

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) & General Information

Gippsland Medical School

Monash University, Gippsland Graduate-Entry MBBS

1. Where is the course offered?

The four year course is based at the Gippsland campus of Monash University (in Churchill, Victoria). The first year (Year A) of the course is taught at the Gippsland Campus. The subsequent clinical years (Year B – D) will be taught at various clinical locations both in Gippsland and the Metropolitan area.

2. How many students will be in the course?

The student intake each year will include approximately 75 Commonwealth Supported Places and 20 International places.

3. What are the entry requirements for the graduate-entry MBBS?

- a. Any undergraduate degree (not necessarily medically or scientifically oriented) or equivalent qualification obtained from an Australian university or recognised international higher education institution is considered an appropriate entry qualification. Tertiary qualifications outside these criteria will be considered on an individual basis.
- b. Successful completion of the GAMSAT or MCAT in the past 2 years.
- c. An interview in the multiple-mini interview (MMI) format (*see Q8 for further information*)

4. Will the course be taught at metropolitan hospitals?

Yes there will be an opportunity for metropolitan based placements in Years B-D in the same way as the undergraduate course.

5. Where can I find out more about the Gippsland campus and the region in general?

The Gippsland campus is Monash University's only non-metropolitan campus. It is in the town of Churchill, in the foothills of the picturesque Strzelecki Ranges. Travelling between Melbourne and the campus takes around two hours.

At the Gippsland campus, we place a strong emphasis on meeting regional skills needs, while keeping the Monash focus on global trends. We offer a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate academic programs and research activity within eight of the University's 10 faculties.

Set on 63 hectares of landscaped grounds, the campus has almost 4500 students and 400 staff. We have fantastic facilities including medical and science laboratories, art studios, an art gallery, a licensed bistro, bookshop and student lounge.

<http://www.monash.edu.au/study/campuses/gippsland.html>

6. How does this course compare to the undergraduate medical course offered at Monash University?

The course leads to the same degree MBBS (Monash) as those at Clayton and Monash Malaysia. The graduate-entry MBBS curriculum is based on the current five year undergraduate-entry MBBS course offered at the Clayton and Malaysia campuses. The same integrated, theme-based approach is used for the course, which is taken over four years.

7. What is the admissions/selection procedure for your graduate-entry medical course?

The Monash University graduate-entry MBBS course follows the GAMSAT (Graduate Australian Medical School Admissions Test) / GEMSAS (Graduate Entry Medical Schools Admissions System) process, including a selection interview. Monash University reserves the right to offer some lateral or direct entry places and to offer special consideration to applicants who meet particular criteria (for example applicants of indigenous origin, those from rural backgrounds or who are currently based or studying in the Gippsland area).

Selection will be made up of 3 components:

a. Grade Point Average (GPA)

Your weighted GPA from your undergraduate degree is considered the first requirement. You will need to have a weighted GPA of 5.0 (out of 7.0) to meet this hurdle. GPA is assessed on the last three full-time equivalent years of the most recent undergraduate degree undertaken, with successive years weighted x1, x2 and x3, so that the greatest weight is given to the most recent results. The GPA will be as calculated by GEMSAS. Honours year grades will be converted to GAMSAT grades using the table provided in the GAMSAT admissions guide. Bonus points are given to applicants with PhD or Masters by Research qualifications (0.2 and 0.1 respectively). The GPA does not form part of the ranking process, but rather is a hurdle requirement to be met in order to be eligible for ranking using the other two processes.

b. The GAMSAT process

The GAMSAT process is a year-long application process for graduate-entry medical schools in Australia. It starts the year prior to the year you would like to commence your graduate-entry medical course. It involves sitting a test early in the year, notification of results mid-year, application for an interview by one of the graduate-entry medical schools around Australia, satisfactory performance in the interview and notification of success. The GAMSAT / GEMSAS process is not administered by Monash University, but rather by the GAMSAT / GEMSAS Consortium of Graduate Medical Schools. More detailed information on the GAMSAT is available at <http://gamsat.acer.edu.au/> <http://www.gemsas.edu.au/>

The GAMSAT is conducted in all capital cities of Australia as well as Singapore, London and Washington DC.

c. GAMSAT Results

Provided you have met the first criterion, the selection committee will then consider your results from the GAMSAT. As a minimum you will require a score of 50 in each of the three GAMSAT sections. An indicative GAMSAT score is determined annually. For 2012 entry, the GAMSAT cut-off score was in the mid 60's.

d. Interview Results

Provided you successfully completed the first two steps, you will then be eligible to take part in an interview. There will be approximately 120 interviews. The interviews take place in the late September at the Gippsland Campus of Monash University.

8. How are the interviews conducted?

The interview process, also known as the Multiple Mini-Interview (MMI) process, involves a series of up to 10 short interviews (10 minutes each) totalling less than 2 hours.

Monash will conduct its interviews for locally (Australian) based students at the Gippsland campus of Monash University in Churchill, Victoria. There will also be a possibility of interviews in Singapore and Vancouver for international students. In preparation for the interviews applicants should be able to articulate why they would like to study medicine. Extensive interview training is neither necessary nor desirable.

9. Will a science-based degree be an advantage in entering the course?

Yes, but only in as much as the GAMSAT assumes knowledge of chemistry and biology at first year university level and physics at year 12 level. Students who do not come from a science background may need to undertake a bridging course to increase their understanding of these three basic sciences to satisfactorily pass the GAMSAT. Note that graduates with a science-based degree will not be given any preference or bonus in the admission process.

10. Does my undergraduate degree need to be recent?

Your undergraduate degree generally needs to be within the 10 year period unless there is evidence of successful tertiary study of not less than one year's full-time equivalent duration at an accredited institution in the intervening period. Applications falling outside the 10 year period will be looked at on an individual basis.

11. Can a mature age student apply to enter the graduate-entry MBBS?

Yes, if they have completed an undergraduate (or equivalent) degree at any time in the past (either at an Australian university or recognised international higher education institution). The applicant must generally meet the "10 year rule" described in Q10 above.

12. After applying and submitting preferences through GEMSAS does Monash require any additional documentation?

- a) If you are applying as an Indigenous Australian applicant you are required to complete a statutory declaration form and Monash Centre for Aboriginal and Indigenous Studies (CAIS) Supplementary form also located on the website under applications and submit and contact the Gippsland Medical School directly.
- b) Rural applicants including Gippsland applicants are to follow the GEMSAS process for rurality located at;
<http://www.gemas.edu.au/gemas-processes/>

13. What will the fee structure be?

The fees are reviewed on an annual basis.

- a) For a Commonwealth Supported Place in 2012, the average annual student contribution in the graduate-entry course (for domestic students) was approximately \$9,080.00.
- b) For an International Student place in 2012 the fees were approximately \$55,070 AUD per annum. <http://www.monash.edu.au/fees/amenities.html>

14. What accommodation options will be available at Gippsland Campus?

Gippsland Campus has a wide range of on- and off-campus accommodation options. Nearly 400 students live on the University campus in furnished houses. For more information please refer to the accommodation rates at the following website; <http://www.mrs.monash.edu.au/on-campus/gippsland/>

15. Will transportation be provided for students travelling between the campus and clinical sites?

In Year A of the course, there are clinical site visits every fortnight. Students are expected to make their own travel arrangements to clinical placements for all years (as is the case in the undergraduate-entry MBBS). It is preferable to have your own car.

16. How is the final selection of applicants determined?

The final selection of applicants will be based on consideration of standardized scores for;

- Interview and
- GAMSAT

The weighted GPA is incorporated into the selection process as a hurdle eligibility requirement only. Offers will be made to applicants according to their ranking.

17. How many contact hours does the course have per week?

Year A of the graduate-entry MBBS course has approximately 28 contact hours per week. This may increase in the clinical years of the course (Year B – D).

18. How many weeks will be taught per year?

Year A – Year C consists of two semesters each of 18 weeks duration (total of 36 weeks for the year). Year D comprises six, six-week rotations.

19. Can I get recognition of prior learning and therefore exemptions of certain subjects or units?

The Monash MBBS course is an integrated curriculum. This means that content is not delivered as discrete units of study, but instead content from a range of disciplines is integrated in the context of the weekly problems or cases. Therefore no exemptions are available.

20. I am an International Student where did I submit my application?

International Applicants submit applications including transcripts and GAMSAT or MCAT scores to International Recruitment Services (IRS). Applications would need to be received prior to Interviews which are scheduled to commence in June 2012. The closing date for applications is June 8th 2012.

Canadian applicants are to apply by no later than 18th May 2012.

<http://www.monash.edu.au/study/international/apply/>

Email: study@monash.edu

Tel: +61 3 9903 4788

Postal address:

International Recruitment Services
Monash University
871 Dandenong Road
Caulfield East
Victoria 3145
Australia

21. Where can I find out more information?

- a) Gippsland Medical School (03 5122 6445) <http://med.monash.edu.au/medical/gippsland/>
- b) GAMSAT <http://www.gamsat.acer.edu.au/>
- c) MCAT <https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/>
- d) GEMSAS <http://www.gemsas.edu.au/>
- e) IRS <http://www.monash.edu.au/study/international/contacts-forms-checklists.html>

This information is correct as of Thursday, 29th March 2012