

2024

Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery

Entry Information for Domestic Applicants



James Cook University Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery degree is a 6 year undergraduate course and is primarily for school leavers (i.e. applicants who have completed Year 12 or equivalent in the last two years). A limited number of places may be available for non-school leavers.

Overview

Are you looking for a medical training journey with adventure, skills, and impact? JCU's Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree has a nationally recognised reputation for producing work-ready doctors who have a passion for making a difference in meeting the priority needs of our communities. Students' skills and interests are honed through extensive supervised practical experience that is underpinned by a strong foundation of basic, clinical and health systems science and socially accountable medicine. The degree places particular emphasis on rural and remote health, Indigenous health, and global health in the Tropics. Students undertake extensive placements at sites across Australia, experiencing supervised, hands-on training and the warm welcome and adventure on offer in rural and regional communities. At the completion of the six-year degree, you'll graduate with an array of opportunities to pursue a range of specialty training pathways and a rewarding medical career.

This course is accredited by the Australian Medical Council (AMC).

Important Dates

2023	1 AUG	Application opening date for JCU Application Form
	1 AUG	Application opening date QTAC
	30 SEPT	Closing date for JCU Application Form
	30 SEPT	Closing date for QTAC Application
	6 OCT, 4PM (AEST)	Prediction of Academic Achievement (PAA) form to be received by the Division of Tropical Health and Medicine
	10 NOV	Email notification of invitation to attend interview
	28 NOV-7 DEC	Interviews held via zoom
	22 DEC	Email notification of invitation to attend January interview

IMPORTANT DATES CONTINUED

2024	2-3 JAN	Interviews held via zoom
	11 JAN	QTAC offers released to applicants
	15 JAN	Last date to respond to QTAC January offer round, applicants must respond to QTAC and JCU
	12 FEB	Orientation Week begins
	19 FEB	JCU Academic Year begins

How do I apply?

Please read the information below before applying for the Bachelor of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery course at James Cook University.

JCU has a two-step application process for the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery.

Steps to apply

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

Please note: You may also be invited to attend an interview.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER APPLICANTS

The College of Medicine and Dentistry is committed to contributing to the University's desire to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who participate in its programs, and makes particular effort to encourage Indigenous students to participate in medical education. It is committed to responding to their identified higher education needs. A key objective of the JCU College of Medicine and Dentistry is to graduate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants interested in pursuing a career in medicine refer to the [Indigenous pathway information sheet](#) or email indigenoushealthpathway@jcu.edu.au. If you are seeking support you can contact the [Indigenous Education and Research Centre](#) via email at ierc@jcu.edu.au for more information.

RURAL AND REMOTE RESIDENTS

The College of Medicine and Dentistry is focused on meeting the needs of Northern Australia. JCU encourages applications from prospective students from a regional, rural, remote background or who have a passion for working in these regions. JCU is committed to graduating doctors who are more likely to stay in or to return to regional, rural and remote communities where they received their training.

NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS

New Zealand Citizens need to apply as Domestic Applicant.

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT RESIDENTS

New Zealand permanent residents need to apply as International Applicant.

Summary of selection process

Applicants will be evaluated based on a combination of the following criteria:

- Academic performance in Year 12 studies or in subsequent tertiary studies as provided through QTAC
- JCU application form
- Rurality or indigenous background
- Demonstration at interview of attributes suited to a career in medicine.

In 2024, the College of Medicine and Dentistry has approximately 170 commonwealth supported places available in the first year of the MBBS degree, with approximately 40 places in Cairns and 130 in Townsville. Offers are not transferrable between campuses.

Although the majority of students admitted to the JCU Medical Degree are school-leavers, a limited number of places (approximately 30) are taken up by candidates who have already commenced tertiary studies. This includes high achieving students who are currently enrolled in health related courses at JCU and other institutions.

Each year JCU conduct approximately 620 interviews for selected candidates. The selection is based of their JCU application form and academic results (predicted or actual). Applicants will be selected for entry into the James Cook University MBBS degree based on a combination of factors including their academic performance, application, rurality, indigenous background and interview performance.

NB: This course no longer requires responses to a written component, however, the JCU application form is mandatory for the application to be considered.

INFORMATION FOR THOSE STUDYING YEAR 12 OR EQUIVALENT THIS YEAR

The [Prediction of Academic Achievement](#) sheet is to be completed by your School Principal/Vice-Principal/ Guidance Officer or Director of Studies (or equivalent) and returned to the Division of Tropical Health and Medicine medicine.forms@jcu.edu.au by 4pm Friday, 6 October 2023.

The predicted information provided by schools is used to offer early interviews to potential candidates prior to their actual results being released. We also offer second round 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.

NB: Do NOT include the Prediction of Academic Achievement sheet with your application form. JCU will not accept this form from the applicant.

INFORMATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT STUDYING YEAR 12 OR EQUIVALENT THIS YEAR

The most recent course GPA (Grade Point Average) score will be used to rank applicants who have commenced or completed tertiary studies.

For 2023 intake, a GPA of 5.75 on a 7 point scale was required to be considered for an interview. While an applicant's most recent GPA is given the most weight, the applicant's entire academic profile as supplied by QTAC will be considered. An applicant's other studies/qualifications that do not generate a GPA score will not be considered when determining the rankings for interview. For example applicants must have completed senior secondary or commenced Bachelor level study or higher to be eligible for consideration.

Graduate applicants with a health science undergraduate degree may be considered for entry into the MBBS degree beyond Year 1 level, subject to the academic performance of the most recent qualification.

RURAL ACCESS SCHEME

As a rural institution, JCU recognises the challenges faced by those studying in rural and remote areas. The College of Medicine and Dentistry are participating in the **Rural Access Scheme** (RAS) and will offer a number of rural places to students recognised as coming from a rural and remote background.

You will be invited to apply to the RAS as part of your QTAC Application.

INFORMATION FOR NEW ZEALAND APPLICANTS STUDYING NCEA THIS YEAR

New Zealand students studying and completing the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) in 2023 are unlikely to receive their NCEA results early enough to be considered for entry to the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery at JCU in 2024. Due to the expected timing of the release of the NCEA results, students currently completing the NCEA are encouraged to apply to JCU in 2024, for the 2025 entry intake for Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery.

UCAT

Please note that James Cook University does NOT use the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) as part of their selection process.

INTERVIEWS

Approximately 620 applicants will be invited for interview. Selection of applicants to be interviewed will be based on evaluation of the JCU application form together with all available information regarding academic performance. To be considered for a place in medicine, applicants must attend the interview at the allocated time and date.

All interviews will be conducted via zoom through the College of Medicine and Dentistry in Townsville. Applicants selected for interview will be sent an email with a link to schedule their interview at their preferred time and date. Changes to times and dates once scheduled cannot be considered due to the volume of interviews conducted. Please ensure your email address is correct and up to date.

Information regarding an applicant or an application is confidential and cannot be released to members of family or friends.

Successful applicants for a place in the MBBS degree

QTAC will make an offer for the highest preference for which you qualify. Successful applicants are required to follow the QTAC procedure for acceptance of a place in the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery degree.

Applicants who have been offered a place and who are seeking credit for previous study will need to submit the online [Application for Credit](#).



Unsuccessful applicants

JCU receives an average of 4000 applications for the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery each year, resulting in a number of applicants being unsuccessful each intake.

If an applicant who has been unsuccessful in obtaining a place in the James Cook University Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, but who is strongly motivated towards a career in the medical field, might consider undertaking one of the other health or biomedical science degrees offered at JCU.

Undertaking such a degree may strengthen a future application to a medical school, through one of the following paths:

- After graduation, being accepted for a graduate entry medical program at one of the Universities which have a graduate-entry medical degree (in Queensland, the University of Queensland and Griffith University); or
- Obtaining acceptance in a future year into James Cook University Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery through one of the limited number of places made available for non-school leavers.

Unsuccessful applicants considering undertaking studies in one of the above degrees with a view to eventual acceptance into this medical school, should be aware that the number of places available for non-school leaver entry into the James Cook University Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery is very limited. It would be inappropriate and unwise for an unsuccessful applicant to see that eventual outcome as anything other than a possibility.

Requirements for graduate entry to medical schools at other Universities vary between Universities, but are normally contingent upon performance in a bachelor degree, an interview and the Graduate Australian Medical School Admission Test (GAMSAT).

Further information can be obtained from the relevant Universities and the GAMSAT office at the Australian Council of Education Research (ACER).

GAMSAT Office at ACER

Email: gamsat@acer.edu.au

Postal address: Private Bag 55, Camberwell VIC 3124

<https://gamsat.acer.org>

Request for Feedback

With an annual average of 4000 applications to the medicine course, JCU is not able to provide individuals with information or feedback about their application. This includes information or feedback about an individual's application form or interview performance.

Applicants who have been unsuccessful in obtaining a place in the JCU Medicine course may choose to appeal the outcome of their application provided you have legitimate grounds. To appeal the decision you must lodge your request for a **Formal Review** within the strict timeline as outlined in the **Student Review and Appeals Policy**

Pre-requisites

For entry into James Cook University's Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery degree, applicants must have successfully completed Year 12 English (Units 3/4, C), Mathematical Methods (Units 3/4, C) and Chemistry (Units 3/4, C) or interstate or overseas equivalent. The study of Physics and Biology is highly desirable.

For international equivalents contact Admissions via email: admissions@jcu.edu.au

If you are unsure of the Australian pre-requisite requirement, please contact the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) at the website address: www.qtac.edu.au

Inherent Requirements and Reasonable Adjustments

Inherent requirements are the abilities, attributes, skills and behaviors needed to successfully complete the course. Find your course requirements under **Inherent Requirements**.

This course may have specific admission requirements such as immunisation, the requirement to obtain a Suitability to work with Children Card, National Criminal History Check and/or other requirements that Students must comply with. Students must complete all Professional Experience Placement requirements by the prescribed deadlines and maintain currency of all requirements in order to stay admitted to the course.

Professional Experience Placement

Students Professional Experience Placement is a formal component of this course and prepares you for registration and/or accreditation as a professional in your field. Visit **Preparing for Professional Experience Placement** for more information.

Vaccinations

Students must provide evidence of being immune to Hepatitis B and that they have been vaccinated or evidence that they are not susceptible for the vaccine preventable diseases (VPD) of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR); Varicella and Pertussis.

Professional Experience Placement is a requirement of this course and students may be engaged in roles where there is contact that would allow transmission of a VPD. Students are required to comply with the above requirement prior to commencing their first Professional Experience



Placement or by the end of the first teaching period of their studies (whichever is sooner), otherwise their enrolment will be terminated.

The College of Medicine and Dentistry recommends additional vaccinations and students will receive information regarding these vaccinations at the commencement of their first year. Information on the pre-placement requirements for the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery can be found at **Preparing for Professional Experience Placement**.

Working with Children

Queensland law contains provisions designed to ensure that persons who are to work with children and young people are first assessed on their known past police and disciplinary information. The **Working with Children Check** is a screening process that assesses your suitability to work with children and young people. A person whose application is approved will be issued with a Blue Card.

Because the requirements for completion of the James Cook University Medicine degree include requirements for students to undertake placements and because a student will undertake one or more placements which involve coming into contact with young people, initial enrolment and continuing enrolment in the Medicine course are conditional upon the following:

- I. Eligibility of the student for a Blue Card at the time of first enrolment;
- II. Maintenance of that eligibility throughout the duration of the degree; and
- III. Actual acquisition of a Blue Card prior to commencement of placement.

In the event that a student becomes ineligible for a Blue Card, at any time between the date of first enrolment and the date of completion of the degree, the student's enrolment in the degree will be terminated. Therefore, persons who have reason to believe that they might have difficulty in obtaining a Blue Card should clarify their position in that regard before deciding to apply for enrolment in the medical degree. A person who will or may not be able to obtain a Blue Card should not make application for enrolment in the degree.

Bonded Medical Program

The Bonded Medical Program is part of the [Stronger Rural Health Strategy](#) and aims to provide more doctors in areas of workforce shortage in regional, rural and remote Australia. This ensures that Australia's medical workforce is well distributed, flexible and targeted to areas of most need.

The Program provides a [Commonwealth Supported Place](#) in a medical course at an Australian university. In return, bonded participants commit to work in an [eligible regional, rural or remote area](#) for up to 3 years after completion of their medical course. This is called a '[return of service obligation](#)' (RoSO). Participants from legacy schemes* can also opt-in to the Program.

The Bonded Medical Program is available to Australian citizens and permanent visa holders only.

Information about benefits and participant obligations under the [Bonded Medical Program](#) are available on the [department's website](#).

Department of Health

www.health.gov.au/bmp

Existing Obligation

Students who have previously had a Bonded Place in an Australian medical degree or who have held a Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship may have obligations not to take up a standard Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) in a medical degree for a period of time. Before being admitted to a CSP in medicine at James Cook University, students will be asked to confirm that they are not in breach of agreements or contracts with the Australian Government in relation to bonded places or scholarships.

Scholarships

A number of scholarships are available to applicants studying medicine. For information on available James Cook University Scholarships, consult the Scholarship information on the JCU website: www.jcu.edu.au/scholarships-@-jcu

There is strong competition for places in the JCU Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery course. Given applicant numbers and the need to be fair to all, JCU is unable to provide applicants with individual feedback on their applications and/or performance at interview. Applicants who have concerns about the handling of their application for admission to the MBBS program are encouraged to raise their concerns directly with the Medicine Student Selection team by email at: selection@jcu.edu.au.

Before completing the application form, please read the Course and Subject Handbook for this course, together with other course-specific information published by JCU in relation to the application process, which may specify additional criteria to be considered in ranking applicants in order of merit. If the number of applications exceeds a quota or other limit on the places made available for the course, the information provided by you in this form and any other information obtained by JCU in the application process may be used to rank applicants in order of merit by reference to those additional criteria.

The information in this brochure is intended as a general guide and was correct at the time of printing. Prospective students should contact the University to confirm admission requirements and availability of courses. JCU reserves the right to alter any course or admission requirements without prior notice. CRICOS Provider Code: 00117]. Updated June 2023.

Contact details

STUDENT CENTRE

Phone: Student Centre Townsville – 07 4781 5255
Email: enquiries@jcu.edu.au
www.jcu.edu.au

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY

www.jcu.edu.au/cmd

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE

www.jcu.edu.au/ierc

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY HANDBOOK

www.jcu.edu.au/course-and-subject-handbook

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION

www.jcu.edu.au/accommodation

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

www.jcu.edu.au/scholarships-@-jcu

QUEENSLAND TERTIARY ADMISSIONS CENTRE

(QTAC) www.qtac.edu.au

INFORMATION ON THE GAMSAT EXAMINATION

<https://gamsat.acer.org>

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS TRUST FUND

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) offer scholarships for the assistance and encouragement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying for a medical degree at an Australian University. Applicants must be eligible for ABSTUDY.

A scholarship will not be awarded to an applicant who already holds any other scholarship. To be eligible, the applicant must be enrolled at an Australian Medical School and completing at least their first year of medicine.

Post: PO Box 6090, Kingston ACT 2604

Phone: 02 6270 5400

Email: ama@ama.com.au Web www.ama.com.au