Doctor of Medicine (MD)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL LEAVERS

Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s Health Professionals
Perth and Western Australia
Perth is the capital city of Western Australia and is in the same time zone as Asia. As Australia’s sunniest capital city, enjoying 3000 hours of sunshine a year, Perth has over 80km of beaches and has a variety of places to choose from for shopping and eating out. Sporting and cultural activities are easily available. It is not far from the famous Margaret River wine region and flights can be taken to see some of the amazing areas of the state such as Broome or Albany. For more information see westernaustralia.com

The University of Western Australia
The University of Western Australia was established in 1911 and is located 5km from the Perth CBD and 20.5km from the International Airport. The 65-hectare Crawley campus is widely acclaimed for the beauty of its setting beside the Swan River and for its grounds and buildings. The University is a member of the Group of Eight (Go8) which is a coalition of leading Australian universities, intensive in research and comprehensive in general and professional education.

In addition, UWA belongs to the World Universities Network (WUN) comprising 15 research-led universities which help to build global research communities, and has recently become a member of the Matariki Network of Universities. In 2013 there were over 24,000 students enrolled at UWA, including approximately 5,000 international students, with approximately 2000 being enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. The University’s academic, research and professional staff come from all around the world.
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

The Faculty of Dental Sciences was established in 1946 and the Faculty of Medicine in 1956. The two faculties combined into one academic and resourcing body as the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry on 1 January 1994.

Today it is known as the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. The Faculty provides education, service and research to create better health for the benefit of the West Australian, Australian and international community. Implicit in this statement is an acknowledgment of the rights and needs of Indigenous peoples.

The Faculty endeavours to provide inspiration for the next generation of medical and dental practitioners, health professionals and health educators through the promotion, implementation and delivery of medical, dental and health sciences education, health service and all aspects of health related research at the highest standards of international excellence.

The Faculty has established world-class breadth and depth to its research profile. Students have the opportunity to become engaged in a broad spectrum of research across nine schools and seven medical research institutes and initiatives, plus access to additional service-oriented facilities. Nobel Laureate Clinical Professor Barry Marshall is a member of the Faculty’s staff and internationally-acclaimed researchers provide expert teaching and research leadership in many areas for example Aboriginal health, anatomical pathology, burn injury and wound healing, cancer, emergency medicine, general practice and orthopaedics.

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences commenced the new four year curriculum for the Doctor of Medicine (MD) course in 2014.

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 is consistent with other leading universities across the world.

The new MD curriculum provides a number of benefits for students and patients including:

- 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.
- Graduates who are prepared and equipped for internship with appropriate knowledge, skills, and professional attributes.
The 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.

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).

Requirements

All applicants wishing to study medicine at UWA are required to complete an Australian undergraduate bachelor degree or equivalent before completing the UWA postgraduate medical qualification (MD). As there are no specific subject prerequisites for entry to the MD, the undergraduate degree can be in any chosen field of study. 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.

Pathways

There are two entry pathways for international applicants to gain access into the MD:

- Assured Pathway (International School Leavers)
- Standard Pathway (International Graduates)

Number of places available

There are a total of 30 places available for international applicants. Approximately 15 of these places will be available for the Assured Pathway (International School Leavers) and approximately 15 places will be available for the Standard Pathway.

There are 209 places for domestic applicants. Pathways and quotas will form part of these places.

Length of study

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<th>Year 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>UNDERGRADUATE: Bachelor degree</td>
<td>POSTGRADUATE: Doctor of Medicine (MD)</td>
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Notes:

1. Australian Bachelor degree or equivalent in any discipline (minimum 3 years).

Prerequisite subjects

All applicants must meet the University’s requirement for English language competence (ELC). Visit studyat.uwa.edu.au/elc for details.

Applicants for the Assured Pathway (International School Leavers) should check if there are prerequisites for the bachelor degree they intend to study.

Careers

For registration as a medical practitioner in Australia all graduates are required to complete a twelve 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.

Practicing Medicine in Australia

Section 19AB of the Health Insurance Act 1973 applies to overseas trained doctors (OTDs) and foreign graduates of an accredited medical school (FGAMS) who gained their first medical registration on or after 1 January 1997. Section 19AB of the Act restricts their access to Medicare provider numbers and requires them to work in a ‘district of workforce shortage’ (DWS) in order to access the Medicare benefits arrangements. OTDs and FGAMS who are subject to section 19AB of the Act are generally required to work in a DWS for a minimum period of ten years from the date of their first medical registration.

Overseas trained doctor means a person:

(a) whose primary medical qualification was not obtained from a medical school located in Australia.

Foreign graduate of an accredited medical school means a person:

(a) whose primary medical qualification was obtained from an accredited medical school; and

(b) who was not a permanent resident of Australia, citizen of Australia, citizen of New Zealand or a permanent resident of New Zealand when he or she first enrolled at an accredited medical school.

Accredited medical school means a medical school that is:

(a) accredited by the Australian Medical Council; and

(b) located in Australia or New Zealand.

For further information, please see the Department of Health and Ageing’s website at: health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/work-pr-medi-19ab#contact
Assured Pathway – International School Leavers

The Faculty understands the importance of recognising the achievement of students with excellent academic results. Packaged offers of a place will be available for international school leavers and there will be conditions attached to these places.

The benefits for students on the Assured Pathway (International School Leaver) are:

1. **Broad education**
   The UWA undergraduate degrees have a simple but flexible structure which allows students to study a broad range of subjects in their first year, and develop greater focus as students move through their degree. This provides a stronger foundation and knowledge-base.
   
   Students do not have to study science, but can study a Bachelor of Arts, Commerce or Design or combine a Bachelor of Science major with a non science major such as management or accounting.

2. **Highly developed communication and research skills**
   Employers want graduates who have not only performed well in their chosen field but also have communication and problem-solving skills that set them apart from the crowd.
   
   To prepare students for success in a global workforce, students develop their ability to communicate effectively and learn how to find, interpret and critically evaluate information.

3. **Community engagement**
   Leadership qualities and a sense of community are expected in a well-rounded graduate. To help students develop these skills they are encouraged to participate in a structured experience with a not-for-profit organisation.

   To be eligible for the Assured Pathway (International School Leavers) an applicant cannot have achieved any results in tertiary studies. If an applicant has already commenced tertiary studies they can apply for the International Graduate Standard Pathway on completion of their undergraduate degree provided they have met the minimum entry requirements for that pathway.
Admission requirements

- Sufficient ISAT score
- ATAR of 96 or equivalent (e.g. A levels 14 points or IB of 37 points)
  For more equivalents contact the International Centre
- Interview

The conditions attached to a packaged offer
1. Students will complete one of the following undergraduate degrees from UWA:
   - Bachelor of Arts [BA]
   - Bachelor of Commerce [BCom]
   - Bachelor of Design [BDes]
   - Bachelor of Science [BSc]

   All bachelor degrees are of three years’ duration. For more information on the new undergraduate degrees visit studyat.uwa.edu.au

2. With a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 5.5 in their UWA bachelor degree (approximately 65%).

Having met these conditions, students will automatically proceed into the Doctor of Medicine (MD).

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

Fees
Please note fees for the undergraduate degree years will be less than those for the MD years. Please contact the International Centre for further information.

Guaranteed Accommodation
All applicants for the Assured Pathway (International School Leavers) will be guaranteed a place in one of the residential Colleges for their first year of study. Applicants are strongly recommended to apply to the Colleges at the same time as applying for a place to study at UWA. It is recommended that applicants stay in one of the Colleges for their first year as this is an opportunity to interact with peers, senior students, academic and support staff in a collegiate environment combined with the array of academic, cultural and social experiences and programs.

Do you intend on applying for Permanent Residency?
If you are planning to apply for Permanent Residency during the 2015 application year you will need to notify us as soon as possible. The Faculty requires this information as applicants who receive permanent residency during the application year cannot be considered for an international place and instead must compete for a domestic place. Applicants in this situation must complete the UMAT (as domestic students can only sit the UMAT) and even if they have already been interviewed for the MD and/or DMD as an international applicant, they will still need to have met the minimum thresholds for domestic applicants in order to be ranked for a position in the course. If applicants meet the minimum requirements as a domestic applicant and are competitively ranked, they can be made an offer for a domestic position. If you are now, or will soon be, eligible to be considered for a domestic place the Faculty will need to be made aware of the situation as soon as possible. In order to be considered for a domestic place the Faculty will require confirmation of permanent residency before October 1st of the application year.
Standard Pathway

The Standard Pathway is for those applicants who have already completed a bachelor degree or those who will complete their bachelor degree in the application year. There are no restrictions placed on the length of time since the bachelor degree was completed.

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. However, there are some issues worth considering when deciding upon a degree with the ultimate goal of studying medicine. The four most relevant considerations for most applicants are as follows:

1. Length of degree
Regardless of an applicant’s undergraduate study, the length of the MD will be four 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).

2. Degree and University
The Faculty Admissions Office considers all recognised Australian bachelor degrees and does not give preference to any particular degree or university.

3. Relevance/usefulness of degree to studying medicine
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. (Australian Year 12 physics, 1st year university level biology/human biology and chemistry).

4. Relevance/usefulness of degree for a career other than medicine
It is also important for applicants to consider the ramifications of their undergraduate degree choice in case they are not successful in gaining a place in the MD.

Admission requirements
1. Australian bachelor or equivalent degree with a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 5.5
2. GAMSAT / MCAT
3. Interview

Application Process
Standard Pathway applicants should apply through the International Centre by the first Friday in June. MCAT results must also be submitted by the first Friday in June.

Applications submitted after the first Friday in June will not be considered.
Assured Pathway Application

Assured Pathway (International School Leavers) applicants should apply through the International Centre by June 30th. Applicants must have sat the ISAT by this date to be considered.

Applications submitted after 30th June will not be considered. Likewise applicants listing ISAT test dates after June 30th will not be considered.

Applicants should use the same name as on their passport when registering for the ISAT and on their UWA application form.

The University communicates with applicants through email and therefore it is important that applicants provide an email address on their application that is easily accessible from home.

The application is processed through the International Centre before being passed to the Faculty who then short list for interviews based on the ISAT score and expectation that an applicant has achieved, or has been predicted to achieve, at least the minimum academic requirement.

Having conducted interviews and ranked applicants, the Faculty then advises the International Centre who to make offers to.

Applicants with A level results

A level applicants may apply for the Assured Pathway by June 30th of their final year of A level studies. The ISAT will also have to be sat by this date. Successful applicants receive a conditional offer based on their predicted grades, ISAT and Interview scores. The conditions of this offer are that they subsequently:

- Achieve the minimum A level scores required
- Complete the UWA bachelor degree with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 5.5

Applicants offered such a place would be able to commence their undergraduate degree in February (before their A level results are released in March). If the condition regarding the A level scores are subsequently not met then the applicant would lose their Assured Pathway place, but would not lose their place on the undergraduate degree and would still be eligible to apply later for graduate entry to the Doctor of Medicine.

Applicants with IB results

IB Applicants can apply with predicted or achieved results by June 30.

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 (ISAT for international school leavers and either GAMSAT or MCAT for 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 right answers. 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 45 minutes to an hour before the interview time depending on the interview location. This is for registration (including the signing of a confidentiality agreement) and for pre-reading. The interview itself usually lasts up to 45 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, which can be embedded but not laminated.

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
- Explaining Skills
- 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
Applicants are notified a week to two weeks prior to the interview by email. It is therefore imperative to provide an email address that can be accessed at all times and to inform the International Centre and Faculty Admissions Office of any changes to an email address.

Upon accepting an interview, invited 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.

Rankings
International school leavers will be ranked using their academic score (predicted or achieved), Interview score and ISAT score. These are weighted 2:2:1 for the Academic, Interview and ISAT respectively.

Transfers
Having commenced studies on the Assured Pathway (International School Leavers) for the Doctor of Medicine (MD) a student cannot transfer into the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) and vice versa at any stage of their studies (i.e. during the undergraduate degree at UWA or during the postgraduate degree at UWA).

Instead students would need to lodge a fresh application as a graduate and apply competitively with all other graduate applicants for first year entry of the professional course. Selection criteria apply.
The test
The test assesses the ability to understand and analyse given material. The questions typically include reading and thinking about a passage of writing, the interpretation of graphical displays of information and using mathematical relationships to reason about tables of data. All the information required to answer the question is included in the stimulus material.

The test itself is a 3 hours multiple choice. It has 100 questions with 4 or 5 answers that a candidate can chose from. There is only one right answer, and no marks are deducted for a wrong answer. The aim of the test is to assess the candidate’s ‘critical’ and ‘quantitative’ reasoning skills.

- Critical Reasoning assesses a candidates understanding, reasoning and critical thinking skills. These questions use material from the humanities and social sciences.
- Quantitative Reasoning assesses a candidate’s comprehension, application, decision making and solving skills. These questions use material from mathematics and sciences.

Results
Results are released to candidates via email normally within two weeks of sitting the test. The email will advise a candidate of an access code and weblink which the results can be downloaded from. A statement of results will be generated to print off.

When applying to UWA
Applicants must provide their ISAT registration number if they have it at the time of application to UWA or as soon as they have it. This is so UWA can verify the ISAT results.
Resources and Facilities

Accommodation
The 5 residential halls and colleges affiliated with UWA are located adjacent to the campus:
Currie Hall
www.currie.uwa.edu.au
St Catherine’s College
www.stcatherines.uwa.edu.au
St George’s College
www.stgeorgescollege.com.au
St Thomas More College
www.stmc.uwa.edu.au
Trinity
www.trinity.uwa.edu.au

Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply to the Colleges at the same time as applying for a place to study at UWA.

Each college has an online application form or can be applied to via studyat.uwa.edu.au/unilife/accommodation/oncampus

Renting or leasing
Accommodation located close to UWA is in high demand and varies in price depending on the size, locality and quality of the accommodation. Rental accommodation is also available in the wider Perth metropolitan area.

Support to find housing
The University’s Housing Service provides an online database for UWA students. Visit studentservices.uwa.edu.au/ss/housing

Student support
In addition to the Associate Dean, the Faculty Manager (Student Affairs) and the Student Support Co-ordinator, the Sub Deans provide support. The University Medical Centre and counselling services are available on campus.

Student Guild and Societies
The Student Guild represents the students of UWA to the University, government and the wider community and provides a range of non-academic services to UWA students.

There are a number of clubs and societies that students can join including the Western Australian Medical Students Society - wamss.org.au. For more information see guild.uwa.edu.au/home/clubs

International Centre Information
International students should also visit international.uwa.edu.au/studentnet/esos which gives more information about the study environment, course fees and refund policy, support services and schooling obligations for dependent children.