



Information for
international students
Doctor of Medicine (MD)



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

Stands for
purpose



A medical school for the 21st century

The UOW Graduate School of Medicine (GSM) aims to lead development and implementation of strategies that effectively address the shortage of medical practitioners in regional, rural and remote Australia.

The GSM curriculum reflects the latest approach to medical education and incorporates extensive use of medical education and information technologies. The four-year graduate entry program has been designed based on the best educational evidence from medical schools around the world, with an innovative integrated spiral curriculum based around a Case-Based Learning core.

Students at the GSM benefit from purpose-built facilities with excellent resources and information technology support. The GSM also features Clinical Skills Centres where the students use a combination of modern technology and traditional bedside clinical teaching to develop their skills in diagnosis and management of a wide variety of diseases and conditions. Clinical exposure occurs early in the program, with students exposed to hospitals, primary care settings, community health centres and patient volunteers from their first semester of study.

GRADUATE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

UOW graduates will be ready for practice as junior doctors and will have an extensive range of further career options available to them including the full range of medical and surgical specialties, general practice, research, private or public health, aid organisations or the defence force. Students will receive a broad-based education with a focus on rural medicine, with the skills and ability to practice in any geographic setting and to commence training in any specialty.

LOCATIONS OF THE MD DEGREE

Students at the GSM undertake Phase 1 of the course based at the University's campuses at either Wollongong or Shoalhaven. Wollongong is a vibrant multicultural regional city of around 300,000 people, situated on the coast about 90 minutes drive south of Sydney's CBD. Among the city's many physical attractions are 17 patrolled surf beaches and the spectacular bushland backdrop of the Illawarra escarpment. UOW's Shoalhaven Campus is located at Nowra, approximately 60 minutes drive south of Wollongong. Nowra has a population of around 35,000 and is the main rural centre in the Shoalhaven, an area famous for its beautiful coastline and beaches, rivers, lakes and rolling green farmland. Both regions have a wide range of medical facilities from large hospitals to specialist clinics, community medical facilities and traditional doctors' surgeries – making it an ideal location to provide medical students with a range of clinical experiences.

Students will spend significant time during their training undertaking short and long term clinical placements in many regional and rural communities. These will initially occur in facilities in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands. A key point of difference of the UOW MD course over many other Australian Medical Courses is that within Phase 3 the students spend 12 months in a regional or rural area, attached to general practice and hospitals. This whole year in rural practice in one of our hubs across NSW, has demonstrable impact on clarity of clinical thinking, practical clinical skills and gives an opportunity to become embedded within a community, which in turn will have impacts on their future career decision-making. In Phase 4 our students undertake elective rotations across Australia and around the world with many choosing to return to their home country for this clinical opportunity.

Degree information

LENGTH OF COURSE

Four years full-time

TYPE

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

From 2017 the UOW GSM will be offering a Doctor of Medicine (MD). It is an accredited, four-year graduate entry program designed and based on the best educational evidence from medical schools worldwide.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Completed recognised undergraduate Bachelor degree in any field
- Minimum weighted GPA of 5.0 on a 7-point scale or 2.8 on a 4-point scale
- GAMSAT exam with minimum 50 in all sections. MCAT results for exams taken prior to January 2015: overall score 24 and 8 in each section. MCAT results for exams taken from January 2015 onwards: a minimum overall MCAT score of 495, and a minimum score of 123 in each sub-section. Applicants with results slightly under these scores are still encouraged to apply as an overall decision will be made based on the strength of all aspects of their application. GAMSAT and MCAT exam results should not be over two years old at time of application.
- English Language Requirement: IELTS overall score of 7.0 with 7.0 in each band of Listening, Speaking, Writing & Reading.

- Competitive UOW GSM Admission portfolio demonstrating personal attributes
- Strong performance at structured interview

Graduate Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT):

The GAMSAT test is offered once each year in Australia, United Kingdom and Ireland. In Australia the test is held in March of each year. Please visit gamsat.acer.edu.au/ for details regarding GAMSAT.

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)

The MCAT test is offered a number of times each year in a range of Countries. Please visit students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/ for details regarding MCAT.

DESIRABLE ATTRIBUTES

- A broad range of extracurricular activities
- Demonstrated links to regional, rural and remote communities

SIZE OF COHORT

Up to 84 students in total per year; 72 domestic students and up to 12 international students

UOW HAS A WIDE RANGE OF UNDERGRADUATE COURSES AS PATHWAYS TO OUR MD PROGRAM INCLUDING:

Pre-Med

PREPARING YOU FOR MEDICINE AND MORE

The Bachelor of Pre-Medicine, Science and Health provides an excellent foundation for entry into graduate medicine, dentistry, podiatry or veterinary studies. Choosing a major will also provide career options in the physical and life sciences, allied health or health informatics. Indigenous students and students from rural communities are strongly encouraged to apply.



FIND OUT MORE

smah.uow.edu.au/pre-med/index.html

pre-med@uow.edu.au

Call 1300 367 869 (Within Australia)

+61 2 4221 3218 (international)

“

The UOW medical curriculum covered the right content and provided me with a diverse range of clinical experiences that have bode me well in my transition to professional clinical practice.”



Teena Downton
UOW Graduate





Who is eligible to apply for a UOW MD

Applicants to the program at UOW are of a very high standard and applicant numbers and quality continue to increase from across Australia, and the world. Talented students from any undergraduate field are encouraged to apply. There are no prerequisite subjects required and it is expected that applicants will come from a range of backgrounds. International applicants will be required to demonstrate general personal qualities required for entry into the program including leadership, teamwork, service ethic and diversity of experience.

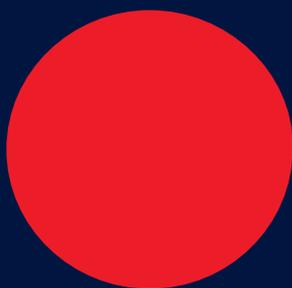
The GSM has a commitment to training Indigenous doctors and doctors with an interest in regional rural and remote medicine. Students from rural communities and Indigenous students are particularly encouraged to apply. Rural community ties or experiences are not required for international students however; applicants with rural backgrounds in their country of residence should describe these in the application as they will be viewed favourably.

In order to be eligible to apply for the MD program, you must be in your final year or have completed a Bachelor degree from either an Australian University listed in the Australian Qualifications Framework or an overseas University listed in the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition Guide. Please note that overseas qualifications must be assessed as being equivalent to an Australian Bachelor degree and from an institution recognised by the GSM. This recognition is determined by the University on an institution-by-institution basis upon receipt of your application.

If your Bachelor degree was completed 10 years or more prior to application you will be required to provide evidence of at least one year of tertiary postgraduate coursework study or demonstrate equivalent academic currency prior to application.



Frequently
Asked
Questions



WHAT ARE THE GAMSAT / MCAT REQUIREMENTS?

The current requirements are that all applicants require an overall GAMSAT score of 50 (with a score of 50 in each section). Those who sit MCAT require an overall score of 24 in the old scoring system or 495 in the new MCAT scoring. Students who are just below that cut off but have very strong GPAs or portfolios are still encouraged to apply.

WHEN WILL I KNOW IF MY APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL?

This is dependent on the timing of your application. We take care to keep every applicant informed of the status of their application in a timely manner—if in doubt, contact us.

WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?

You should apply for entry to the UOW MD program as early as possible. Applications are assessed on a rolling basis and we strongly encourage applicants to apply promptly to ensure their best chance of selection. The course is competitive and places may fill early in the previous year. We welcome applications while awaiting MCAT / GAMSAT results or final semester results. Incomplete applications will be considered and strong applicants may be interviewed and receive conditional offers while results are pending. If you are unsure of your eligibility to apply at this time, contact the GSM.

WHAT ARE THE LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

All students who have undertaken undergraduate study in a non-English speaking country are required to obtain a minimum overall IELTS score of 7.0, with at least 7.0 in the reading and listening band, and at least 7.0 in the speaking and writing band. Evidence of the score must be submitted with your application. The Medical Board of Australia has 'English Language Skills' requirements for internships. See: www.medicalboard.gov.au

WHAT IS THE COST OF TUITION?

The cost of tuition is set and indexed every year by the University. Contact the GSM or check the website for more information: uow.edu.au/future/international/apply/fees

CAN I WORK WHILE I AM STUDYING? CAN MY PARTNER WORK IF HE/SHE ACCOMPANIES ME TO AUSTRALIA?

If you are an international student holding a student visa, you are eligible to work up to 40 hours per fortnight when the course is in session. During vacation periods there are no restrictions on the hours that an international student can work. Once you have commenced your course, your partner or dependent may work unlimited number of hours under current visa regulations. For more information, please visit www.border.gov.au/Trav/Stud/More/Work-conditions-for-Student-visa-holders

This information is based on visa requirements at the time of printing however you should check the following site for current information www.immi.gov.au/immigration. It should be noted, however, that medicine is a demanding workload and we would not recommend a student aim to work 20 hours a week during the program.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE UOW MD OVERSEAS?

The UOW MD degree is fully accredited in Australia and when formally approved will be listed on the IMED-FAIMER and Avicennia (WHO) International Medical School databases. For more information regarding a specific country contact the GSM or check your country's accreditation organisations.

CAN I DO MY INTERNSHIP IN AUSTRALIA?

Australian-trained international medical graduates may be eligible to stay on and work as interns and access vocational medical training. In Australia, state health departments are responsible for the funding and placement of students for internships. Internships are therefore determined by the relevant State Health Departments, not access vocational medical training universities. In 2010 government policy changed and state health departments introduced a priority ranking system for interns. The effect of this is that it is now more difficult for international students studying at an Australian medical school to obtain an internship position. Australian citizens who hold Commonwealth Supported Places in medical schools have been guaranteed an internship upon graduation from a medical program within NSW; however, at the time of printing, this guarantee does not extend to international students. Please visit the NSW Health Education & Training Institute (HETI) website: heti.nsw.gov.au for updates. Students should be mindful that they may be unable to stay in Australia and are advised to make alternative plans accordingly. This situation is the same for all international medical students regardless of the university they study at or their country of origin.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY RESIDENCY STATUS CHANGES DURING THE COURSE?

If a student gains Australian permanent residency status or becomes a New Zealand citizen, they are unable to continue in the UOW MD program as an international student. This is a requirement of the Australian Government and the GSM has no discretion in the situation.

The student may be reconsidered as to their eligibility for a domestic place; however it should be noted that the domestic application process has different entry requirements and the student may not be eligible. There is no guarantee that a place will be available as they are limited by a quota set by the Federal Government. Ultimately a student changing their residency is likely to lose their place in the program altogether. The GSM strongly advises applicants considering Australian residency to complete the process well prior to applying to the GSM, or delay the process until after graduation.

Course Structure

COURSE STRUCTURE

The UOW MD course is a four-year program, with each academic year being approximately 42 weeks in length. In the first year, students participate in approximately 25 hours of structured and an additional 20–30 hours of self-directed teaching and learning experiences each week. As the course progresses and the clinical exposure increases, by the fourth phase the face-to-face requirement resembles fulltime clinical work. Participation in scheduled small-group learning activities, clinical skills laboratories, anatomy laboratories and clinical placements are an integral part of each student's learning. There is a high level of reliance on online delivery of the structured learning activities that complement learning experiences in the clinical environment, and a high level of commitment to "learning by doing".

THE CURRICULUM PHASES

The curriculum is divided into four consecutive phases, each phase a single large subject involving a progressive increase in the depth of engagement with clinical practice in hospital and community settings. At the centre of the four-year curriculum are 93 clinical presentations (for example headache). For each of these core clinical presentations there are many possible diagnoses that reflect the range of conditions likely to be seen by a doctor. Students will make increasing use of these problems as a "blueprint" to guide the range and depth of learning they need to achieve by the end of the MD. The 93 clinical presentations are introduced to the students via Case-Based Learning and form the core framework of the curriculum, supplemented by other more specific guidelines where necessary.

The degree is organised into four themes of curriculum content:

- > medical sciences
- > clinical competencies
- > personal and professional development
- > research and critical analysis

MEDICAL SCIENCES

The Medical Sciences component of the course underpins the learning of medicine. All science learning and teaching is integrated with clinical medicine. Rather than having separate "subjects" such as anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, population health or behavioural science, these content areas are woven into the clinical presentations that are the focus of the course delivery within each week or fortnight-long component of the degree.

CLINICAL COMPETENCIES

From the very start of the course students develop their abilities in listening to patients, in examining them, in reaching a diagnosis, in formulating a treatment plan and in being able to perform a range of procedures.

In addition, students become more aware of the interpersonal skills and professional behaviours needed to work as a member of a health care team. A graduated approach to learning clinical and communication skills is complemented by the use of volunteer patients, trained actors, and a range of models for practicing procedural skills, moving on to clinical interaction with the wider medical community as the program progresses. In addition to clinical rotations and a full year in regional and rural communities, we encourage students at all Phases of the MD course to undertake community engagement activities.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The course includes a significant focus on the interaction between personal development and professional functioning, with structured assessable learning activities designed to foster reflective practice, commitment to life-long learning, and aid understanding of ethical, scientific and philosophical principles underlying the practice of medicine. The Personal and Professional Development curriculum is informed by research evidence, and the program itself carefully evaluated.

RESEARCH AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS

This part of the course helps students develop the knowledge and skills to evaluate evidence and use it as the basis for their practice of Medicine, and to gain experience in how to conduct research, much of which has focused upon addressing health needs in the communities where students are placed for their longitudinal clinical experience. During the MD program, the research project is an integral and compulsory part of the degree and will provide skills and experience in all stages of research design, implementation, data collection and analysis which will be of great benefit for future careers. Many students have produced research worthy of national and international presentation and publication while studying at UOW.

CASE-BASED LEARNING

Case-Based Learning (CBL) activities occur regularly throughout the course and have been designed to allow students to integrate their learning in all other themes of the course.

Typically, each CBL starts with a patient presenting problems to the students. After the presentation, students work in small groups to identify what they need to study in order to understand and manage the patient's problems. In the early years of the degree, students meet with a tutor during the CBL to further define the knowledge they require to analyse the patient's problem. Learning is facilitated by the related topics delivered in lectures; laboratory and skills centre sessions, online learning and personal study. In later years of the degree, the CBL cases are supplemented by related learning activities such as tutorials in the hospital and the community and online modules.



GSM checklist for international applicants

STEP 1

International applicants have the option to sit the Medical Colleges Admissions Test (MCAT) or to sit the Graduate Australian Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT) for assessment prior to selection.

> **Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)**

- The MCAT test is offered by the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) a number of times each year in hundreds of locations in the US, Canada, Australia and across the world. Please visit students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/ for details regarding MCAT

> **Graduate Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT):**

- The Australian GAMSAT test is offered once each year by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) in March in Australian capital cities with additional test centres in the USA, UK, New Zealand and Singapore. GAMSAT UK is also offered by ACER in September in centres across the UK with additional sittings in Australia. Please visit gamsat.acer.edu.au/ for details regarding GAMSAT

Timeline for international applicants

JANUARY TO OCTOBER

Applications are open for all international applicants for the following academic year.

Applications are assessed on a rolling basis and we strongly encourage applicants to apply promptly to ensure their best chance of selection due to the highly competitive nature of the process.

Applications will be received, assessed and interviews held throughout the year for competitive applicants. Applicants in Canada and the USA may be interviewed in person during several recruiting missions by the GSM Admissions team to North America throughout the year.

ONCE AN OFFER IS MADE

Applicants are required to submit an acceptance form and a deposit of \$AUD 10,000 in order to secure their place. There is no timeline on this deposit, however a place will not be held unless a deposit and acceptance form is received. More offers than places may be made to competitive candidates until places are filled.

Once a deposit is made, the remainder of first semester fees are due 90 days from the date of this offer.

ONCE ALL PLACES ARE FILLED

Applications will continue to be assessed and interviews held after places for the following year are filled. Applicants who are deemed competitive will be offered a “waiting list” place in the cohort (should an applicant withdraw and a place become available) and also a guaranteed place in the following cohort. Again a deposit is required to hold that place.

STEP 2

All applicants can apply directly to UOW for admission.

Application forms and further information regarding application procedures are available from the UOW website at <http://smah.uow.edu.au/medicine>

STEP 3

All applicants must complete an application form and portfolio to highlight their extracurricular activities and experiences. This can be obtained from the UOW website or from ISA for North American applicants. See the UOW website or ISA for more information on completion and format of the application and portfolio and for details on documentation required.

STEP 4

Applicants who are considered competitive will be offered an interview with GSM Admissions staff, which may occur in Australia, USA, Canada, other sites or via video conference or Skype.

STEP 5

Applicants are ranked after interview and offers are made on a rolling basis until all places are accepted and filled.

UOW

OCTOBER

All fees, transcripts and documentation will need to be finalised to allow for completion of confirmation of enrolment and visa requirements. Any offers with outstanding fees or documentation may be withdrawn and their place offered to a “waiting list” candidate.

MID JANUARY

Successful candidates will need to complete their enrolment in person at the UOW Wollongong campus in Australia.

LATE JANUARY

Session starts for the MD program in Australia.

LEARN MORE

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS VISIT:

www.uow.edu.au/future/international

FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE GSM VISIT:

www.uow.edu.au/medicine

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Call: 1300 367 869 (Within Australia)

+61 2 4221 3218 (international)

futurestudents@uow.edu.au

gsm-admissions@uow.edu.au



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DOCTOR OF MEDICINE CRICOS 089196C University of Wollongong CRICOS provider no. 00102E

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