

FAQ – Medicine (MBChB)

Can I get into Medicine directly from school?

No. Applicants completing a secondary qualification in New Zealand or overseas are **not** eligible to apply directly for the MBChB programme at the University of Auckland.

There are only two application categories into the MBChB programme:

BHSc/BSc Biomedical Science (Overlapping Year One – OLY1)

Applicants must complete (1st and 2nd semester in one academic year) the eight required first year courses as below in either the Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc) or Bachelor of Science (BSc-Biomedical Science) at The University of Auckland and achieve a minimum GPA of 6 (B+ average) across 8 courses in order to be eligible for consideration for interview.

All applicants deemed eligible will then be ranked on their grades achieved in the four common courses (highlighted below in bold) that are offered in both the BHSc and the BSc (Biomedical Science) programmes.

First Year 8 required courses

BHSc:

MEDSCI 142	Biology for Biomedical Science: Organ Systems
BIOSCI 107	Biology for Biomedical Science: Cellular Processes and Development
CHEM 110	Chemistry of the Living World
POPLHLTH 111	Population Health
POPLHLTH 101	Health Systems 1
POPLHLTH 102	Health and Society
HLTHPSYC 122	Behaviour, Health and Development
GENEDU*	General Education

BSc (Biomedical Science):

MEDSCI 142	Biology for Biomedical Science: Organ Systems
BIOSCI 107	Biology for Biomedical Science: Cellular Processes and Development
CHEM 110	Chemistry of the Living World
POPLHLTH 111	Population Health
BIOSCI 101	Essential Biology: From Genomes to Organisms
BIOSCI 106	Foundations of Biochemistry
PHYSICS 160	Physics for the Life Sciences
GENEDU*	General Education

* During your Overlapping Year One, you will take one General Education course. Please note you may not take a Stage 1 STATS or MATHS course to meet this requirement. Some students may be exempt from taking a General Education course if they have already completed a degree. For more information: www.auckland.ac.nz/generaleducation

Graduate Entry

Graduates who achieve a minimum of GPA 6 (B+ average) across a full degree from any New Zealand university completed on a full-time basis are eligible for consideration for an interview. Where an applicant has completed more than 3 years full-time study, the best 3 years will be considered in GPA calculation.

Graduate applicants who are eligible for interview consideration will then be ranked based on their GPA from their last two academic years of full time study only and each year, including Honours and Masters, will be weighted equally. If the applicant has taken more than 120 points (or equivalent from another university) in any academic year, only the best 120 points will be considered. This includes summer school, where the courses taken are at stage 2 or higher.

Last year of full-time study should not have been more than 5 years prior to the application.

Non-Science graduates gaining admission to MBChB programme may be required to complete all or some of the OLY1 courses initially in order to proceed to Part II.

What are the conditions for entry into first year BHSc or BSc Biomedical Science?

BHSc: Entry into first-year BHSc is limited.

Guaranteed selection into this programme will require a rank score of **210**, with a minimum of 18 credits in one subject from Table A and also from Table B at NCEA Level 3.

BSc: Entry into the first-year Biomedical Science specialisation is limited. Guaranteed selection into this specialisation will require a rank score of **239** at NCEA level 3.

Students applying from NCEA will be considered in a rank order according to their best 80 credits at level 3 or above over a maximum of five approved subjects weighed by the level of achievement attained in each set of credits. Students entering with alternative qualifications, such as CIE and IB will also be ranked.

*** As selection criteria may change from year to year, applicants should consult the University website, prospectus or the University Student Information Centre for the latest information.**



Do I need to have done three science subjects to be admitted?

BHSc: Applicants need to have taken at least one subject from Table B. For potential applicants to medicine we strongly recommend both biology and chemistry at Year 13 level.

BSc: While there are no science subject requirements to be admitted, it is recommended that applicants take a range of science subjects at Year 13 level, including biology, chemistry and physics. If applicants have to choose or wish to take two science subjects only, biology and chemistry are recommended.

At least one **English rich subject** is also strongly recommended for potential applicants to medicine.

Is there a preference between BSc - Biomedical Science and BHSc for MBChB admissions?

There is no preference given or advantage gained by undertaking either BHSc or BSc Biomedical Science. The two programmes are ranked equally for admission to MBChB programme.

Can I do first year BHSc or BSc-Biomedical Science somewhere else and apply for medicine at Auckland?

No

Is there a mid-year intake for MBChB?

No

Can I defer starting medicine if I am selected?

No

Can I study medicine part-time?

No. The workload demands and length of the programme mean students must take the degree full-time.

Can I transfer from another medical degree into the Auckland MBChB?

No

What else can I do if I don't get in after OLY1?

Medicine applicants who are not successful in gaining entry at the end of their first year are advised to continue with their studies. They have the option of remaining in the degree they started, transferring to another degree or a conjoint degree. Having completed their degree, they may be eligible to reapply for entry to the medical programme. Visit www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/medicine for entry requirements.

What if I am not eligible to apply under the admission categories outlined?

Applicants whose education or experience differs to those outlined in the application categories should contact the Faculty Admissions Office for advice: fmhs@auckland.ac.nz

What if I've done a degree overseas?

New Zealand and Australian permanent residents or citizens with degrees from universities other than New Zealand universities are required to either:

Apply under the Overlapping Year One category
Complete the first year of the BHSc or BSc-Biomedical Science at The University of Auckland and then compete for entry to medicine.

Apply as a graduate applicant

Complete a postgraduate qualification (minimum 1 year, full time) at any New Zealand university in addition to the qualifications already completed overseas.

Potential applicants in this position who have not completed a degree with a science base are advised to follow the Overlapping Year 1 route.

All applicants must achieve the academic and UMAT requirements. For further advice please consult www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/medicine

How many graduate applicants get in?

Approximately 20-25% of available places in the programme will be reserved for Graduates.

How many times can I apply?

All applicants can only apply **twice** for the MBChB programme at the University of Auckland regardless of entry category.

How many apply altogether?

Each year over a thousand people apply for the MBChB programme.

If I left school without any qualification, what do I need to do to apply for medicine?

All applicants must have completed a year in the BHSc or BSc-Biomedical Science programme at The University of Auckland or have a completed degree at The University of Auckland or another New Zealand university.

You may wish to investigate some of the University's pathway programmes to gain entry into the BHSc or BSc programmes, e.g.:

- Tertiary Foundation Certificate
- New Start Programme
- Certificate in Health Science (MAPAS only)

For more information, visit www.auckland.ac.nz

Are Australian students considered as International applicants?

No. Citizens and permanent residents of Australia and students from the Cook Islands, Tokelau or Niue, who are New Zealand citizens, are eligible for enrolment on the same basis as New Zealand students.

What if I am an International Student?

International applicants may compete for a limited number of places in the MBChB programme. The University of Auckland is unable to offer International students financial assistance by way of scholarships and the like.

International applicants may apply under the same two categories as domestic applicants. However, there are slight differences where international applicants are applying under the graduate entry category.

International graduate applicants must have completed a relevant degree (e.g. Biomedical Science, Biological Science, etc) from a recognised university in New Zealand or overseas, and UMAT is not required.

International graduate applicants will be assessed on the basis of their academic achievements and an interview. Interviews for international graduate applicants normally take place in September. Telephone interviews are conducted for overseas based applicants.

Application closing date for international graduate applicants: **31 August**

Do I need to sit IELTS if my first language is not English?

Applicants whose first language is not English will have to meet the University's minimum English requirements for admission and provide evidence of one of the following:

an IELTS academic module to 7.5 (with no band less than 7.0)

TOEFL 625 (paper based) or 263 (computer based) with TWE 5.0

However, IELTS/TOEFL is not required if applicants have completed a degree from a New Zealand university or the University of Auckland first year BHS or BSc - Biomedical Science.

What is UMAT?

All applicants are required to sit the UMAT (Undergraduate Medical and Health Sciences Admission Test) in the year of application (except international graduate applicants).

UMAT is developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) on behalf of the UMAT Consortium universities. The test is used specifically

to assist with the selection of students into the medicine, dentistry and health science degree programs at undergraduate level at participating universities. UMAT is a psychometric test and not an IQ test. It is not curriculum based and presupposes no science, maths or any other particular subjects at secondary level.

Registration opens in April and closes the beginning of June of each year, with the actual UMAT test taking place in late July. Visit <http://umat.acer.edu.au/> for more information.

Should I sit UMAT in Year 13 (NZ)?

It is available to Year 13 students who wish to sit UMAT while in school. However, please note that the UMAT scores are valid for 1 year only. All applicants need to sit the UMAT during their Overlapping Year One for the entry to the MBChB in the following year.

For example, results from 2012 will be valid only for application to enter MBChB commencing 2013 but not 2014.

What is the UMAT cut-off score?

There is no set cut-off point for UMAT used for selection to The University of Auckland medical programme. We encourage you to do as well as you can manage, but ultimately you will be ranked against all other candidates in our calculation of the final rank score.

Do I have to submit my UMAT results when I apply?

You need to indicate your UMAT candidate number on your MH03 supplementary information form. The results will automatically be forwarded to the medical admissions office to process.

Do I need UMAT results for BHS, BSc-Biomedical Science, BOptom or BPharm?

No. It is required for the MBChB only.

When will the interview take place?

Interview will be held in early-mid December. You must attend in person. Please see Important Dates: <http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/undergrad/important-dates.aspx>

When will I find out whether or not I have been offered an interview?

Applicants who will be invited to attend an admissions interview will be notified by e-mail or by post following the confirmation of final course grades in late November - early December.

For this purpose, it is very important that you notify fmhs@auckland.ac.nz of any changes in personal contact information.

How many do you interview?

Based on the applicant's GPA ranking, approximately twice as many eligible candidates as there are places available in the programme will be interviewed.

What is GPA cut-off for interviews?

It varies from year to year, it is determined once we have received and reviewed the entire application pool for that admission period. Please note that meeting the minimum GPA of 6.0 (B+ average) does not guarantee an interview. In recent years cut-off point has been higher than A- (7.0) for both OLY1 and graduate categories.

What sort of things do you ask in the interview?

Applicants who are invited to an interview will be assessed on personal attributes considered by the Faculty to be important for those wishing to pursue a career in medicine including maturity, communication skills, awareness and knowledge, career choice and well-roundedness.

Ideal applicants should have a mature attitude and good communication skills. Therefore, good English speaking skills are essential. Applicants will also be assessed on their awareness and knowledge of structure and issues of the New Zealand health system, and political and societal issues in New Zealand community in general.

It is essential that applicants can explain why they aspire to become a health professional. Applicants are encouraged to participate in out-of-school activities whether sports or other community groups.

How can I prepare myself for the interview?

It is advised that applicants consult the website for more information on the selection and interview process: <http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/medicine>

Applicants may also receive useful advice by speaking to current students or health professionals.

Would it be helpful if I submit reference letters to the interview?

No references, CVs or similar documents are to be submitted or brought to the interview.

Will I be disadvantaged if I have Aegrotat or Compassionate pass in the medical selection process?

No. We will take the final grades. However, please be aware that there is a limitation on points granted with an aegrotat or compassionate grade. e.g. no more than 2 courses can be awarded with an aegrotat or

compassionate consideration in the Overlapping Year One programme.

For more information, visit: www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/cs-aegrotat-and-compassionate-consideration

If I study medicine in NZ, can I work in Australia automatically or do I have to do more tests to be registered in Australia? Where else can I work with an NZ qualification?

Australian and NZ qualifications are interchangeable. However, in order to work in other countries, MBChB graduates may be required to sit further exams. Please check with relevant authorities.

Can I apply for pharmacy/optometry if I don't get in MBChB?

Applicants applying from first year BSc-Biomedical Science may also apply for both Bachelor of Pharmacy and Bachelor of Optometry. However, applicants applying from first year BHSc are not eligible for entry into Bachelor of Optometry programme.

Graduate students, who are citizens or permanent residents of New Zealand and Australia, may apply for both BPharm and BOptom.

International applicants may apply for BOptom. However, BPharm programme is currently not available to international applicants.

For more information on BPharm entry criteria please visit: <http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/undergrad/bpharm/entry.aspx>

For more information on BOptom, please contact ugadvice-optometry@auckland.ac.nz

Application Closing Dates

BHSc/BSc-Biomedical Science: 8 December

MBChB: Late or incomplete applications will **NOT** be accepted.

All Domestic Applicants: **1 November**

International Applicants:

Graduate - **31 August**

Overlapping Year One - **1 November**

To apply: visit www.auckland.ac.nz and Click on "Apply Now" or Student Services Online (current students)