

**FAST
FACTS**

LENGTH OF COURSE

4 Years full-time

DEGREE

Bachelor of Medicine
Bachelor of Surgery
(BMBS)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Completed under-graduate
(Bachelor's) degree
- Results from an Admissions
Test, GAMSAT or MCAT
- Interview

Program not available to high school leavers

PREREQUISITES

Good results in GAMSAT or MCAT but no specific topics required

SEMESTER DATES

2009, Year 1
Semester 1:
9 February – 17 June
Semester 2
6 July - 8 December

MEDICAL SCHOOL WEBSITE

<http://www.flinders.edu.au/gemp/new>

Graduate-Entry Medicine At Flinders

CRICOS Provider Code: 00114A

Registered Course Code: 019225E

GRADUATE ENTRY TO MEDICINE

The Medical School at Flinders University was the first in Australia to introduce a four-year graduate-entry Medical Program. This provides new opportunities for entry to Medicine and learning in a trend-setting curriculum, which draws on the best ideas for medical education from around the world.

The program is open to people who have demonstrated good academic skills in a previous degree, which may be in any area of study. The outstanding students selected for the program work with each other and Faculty in a course which emphasises co-operative problem-based learning. From the first week, students work with clinical tutors and patients to develop confident hands-on clinical skills. There are opportunities to experience Medicine in settings varying from large city hospitals to rural general practices and (if students choose to) in remote outback communities. The program has places for up to 120 Australians and up to 20 International students.

APPLICATIONS

Applicants must have completed a University Bachelor's degree before commencing Medicine and may apply during their final year of this degree. Applications from Australians (or New Zealand citizens) require results from the Graduate Australian Medical Schools Admissions Test (GAMSAT), held in late March each year. International applicants may sit GAMSAT or the related US test, MCAT. International applications should be submitted directly to Flinders Medical School using the form from the School website. The application deadline is the end of June each year (see Admissions Timeline below).

CAREER PATHS FOR FLINDERS

MEDICAL GRADUATES

The degree awarded from the Flinders program is BMBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery). This is a general medical training, recognised by the WHO. It is comparable to six-year MBBS programs in Australia for high school leavers, the MD degree in the US, or the MBBS degree in the UK. Australian graduates must complete a year as (paid) hospital interns to qualify for medical registration in Australia. After the intern year and possibly a further year as a hospital medical officer, graduates typically apply for entry to specialist-training programs, which may be with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners or other Colleges for Physicians, Surgeons, Anaesthetists etc. This training, while working in the area of specialty, requires a further three to five years or more. Many international graduates of the Flinders program return to their home countries to continue their medical careers although significant numbers are now staying in Australia to work. For some countries (like the USA, UK or Singapore) there are clearly defined paths for continuing careers in medicine. For Canada, paths for returning to practice vary between provinces.

International graduates returning to North America must undertake Canadian Evaluating and Qualifying Exams or USMLEs. Flinders graduates have a first-attempt success rate with USMLE Step 1 over 95%, with scores averaging above the mean for all test takers.

Recent changes in Australia have aimed to encourage Flinders International graduates to stay in Australia to complete an Intern year. Those who seek Australian Permanent Resident status should also be able to undertake specialist-training programs and continue their careers in Australia.

THE MEDICAL COURSE - ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN LEARNING

Problem-based learning is central to the design of the curriculum. Students learn medicine in a framework similar to that in which doctor's practice, to help prepare them for a process of learning and professional development that will continue throughout their lives. Through most of the 4 years, students learn in small groups with a tutor or at the bedside with clinicians.

Throughout the course, there are three broad topics (or themes)

- **Doctor and Patient** - The practical communication, examination and procedural skills essential for effective interaction between the doctor and patients - and for constructive interaction with other health professionals.
- **Knowledge of Health and Illness** - Knowledge of the structure, function and development of the normal human body at all levels of organization, from the molecular and cellular to the whole individual. Knowledge of the causes and consequences of disease, injury and abnormal development, and the evidence-based strategies for treatment and prevention of disease.
- **Doctor, the Profession and Society** - Consideration of health and illness in the wider contexts of family, cultural group, community and political and economic influences in society. Exploration of the ethical and legal frameworks for Medicine and of personal and interpersonal skills appropriate to lifetime medical practice.

Years 1 & 2

In Years 1 and 2, Doctor and Patient involves tutorials with clinical tutors and experience in the "safe" environment of the clinical skills laboratory - as well as with patients. The focus is on some basic life support skills and on developing history-taking and examination skills for all of the major body systems. Towards the end of year 2, a period of intensive clinical skills in "Transition to Clinical Practice" prepares students for direct involvement in patient care in years 3 and 4.

Central to Knowledge of Health and Illness, the major topic in years 1 and 2, are weekly clinical cases, presented on paper. These cases are organised into a series of blocks, many of which focus on normal function and disease in individual body systems (e.g. cardiovascular, respiratory, musculoskeletal etc).

The cases, which unfold progressively, are discussed in small groups of about eight students, working with a tutor as facilitator. In seeking to define and understand the problem in each case, groups generate ideas from knowledge within the group. At the same time they identify gaps in knowledge necessary for a full understanding of the case. These "gaps" become learning issues which students research before the next tutorial. They might utilise textbooks, research literature or electronic resources - in addition to scheduled lectures and practical classes. They then report back to the next tutorial, relating their new knowledge to the specifics of the case. This process of Problem Based Learning (PBL) ensures that students have an active involvement in their learning.

In addition to the relevant biomedical science, the PBL cases introduce aspects of health psychology, epidemiology, public health, ethics, health economics and personal and professional development, which are part of Doctor Profession and Society. This topic also has a variety of scheduled lectures and workshops to explore relevant issues.

Years 3 & 4

In the later years of the Medical Course, students work mainly alongside practising clinicians as apprentice doctors. There are various options for Year 3. Most students undertake rotations through the major clinical disciplines (Medicine, Surgery, Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, General Practice and Psychiatry) in Adelaide at Flinders Medical Centre and associated hospitals. About 16 students each year undertake Year 3 in the Northern Territory Clinical School, mainly at Royal Darwin Hospital.

A further group of about 32 students undertake a parallel rural community curriculum (PRCC) either in South Australia's Riverland (in towns along the Murray River) or in the "Greater Green Triangle" in SE South Australia and Western Victoria; the Mallee-Fleurieu in rural locations south and east of Adelaide; and a program in the

Northern Territory. PRCC students spend Year 3 in country towns, working with rural General Practitioners and at regional hospitals. Some of the rural programs may have restricted availability for international students.

For all students, the three themes of the course continue, including regular PBL cases and some common scheduled sessions to complement their on-the-job experience.

In Year 4, students continue to build their experience and skills working alongside clinicians. The Year 4 structure allows considerable flexibility for students to tailor their program to match particular interests. The year involves a series of seven 6-week attachments. Two of the 6-week attachment periods are for Electives and may, in general, be taken anywhere in the world. Other "selective" attachments are in defined, broad categories (Surgery; and Acute, Ambulatory and Rural Medicine) and may be taken in various disciplines and locations within the Flinders "family" of associated hospitals and health services.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS and ADMISSIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Admissions Quotas

Flinders has places for a total of up to 120 Australians and 15-20 International students.

Applicants who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents, or who are not citizens of New Zealand, are considered for a place in the International quota on a fee-paying basis. Current tuition fees are indicated on the Medical School website (see Further Information). International students are admitted to a distinct quota and it is not generally possible to change to the Australian quota should Australian Permanent Resident status be acquired during the course. It is important to resolve immigration status before applying.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Admissions requirements have been designed to attract applicants with diverse backgrounds and experience.

Three elements contributing to selection for admission are:

- Performance in an undergraduate degree
- Scores in a written admissions test (GAMSAT or MCAT)
- Assessment of personal qualities (interview)

1. Undergraduate Degree

All applicants, before they begin Medicine, must have completed a bachelors degree from an Australian university or have a degree considered at least equivalent to an Australian 3-year Bachelor's degree. The degree may be taken in any area. Degrees from Canadian or UK universities, 4-year college degrees from the USA and university degrees from Singapore or Malaysia are all appropriate. There are no required prerequisite subjects although premedical topics in North America, for instance, provide helpful background. There is no fixed GPA cut off for an application to Flinders, although a credit, or B average or a GPA around 3.2 to 3.3/4 is generally needed to be competitive.

A complete application requires an official transcript from your University, which includes information about the grading system. We will calculate a weighted grade point average based on grades in the final three years of your

most recently completed Bachelors degree (including an Honours year, if relevant), giving greatest weight to final year results. Higher qualifications such as Masters degrees or PhD are not considered in this calculation.

2. Admissions Test

Australian applicants are required to take the Graduate Australian Medical Schools Admissions Test (GAMSAT). It assesses knowledge and skills considered necessary as a starting point for the medical course and allows a direct, objective comparison of candidates based on relevant skills. International applicants have the option of applying with results from GAMSAT, or the related US Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). Either is equally acceptable. GAMSAT is conducted by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) each year around the middle of March and registration for the test closes in early January. Test locations include Australian capital cities plus London, Singapore and Washington D.C. Information about GAMSAT is available from ACER (see contact details under “Further Information”). MCAT is conducted on multiple occasions each year in many centres in North America and various overseas locations including Singapore (contact details are given under “Further Information”). MCAT results must be available by the end of June for a complete application. For International applications direct to Flinders, test results must be from a test sitting within the last 3 years prior to the June 19 application deadline. With a reasonable GPA (see above), numerical MCAT scores totalling about 31-33 (with a Writing Section result of about P) could be sufficient to be short-listed for interview.

3. Assessment of Personal Qualities

For candidates who are short-listed on the basis of good admission test scores and previous academic record, the third component in the admissions process is an assessment of personal qualities in a structured interview.

Interviews are structured to assess personal qualities considered important for participation in the medical course and for a career in Medicine. They assess areas such as motivation, decision-making skills, preferred learning style and team skills, personal management and self-evaluation skills and pro-social attitude as well as ability to communicate effectively. Interviews for international applicants will generally be conducted in their home country or region or may in a few instances, be by video over the internet.

FINAL RANKING

Following interviews, applications are ranked by combining scores from:

- Performance in undergraduate degree
- Overall GAMSAT score or MCAT scores
- Interview performance

TIMELINE FOR INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS

The timeline below is for International applications. The deadline for applications direct to Flinders, for classes commencing in February 2008, is June 29, 2007.

Mid January	Register for GAMSAT
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	Register in advance for MCAT
Mid March OR Jan-May	Sit GAMSAT Sit MCAT
Late May	GAMSAT scores released, some early interviews conducted
June 19, 2009	Main deadline for receipt of International applications to Flinders Medical School
Early July	Candidates short-listed for interview notified of interview arrangements
Late July, August	Interviews in North America and Singapore (specific locations or other countries according to pattern of applications)
August to December	Offers made progressively to top- ranked applicants
Early February	Classes begin

Although Flinders prefers applications to be submitted direct to the Medical School, applications are also accepted through an Australian National Graduate Medical Admissions Centre (GMAC) run by the Australian Council for Educational Research. Information on applying through GMAC can be found at <http://www.gamsat.acer.edu.au> (click on “Uni Admission” at top of this web page)

If a direct application is submitted to Flinders, it is not necessary to apply to Flinders through GMAC. Admission requirements for the GMAC process may differ slightly from those outlined in this brochure for a direct application to Flinders.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional detail about the Flinders Graduate-entry Medical Program and Admissions for Australian and International applicants is available on the Medical School website. An application form can be downloaded from

this site. <http://www.flinders.edu.au/gemp/new> For specific questions about the program or admissions contact: medadmissions@flinders.edu.au.

The postal address for applications or inquiries is:

Admissions Centre
Department of Medical Education
School of Medicine
Flinders University
GPO Box 2100
ADELAIDE SA 5001
AUSTRALIA

General information about the Medical School is given at: <http://som.flinders.edu.au>.

General information about Flinders University is given at: <http://www.flinders.edu.au>.

Information about GAMSAT, online registration and information about test preparation materials can be found at: <http://www.gamsat.acer.edu.au>. This site also gives information about the medical school application process for Australian applicants.

Information about MCAT can be found at <http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat>.