



Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

INFORMATION FOR 2020 ENTRY

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

This program aims to produce graduates of the highest academic standards, who can progress to medical practice and to further studies in medical specialties. Graduates will be uniquely qualified in the fields of rural/remote and Indigenous health and tropical medicine.

Students are based in Townsville for the first three years of the degree. Health service placements are undertaken in every year of the degree, including placements in rural areas. Year 4 can be undertaken in either Cairns or Townsville. The majority of students in Years 5 and 6 of the degree relocate for the entire two years to other College of Medicine and Dentistry teaching sites such as Cairns, Mackay and Darwin.

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

Submissions

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

The Application Form for selection into the James Cook University degree of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery is to be returned:

By Post

Division of Tropical Health and Medicine
PO Box 864, Aitkenvale Business Centre
QLD 4814 Australia

In Person

Student Centre
Education Central Building 134
Townsville Campus QLD 4811 Australia

The application closing date is **30 September, 2019**. Applications postmarked¹ after this date will NOT be accepted.

Important dates: 2020 entry

2 August 2019	Application opening date for JCU Application Form
2 August 2019	Application opening date QTAC
30 September 2019	Closing date for JCU Application Form
30 September 2019	Closing date for QTAC Application
11 October 2019, 4pm (AEST)	Prediction of Academic Achievement (PAA) form to be received by the Division of Tropical Health and Medicine
15 November 2019	Email notification of invitation to attend interview
3-12 December 2019	Interviews held at JCU Townsville Campus
27 December 2019	Email notification of invitation to attend January interview
3 January 2020	Interviews held at JCU Townsville Campus
15 January 2020	QTAC offers released to applicants
21 January 2020	Last date to respond to QTAC January offer round, applicants must respond to QTAC
17 February 2020	Orientation Week begins
24 February 2020	JCU Academic Year begins



How do I apply?

The MBBS application process has three distinct stages. You will need to submit an application directly to James Cook University (by filling in the application form) AND apply online through QTAC. 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 should contact the **Indigenous Education and Research Centre** for more information.

Email: ierc@jcu.edu.au

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 the following criteria:

- Academic performance in Year 12 studies or in subsequent tertiary studies as provided through QTAC
- Written component of the application form
- Demonstration at interview of attributes suited to a career in medicine.

In 2020, the College of Medicine and Dentistry has available approximately 150 places in the first year of the MBBS degree.

A limited number of places are allocated to non-school leavers. Candidates will be selected for interview on the basis of their written application and academic results (predicted or actual). Applicants will be selected for entry into the James Cook University MBBS degree based on their performance at interview and their academic results.

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, 11 October 2019.

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 2019 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 may 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 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.

UMAT

Please note that James Cook University does NOT use the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) as part of their selection process.

Interviews

A limited number of applicants will be invited for interview. Selection of applicants to be interviewed will be based on evaluation of the application 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.

Changes to allocated times/dates cannot be considered due to the volume of interviews. All interviews will be conducted at the College of Medicine and Dentistry in Townsville. Applicants selected for interview will be sent an email outlining their allocated time and date for interview. 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. Applicants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements. The College of Medicine and Dentistry is unable to assist with accommodation but information on accommodation can be found under "Contact Details" in this document.

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 complete the **Application for Credit** form and submit **online** or to the JCU Student Centre:

Townsville

Ground Floor, Education Central, Building 134
Phone (07) 4781 5255
Email enrolments@jcu.edu.au

Cairns

Ground Floor of Building A1
Phone (07) 4232 1000
Email enrolments@jcu.edu.au

Unsuccessful applicants

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
www.gamsat.acer.org

Request for Feedback

JCU is not able to provide individuals with information or feedback about their application due to the large number of applications received. This includes information or feedback about an individual's written application form or interview performance.

Pre-requisites

For entry into James Cook University's Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery degree, applicants must have successfully completed four semesters at Year 12 level and achieved an exit level of at least Sound Achievement in English, Mathematics B and Chemistry or interstate or overseas equivalent. The study of Physics and Biology is highly desirable.

For international equivalents contact International Admissions via email: internationaladmissions@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**.

Professional Experience Placement

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.

This course has other specific admission requirements such as the requirement to obtain a Suitability to Work with Children Card, National Criminal History Check and other requirements that Students must comply with for the duration of their course. Students must complete all Professional Experience Placement requirements by the prescribed deadlines and maintain currency of all requirement in order to stay admitted to the course.

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.

Students will receive information regarding all pre-placement requirements 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. A person whose application is approved by the **Queensland Government Blue Card Services** will be issued with a Blue Card.

The requirements for completion of the James Cook University Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery includes conditions under which students participate in clinical placements. As a student will undertake one or more placements which involve coming into contact with young people, initial enrolment and continuing enrolment in the medicine degree 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 Place Scheme

The Australian Government provides additional publicly funded medical school places under the Bonded Medical Place (BMP) Scheme.

BMP Scheme places are only open to Australian citizens or Australian permanent residents who are new medical students entering the first year of the medical degree whether graduate or undergraduate.

Each BMP Scheme student will have service obligations that require the individuals concerned to work for a minimum period of time in districts of workforce shortage of their choice located in outer metropolitan, rural or remote areas. To obtain further information contact:

Department of Health
Email: BMPScheme@health.gov.au
www.health.gov.au/bmpscheme

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

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
www.ama.com.au

Contact details

Student Centre

Phone: Student Centre Townsville – 07 4781 5255
Phone: Student Centre Cairns – 07 4232 1000
Email: enquiries@jcu.edu.au
www.jcu.edu.au

College of Medicine and Dentistry
www.jcu.edu.au/cmd

Indigenous Education and Research Centre

Email: ierc@jcu.edu.au
www.jcu.edu.au/ierc

James Cook University Handbook
www.jcu.edu.au/handbooks

James Cook University Accommodation
www.jcu.edu.au/accommodation

James Cook University Scholarships
www.jcu.edu.au/scholarships-@-jcu

RAMUS Scheme
ramus.ruralhealth.org.au

Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC)
www.qtac.edu.au

Information on the GAMSAT examination
www.gamsat.acer.org