment of trauma or sudden illnesses)
- Gastroenterology (Doctor for diseases of the digestive system)
- Geriatrics (Doctor for the elderly)
- Haematology (Doctor for diseases of blood and body tissues that make blood cells)
- Nephrology (Doctor for kidney diseases)
- Neurology (Doctor for diseases of the brain and nerves)
- Oncology (Tumor/cancer doctor)
- Ophthalmology (Eye doctor)
- Pediatrics (Doctor for infants and children)
- Psychiatry (Doctor for mental and emotional disorders)
- Urology (Doctor for the diseases of the urinary tract and urogenital system)
- Radiology (Doctors for the use of imaging modalities in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases)
- Sports Medicine (Doctor for injuries or illnesses resulting from sporting activities)

Some of the surgical specialties include:

- Cardiothoracic (Heart and lungs)
- Gastrointestinal (Intestinal tract)
- Neuro (brain and nerves)
- Obstetrics and gynecology (female reproductive organs and pregnancy)
- Orthopedics (Bones)
- Plastic (skin)
- Pediatric (infants, children and adolescents)
- Transplant
- Vascular (arteries and veins)

Some of the career options include:

- Clinical Practice
- Medical Research
- Teaching/lecturing
- Journalism/writing

The following information has been adapted from the UMAT Information Booklet 2016 developed by ACER.

12. All about UMAT

12.1 What is UMAT?

The Undergraduate Medicine and Health Science Admissions Test (UMAT) is developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) on behalf of various universities. It is developed and used specifically to assist with the selection of students into medicine and other health science courses such as pharmacy and dentistry.

The test is designed to assess a number of non-academic personal qualities which are considered vital to the study and practice of medicine, dentistry and other health professions. The general attributes and skills examined include skills in critical thinking and problem solving, understanding people and abstract non-verbal reasoning; all of which are gained through prior experience and learning.

Note: A UMAT test score is valid for only one year. This means that applicants can only sit the UMAT in the year they apply for Medicine (or any other course requiring UMAT). The University Admissions Committees will use only the most recent UMAT results when considering the application for that year. It is not possible to combine scores from different UMAT administration years.

12.2 What is the purpose of UMAT?

The primary purpose of the UMAT is to assess personal qualities which are not always reflected in an applicant's academic record, such as the ability to understand and relate to people. Australian universities have attempted to ensure that students entering health science professions such as medicine have demonstrated academic and non-academic qualities.

12.3 Which university course requires a UMAT score?

A UMAT score is required for admission to any of the following courses:

NEW SOUTH WALES

Western Sydney University
Medicine

The University of New South Wales
Medicine

The University of Newcastle/University of
New England
Joint Medical Program

Charles Sturt University
Dental Science

VICTORIA

Monash University
Medicine

La Trobe University
Health Sciences in Dentistry/Master of
Dentistry
Oral Health Science

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The University of Adelaide
Medicine
Dental Surgery

Flinders University
Clinical Sciences/Medicine

QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland
Medicine (Provisional Entry)
Dental Science

Bond University
NO UMAT Required

James Cook University
NO UMAT Required

Griffith University
NO UMAT Required

TASMANIA

University of Tasmania
Medicine

NEW ZEALAND

The University of Auckland (New Zealand)
Medicine

The University of Otago (New Zealand)
Medicine

Dental Surgery

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The University of Western Australia
Medicine (assured entry)
Dental Science (assured entry)

Curtin University
Medicine

12.4 UMAT Structure & Content

UMAT is a three hour exam, consisting of 134 Multiple Choice Questions based on three sections presented in one booklet with no rest breaks in between. All the questions are multiple choice questions, all of which have the same value. As of 2012, multiple choice questions are no longer assorted in order of section, but instead are assorted throughout the entirety of the exam. This means students can now allocate as much time as they want on particular sections, rather than only having one hour per section. The three sections are:

Section 1: Logical Reasoning and Problem Solving (48 Questions)

Questions in this section are based on a brief text or piece of information presented graphically. These questions are designed to assess the ability of candidates to comprehend, draw logical conclusions, reach solutions by identifying relevant facts, evaluate information, pinpoint additional or missing information, and generate and test plausible hypotheses.

Section 2: Understanding people (44 Questions).

Questions in this section are based on passages representing specific interpersonal situations. These questions are designed to assess the ability of a candidate to identify, understand, and, where necessary, infer the thoughts, feelings, behaviour and/or intentions of the people represented in the situations.

Section 3: Non-verbal reasoning (42 Questions).

Questions in this section are of several kinds. All are based on patterns or sequences of patterns and are designed to assess the ability of a candidate to think and solve problems in non-verbal contexts. This is perhaps the most challenging section of the exam.

For UMAT sample questions, refer to the UMAT Information Booklet at:

http://umat.acer.edu.au/images/infobook/UMAT_InfoBook.pdf

12.5 When is UMAT held?

In 2017 UMAT will be held on Wednesday 27th of July. UMAT registrations for the 2017 sitting of the exam will open in early December 2016. The UMAT registration fee is \$240 (GST inclusive). Candidates with a valid concession are entitled to a fee reduction (registration fee becomes \$140).

For further information about UMAT, visit <http://umat.acer.edu.au/>



**“Doctors make
difficult and
challenging decisions
on a daily basis...”**

13. Personal Awareness Checklist

If you are interested in studying medicine you must have the following qualities:

- a desire to work with people
- a desire to help people
- ability to listen to people and address their concerns in a kind and courteous manner
- good communication skills including listening skills
- ability to empathize; to 'put yourself in other peoples shoes' and understand their feelings
- ability to learn independently
- ability to work in a team
- committed to life long learning
- honesty and integrity
- ability to cope with stress and work under pressure
- ability to identify own strengths and weaknesses
- ability to make rational and sensitive decisions
- respect and professionalism
- good reasoning and decision making skills

To attain the above qualities, you should:

- engage in extracurricular activities such as sports, public speaking and arts
- participate in social events
- study consistently
- read widely and consistently
- work independently on certain projects/tasks
- work in groups on a particular event, assignment, project etc to learn about group dynamics
- engage in charity work, volunteer work, fundraisers and the community

If you are interested in studying medicine you must be aware of the following:

- Entry into medicine requires a high ATAR (>96 for UNSW, >94.30 for University of Newcastle/New England, 99.95 for University of Sydney, >95.5 for UWS)
- To apply for medicine, you must sit UMAT (in the middle of year 12) and perform well in the test in order to be invited for an interview
- Undergraduate medicine is a six-year course at the UNSW and a five-year course at the University of Newcastle/New England and the UWS
- After graduating, you must work at least one year in a hospital
- Training to become a medical specialist may take more than a decade
- Need a Bachelor degree and good grade point average (result) for graduate-medical program

14. Frequently Asked Questions

1. What subjects should I study at high school if I want to study medicine?

There are no subject prerequisites for entry into the medical program at UNSW, University of Newcastle/New England, UWS or at the University of Sydney. However, Chemistry, English and Mathematics are recommended subjects by the Universities and by medical students as they will help you in the study of medicine.

2. How important is the UMAT score for entry into medicine?

The UMAT score is equally important as the HSC score. The UMAT score is used along with the ATAR score to select individuals for an interview. At the UNSW, final offers are based on ATAR score, UMAT score and interview, whereas at the University of Newcastle/New England and the UWS final offers are based only on UMAT and interview scores. Hence, the UMAT exam is not to be taken lightly.

3. When should I start preparing for UMAT?

Previous UMAT candidates suggest UMAT preparation should commence in the summer holidays (at the end of year 11) and should continue consistently until the exam. Different students have different strengths and weaknesses. Hence, students should prepare for the exam based on their strengths and weaknesses.

4. Which section of UMAT is the most challenging?

There is a general consensus that the third section (Non-verbal reasoning) is the most challenging section of the exam. The least challenging section is generally the second section (Understanding people).

5. How difficult is it to study medicine?

Medicine can be a difficult course to study since medical students are expected to learn a huge and complex amount of medical knowledge and clinical skills. However, the level of difficulty varies for different individuals. If you study consistently and efficiently and you manage your time, the study of medicine is definitely achievable.

6. Do I have to study after graduating?

Medical practice continuously changes with new medical findings. Doctors have to continuously update their medical knowledge in order to practice according to the latest medical understanding. Hence, as a doctor you will have to learn/study for your entire medical career.

7. What can I do if I don't get accepted into undergraduate medicine?

You can do one of two things. You can either complete one year of tertiary study and then reapply in which case you will be assessed on the basis of your HSC ATAR, UMAT score and university results; or you can complete a degree and apply for graduate medicine. To apply for graduate medicine you will need to sit the GAMSAT exam.

8. What is GAMSAT?

GAMSAT stands for Graduate Australian Medical Schools Admissions Test. It is a test for entry into graduate medicine. For further information about GAMSAT refer to:

<http://www.acer.edu.au/>

15. Contacts

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www.chalkwall.com.au

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Camberwell, Victoria, Australia 3124

Ph: (03) 9277 5746

<http://www.acer.edu.au/>

Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme

Ph (freecall): 1800 987 104

<http://www.health.gov.au/bmpscheme>

Universities Admissions Centre (UAC), NSW & ACT Pty Ltd

Quad 2, Australia Centre (first building on right)

6 Parkview Drive

Homebush Bay NSW

Ph: 1300 275 822

Postal Add: UAC Locked Bag 112 Silverwater NSW 2128

<http://www.uac.edu.au/>

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Faculty of Medicine

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University of Newcastle

School of Medicine and Public Health

Faculty of Health, Level 6

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<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/degrees/bachelor-of-medicine/why-study-with-us>

University of New England

Student Centre

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1800 818 865

<https://my.une.edu.au/courses/2017/courses/BMSMD>

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<http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/study/md/>

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