Entry Requirements for Medicine - Auckland and Otago Universities

Personal attributes:
- enthusiasm for people and their well-being
- a strong academic background in at least three sciences
- all round abilities and interests across a wide variety of activities
- an enthusiasm for research and life-long learning
- an empathy for others and the ability to build rapport
- a strong commitment to the study and practice of medicine
- a wide knowledge of your local community and New Zealand’s multifaceted communities and cultures
- excellent English
- strong communication skills

Application categories:
There are two application categories for entry into Medicine for New Zealand citizens or permanent residents:

1. Auckland University Overlapping Year One or Otago Health Science First Year
2. Graduate Entry

International students are eligible to apply for a limited number of places, and should contact the Universities.

University of Auckland Entry requirements 2008

Overlapping Year One
Applicants must complete (in one year) the eight required first year courses in either the Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc) or the Bachelor of Science (BSc Biomedical Science), listed in the tables below.

Entry into these first year programmes is limited. Students must satisfy the requirements for University Entrance and they will be ranked on their best 80 NCEA Level 3 credits from up to 5 approved subjects or their CIE UCAS tariff score. Applicants for the BHSc must have one subject from List A and one from List B.

Each applicant must achieve at least a B+ average in order to be eligible for consideration for interview.

All applicants are required to sit the UMAT (Undergraduate Medical and Health Sciences Admission Test).

Following the successful completion of the eight prescribed first year courses, and the achievement of a B+ average, applicants will be ranked on their grades achieved in the four common courses (highlighted below in bold) that are offered in both the BHSc and the BSc (Biomedical Science) programmes, and also their UMAT score. The UMAT score will contribute 20% of the combined grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Course code</th>
<th>Course name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BHSc only</td>
<td>HLTHPSYC 122</td>
<td>Behaviour, Health and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>POPLHLT 101</td>
<td>Health Systems I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>POPLHLT 102</td>
<td>Health and Society</td>
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<td></td>
<td>General Education course</td>
<td><a href="http://www.auckland.ac.nz/generaleducation">http://www.auckland.ac.nz/generaleducation</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Both degrees</td>
<td>POPLHLT 111</td>
<td>Population Health</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MEDSCI 142</td>
<td>Biology for Biomedical Science: Organ Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BIOSCI 107</td>
<td>Biology for Biomedical Science: Cellular Processes and Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CHEM 110</td>
<td>Chemistry of the Living World</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc only</td>
<td>BIOSCI 101</td>
<td>Essential Biology: From Genomes to Organisms</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BIOSCI 106</td>
<td>Foundations of Biochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYSICS 160</td>
<td>Physics for the Life Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Education course</td>
<td><a href="http://www.auckland.ac.nz/generaleducation">http://www.auckland.ac.nz/generaleducation</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>
Based on the ranking in the four common courses and UMAT approximately twice as many qualified candidates as there are places available will be interviewed. The results of the interview will be combined with the grade and UMAT score to derive a final ranking. Students will be offered admission to the programme in rank order until the available places in this category are filled.

The UMAT test takes place in late July of each year. For confirmation of dates and further details please see http://umatweb.acer.edu.au

Candidates can apply for admission to the MBChB degree on no more than two occasions, regardless of the entry category. Applicants must be New Zealand citizens or permanent residents.

The selection and interview process

Applicants who are invited to an interview will be assessed on personal attributes considered by the Faculty to be important for those wishing to pursue a career in medicine, including:

- maturity
- communication skills
- leadership
- knowledge of NZ society
- certainty about career choice
- awareness of the nature of medicine as a profession
- humanistic qualities such as empathy, sensitivity and friendliness
- awareness of prevailing health needs and community issues
- involvement in the broader life of the applicant 's school and community
- excellent English

What next?

Those students who have completed the overlapping year one programme and are not accepted for entry into Medicine may apply for other health professional programmes eg : Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Pharmacy

The Biomedical Science year one programme forms a core first year course known as the common year. This (sometimes with the addition of a few further courses) can lead in to a number of study options and pathways: Bachelor of Science majoring in Biological Sciences, Sport & Exercise Science, Bioinformatics, Marine Science, Biomedical Science, Food Science, Physiology, Pharmacology or other Science majors.

Bachelor of Technology in Biotechnology

Bachelor of Optometry

The Bachelor of Health Science degree is a public health degree that prepares graduates for a broad range of health-related careers.

Further Information:

- Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand
- Telephone: 0800 61 62 63, 373 7599 ext 86744 / Tlx: 5533 / Fax: 308 2380
- Email: health@auckland.ac.nz
- Website: www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz

Otago University - Health Sciences First Year 2008

The Health Sciences First Year programme (HSFY) is the foundation year for the five professional programmes: Dentistry, Medical Laboratory Science, Medicine, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy. HSFY is taught by departments across the University that excel in their areas of expertise, making it an excellent way to begin a degree in Biomedical Science or any of the broad range of biological sciences at Otago. HSFY is great preparation for students seeking admission to the degree programmes in Oral Health, Dental Technology or Medical Radiation Therapy.

Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) must be your first year of university study. If you are considering tertiary study before enrolling in the HSFY programme you are strongly advised to contact the Health Sciences Admissions Office beforehand. Failure to do so could jeopardise your enrolment into this programme.

What is the Health Sciences First Year programme?

Health Sciences First Year is a programme only available at Otago, to be completed in its entirety in the first year of your university study. It is a busy year and the timetable includes lectures, tutorials, laboratories, assignments, tests and readings every week.
What will I study?

The seven compulsory papers cover a wide range of fields in science and biological science and are taught by staff from departments across the university. The papers in the HSFY programme collectively give a strong foundation in the biological sciences and teach you about how the normal healthy body functions at various levels: from the physical, chemical, biochemical, molecular and cellular levels, through to functional organ systems and factors affecting health and disease in human populations.

Compulsory papers

There are seven compulsory papers, which are as follows.

- BIOC192: Foundations of Biochemistry
- CELS191: Cell and Molecular Biology
- CHEM191: The Chemical Basis of Biology and Human Health
- HEAL192: Foundations of Epidemiology
- HUBS191: Human Body Systems I
- HUBS192: Human Body Systems II
- PHSI191: Biological Physics

All HSFY students will be required to pass a compulsory English diagnostic test in the first semester. Students who fail the test will be required to take ENGL 126 English for University Purposes.

Optional Eighth paper

Students may also study an optional Humanities paper during semester two, selected from the approved list.

Background required

There are no subject requirements for entry into HSFY but we strongly recommend you take chemistry, physics and biology at Year 13. Students must satisfy the requirements for University Entrance.

Dispensation for prior university study

If an application for enrolment to HSFY is made by someone who has prior university study, a dispensation may be granted, but only if that study has not duplicated any portion of the material in the HSFY course.

Career Opportunities

The Health Sciences First Year is the gateway to a career in healthcare or medical and biomedical research. These careers provide opportunities to work in private practice, community clinics, hospitals, academia, research institutions, industry and the emergency services.

By the end of the Health Sciences First Year, you should have developed:

- a sense of the interconnectedness between different fields of knowledge in the health sciences.
- a sound understanding of broader principles and concepts underpinning all of the biomedical and life sciences.
- a strengthened understanding, commitment, excitement, and enthusiasm for science and the scientific method.
- an awareness of why this knowledge is relevant to the study of ill-health.

What next?

During HSFY you may apply for admission into any of the five professional programmes so you can become a doctor, dentist, pharmacist, physiotherapist or medical laboratory scientist.

If you are seeking a career in Dental Technology, Oral Health or Medical Radiation Therapy you can use HSFY as a pathway for admission. You may find that as you explore the wide range of subjects presented during HSFY you discover new areas of interest. There are many opportunities at Otago after HSFY, as papers from the programme can be credited towards a vast range of sciences, commerce, law and arts degrees.
How do I apply for entry to a professional programme?

Each professional programme has specific criteria for admission from HSFY. Apart from HSFY, there are also alternative pathways of seeking admission to the professional programmes. Contact the Health Sciences Admissions Office or visit the website for information about these options.

**Medicine**

Admission to second-year classes in Medicine is based on the grade point average (GPA) achieved in the HSFY programme, with the additional requirements that all students must attain a mark of 70% or better in all of the compulsory papers, and a sufficient UMAT score. Selection into medicine is determined by a combination of a student’s grade point average in the HSFY programme (two thirds weighting) and their UMAT score (one-third weighting).

**Dentistry**

Admission to second-year classes in Dentistry requires students to pass all HSFY papers with a B (70%) grade point average (GPA) or better, with no papers less than a B-. Having achieved the academic threshold, selection is based on performance in the UMAT (Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admissions Test) and interview/oral assessment. Those on the same interview score will be ranked according to their overall UMAT percentile.

**Medical Laboratory Science**

Admission to second-year classes in Medical Laboratory Science requires students to pass all HSFY papers with a B (70%) grade point average (GPA) or better and have a current UMAT.

**Pharmacy**

Admission to second-year classes in Pharmacy is competitive and selection is based upon the grade point average (GPA) achieved in the Health Sciences First Year programme.

**Physiotherapy**

Admission to second-year classes in Physiotherapy requires students to pass all HSFY papers with a B- (65%) grade point average (GPA) or better, with no paper less than a C (55%). Having achieved the academic threshold, selection is based on performance in UMAT and interview/oral assessment. Those on the same interview score will be ranked according to their overall GPA.

*NB. Candidates will not be invited to attend any of the interview/oral assessments unless they achieve a score above the 25th percentile in all of the three UMAT sections.*

**NICOLA FLAHERTY**

All Nicola Flaherty knew when she started university was that she wanted to study something in the health sciences area.

“The great thing about taking Health Sciences First Year was that I got to keep my options open while I was finding out what I was really interested in,” she says. “I think lots of people have a narrow focus on the best known courses and don’t really investigate the other choices.”

Nicola discovered she had a strong affinity with Medical Laboratory Science. “I chose it because I have a problem-solving mind. Medical Laboratory Science is essentially making patient diagnoses, but in the laboratory. I didn’t know anything about it when I started university, but I completely love it now.”

Her advice to HSFY students is to keep an open mind and explore all the options available: “You never know what subject you might fall in love with.”

**Further information:**

Health Sciences Admissions Office, PO Box 647, Dunedin, New Zealand
- Telephone: 64 3 479-7428 / Fax: 64 3 479-5058
- Email: health-sciences@otago.ac.nz
- Website: Division of Health Sciences
- Admission: Those wishing to apply for admission into Health Sciences First year please refer to http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/index.html

*This is a summary of information available in March 2008. It is essential that you check relevant websites and prospectuses for the latest details.*