

# The Graduate Entry Stream for UNSW Medicine

(updated October 2010)

## OVERVIEW

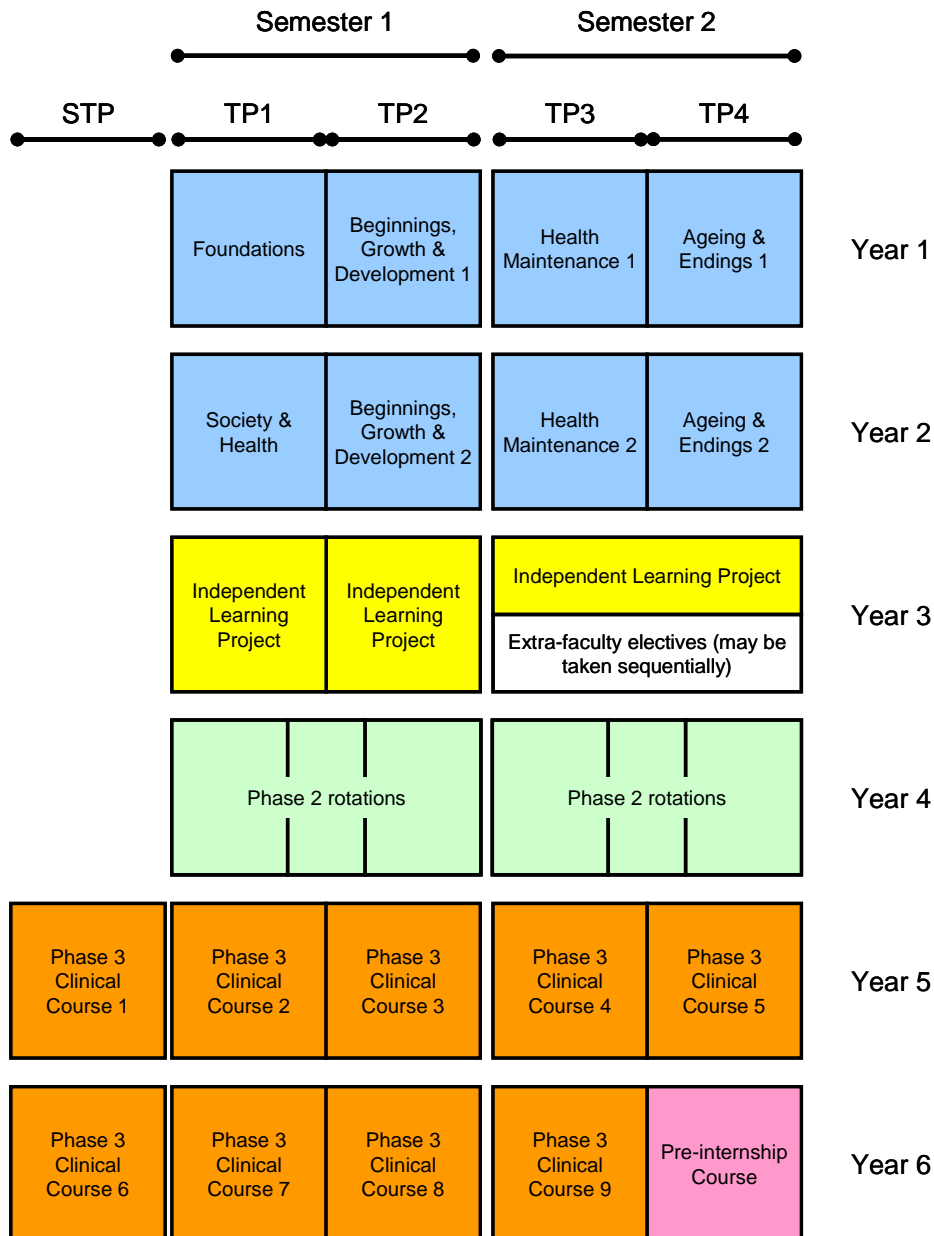
UNSW Medicine has a graduate entry stream into its 6-year undergraduate MBBS program. Unlike other schemes that permit graduate entry into an undergraduate Medicine program, this is restricted to Bachelor of Medical Science students at UNSW, who are required to complete a research Honours year prior to entry into Medicine.

The BMedSc at UNSW requires all students to undertake introductory-level courses in all of the medical science disciplines, with specialisation only occurring in the third year. For the graduate entry stream, provisional offers of admission are made following completion of the second year, including all of the introductory-level courses. Students offered a provisional place then undertake a plan of study specific to entry to UNSW Medicine, including a number of relevant advanced-level courses in the third year of the degree as well as bridging courses in conjunction with their Honours research project.

Because of this design, graduates admitted via this pathway have both a firm foundation of knowledge of the medical sciences and significant experience in a research laboratory. They are thus able to enter the MBBS program with advanced standing, together with exemption from the Independent Learning Project. Following additional bridging coursework, they continue into the clinical courses of Phases 2 and 3 of the UNSW Medicine program. The nett result is that students can complete both the BMedSc(Hons) and the MBBS degrees in a total of 7 years. Furthermore, it is now possible for students with an interest in continuing their research to complete a PhD prior to entry into the MBBS program.

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MBBS PROGRAM AND THE GRADUATE ENTRY STREAM

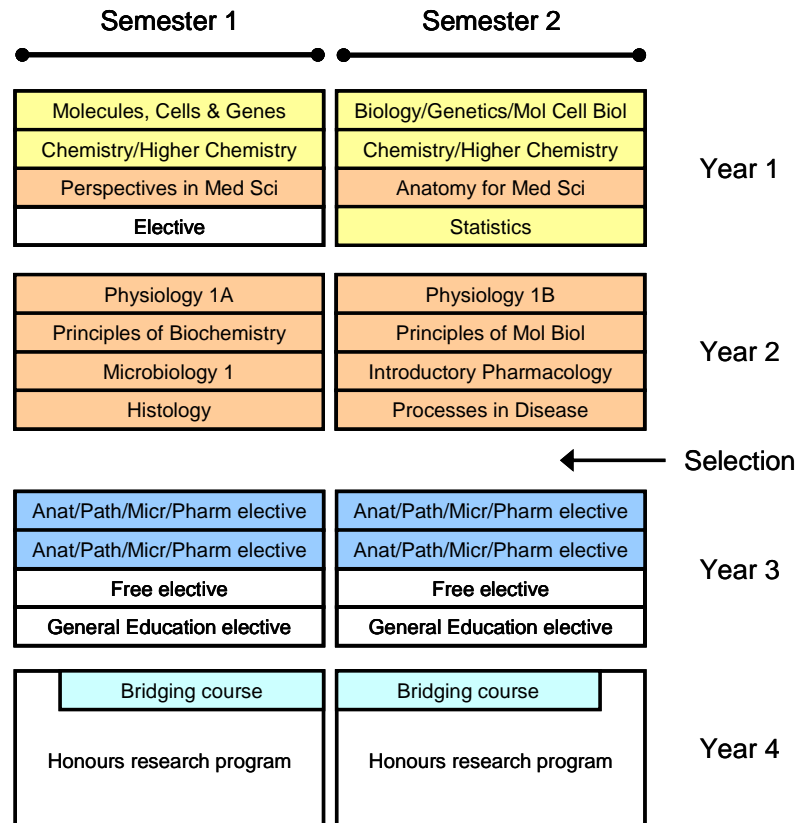
The UNSW Medicine program is flexible both within and between courses. The diagram below shows one pathway through the program for direct entry students, which most closely relates to the graduate entry stream.



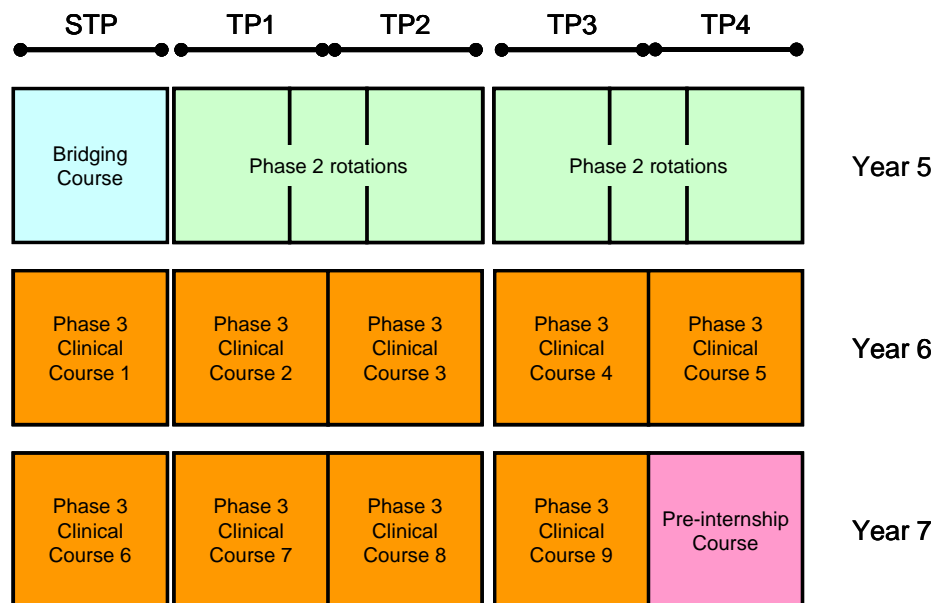
### Notes:

1. This document uses UNSW terminology; a "course" = a subject or unit of study.
2. STP = Summer Teaching Period, TP1-4 = Medicine Teaching Periods 1-4; TP1 and TP3 commence at the beginning of the corresponding university semester.
3. Students may complete the ILP in year 3 and Phase 2 courses in year 4, or vice versa.
4. The Phase 2 clinical/biomedical science rotations include Beginnings, Growth & Development, Society & Health, Adult Medicine, Geriatrics and Oncology.
5. The Phase 3 clinical courses include Adult Medicine, Surgery, Children's Health, Women's Health, Mental Health, Primary Care plus 3 selective/elective courses.

The BMedSc program is also quite flexible, but students offered graduate entry to the MBBS program follow a sequence similar to that shown below.



These students enter the MBBS program at the equivalent of Year 4 for direct entry students, with exemption from the Independent Learning Project. They undertake an intensive bridging course in the Summer Teaching Period.



## CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION AND ENTRY PATHWAY

Assessment for admission via the graduate entry stream is on the basis of:

- the weighted average mark in the BMedSc to the end of year 2; this will be calculated on the basis of core courses and Science electives only
- the highest score in the UMAT test in the 3 years prior to application; selection into UNSW Medicine is normally based on a UMAT score obtained within the preceding 2 years, but for the graduate entry stream, scores obtained up to 1 year earlier will also be accepted
- performance in a selection interview, similar to that currently employed for selection into the undergraduate Medicine program, to be held either late in year 2 of the BMedSc program, or in the following January.

These three components are combined according to the selection algorithm currently employed for UNSW Medicine (standardised scores, weighted equally).

For details of the application process see

[http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/Selection\\_local](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/Selection_local). Note that to be eligible to apply, students must have completed all core courses of the BMedSc at UNSW by the end of year 2.

Successful students will be offered a *provisional* place in the MBBS program. Offers will be made at the beginning of the year in which students commence year 3 of the BMedSc program. The offer of entry into Medicine will be contingent on maintaining the required level of academic performance in the BMedSc, as well as completing Honours at a satisfactory level (at least class II division 1).

Up to 15 Commonwealth-supported places will be available: of these, up to 4 may be Bonded Medical Places (for further information see <http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/Categories>). No fee-paying international places will be available. Not all places will necessarily be filled – the Faculty of Medicine reserves the right not to offer places if there is not a sufficient number of applicants who meet all of the minimum selection criteria (e.g. overall UMAT score not less than 50).

Students who have been offered a place will be required, during year 3, to complete 24 units of credit (one-half of their course load) of level 2 or level 3 courses from the disciplines of Anatomy, Pathology, Microbiology and Pharmacology. These 24 units may be any combination of courses from one or more of these disciplines, but students need to keep in mind the requirements for specialisation in the BMedSc program: they must complete all specified requirements to be able to enrol in Honours. During the Honours year, students will undertake a modest amount of bridging coursework. This is comprised of Foundations in Public Health & Health Care Systems (taught in parallel as a postgraduate course) in the first semester and Introductory Clinical & Communication Skills (specifically designed for the graduate entry stream) in the second semester. In January of the year following completion of Honours, they will undertake an eight-week full-time bridging course before joining students in year 4 of the Medicine program.

## **POTENTIAL TO UNDERTAKE A PHD**

Students with an interest in undertaking further research after completion of their Honours year may defer taking up their provisional place in the MBBS program. These students will be able to enrol for a PhD and will be eligible to apply for postgraduate research scholarships. They will enter the Medicine program after completion of the requirements for the PhD.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Inquiries should be directed to [medicine.info@unsw.edu.au](mailto:medicine.info@unsw.edu.au)