

Gippsland Medical School



Monash University Gippsland Graduate-Entry MBBS

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) & General Information

1. Does Monash University offer a graduate-entry medical course?

A graduate-entry MBBS course has been established. The first cohort of students will commence in late January 2008.

2. Where will the course be offered?

The course will be based at the Gippsland campus of Monash University (in Churchill, Victoria). The first year (Year A) of the course will be primarily taught at the Gippsland campus. The subsequent clinical years (Years B – D) will be taught at various clinical locations primarily situated in eastern rural and regional Victoria.

3. Will any of the course be taught at metropolitan hospitals?

In the same way that the current course is metropolitan based with rural and regional outreach, the Gippsland medical course will be rural and regionally based with metropolitan outreach. So, students will get an experience of metropolitan hospitals.

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

The Gippsland Campus has 2,000 on-campus and 5,000 off-campus students and offers a wide range of courses spread across eight faculties. The campus is located in Churchill, which is about 1.5 hours from the Clayton campus of Monash University. More information on the campus and the region is available at www.gippsland.monash.edu.au

Escorted trips for groups can be organised to the Campus to provide prospective students with an opportunity to see the region and better understand the opportunities available. More information will be on the website the tours are finalised. Details will be provided at GippslandMed@med.monash.edu.au. The web address for the Gippsland Medical School is <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/medical/gippsland/>. This site includes information about all aspects of the course, including a curriculum overview, and will be updated as new information becomes available.

5. How long is the course?

The course is of four years duration. Students may also elect to complete an additional one-year Bachelor of Medical Science research degree during their program.

6. How will this course compare to the current medical course offered at Monash University?

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 new course.

Information for Prospective Students

7. How many students will be in the course?

The student intake each year will include 40 Commonwealth Supported Places, up to 10 domestic full-fee paying students and approximately 10 international full-fee paying students.

8. 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 in the past two years.
- c. An interview.

9. 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) 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 three 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 Australian Council for Education Research (ACER). 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 process is not administered by Monash University, but rather by ACER and the Consortium of Graduate Medical Schools. More detailed information on the GAMSAT (including fees, preparation material, forms and deadlines) is available at http://www.acer.edu.au/tests/university/gamsat/intro_gamsat.html.

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 panel will then consider your results from the GAMSAT. The use of the GAMSAT means the selection process will conform to the timelines and procedures that have been put in place by the GAMSAT Consortium. As a minimum you will require a score of 50 in each of the three GAMSAT sections. A cut-off for the total GAMSAT score is determined annually. A major emphasis of the test is the assessment of problem-solving ability across a wide range of subject areas. Among other things, the exam will ensure that all students have a base level of competency in chemistry, biology and physics.
- d. **Interview Results**
Provided you successfully complete the first two steps, you will then be eligible to take part in an interview. By agreement amongst the consortium members, medical schools conduct approximately 1.5 interviews for each place. For this course, that will amount to approximately 80 interviews. Letters inviting eligible applicants to be interviewed will be sent by the GAMSAT Admissions Centre in mid-August 2007 (for those who sat the test in early 2007). The interviews will take place in late-September at the Gippsland Campus of Monash University. The interview process, known as the Multiple Mini-Interview or MMI process, involves a series (5 to 10) of short interviews (approximately 10 to 15 minutes each) totalling less than 2 hours.

Interviews:

Monash will conduct its interviews for locally (Australian) based students at the Gippsland campus of Monash University in Churchill, Victoria. There will also be interviews in Singapore and Malaysia for international students. Depending on demand, interviews may also be held at other international locations.

The interview process, known as the Multiple Mini-Interview or MMI process, involves a series (5 to 10) of short interviews (approximately 10 to 15 minutes each) totalling less than 2 hours. Note this is not the same structure as the interviews for entry into the current Monash University undergraduate medical course.

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.

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

Yes, but only inasmuch 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.

11. Does my undergraduate degree need to be recent?

No, as you have successfully completed an undergraduate degree in the past you meet that entry requirement.

12. 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).

13. Are the entry requirements for local, domestic full-fee paying and international students different?

All applicants will be required to have completed an undergraduate degree, satisfactorily completed the GAMSAT (or equivalent entry examination) and to have performed satisfactorily at a semi-structured interview, which may differ in some respects for international applicants. It is possible for international students currently living overseas to complete the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) which is equivalent to the GAMSAT.

14. What will the fee structure be?

The fees are reviewed on an annual basis, however they generally reflect the current (undergraduate-entry) medical course. In 2007 the fee for a place in the undergraduate course (for domestic students) was \$35,583 AUD.

15. What accommodation options will be available at Gippsland campus?

Gippsland campus has a wide range of on- and off-campus accommodation options and an expansion of these options is currently being considered (at both on- and off campus locations).

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

In year A of the course, there will be clinical site visits every fortnight. Students will be expected to make their own travel arrangements to clinical placements for all years (as is the case in the undergraduate-entry MBBS).

Course Information

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

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

18. How many weeks will be taught per year?

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

19. How will the course be examined?

An exam is scheduled at the end of each semester of Years A-C covering topics taught in that semester. There is also continuous assessment, both formative and summative, throughout the course.

20. 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 the 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.

This information is correct as of Tuesday, 22nd April 2008