



## PURPOSE

The intent of this document is to ensure that all specific rules and policy decisions pertaining to student selection into the Doctor of Medicine (MD) course are published in one place. This is in the interest of transparency and for the benefit of applicants.

## GLOSSARY

Term/Abbreviation	Definition
BMP	Bonded Medical Place
CSP	Commonwealth Supported Place
Domestic	Australian and New Zealand citizens, and permanent residents of Australia
FEE	Full fee paying domestic place
GAM	Graduate Access Melbourne Scheme
GAMSAT	Graduate Medical School Admission Test
GEMSAS	Graduate Entry Medical School Admissions System
GPA	Grade Point Average
MCAT	Medical College Admission Test
MD	Doctor of Medicine course
MMS	Melbourne Medical School
Standard Pathway	GEMSAS for domestic applicants, direct entry for international applicants (i.e. not guaranteed entry pathways)
WAM	Weighted Average Mark

## Application pathways

### STANDARD PATHWAY

- Domestic**  
Domestic applicants should apply for the Melbourne Doctor of Medicine (MD) through GEMSAS. With the exception of eligible guaranteed entry scheme applications, no direct applications to the University will be accepted for this course from domestic students.
- International**  
International students must apply direct to the University through the following website:  
<http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/applications/online-application-info>
- All standard pathway applicants must meet all selection requirements as outlined in the Resolution on Selection to be considered for selection. Meeting these requirements does not guarantee selection into the course.

### CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Domestic applicants for the course from The University of Melbourne Chancellor's Scholars Program (who achieved an ATAR of 99.9 or above and then completed an undergraduate degree at Melbourne immediately after year 12) are guaranteed a Commonwealth Supported Place in the MD, provided they successfully complete the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) and pass all

prerequisite subjects (on the first attempt). International Chancellor's Scholars are guaranteed an international fee paying place in the course, provided they meet the same requirements.

## **FULL FEE GUARANTEED ENTRY SCHEME**

Applicants for the course from The University of Melbourne's Guaranteed Entry scheme (who achieved an ATAR of 99.0 or above and then completed an undergraduate degree at Melbourne immediately after year 12) are guaranteed a full-fee paying place in the MD, provided they successfully maintain a weighted average mark of 75% in their undergraduate degree, successfully complete the MMI and pass the prerequisite subjects on the first attempt.

## **TRANSFER**

- *Lateral transfer*

It is not possible to transfer into the University of Melbourne's Doctor of Medicine course from any other course, including other graduate medicine programs. All applicants must apply through the standard domestic or international selection processes.

- *Fee type*

It is also not possible to transfer from a full fee paying place into a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) while enrolled in the course. If an international student is granted permanent residency in Australia while enrolled in the MD, and is therefore eligible for a domestic place, they will be transferred into an Australian full-fee paying place (not a CSP).

## **Treatment of elements of MD application in selection**

The following information is to be read in conjunction with published selection criteria. Applicants are advised to read the [MD Handbook](#) entry prior to reading these selection guidelines.

## **GPA**

Standard pathway applicants must achieve a minimum GPA of 5.0 in their undergraduate degree in order to be considered for selection.

- *Calculation of GPA*

The University of Melbourne uses the GPA as calculated by the Graduate Entry Medical School Admissions System (GEMSAS) for standard pathway domestic and international applicants for the MD. Weightings will be applied to the final three undergraduate years of study (with the exception of honours, see below). The first of the final three pre-honours undergraduate years will be weighted by 1, the second year by 2 and the final year by 3.

- *Guaranteed entry*

Guaranteed entry full-fee applicants have their undergraduate results calculated as a Weighted Average Mark (WAM) as per University policy and must meet a minimum WAM of 75% in order to be considered for selection. Eligible Chancellor's Scholars applicants are not required to meet a minimum GPA in their undergraduate qualification but must still complete the prerequisites on the first attempt, and degree requirements.

- *Adjusting GPAs*

GPAs may be adjusted in the applicant's favour for applicants with a completed PhD or Masters qualification in a related discipline. This will be determined each year by the MD Committee, on a case by case basis, taking published quotas and cohort strength into consideration. This information will not be made available to applicants.

- *Treatment of Honours in GPA*

The GPA (which is measured by considering the last 3 full years of the applicant's undergraduate coursework studies) will only include honours results where the honours degree is completed by the end of Semester one in the year of application, and the results are available for selection. If the honours results are available for selection, the honours year will be weighted by 3, the final year of the undergraduate degree by 2 and the second to last year of the undergraduate degree by 1. If an honours degree is not completed by mid-year in the year of application, then weightings will be applied by weighting the first of the final three pre-honours undergraduate years by 1, the second year by 2 and the final year by 3.

## **GAMSAT/MCAT**

Standard pathway domestic and onshore international applicants must achieve a minimum of 50 in each section of the GAMSAT in order to be considered for selection. The University of Melbourne applies equal weighting to all three sections of the GAMSAT and does not use the GAMSAT 'overall score' in selection.

International students residing overseas at the time of application may complete the MCAT in place of the GAMSAT. International applicants residing in Australia at the time of the application must use the GAMSAT; they are not permitted to use the MCAT. Applicants who use the MCAT, must achieve a minimum score of at least 492 in order to be considered eligible for entry.

## **INTERVIEW**

All standard pathway applicants are ranked for selection for the interview. All eligible guaranteed entry applicants are invited to interview.

- ***Interview format***

The interview component is an 8 station Multiple Mini Interview (MMI). Each station takes 5 minutes and has a single interviewer. The MMI aims to assess non-academic qualities including cultural sensitivity, maturity, collaboration, reliability and communication skills. The stations could include practical tasks, answering questions, commenting on short films, and explaining thinking.

- ***MD and DPT MMIs***

Domestic and onshore international candidates who apply and are selected for interview in both the Doctor of Physiotherapy (DPT) and the MD at Melbourne will only be offered one MMI in any one year of application. The results of the MMI will be used for both applications.

- ***MMIs for offshore MD applicants***

Applicants who are residing offshore at the time of application will be eligible to be interviewed via video conference.

Applicants who are residing in Australia at the time of application, but subsequently complete their undergraduate degree in the intervening period between application and invitation to interview and are no longer residing in Australia will also be eligible to complete their interview via video conference. Video conference interviews are run separately for the MD and DPT.

For further information on the MMI, including information on determining a pass mark, and the number of times an applicant can sit the MMI, please read the policy: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/9d4a>

## **WEIGHTING OF ELEMENTS**

The following weightings determine the ranking of standard pathway applicants.

- ***GPA and GAMSAT/MCAT prior to interview***

Equal weighting is applied to the GPA and overall GAMSAT/MCAT score in determining the ranked list for interview selection.

- ***MMI, GPA and GAMSAT/MCAT post interview***

Applicants are re-ranked based on the combined MCAT/GAMSAT, GPA and MMI results, which are given equal weighting to create the ranked list.

## **10 YEAR RULE**

As stated in the Resolution on Selection, the following 10 year rule is applied to the validity of an applicant's most recent undergraduate degree, as well as the prerequisite subjects.

The undergraduate degree is to have been completed within the 10 years prior to commencing the Doctor of Medicine. For applicants whose most recently completed undergraduate degree was completed 10 or more years before 1 January in the year of intake, a Graduate Diploma, Master or PhD degree or equivalent completed within 10 years is required. All prerequisite subjects must have been completed within the 10 years prior to 1 January in the year of intake.

## **Other Melbourne MD selection policies**

### **DEFERRAL**

Approval of deferral of a place in the MD is unlikely and deferral will only be granted in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. For further information, please see the policy:

<http://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/study/current-student-resources/mms-students-resources/policies,-procedures-and-forms>

### **FEE TYPE ALLOCATION**

Standard pathway domestic applicants (through GEMSAS) may specify the types of places they wish to be considered for.

Applicants will not be considered for a type of place that they have not listed. Offers will be made in the following order: CSP,

BMP then FEE, with the most highest ranked applicants being offered CSP places and so on down the merit order until all positions are filled.

Between the finalisation of the GEMSAS application process and the commencement of the academic year, if a student withdraws from the course, their place will be offered to the next-highest ranked, eligible applicant. For example, if a non-bonded CSP place becomes available, and the CSP quota has not been exceeded, that place will be offered to the highest ranked BMP applicant. Under no other circumstances will domestic students be permitted to change fee-type.

## **ZONE ALLOCATION**

Applicants are asked to rank their preferred clinical school zone. Allocation to zones is based on random order list and applicant preference. A successful applicant's allocation to a clinical zone is tied to their offer of a place in the course. Acceptance of the place is also acceptance of the zone allocated. Specific clinical schools (within the allocated zones) are allocated during the first year of the MD.

<http://mdhs-study.unimelb.edu.au/degrees/doctor-of-medicine/clinical-experience#clinical-experience>

## **COMBINED DEGREES AND CONDITIONAL OFFERS**

Applicants enrolled in a combined degree who receive a conditional offer for a place at The University of Melbourne based on that combined degree, are expected to complete both awards in order to have their offer confirmed. Should an applicant withdraw from one of their two degrees during the selection process, they are advised to contact GEMSAS or the Medical School for advice. Maintenance of GPA is of primary importance in terms of meeting offer conditions.

## **STUDENT FINANCIAL PLANS**

Students who are offered a full-fee domestic place or an international place in the MD are required to submit an MD Student Financial Plan prior to starting the course.

## **CONDITIONAL OFFERS**

Standard pathway (domestic and international) applicants who are made an offer conditional on maintaining GPA will have their full offer confirmed if they have maintained the same GPA, or exceeded the provisional GPA, used in their application. An applicant whose final GPA drops, but only by 0.3 or less will, in most cases, have their offer confirmed. Applications with a GPA drop of more than 0.3 will be considered by the Selection Committee.

If the initial ranking and extent of drop does not put the applicant below the selection pool for that fee type, their offer will most likely be confirmed. This is subject to quotas and considered on a case by case basis. Confirmation of the place will only be possible in these cases where the applicant's initial GPA was high enough that a drop in GPA will not have a significant impact on the application rankings.

## **BONDED MEDICAL PLACES**

Each year the government allocates a set number of Bonded Medical Places (BMP) to the MD. Applicants are allocated to these places as part of the standard domestic pathway (GEMSAS). If an applicant is offered a BMP they are not eligible for any other fee type place. Therefore, if they do not agree to the terms of the BMP they will be withdrawn from the MD prior to census date in the first year of the course. Please see the Department of Health website for further information.

## **ALLOCATION TO THE EXTENDED RURAL COHORT**

Each year up to 30 successful applicants for the MD are allocated to the Extended Rural Cohort (ERC). Only domestic students are eligible for an ERC place. Although preference for the ERC program is given to those eligible applicants who have expressed a specific interest in the program, any domestic applicant can be allocated to the ERC. Please see the following webpage for more information on the ERC program:

<http://mdhs-study.unimelb.edu.au/degrees/doctor-of-medicine/clinical-experience#clinical-experience>

## Entry equity schemes

The following schemes are designed to give an advantage in selection to applicants from target groups, or to adjust the ranking in selection for students who experienced disadvantage during their undergraduate studies.

### GRADUATE ACCESS MELBOURNE

Applicants who have experienced disadvantage during their undergraduate degree or are members of specific recognised groups, are eligible to apply for Graduate Access Melbourne (GAM) which may enable re-ranking of their application during selection to the MD, based on their level of disadvantage. GAM will only be applied to an applicant's ranking if they meet the minimum requirements for entry (as outlined above) and are therefore eligible for selection. Applicants will not be given access to their GAM score or be given information on any re-ranking of their application. Note: Indigenous applicants are given priority access to the MD program through GAM, providing they meet all minimum requirements of selection into the course.

<https://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/applications/other-applications/grad-access-melb>

### ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIGHT ISLANDER

Indigenous Australian applicants are given priority access to the MD program through GAM, and only need to meet the minimum requirements of selection into the course. That is, an Indigenous Australian applicant with a GPA of 5.0 or higher, who has passed the prerequisite subjects, and obtained 50 or higher in each section of the GAMSAT will be automatically invited to interview. Upon successful completion of the MMI, all applicants with verified status as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person will be offered a place in the course and will not be subject to ranking.

<https://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/applications/other-applications/grad-access-melb>

### RURAL

The University of Melbourne is committed to providing equitable access for applicants from a rural background to its graduate courses. The Melbourne Medical School recognises the importance of building and sustaining a rural medical workforce and will therefore offer priority access to applicants from a rural background subject to the standard selection policies and procedures. Rural applicants must meet the minimum selection requirements in order to be considered for priority access to the MD and are still subject to ranking. Applicants should provide evidence of the rural status to GEMSAS when applying.

### PHD / MASTERS QUALIFICATIONS

Please see 'Adjusting GPAs' section above.

### Relevant documents and websites

- The University of Melbourne Admissions Policy:  
<https://policy.unimelb.edu.au/MPF1295>
- The University of Melbourne Handbook entry for the Doctor of Medicine (MC-DMED):  
<https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/current/MC-DMED>
- The University of Melbourne, MD course information:  
<http://mdhs-study.unimelb.edu.au/degrees/doctor-of-medicine/overview>
- GEMSAS:  
<http://www.gemsas.edu.au/>
- GAMSAT:  
<https://gamsat.acer.edu.au/>
- MCAT:  
<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/>
- The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at The University of Melbourne:  
<http://mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/>