

Applying for Study Credit

2025 Entry for International Students

Bachelor of Medicine | Bachelor of Surgery

Please read this in conjunction with the information available on JCU's website about [credit for previous study](#).

Medicine course-specific information

Students who have been offered and accepted a place in the JCU Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery may be eligible for credit on study already completed in another university degree.

Important: you must have already been offered AND accepted a place in the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery to be considered for previous study credits.

For prior study to be recognised, it needs to have fully covered the appropriate integrated subject material. Each application is carefully reviewed before a decision about credit is made.

Apply for credit

You'll need to complete the [Application for Credit form online](#), including the required documentation.

Applications received less than 4 weeks prior to the commencement of Study Period 1 may not be assessed in time.

Please attach a certified copy of your academic record, including subject titles studied, subject outlines and academic results achieved. Subject outlines must be as specified by the university that awarded the degree and must list information presented at each session or lecture. A memorandum of results is not valid.

All documents MUST be in English and clearly readable. JCU may request additional information in order to reach a decision regarding study credits.

Credit for dentistry graduates

JCU is committed to supporting graduates of the Bachelor of Dental Surgery who wish to pursue a career in maxillofacial medicine. Interested graduates will need to apply for a place in the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery and if successful, submit a request for study credit after they have accepted their offer.



Course structure

The structure of subjects in the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery is different to most other courses at JCU, in that each of the first three years of the program include two integrated 12-unit subjects with several modules. In order to gain credit for these subjects, students need to have covered the course material in all of these modules to the standards required.

Successful applicants

If you are successful in your application for credit, we will notify you by email. You'll then be required to complete additional activities normally covered in the initial years of the program, including clinical skills training and assessment and cultural immersion.

You must complete these activities to a satisfactory standard within the specified timeframes. Students who are unable to meet these requirements may experience delays in progressing through the program. Those who are awarded credit will be given access to previous years study to support their course comprehension.

Modules: Year 1

ECOLOGY OF HEALTH 1 (EH1)

Ecology of Health 1 provides the student with the foundation knowledge of the context of health which includes patient-centred health care, the Australian health system, primary health care, public health perspectives essential for the effective analysis of health and health care, and the foundations of medical professionalism, communication skills, teamwork, and ethics. It introduces the concepts of the biomedical and psychosocial determinants of health and inequities in health and health care delivery, and the epidemiological tools to measure these. It aims to foster professional behaviour, attitudes supportive of addressing health inequities, respect and teamwork with other health professionals, and an understanding of the Australian health system and its influence on health and welfare of individuals and populations.

MOLECULES TO CELLS (MTC)

Molecules to Cells introduces students to the molecular structure of compounds that make up living organisms, transport mechanisms employed by cells to take up compounds required for survival and the metabolic pathways used by living cells to harvest energy from organic compounds. The relative amounts of energy released from the breakdown of carbohydrates, fats and protein are discussed with an emphasis on how the metabolic pathways involved in energy release are regulated. The processes of DNA replication, transcription and translation are discussed and the basic tools of molecular biology are introduced. Overall, Molecules to Cells describes how healthy cells survive and reproduce; later subjects will cover what can go wrong and what effect this has on the health of an individual.

CELLS TO LIFE (CTL)

Cells to Life is a central introductory foundation science module that broadly introduces the areas of structure and function of cells and tissues and the regulation and coordination of cell and tissue function through the human life cycle. The major learning areas are:

- Introduction to the structure and function of the cell – overview of the function of the human body
- introductory histology and microscopic examination of cells and tissues – the structure and function of the four primary tissues of the body and their interactions, body structure from cells-tissues-organs-systems-organism
- Introduction to regulation of the function of the cell – homeostasis and chemical communication, electrical/excitable properties of cells
- introduction to endocrine and nervous systems – cell cycle and cell fate. The basic principles of metabolism (pharmacokinetics) and physiological effects (pharmacodynamics) of drugs will also be introduced.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM (ENDO)

This module provides an overview of endocrinological regulation of body function. It discusses the different classes of hormones, receptors and their mechanisms of action and extends knowledge of the hypothalamo-pituitary axis. Endocrine contributions to homeostasis are discussed including those contributing to reproductive function, fluid and electrolyte balance, intermediary metabolism, growth, and stress. The module also introduces major pathophysiologicals of the endocrine system. This includes major causes of hypo/hyper secretion of hormones and the consequences of abnormalities of secretion or responsiveness in each major hormone system.

REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE (REPRO)

This module provides an overview of endocrinological regulation of body function. It discusses the different classes of hormones, receptors and their mechanisms of action and extends knowledge of the hypothalamo-pituitary axis. Endocrine contributions to homeostasis are discussed including those contributing to reproductive function, fluid and electrolyte balance, intermediary metabolism, growth, and stress. The module also introduces major pathophysiologicals of the endocrine system. This includes major causes of hypo/hyper secretion of hormones and the consequences of abnormalities of secretion or responsiveness in each major hormone system.

GENETICS AND HEALTH (GH)

This module provides an introduction to the principles of genetic inheritance and its influence on human disease. It examines a broad spectrum of knowledge, from classical Mendelian genetics to the Human Genome Project, and introduces students to common human diseases, DNA-based diagnostic technologies and emerging gene-based treatments. Students are also required to consider the broader ethical and social impacts of genetic disease on patients, their families, the community and the medical profession.

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM (MSS)

This module will detail the basic structure and function of the musculoskeletal system and its role in human movement. It will provide a detailed study of bone and muscle biology, muscle contraction and the integration by the nervous system to gain an understanding of the coordination and control of movement. Detailed anatomical studies will be undertaken of the head and neck, the back and the upper and lower limbs. This will include an in depth study of the skeleton, muscular system and its spinal and peripheral innervation. An overview of the general blood supply and drainage will also be covered.

ECOLOGY OF HEALTH 2 (EH2)

Ecology of Health 2 expands learning outcomes to include basic epidemiology involving population profiles and patterns of disease, and health needs analysis. It expands the concepts of the social determinants of health and inequities in health and health care delivery. It reinforces supportive attitudes in addressing health inequities, including understanding of the health needs and characteristics of subpopulations such as people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, people with disabilities, maternal and child health issues, the health of young peoples, and the health of the aged population. Students are taught to understand the way that health is shaped by social, environmental and behavioural factors, the prevention of disease including managing behavioural change, and mechanisms of coping with chronic disease.

Modules: Year 2

CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE (CVM)

Cardiovascular Medicine focuses on the anatomy and physiological mechanisms underpinning the normal function of the cardiovascular system, detailing the anatomy of the heart and vasculature, integrating the anatomy to the specialised function of each chamber, describing how the arterial tree controls peripheral vascular resistance, capillaries allow for exchange of substances and capacitance veins function. Following the understanding of cardiovascular physiology, this module addresses a number of cardiovascular disease states, specifically addressing the underlying pathophysiology of each, underlying mechanisms, and treatment options, including cardiogenesis, congenital heart defects, electrophysiology of individual cardiac myocytes, conduction system and contractile cells, dysrhythmias, hypertension, shock, coronary heart disease, atherosclerosis, heart failure, pathogenesis.

HAEMATOLOGY AND RENAL MEDICINE (HRM)

Haematology and Renal Medicine explores the anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology and immunology relating to the renal and haematological systems. The module provides students with an understanding of: the function and composition of blood; nutritional requirements for erythropoiesis; the morphology of the cellular components of blood and bone marrow, anaemias and major disorders; indications for blood transfusions; the changes that occur in the constituents of blood during health and disease; the critical role (structure and functions) of the kidney in body-waste disposal and homeostasis in health and disease; the control of urine excretion; the reasons for and limitations of laboratory examination of blood and urine; physiological basis of haematological and renal disorders; and pathophysiology of common glomerular and kidney disorders.

RESPIRATORY MEDICINE (RM)

Respiratory Medicine gives a detailed examination of the principles of the respiratory system including respiratory anatomy, relationships between structure and function, ventilatory mechanics, gas exchange and transport, central and peripheral control of breathing and lung development. This module explores the pathophysiology underlying some of the major respiratory conditions including chronic bronchitis, emphysema, asthma, restrictive lung conditions and cystic fibrosis, pneumothorax, pulmonary fibrosis, as well as special respiratory conditions that occur during pregnancy, high altitude and diving, examinations, results, diagnostic indicators and primary treatments. This module also explores the cellular mechanisms of action of major drug classes used to treat major respiratory disorders.

RURAL, REMOTE, INDIGENOUS AND TROPICAL HEALTH (RRITH)

Rural, Remote, Indigenous and Tropical Health introduces students to major social and health issues relevant to rural and tropical Australia and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to the related work of doctors as part of the health system, detailing demography, epidemiology, structure and function of these populations, unique features, appropriate sensitivities, epidemiology and clinical features of common tropical disease and related public health measure and impact on health care and health teams. This module analyses the patterns of health and disease, and their causation in regional, rural and remote populations, and importance to health service delivery and approaches, with particular reference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, groups and communities, and responses to emergencies and public health disaster preparedness.

GASTRO INTESTINAL MEDICINE AND NUTRITION (GIMN)

This module provides an active learning experience in normal anatomy and physiology of the gastrointestinal (digestive) system, the utilisation of major energy-yielding nutrients (post-absorption) and in nutrition, with reference to the Australian Dietary Guidelines, metabolism processes, control of food intake, the aetiology and pathophysiology of major disorders of gastrointestinal function e.g. diabetes and cardiovascular disease, the relationship between diet and illness, and the four traditional methods for assessing nutritional status. These areas are examined in the context of health of an individual in general and of Indigenous, rural, remote and tropical communities in particular.

MEDICAL PHARMACOLOGY (MP)

This module introduces students to the major drug groups used in the management of common medical conditions, with disorders organised by organ system, and introduced to the basic pathophysiology of the disorder to be treated as necessary. Drugs are discussed by drug group (e.g. beta blockers) with the two primary components of the mechanism of action, namely the cellular (impact on cell target and consequent primary cellular response to drug-target interaction) and physiological (impact on the organs and the body) effects addressed equally. The key side effects are introduced as well as toxicological issues relevant to the drug group under study. Drug therapies in the treatment of cardiovascular, endocrine, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, psychotropic and neurological disorders and pain are covered in this module, including adverse effects, contraindications, relevant pharmacokinetic considerations, and how drugs target steps in the processes of cholinergic and noradrenergic neurotransmission.

NEUROSCIENCE (NEURO)

This module provides an overview of the neurophysiological functions of the body, detailing the anatomy of the brain, brain stem and spinal cord, their blood supply and structure, including the meninges, ventricular system, and blood brain barrier, sensory and motor neuron pathways in the CNS and cranial nerve nuclei, and cellular mechanisms that contribute to higher nervous system functioning. It includes anatomical studies as well physiological aspects of the central and peripheral nervous systems. Areas covered include: neurodevelopment; advanced neurotransmission; autonomic, sensory and motor processing; pain; cognition, memory, sleep and language. In addition, neurodegenerative disorders and nerve injury and repair are discussed. Dysfunction of these systems is introduced with a focus on amnesia, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, sleep disorders and acquired nervous system disorders.

PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (PMHD)

This module introduces students to psychological principles, and the development of the human brain in relation to emotional and cognitive development and how the translation of this development, when combined with personal life experience, impacts upon the individual's behaviour across the life span. This module introduces important major mental health conditions, treatment interventions, and the various approaches a clinician might utilise in working with patients with mental health conditions framed within a biopsychosocial paradigm, introducing students to diagnostic classification systems, formulations, examinations, life stage prevalence, and trajectories. It examines the way a trusting, therapeutic relationship should be developed between doctor and patient, and its impact on treatment outcomes.