

Frequently Asked Questions

Domestic Applications for Dentistry, Medicine and Veterinary Science

This guide is designed to answer frequently asked questions about domestic applicants applying to study Dentistry, Medicine and Veterinary Science at James Cook University (JCU).

Applications

How do I submit my application to JCU?

JCU has a two step application process for the following three degrees:

- Bachelor of Dental Surgery
- Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery
- Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Steps to applying:

1. [Apply online via the QTAC website](#); AND
2. [Apply online directly to JCU here](#).

Applications to QTAC and JCU are due by 30 September.

Where do I find my QTAC application ID number?

You can find your application number on your tax receipt under the transactions tab in your online application, it's nine digits long.

How long after completing my ATAR am I classified as a school leaver?

An applicant is considered a school leaver if they apply within 2 years of completing Year 12 and if they do not complete any more than 3 subjects at a tertiary level. They will be assessed on their ATAR or equivalent and any other formal academic study as released via QTAC.

Non-school leaver applicants will be competing for fewer positions against applicants who have potentially completed tertiary study.

What is the cut-off ATAR/GPA?

JCU does not have a mandatory ATAR/GPA cut-off, as selection for entry into these courses is multi-tiered. A balance between academic results, the written application and interview (medicine only) will determine a competitive candidate for this course.

You can find information on the highest/median/lowest ranked applicants who received offers the previous year on the QTAC website or on the JCU course page under the "Entry Requirements" tab.

Year 12 Applicants:

The application will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Academic performance in Year 12 studies
- Written component of the JCU internal application.
- MBBS: Demonstration at interview of attributes suited to a career in medicine

I am having trouble completing my online application?

For assistance completing the online application please contact our enquiries team via email enquiries@jcu.edu.au or via phone on 1800 246 446.

I am having technical trouble with the online application portal?

For any technical issues experienced with the Application Portal, please log a request to our IT Helpdesk via email ithelpdesk@jcu.edu.au

Applications

How do I enter my schooling/education information into my online application?

For each year and grade of your primary and secondary education, enter the year and grade, and choose the country in which you studied. If you studied in Australia that year, select your school in the School Name field. You can type your school's suburb or postcode to narrow down the list. If you were home schooled, use "Homeschool" as your school name.

You will need to fill out 12 rows (or more), one for each year of education. If you skipped a grade, record that year and grade, select "Skipped" in the School Name field, and explain briefly why you skipped in the Additional Education Information field below.

If you need assistance completing the application, contact our Enquiries team via email enquiries@jcu.edu.au or via phone 1800 246 446.

If you can't find your school and suburb or are not able to describe 12 years of education, contact the Selection team via email selection@jcu.edu.au and let us know your school's name, suburb and post code.

If you receive an error after saving your school information, you will need to make sure you have filled out 12 rows, one for each year of education. If you cannot describe 12 grades of education on this form, contact our Selection team via email selection@jcu.edu.au.

Can I pay full fees and get into the course?

JCU does not offer full fee-paying undergraduate places except for international students. Domestic undergraduate students offered a place at JCU will be offered a Commonwealth supported place (CSP).

My school will not provide a Prediction of Academic Achievement (PAA), will this disadvantage me?

Currently, we use the predicted information provided by schools to offer early interviews to potential candidates prior to their actual results being released. We also offer interviews early in January to ensure that no applicants are disadvantaged if their host school does not provide a PAA form or if the predicted results differ from their actual results.

Will my National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) New Zealand results be too late to be considered for the next intake?

Students studying the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) in New Zealand are unlikely to receive results early enough to be considered for entry to our programs with special entry requirements in the year following completion of secondary school. Students studying this qualification in 2023 are encouraged to apply in 2024, for 2025 entry into the course.

Can I have feedback on my application?

JCU is unable to provide feedback to the written component of the application or the interview process.

I have already completed a degree, can I still apply?

Yes, you are still able to apply for our courses with special entry requirements if you have commenced or completed tertiary studies.

I'm a New Zealand Citizen will I need to apply as an International Student?

New Zealand Citizens can apply for our competitive courses as Domestic Students.

Do I email the PAA form or does my school have to?

Your school is required to submit the PAA form directly to JCU on your behalf. PAA forms will not be accepted directly from applicants or from private email addresses.



How many Letters of Support can I attach?

Only the first three letters of support will be considered as part of your application.

Can I still apply if I have not met the pre-requisites?

All applicants are required to satisfy the course prerequisites of English, Mathematical Methods and Chemistry to be made an offer.

If you know you're not going to meet the subject pre-requisites, contact JCU to discuss your options, keeping in mind Key Dates for results/deadlines.

Do I need to have JCU as a first preference to receive an offer?

We recommend that you have the course you are most interested in studying as your first preference. If you are interested in applying for more than one of our competitive courses, please order your preferences accordingly.

If I am still studying at the time applications close, do I need to send you a copy of my results once they are finalised and where do I send them?

Once you have received your results, you should advise QTAC by uploading your results into your QTAC application. Please make sure you check [QTAC Key Dates](#) for document/result deadlines.

I am interest in both Townsville and Cairns campuses for Medicine, can I preference both?

Yes, you can preference both campuses in QTAC. Eligible applicants will receive only 1 offer for either campus, so we encourage you to only preference your preferred campus.

Key Dates for the 2024 intake

1 August 2023 - JCU Application and QTAC Opening Date

30 September 2023 - Application Closing Date – JCU and QTAC

6 October 2023 - Closing Date – PAA forms

10 November 2023 - December Interview notification date

28 Nov – 7 December 2023 - December interview dates

22 December 2023 - January Interview notification

2 - 3 January 2024 - January Interview dates

11 January 2024 - QTAC offers released to applicants

15 January 2024 - Last date to respond to QTAC January offer round

12 February 2024 - Orientation Week commences

19 February 2024 - JCU Academic Year commences

Applications

I have a medical condition, disability, or impairment, can I still apply?

Absolutely, both JCU and QTAC can assist with lodging your application and we would strongly encourage you to visit [JCU's Accessibility Services](#).

Note: courses with special admission requirements are not eligible for adjustments (for example EAS, subject bonuses). JCU also recommends that prospective applicants familiarise themselves with the course inherent requirements and preparing for professional experience placement to ensure successful completion of your course. Find out more about [requirements](#) and [professional experience placement](#).

How will they assess my application if the last course I completed did not have a GPA? (PhD or Research Degree)

Generally, a course that doesn't have a GPA won't be included. However, if your most recent degree is a completed PhD, Research degree, Class 1 or II Honours, you will receive a rank (QTAC).

I haven't yet completed my bridging subject; how do you know that I am still studying?

Please include the qualification in your QTAC application, even if it is incomplete.

If you are studying a JCU bridging subject, we will provide QTAC with your results before the end of December.

Am I disadvantaged when applying as an International Baccalaureate (IB) student?

IB students are not disadvantaged, however due to the late release date of results, we encourage applicants to request that their school submit a prediction of academic achievement (PAA) form directly to JCU on their behalf. As with all applicants, final results are required for an applicant to be considered for an offer.

Letters of Support

Who will JCU accept letters of support from?

JCU will accept letters of support or reference from anyone who can give you a positive recommendation, some examples include employers, work experience supervisors, school guidance officers and extra-curricular coaching staff. We cannot accept letters of support from members of the applicant's family.

We recommend that you think about who you are getting your letters of support from, is it someone who knows what you have been involved with? The referrer should identify how they know you and if possible, briefly explain their involvement with you for example a business teacher for the past 4 years or supervisor at a volunteer program.

What details does the referee need to include in the letter of support?

If letters of support are included, please ensure the referees have included their phone number in case JCU need to contact them. The letters of support can be printed from email if the authors contact details are included to verify legitimacy.

Who should the letter of support be addressed to?

JCU does not advise who the letters of support be addressed to, we welcome letters addressed to the Selections Officer or Committee, Admissions Officer or Committee, some address letters of support to the College Dean or simply to whom it may concern.

Pathways and Entry

Do I have to complete work experience or volunteered to be able to apply for a place in this course?

Work experience or volunteer work is not essential when applying for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary science at JCU although it can give a greater insight into what it may be like to work in that field.

Is there a postgraduate entry pathway into this course?

These programs are primarily undergraduate programs with a very limited number of places available for non-Year 12 applicants. All domestic applicants are required to apply for our courses with special entry requirements by applying directly to JCU and applying to QTAC via their online services.

Interviews for Medicine

What kind of interview is it?

JCU conduct a panel-style interview. The interview panel will consist of a medical practitioner, an academic staff member and a member of the community.

Will I be considered for an interview if I haven't yet fulfilled the prerequisite subjects?

An invitation to attend an interview is determined on the evaluation of an applicant's written application and academic results (predicted or actual).

Offers for a place in the program are made on actual results. All applicants are required to satisfy the course prerequisites of English, Mathematical Methods and Chemistry to be made an offer into the program.

When are interviews conducted?

Interviews are usually held early in December and early January each year, please refer to the course information sheet for dates.



Offers and Places

I received an offer from JCU, but I want to see if I get offered one of my higher preferences.

Applicants can conditionally accept their offer in QTAC. A conditional response allows applicants to be considered for a higher preference in future offer rounds. We recommend that applicants conditionally accept their offer with JCU to secure their place while waiting on top up offer rounds.

How many places are available?

In 2024 there are approximately 170 CSP places available in year 1 of the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, and approximately 80 places in Veterinary Science and 90 places in Dental Surgery. A limited number of places are allocated to non-school leavers.

Will there be a second round of offers?

Depending on the final number of acceptances and deferrals, JCU may participate in further top up offer rounds.

Can I get a place in the course if I pay full fees? Or if I pay international fees?

Domestic fee-paying places are not available for admission to our courses with special entry requirements. All applicants must apply directly to JCU and apply to QTAC via their online application services.

How can I improve my chances of being offered a place in this course?

Due to the competitive nature of these courses, JCU is unable to provide applicants with feedback or suggestions that may improve their chances for an offer into one of our courses with special entry requirements.

Can I be given a conditional offer for this course and complete the pre-req after I start the course?

All applicants are required to satisfy the course prerequisites of English, Mathematical Methods and Chemistry to be made an offer.

If I receive an offer for a place in Townsville, can I later change it to Cairns?

You may request consideration to transfer your place to an alternate campus due to compassionate reasons, however there is no guarantee there will be a place available at the destination campus. We encourage you to apply only for your preferred campus.



Course information

Can any part of the course be done online?

JCU has previously decided that offering these courses online was not going to provide the best experience for students, these programs are only available to study on campus.

Where will the placements be done? Can I choose the location?

Placements are located within North Queensland in rural, regional and remote locations. Students can apply with their preferences for placement however there is no guarantee a student will be matched with a preferred location.



Careers

After I have completed this course will I be qualified to work in a different state or country?

Yes, Applicants who have completed the Bachelor of Veterinary Science will be eligible to practice as Veterinarians in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Applicants who have completed the Bachelor of Dental Surgery will receive provisional registration Dental Board of Australia and New Zealand.

Applicants who have completed the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery will be eligible to apply to the Medical Board of Australia.

At what stage would I get the title of Dr?

Once you have successfully completed your course you would be eligible to use the title of Dr.

How long do I have to study to work as a doctor?

In total it can take up to 10 years of study to become a medical Doctor in Australia depending on the chosen pathway and area of specialisation.

Briefly, a Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) will take four to six years to complete followed by a one-year internship. This is usually followed by a one-year residency and three-year vocational training program or medical speciality such as general practice which is postgraduate study and can take an additional three to five years.

Read the [Australian Medical Association's useful guide](#) to the life cycle of a Doctor. Read more about careers in medicine on the [My Health Career website](#) and the [Australian Medical Association website](#).



Do I have to complete further study, or can I just be a General Practitioner (GP) when I finish the course?

On completing your medical degree, you receive provisional registration and enter the workforce as an intern or postgraduate year 1 (PGY1) doctor. This part of your training lasts for 12 months and is usually undertaken in a public hospital, although interns will increasingly spend part of their training in general practice, community-based settings, and private hospitals. To successfully complete your intern year, you will be required to complete all mandatory core rotations (a medical, surgical & emergency medicine rotation) and normally two non-core rotations. You will also need to pass all your rotations in your intern year satisfactorily. Once you have completed your intern year you will receive general registration, which will be essential in progressing your career in all clinical and non-clinical medical pathways.

Find out more about [how to become a doctor on the Australian Medical Association website](#).



For further information

If you have further questions about studying medicine, dentistry, or veterinary science at JCU, please contact the team via email enquiries@jcu.edu.au or phone 1800 246 446.