

The Graduate Entry Stream for UNSW Medicine

(updated October 2014)

OVERVIEW

UNSW Medicine has a graduate entry stream into its 6-year integrated BMed MD program. This has a small intake which is restricted to Bachelor of Medical Science students at UNSW, who are required to complete a research Honours year prior to entry into the MD component of the Medicine program.

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, which may be undertaken in any of the medical science disciplines offered by the School of Medical Sciences or the School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences.

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 undertake the MD component of the Medicine program, with exemption from the Independent Learning Project. Instead, their MD focuses on practice-related learning, including the clinical courses of Phases 2 and 3 of the UNSW Medicine program. The net result is that students can complete both the BMedSc(Hons) and the MD 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 MD program.

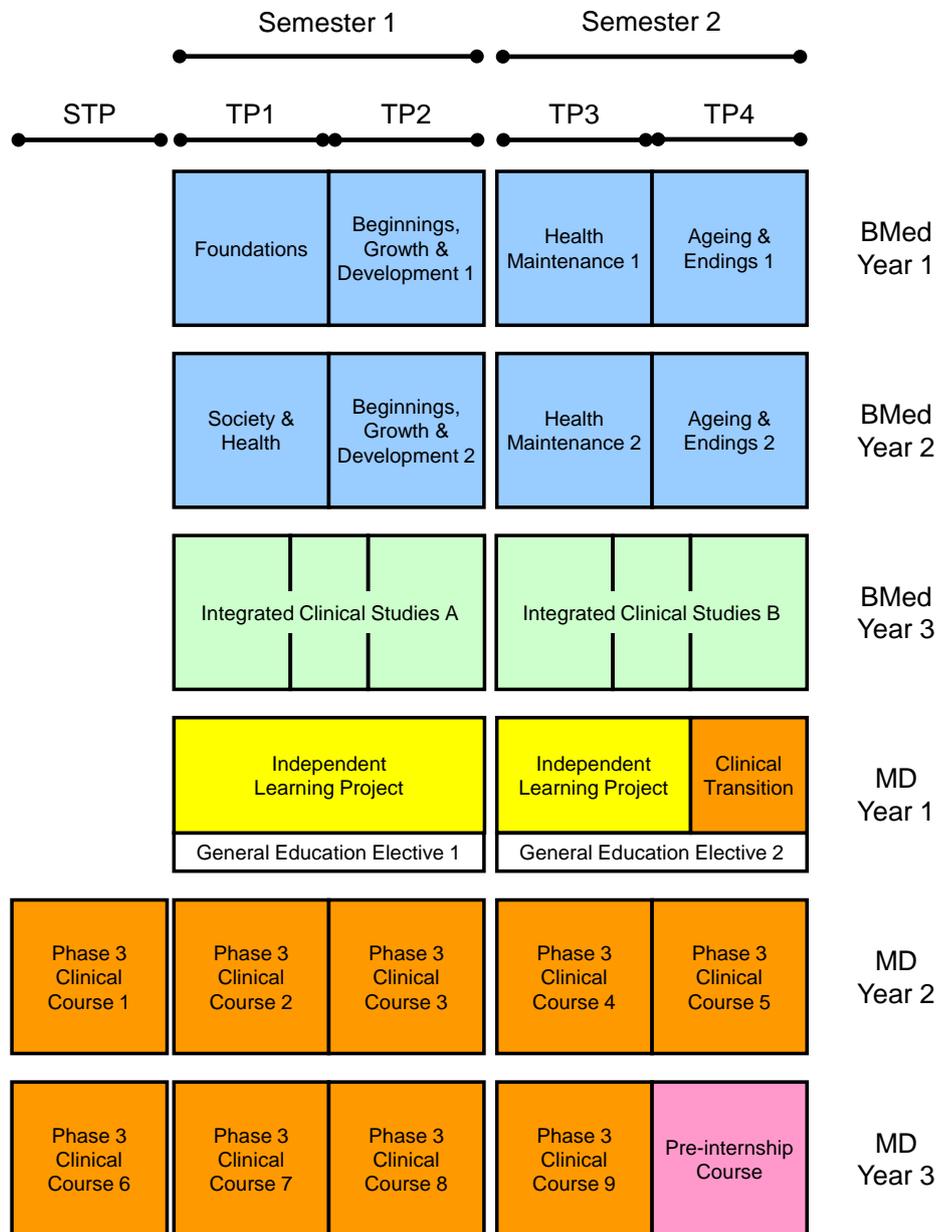


UNSW
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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BMed MD PROGRAM AND THE GRADUATE ENTRY STREAM

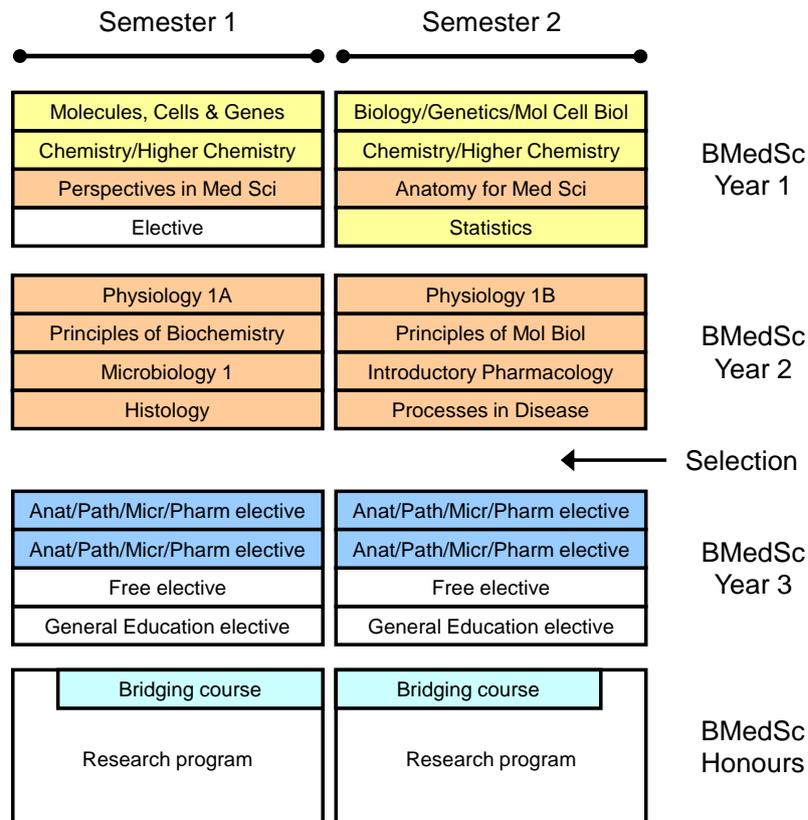
The diagram below shows the typical pathway through the UNSW Medicine program for direct entry students. Although 2 degrees are awarded on completion, the program is fully integrated.



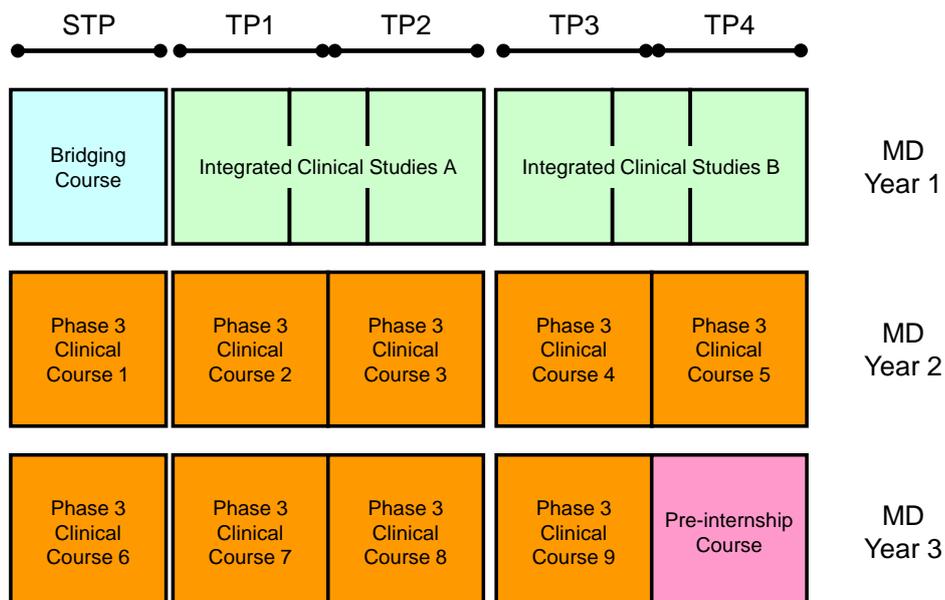
Notes:

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. Phase 1 is comprised of the courses in years 1 and 2. Phase 2 is comprised of the Integrated Clinical Studies courses in Year 3 of the BMed and the Independent Learning Project in Year 1 of the MD.
4. Phase 3 is comprised of clinical courses including Adult Medicine, Surgery, Paediatrics, Women's Health, Psychiatry, Primary Care, plus 3 selective/elective courses and a Preparation for Internship course

Students enrolled in the BMedSc program who are offered entry to the MD program will follow a sequence similar to that shown below.



These students enter the first year of a modified MD program, undertaking an intensive bridging course in the Summer Teaching Period. On the basis of their Honours research, they are exempted from the Independent Learning Project, and instead complete the Medicine Phase 2 Integrated Clinical Studies courses.



CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION AND ENTRY PATHWAY

Assessment for admission to the MD via this pathway 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 UMAT score obtained in year 2 of the BMedSc
- performance in a selection interview, similar to that currently employed for selection into the integrated BMed MD 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. 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 MD 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 10 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 or 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. To be able to enrol in Honours, they must complete all requirements specified by the relevant School (Medical Sciences or Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences).

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 undertaking the Medicine Phase 2 Integrated Clinical Studies courses.

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 MD 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