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, both of which also require an applicant to sit the UMAT (see p.3).

The two application categories for the MBChB are:

1. First Year (FY) Entry via BHSc/BSc Biomedical Science

FY applicants must complete the 8 required first year courses (in semester 1 and 2 of the same academic year) of either the Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc) or Bachelor of Science Biomedical Science (BSc Biomedical Science) at The University of Auckland. A minimum GPA of 6.0 (B+ average) across the 8 courses is required to be eligible for consideration for an admission interview.

All applicants eligible for an admission interview will be ranked according to the 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 of BHSc:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEDSCI 142</td>
<td>Biology for Biomedical Science: Organ Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOSCI 107</td>
<td>Biology for Biomedical Science: Cellular Processes and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 110</td>
<td>Chemistry of the Living World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POPHLTH 111</td>
<td>Population Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>POPHLTH 101</td>
<td>Health Systems 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>POPHLTH 102</td>
<td>Health and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTHPSYC 122</td>
<td>Behaviour, Health and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENEDU*</td>
<td>General Education</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

First Year of BSc Biomedical Science:

<table>
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<td>Population Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOSCI 101</td>
<td>Essential Biology: From Genomes to Organisms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOSCI 106</td>
<td>Foundations of Biochemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICS 160</td>
<td>Physics for the Life Sciences</td>
</tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

*During First Year, you will take one General Education course from either the Faculty Schedule (EMHSS) or the Open Schedule (O), excluding BIOSCI 100G, MEDSCI 100G, MEDSCI 101G, POPHLTH 103G, POPHLTH 104G. For more information, visit: www.auckland.ac.nz/generaleducation

2. Graduate Entry

Domestic graduates must have completed a full-time degree/degrees from a New Zealand university with a minimum of GPA 6.0 (B+ average) to be eligible for consideration for an admission interview. Last year of full-time study in a completed qualification must not have been more than 5 years prior to the year of application. Where an applicant has completed more than 3 years full-time study (including Honours and Masters), the best 3 years will be considered in GPA calculations.

Graduate applicants deemed eligible for an admission interview will then be ranked based on the 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, if the courses taken are at stage 2 or higher.

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

International graduate applicants, please refer to p.2.

Are Australian applicants considered as International applicants?

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

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

Entry into first year BHSc and first year BSc Biomedical Science is limited. 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.

BHSc: Guaranteed selection into this programme requires a rank score of 250, with a minimum of 18 Level 3 credits in one subject each from Table A and Table B.

BSc Biomedical Science: Guaranteed selection into this specialisation requires a rank score of 280 at NCEA Level 3.

Students entering with alternative qualifications, such as CIE and IB will also be ranked.

CIE: BHSc (Rank score: 300, with one subject at A Level from both Table A and B)  
BSc Biomedical Science (Rank score: 310)

IB: BHSc (33), BSc Biomedical Science (33)

MBChB - Last updated June 2018
Do I need to have done three science subjects at school 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 BHSc and BSc Biomedical Science 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 the MBChB programme.

Can I do first year BHSc or BSc Biomedical Science somewhere else and then 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 FY?

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 to a conjoint degree. Having completed their degree, they may be eligible to reapply for entry to the medical programme. Please refer to Graduate Entry (above).

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

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

What if I’ve done an undergraduate degree overseas?

Domestic applicants completing an undergraduate degree outside New Zealand are not eligible to apply directly for the MBChB programme at the University of Auckland. Applicants are required to either:

- **Apply under the First Year 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 an undergraduate or a postgraduate qualification on a full-time basis at any New Zealand university and then compete for entry to medicine.

**NB:** Both application categories require UMAT.

How many graduate applicants get in?

Approximately 20–25% of available places in the programme will be taken by graduate applicants.

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.

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 applicants 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, or similar) from a recognised university in New Zealand or overseas, and UMAT is not required.

International graduate applicants are assessed on the basis of their academic achievements and an interview. The shortlisted applicants will be notified by email of their interview dates. Interviews for international graduate applicants based overseas will be conducted using Skype where available, or by telephone.

I am a dual citizen (e.g. NZ-Canada, NZ-UK, NZ-US), can I apply as an international student?

No. You will be considered a domestic student.
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 into the MBChB, and must provide evidence of one of the following:

- an IELTS academic module to 7.5 (with no band less than 7.0), or;
- TOEFL 625 (paper-based) plus Essay (TWE) of 5.0 or 106 (internet-based) plus a Writing score of 24

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

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 completed degree at a New Zealand university.

You may wish to investigate pathway programmes to gain entry into the BHSc e.g.:

- Tertiary Foundation Certificate
- Certificate in Health Science (MAPAS only)

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

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 (see above).

UMAT is developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) on behalf of the UMAT Consortium universities. The test is used 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, not an IQ test. It is not curriculum based and presupposes no science, maths or any other particular subjects at secondary level.

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

Should I sit UMAT in Year 13 (NZ)?

Year 13 students may sit UMAT however, scores are valid for 1 year only. All applicants must sit UMAT in the year of application to MBCHB.

What is the UMAT cut-off score?

There is no set cut-off point for UMAT for admission. 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 need to sit the UMAT test if I have a Health Science degree from New Zealand?

No. UMAT is required for the MBChB only.

When do admission interviews take place?

The Multi Mini Interview (MMI) process will be held in late November – early December. Invites must attend in person. Please see Important Dates: www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/undergrad/importantdates.aspx

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

Applicants who will be invited to attend an admissions interview will be notified by e-mail in mid-November.

How many applicants 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 the GPA cut-off for an interview?

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

What sort of things do you ask in the admission interviews?

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 communication skills, maturity, 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 also strongly encouraged to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities, whether sports or other social or community groups.
How can I prepare myself for the interview?
It is advised that applicants consult the Faculty website for more information on the selection and interview process: www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz

Applicants may also benefit from seeking advice and information from a wide range of people, including university students, community leaders, or health professionals.

Would it be helpful if I submit reference letters to the interview?
No. References, CVs or similar documents are not 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 First Year BHSc /BSc Biomedical Science programme.

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

Can I apply for all the professional programmes (MBChB/BPharm/BOptom) in any one academic calendar year?
Yes. Graduate applicants may also apply for both the Bachelor of Pharmacy and Bachelor of Optometry. Applicants applying from first year of the BSc Biomedical Science may also apply for both. However, applicants applying from first year BHSc are not eligible for entry into Bachelor of Optometry programme.

Applicants who are eligible for more than one programme interview will only be offered one MMI. The results of the MMI will be used for all applications.

If a person does not wish to be vaccinated for personal, philosophical, religious or health reasons, will that person be declined from studying Medicine (or placements etc.)?
Medical students will not be permitted to commence any clinical attachment/placement without meeting the mandatory immunization requirements; therefore they will not be able to complete their degree.

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 registration authorities in the country of interest.

Application Closing Dates
MBChB: 1 October
BHSc/BSc Biomedical Science: 8 December

Late or incomplete applications will NOT be accepted.

To apply: visit www.apply.auckland.ac.nz, or Student Services Online.

NOTE: As selection criteria may change from year to year, applicants should consult the University website or the University Student Information Centre for the latest information. For further advice please consult www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/medicine