AUSTRALIA HAS ONE OF THE BEST HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD AND A HIGHLY-SKILLED MEDICAL WORKFORCE. MEDICAL STUDENTS HAVE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP SKILLS AND ADVANCE A CAREER BY TRAINING AT THE FINEST UNIVERSITIES AND SPECIALIST COLLEGES.

The Australian medical training system offers a range of medical courses and facilities, providing qualifications for medical practitioners and medical specialists. University medical schools deliver medical practitioner courses while specialist colleges manage specialist training programs.

Australian universities perform well above world-standard in the following medical research disciplines:

- medical biochemistry and metabolomics
- cardiovascular medicine and haematology
- clinical sciences
- complementary and alternative medicine
- dentistry
- immunology
- medical microbiology
- neurosciences
- nursing
- nutrition and dietetics
- oncology and carcinogenesis
- ophthalmology and optometry
- paediatrics and reproductive medicine
- medical physiology
- pharmacology and pharmaceutical sciences
- human movement and sports science
- public health and health services
MEDICAL PRACTITIONER TRAINING

Australian courses for medical practitioners provide a solid base in the medical knowledge and clinical skills needed to pursue a wide range of career paths available in the medical profession.

There are two types of medical degrees leading to a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) qualification:

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<tr>
<th>DEGREE TYPE</th>
<th>TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate medical program</td>
<td>Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(five or six years)</td>
<td>Academic achievement (eg – International Baccalaureate score)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pre-requisite science study (eg – chemistry, mathematics, biology)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>English language proficiency (International English Language Testing System (IELTS) minimum score of 6.5)</td>
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<td>Interview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate-entry medical program</td>
<td>Academic achievement (eg – GPA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(four years)</td>
<td>Graduate Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Medical College Admissions Test</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Interview (eg – Multi-Mini Interview – MMI)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English language proficiency (IELTS minimum score of 7.0)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

HOW TO APPLY

Australia has 18 medical schools, many operating or allied with a hospital or medical centre. Medical education is accredited by the Australian Medical Council. To apply for a course, international students should contact the Australian medical school directly.

- University of Adelaide
- Bond University
- Australian National University
- Deakin University
- Flinders University
- Griffith University
- James Cook University
- University of Melbourne
- Monash University
- University of Newcastle
- University of New South Wales
- University of Queensland
- University of Sydney
- University of Tasmania
- University of Western Australia
- University of Western Sydney
- University of Wollongong
- University of Notre Dame
INTERNSHIP

A one-year internship (a paid position working in a teaching hospital) is required for full medical registration in Australia. Internships are allocated through Australian state/territory health departments, not universities. An internship placement is not guaranteed for international medical students after graduation in Australia. It is dependent on the availability of places.

MEDICAL SPECIALIST TRAINING

Specialist training in Australia is delivered through specialist colleges accredited by the Australian Medical Council. A list of colleges is available on the AMC website. A major part of specialist training takes place in teaching hospitals.

A large number of specialist disciplines are recognised in Australia, each with numerous sub-specialties, including:

- anaesthesia
- dermatology
- dentistry
- emergency medicine
- general practice
- intensive care and paediatric intensive care medicine
- internal medicine
- medical administration
- obstetrics and gynaecology
- occupational medicine
- ophthalmology
- paediatrics and child health
- palliative medicine
- pathology
- psychiatry
- public health medicine
- radiology
- rehabilitation medicine
- rural and remote medicine
- sexual health medicine
- sports and exercise medicine
- surgery

HOW TO APPLY

International students should apply directly to the college of their chosen specialisation. Some colleges administer training positions centrally while others require students to apply to a state/territory hospital.

Australian specialist colleges welcome international medical graduates. Many specialists currently training in Australia are doctors who completed their primary medical degree overseas.
Typically, doctors who have completed a medical degree overseas and wish to pursue specialist medical training in Australia must complete the following steps before enrolling in a specialist college:

- **AMC assessment**
  An assessment confirms applicants’ knowledge and skills are equivalent to a final year medical graduate from an Australian university, and that they have obtained a primary qualification in medicine and surgery awarded by a training institution listed in the current International Medical Education Directory of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER). Assessment involves computer adaptive test (CAT) multiple-choice question (MCQ) examination and a clinical examination.

- **English proficiency**
  Applicants must demonstrate English language skills at IELTS academic level 7 or equivalent. Exemptions may apply if secondary or tertiary qualifications were completed in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom or United States of America.

- **Obtain a visa**
  The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) provides information about visa types. Visit the DIAC website for details.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION: SHORT-TERM FELLOWSHIPS**

Specialist training fellowships are usually conducted in a sub-specialty area to enable overseas doctors to upskill or gain more experience. Fellowships are often approximately 12 months long, though the timeframe can vary. The Medical Board of Australia states that these positions are conducted on the understanding that the overseas doctor will return to their country of origin on completion of the fellowship. Students should contact the relevant specialist college for more information.

**PRACTISING AS A DOCTOR IN AUSTRALIA**

The process to start working as a general medical practitioner in Australia is outlined on the Doctor Connect website. The initial step is a process of skills recognition through:

- identifying a registration pathway
- verifying medical qualifications
- meeting English language requirements (IELTS academic level 7 or equivalent).

**REGISTRATION**

Every doctor practising medicine in Australia must be registered with the Medical Board of Australia.

- For international students graduating from Australian medical schools, full registration requires completion of a one-year internship. International graduates are subject to an Australian Government 10-year moratorium which restricts medical practice to government-defined areas of need for 10 years after graduation.
- For overseas-trained medical graduates, there are three main assessment pathways for registration. The Australian Medical Council (AMC) assesses standards of medical education and training for international medical graduates that wish to be registered as general or specialist medical practitioners in Australia. More information on assessment pathways is available from the AMC website.

Australia offers short bridging courses to assist overseas trained doctors to complete the AMC examinations. The Doctor Connect website lists organisations offering bridging courses.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

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<th>Doctor Connect</th>
<th><a href="http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au">www.doctorconnect.gov.au</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Health Practitioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regulation Agency</td>
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<td>Australian Medical Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ama.com.au">www.ama.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Medical Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Medicine Admission Test</td>
<td><a href="http://www.umat.acer.edu.au">www.umat.acer.edu.au</a></td>
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**DENTISTS**

- Australian Dental Council | www.adc.org.au |
- Dental Board of Australia | www.dentalboard.gov.au |

**NURSES AND MIDWIVES**

- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia | www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au |

**VETERINARIANS**

- Australasian Veterinary Boards Council | www.avbc.asn.au |