Entry Requirements for Medicine - Auckland and Otago Universities

Society today has many expectations of medical practitioners. Our communities require their doctors to be competent in their field and be excellent communicators, to treat patients with kindness and humanity, to develop a rapport which enables trust in their clinical competence and ethical behaviour, and to understand and respect each person’s cultural perspective. Doctors must also work well with other members of the health care team, mindful of resources, in improving the health of the nation as a whole.

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 – Information as at July 2013

Overlapping Year One

In the year of application, applicants must complete (within one academic year, excluding summer semester) the eight required first year courses in either the Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc) or the Bachelor of Science (BSc Biomedical Science) at the University of Auckland, 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. For 2014 students require a ranked NCEA score of 250 or UCAS 300 for the BHSc and for the BSc Biomedical Science a ranked NCEA score of 280 or UCAS 310. Applicants for the BHSc must have good results in one subject from Table A and one subject (if CIE, preferably an A Level) from Table B.

Following the successful completion of the eight prescribed first year courses, and the achievement of a B+ average applicants will then 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.

<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>
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<td></td>
<td>POPLHLTH 101</td>
<td>Health Systems I</td>
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<td></td>
<td>POPLHLTH 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>POPLHLTH 111</td>
<td>Population Health</td>
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<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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<td></td>
<td>PHYSICS 160</td>
<td>Physics for the Life Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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All applicants are required to sit the UMAT (Undergraduate Medical and Health Sciences Admissions Test) in the year of application. UMAT is a multi-choice test that assesses the acquisition of skills in logical reasoning and problem solving, understanding people and non-verbal reasoning. The UMAT test takes place in late July of each year. For further details please see www.umatweb.acer.edu.au.

From 2012 UMAT scores can be used for admission ONLY in the year following the test - students cannot use a result from UMAT taken in Year 13 for selection into Medicine at the University of Auckland.

Meeting the minimum B+ average does not guarantee an interview. The minimum required for an interview can vary from year to year. Twice as many eligible candidates as there are places available in the medical programme will be interviewed. The applicant's final ranking will be derived based on the weighting of the following components: GPA: 60% / UMAT score (raw average score of all 3 sections): 15% / Interview: 25% Students will be offered admission to the programme in rank order until the available places are filled.

This is a summary of information available in July 2013. It is essential that you check relevant websites and prospectuses for the latest details.
Candidates can apply for admission to the MBChB degree once only from Overlapping year 1. Candidates can apply on no more than two occasions in total, regardless of the entry category.

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:

- maturity
- communication skills
- leadership
- knowledge of NZ society
- certainty about career choice
- fluency in English
- a strong academic background in sciences

- 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
- an enthusiasm for research and life-long learning
- a strong commitment to the study and practice of medicine
- all round abilities and interests across a wide variety of activities
- enthusiasm for people and their well-being

Special entry quotas:
1. ROMPE (Rural Origin Medical Preferential Entry)
2. MAPAS (Maori & Pacific Island Admission Scheme)

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

Otago University - Health Sciences First Year - Information as at July 2013

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 also 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, challenging year and the timetable includes lectures, tutorials, laboratories, assignments, tests and readings every week.

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:
- 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 ENGL126: English for University Purposes.

Students may also study an optional Humanities paper during semester two, selected from an approved list, and include their mark from this paper in their GPA.
Background required
There are no subject requirements for entry into HSFY but the university strongly recommends you take Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Mathematics and English or another language rich subject at Year 13. Students must satisfy the requirements for University Entrance and, for Preferential Entry, have an NCEA ranked score of 140 or CIE UCAS tariff score of 140. The HSFY is a challenging course, well prepared students will generally have much higher scores than the minimum required.

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.

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

Medicine (Total places: 266)
An applicant is required to achieve a B grade (70%) or better in all of the papers prescribed for the HSFY programme and a current UMAT result. Selection into Medicine is determined by a combination of an applicant’s grade point average (GPA) in HSFY (two-thirds weighting) and weighted UMAT result (one-third weighting).

The UMAT weighting for entry to Medicine is

- Section 1 - Logical Reasoning and Problem Solving: 45%
- Section 2 – Understanding People: 45%
- Section 3 – Non-Verbal Reasoning: 10%

From 2012 UMAT scores can be used for admission ONLY in the year following the test - students cannot use a result from UMAT taken in Year 13 for selection into any health professional courses at Otago.

Applicants may apply under the Maori and/or Pacific Origins sub-category or the Rural Origins sub-category.

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 www.otago.ac.nz/healthsciences/index.html

WHAT’S NEXT FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ACCEPTED INTO MEDICINE PART II
If successful, medical students will complete a further five years. During the early years of the MBChB, students study the basic medical and health sciences while being introduced to professional and clinical aspects of medical practice. From Year 4 students predominantly learn in hospital and community environments. Following the successful completion of the six years, students are awarded the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB). After graduation they work for another year under probation in order to gain general registration. Most doctors complete postgraduate training for at least five years in their chosen specialty. There is a wide range of specialisation available in the public and private sectors, involving research, academic medicine, public health, clinical medicine and other areas. Specialties include Cardiology, Oncology, Paediatrics, Psychological Medicine, Surgery, Pathology, Public Health, General Practice and many others.

WHAT’S NEXT FOR STUDENTS WHO DO NOT CONTINUE INTO MEDICINE PART II
Auckland University:
Those students who have completed the overlapping year one programme and are not accepted (or decide not to apply) for entry into Medicine may apply for other health professional programmes at Auckland University 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 and Nutrition, Medicinal Chemistry, Physiology, Pharmacology or other 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.
Otago University:
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.

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

**Dentistry (Total places: 54)**

An applicant must pass all the prescribed HSFY papers with a B (70%) grade point average (GPA) or better, with no papers less than a B- (65%). Having achieved the academic threshold, and sufficient performance in a current UMAT at a threshold level determined each year, students will be offered an oral assessment/interview. The final determining factor for selection for an applicant that has met all three criteria will be GPA.

**Medical Laboratory Science (Total places: 60)**

An applicant must pass all prescribed HSFY papers with a B- (65%) grade point average (GPA) or better and have a current UMAT result. Selection for applicants who have met these criteria will be based on their GPA.

**Pharmacy (Total places: 120)**

Admission to second-year classes in Pharmacy is competitive and selection is based on the grade point average (GPA) achieved in the Health Sciences First Year programme. An applicant must pass all HSFY prescribed papers.

**Physiotherapy (Total places: 120)**

An applicant must pass all the HSFY prescribed papers, with a B- (65%) grade point average (GPA) or better, normally with no paper less than a C (55%). Selection is competitive and based on the grade point average (GPA) achieved in HSFY.

**Dental Technology, Oral Health or Medical Radiation Therapy**

The HSFY may be used as a pathway for admission to these programmes.

**Other Sciences, Commerce, Law, Arts degrees**

You may find that as you explore the wide range of subjects presented during HSFY you discover new areas of interest. All the HSFY papers can be credited to the Bachelor of Biomedical Science, the Bachelor of Science majoring in Anatomy, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Clothing and Textile Science, Food Science, Genetics, Human Nutrition, Microbiology, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, Physiology, Plant Biotechnology, Zoology and the Bachelor of Applied Science majoring in Clothing and Textile Science, Food Innovation, Forensic Analytical Science, Molecular Biotechnology and Sport and Exercise Nutrition plus any other Science or Applied Science major although additional semesters may be required. Most HSFY papers can be used towards Bachelor of Arts, LLB and Bachelor of Theology degrees and some HSFY papers may be used for Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Surveying degrees, additional semesters may be required.

**PROFILE: 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 students is to keep an open mind and explore all the options available.

“You never know what subject you might fall in love with.”