Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)
School Leaver Pathways

TODAY'S STUDENTS, TOMORROW'S HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
The School of Dentistry welcomed its first graduate cohort to the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) in 2013. We hope the following information will assist you in making a decision about your future career.

As part of the significant curriculum reform at The University of Western Australia, the Bachelor of Dental Science (BDSc) degree has been replaced by the postgraduate qualification, the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD). By offering the DMD at postgraduate level, UWA is in line with leading universities across the world.

The benefits for the students include:

- Greater career opportunities within a global workplace;
- Improved links with industry and professional practice;
- A stronger foundation and knowledge-base from an undergraduate degree; and
- An advanced learning environment at postgraduate level.

Dentistry as a career requires a high degree of dedication and excellent manual dexterity skills. The Doctor of Dental Medicine is a four year full time professional degree course. Following successful completion of this course, graduates will be able to register with the Dental Board of Australia as a dentist and enter the profession immediately.

Professor Camile Farah
Head of School/Director (OHCWA)
Dentistry, School of/Oral Health Centre of Western Australia (OHCWA)
Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)

The world is changing rapidly, and so are leading universities. At UWA, we want to make sure that our graduates continue to be well prepared to contribute to society as it undergoes further transformation.

Studying dentistry at postgraduate level will allow our graduates to develop exceptional communication and research skills, in addition to critical thinking skills and a level of maturity that will distinguish them as global citizens.

The Doctor of Dental Medicine course will be integrated in its delivery, with scientific information being contextualised and embedded in the curriculum both horizontally (i.e. within the same year) as well as vertically (i.e. across the years).

Emphasis will be placed on the acquisition of relevant knowledge in the basic medical sciences to support the staged development of clinical dental competencies and skills. Early clinical contact is pivotal to the course and students will enter the clinic from the first semester of their study.

The course is divided into two phases: (i) the build-up phase (semesters 1-4) which aims at providing students with the essential clinical competencies and skills and (ii) the broadening phase (semesters 5-8) in which the clinical competencies and skills are expanded and contextualised in a patient-centred care model. Students will have clinical contact from early on in the first year of their studies.

The DMD
The DMD commenced in 2013, and will provide dentists from 2017.

Number of places available
There will be 50 places for domestic applicants and six places for international applicants (this includes places for graduates and the school leaver pathways) in the DMD. Pathways and quotas will form part of these places.

Pathways
Applicants will be able to apply as a school leaver for one of the School Leaver Pathways:
- Assured Pathway (High Academic Achievement)
- Choose Dentistry Broadway Pathway
- Choose Dentistry Rural Pathway or as a graduate through one of the Graduate Pathways.

An applicant is deemed ineligible for a school leaver pathway if they have commenced tertiary studies and have results for those studies, prior to their commencement at UWA. Applicants offered a place on one of the School Leaver Pathways will have to complete their undergraduate degree at UWA.

There will be a number of places available for Indigenous applicants and for applicants to the Choose Dentistry Rural Graduate Pathway. For more information contact the Faculty Admissions Office.

Requirements
All applicants wishing to study dentistry at UWA are required to complete an Australian undergraduate bachelor degree or equivalent before completing the postgraduate professional qualification. On completion of the DMD, graduates will have both an undergraduate and a postgraduate degree ensuring they have a well-rounded education as well as the specialist skills needed in their professional career.

Indigenous applicants
The Faculty encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to consider applying for entry into Dentistry. In addition to the School Leaver Pathways and the Graduate Pathways there are alternative pathways available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants. These are available through the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health (CAMDH) at camdh.uwa.edu.au

Prerequisite subjects
All applicants must meet the University’s requirement for English language competence (ELC). One way that applicants can meet this requirement is by obtaining a scaled mark of 50 or above, in stage two or stage three of WACE English, English Literature or English as an Additional Language/Dialect. Applicants should check what the prerequisites are for the undergraduate degree they wish to study first.

Length of study

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<th>Year 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>UNDERGRADUATE: Bachelor degree</td>
<td>POSTGRADUATE: Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)</td>
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Notes:
- Bachelor degree in any discipline.
- Graduates of the BPhil(Hons) will study for a total of 8 years.
Assured Pathway – High Academic Achievement

The Faculty understands the importance of recognising the achievement of students with a high Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). Packaged offers of a place are available to applicants who are successful in obtaining a place in the Assured Pathway (High Academic Achievement). There will be conditions attached to these places.

Admission requirements

- Valid UMAT score
- Minimum ATAR of 99
- Interview
- Manual Dexterity and Spatial Awareness Admission Tests

Selection Process

Applicants will be shortlisted for interview based on UMAT performance and their predicted ATAR.

Conditions applying to packaged offers

1. Students will complete one of the following undergraduate degrees from UWA:
   - Bachelor of Arts [BA]
   - Bachelor of Commerce [BCom]
   - Bachelor of Design [BDes]
   - Bachelor of Science [BSc]
   - Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) [BPhil(Hons)]

   All bachelor degrees are of three years duration except for the BPhil(Hons) which is a four year degree. For more information on the undergraduate degrees visit studyat.uwa.edu.au

2. With a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 5.5 in the UWA bachelor degree (approximately a weighted average of 65%).

   Having met this condition students on this pathway will automatically proceed into the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD).

Number of places available

Approximately ten places are available for the Assured Pathway (High Academic Achievement). For more information contact the Faculty Admissions Office.

Application Process

School Leaver Applicants for the School Leaver Pathways should apply through TISC by the last working day in September.

Recommended subjects

It is recommended that applicants have basic knowledge of biology/human biology, chemistry and physics; therefore it may be useful for applicants to consider this when selecting units (Year 12 physics, first year university level biology/human biology and chemistry).
Choose Dentistry
Broadway Pathway

The Faculty acknowledges the importance of having students from diverse backgrounds. Packaged offers of a place are available for school leavers who are successful in obtaining a place in the Broadway Pathway. There will be conditions attached to these places.

**Eligibility**
An applicant is eligible for consideration as a Broadway applicant if they have completed Year 12 at one of the schools listed as a Broadway UWA school. For information on the schools refer to meddent.uwa.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/apply-professional/broadway

Applicants should refer to the Faculty Admissions website for supplementary forms regarding Broadway eligibility.

**Admission requirements**
- Broadway eligibility
- Valid UMAT score
- Minimum ATAR of 96
- Interview
- Manual Dexterity and Spatial Awareness Admission Tests

**Selection Process**
Applicants will be short listed for interview based on UMAT performance and their predicted ATAR.

**Conditions applying to packaged offers**

1. **Students will complete one of the following undergraduate degrees from UWA:**
   - Bachelor of Arts [BA]
   - Bachelor of Commerce [BCom]
   - Bachelor of Design [BDes]
   - Bachelor of Science [BSc]
   - Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) [BPhil(Hons)]

   All bachelor degrees are of three years duration except for the BPhil(Hons) which is a four year degree. For more information on the undergraduate degrees visit studyatuwa.edu.au

2. **With a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 5.5 in the UWA bachelor degree (approximately a weighted average of 65%).**

   Having met this condition students on this pathway will automatically proceed into the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD).

**Number of places available**
A number of places are available for applicants who meet the Broadway Pathway eligibility criteria. For more information contact the Faculty Admissions Office.

**Application Process**
School Leaver Applicants for the School Leaver Pathways should apply through TISC by the last working day in September.

**Recommended subjects**
It is recommended that applicants have basic knowledge of biology/human biology, chemistry and physics; therefore it may be useful for applicants to consider this when selecting units (Year 12 physics, first year university level biology/human biology and chemistry).
Choose Dentistry
Rural Pathway

The Faculty acknowledges the importance of having students from diverse backgrounds including those from a rural background. Packaged offers of a place are available for school leavers who are successful in obtaining a place in the Rural Pathway. There will be conditions attached to these places.

Eligibility
An applicant is eligible for consideration as a rural applicant if their principal home address has been in a defined rural area of Australia (ASGC-RA 2-5) for a minimum of five years (consecutive or cumulative) from commencement of primary school. Please refer to www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/contentlocator to determine your Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Area (ASGC-RA).

Applicants should refer to the Faculty Admissions website for supplementary forms regarding rural eligibility.

Admission requirements
- Rural eligibility
- Valid UMAT score
- Minimum ATAR of 96
- Interview
- Manual Dexterity and Spatial Awareness Admission Tests

Selection process
Applicants will be short listed for interview based on UMAT performance and their predicted ATAR.

Conditions applying to packaged offers

1. Students will complete one of the following undergraduate degrees from UWA:
   - Bachelor of Arts [BA]
   - Bachelor of Commerce [BCom]
   - Bachelor of Design [BDes]
   - Bachelor of Science [BSc]
   - Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) [BPhil(Hons)]

   All bachelor degrees are of three years duration except for the BPhil(Hons) which is a four year degree.

   For more information on the undergraduate degrees visit studyatuwa.edu.au

2. With a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 5.5 in the UWA bachelor degree (approximately a weighted average of 65%).

Having met this condition students on this pathway will automatically proceed into the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)

Number of places available
A number of places are available for applicants who meet the Rural Pathway eligibility criteria. For more information contact the Faculty Admissions Office.

Application process
School Leaver Applicants for the School Leaver Pathways should apply through TISC by the last working day in September.

Recommended subjects
It is recommended that applicants have basic knowledge of biology/human biology, chemistry and physics; therefore it may be useful for applicants to consider this when selecting units (Year 12 physics, first year university level biology/human biology and chemistry).
The Graduate Pathways

The Graduate Pathways are for those applicants who have already completed a bachelor degree or those who complete their bachelor degree in the application year. There are no restrictions placed on the length of time since the bachelor degree was completed.

Pathways
Applicants will be able to apply for one of the graduate pathways:
- Choose Dentistry Rural Pathway
- Indigenous Pathway
- Standard Pathway

Initial Degree Selection
There are no specific subject prerequisites and an applicant’s undergraduate degree can be in any chosen field of study. However all applicants must meet the university’s English language requirement.

There are some issues worth considering when deciding upon a degree with the ultimate goal of studying dentistry. The four most relevant considerations for most applicants are as follows:

Length of degree
Regardless of an applicant’s undergraduate study, the length of the DMD will be four years. A student with a three year bachelor degree will study for a total period of seven years to obtain a qualification in dentistry. A student with a bachelor degree of four or five years duration will study for a total of eight or nine years respectively (on the basis of proceeding straight from one degree to the other).

Degree and University
The Faculty Admissions Office considers all recognised Australian bachelor degrees and does not give preference or apply scaling to any particular degree or university.

Relevance/usefulness of degree to studying dentistry
It is recommended that applicants have basic knowledge of biology/human biology, chemistry and physics; therefore it may be useful to consider this when selecting units. (Year 12 physics, first year university level biology/human biology and chemistry).

Relevance/usefulness of degree for a career other than dentistry
It is also important for applicants to consider the ramifications of their undergraduate degree choice in case they are not successful in gaining a place in the DMD.

Admission requirements
- Australian Bachelor degree or equivalent with a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 5.5 (weighted average of approx 65% at an Australian university)
- Suitable GAMSAT score
- Manual dexterity and spatial awareness admission tests
- Interview

Application process
Graduate applicants should apply directly to the UWA Admissions Centre by the first Friday in June.

Selection process
Applicants will be short-listed for interview based equally on GAMSAT performance and GPA. Final ranking for a place for non-rural applicants will be based equally on GAMSAT, GPA and Interview.

For rural applicants, a rural rating will be included in the ranking. Rural applicants will be ranked for a place based equally on GAMSAT, GPA and Interview.

For more information on GAMSAT visit gamsat.acer.edu.au

The Graduate Australian Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT) is held once a year in March and registration for the test usually opens in the preceding October and closes in late January/early February of the application year. GAMSAT scores are valid for two years therefore if an applicant sits the test two years in a row, they can choose which score to use. Applicants can sit the test from their penultimate year (second last year) of bachelor study. The GAMSAT has three sections: Reasoning in Humanities and Social Sciences, Written Communication and Reasoning in Biological and Physical Sciences. The third section is double weighted and tests biology and chemistry to about first year university level and physics to about Australian year 12 level.
General information

Applying for the school leaver pathways
- Applicants apply through TISC.
- Applicants should use their own email address that they can access from home (this is also clearly stated in the TISC guide). School email addresses should not be used.
- Applicants should put their own mobile number on the TISC application and not that of a family member. Admissions staff can only discuss an application with the applicant and not with family members or friends.
- If contact details change it is important to update TISC and the Faculty Admissions Office straight away as the University uses the contact details on TISC to communicate with applicants.

The Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admissions Test (UMAT)
All applicants applying for a school leaver pathway must sit the UMAT. Anyone who has not sat the UMAT will not be considered.

The UMAT is approximately a three hour multiple choice test designed to measure skills and qualities necessary for success as a dentist that might not necessarily be reflected in purely academic tests. It tests three criteria: Logical Reasoning and Problem Solving, Understanding People and Non-verbal Reasoning.

The Faculty does not consider percentiles or the overall UMAT score. Instead the sum of the three section scores is used. All three sections of the test are weighted equally. Applicants with a section 1 score below the 20th percentile will not be considered.
A UMAT score is only valid for one year.

UWA is a member of the UMAT consortium and therefore does NOT endorse any UMAT preparation courses, even if a preparation course is held on the UWA campus. We strongly recommend candidates use the UMAT practice question booklets and undertake the tutorials on the UMAT website.

Interviews
- Interviews for the School Leaver Pathways are normally held in December for applicants who have met the UMAT threshold and have been predicted to meet the minimum ATAR required.
- Interviews for the School Leaver Pathways for applicants who are on academic reserve (have met the UMAT threshold, but were not predicted to meet the minimum ATAR requirement) will be held in January.
- Interviews for successful interstate applicants will also be held in January.
- Unless there are extenuating circumstances, a January interview will not be available for applicants offered a December interview.
- Check with the Faculty for the actual interview dates well in advance if intending to travel.

- Interview invites are sent out via email and it is the applicants’ responsibility to check their emails for interview invites and follow the interview booking instructions.
- Interviews will not be granted outside of the published interview range.
- Applicants must attend their interview in person, in Perth within the given interview period.

Purpose of the interview
The interview process allows the applicant the opportunity to provide additional information to that already provided during other stages of the selection process. The interview is one of three components used to rank applicants – the others being the UMAT score and academic achievement. The interview can help to improve an applicant’s overall ranking.

The purpose of the interview is to encourage an applicant to share information about themselves and their views, on a selection of topics that fall within the wide range of attributes that are often seen as desirable in dental practitioners.
For example, knee length skirt or dress, smart office pants, collared shirt (but tie is not necessary).

No short skirts or dresses. Low cut tops, jeans, shorts, thongs or sandals should not be worn.

Admissions staff have the right to turn away an applicant who is not dressed appropriately and they could miss out on another interview time slot.

Applicants can contact the Faculty Admissions staff if they have concerns.

What to bring
Applicants are asked to bring along (embedded) photographic ID – this can be a passport or driver’s licence or school card.

Interview topics
There are seven criteria assessed each year. The list of possible criteria for the interview has been consolidated into nine topics, three of which will be constant across the years:
- Communication skills
- Explaining skills
- Motivation/commitment to a career in dentistry

The remaining four criteria will be selected each year from the following six:
- Awareness of social diversity
- Provision of assistance
- Self-awareness
- Trust and trustworthiness
- Values and Ethics
- Working with others

Interview notification
Applicants are notified a week to two weeks prior to the interview by email. It is therefore imperative to provide an email address that can be accessed at all times and to inform the Faculty Admissions Office of any change to an email address and to change it on TISC.
Applicants will be sent further information about the interview upon accepting the interview. This information is general information about preparing for the interview and also contains the topics that will be covered in the interview for that year.

**Interview preparation**
The best preparation is, having received the interview topics, to research them and practice one-to-one interview situations.

It is not recommended that applicants seek coaching regarding the possible questions that have been used in previous years, or that they attend the various medical and dental interview preparation courses. Each year, after the completion of the interview process, all criteria and questions are evaluated. All questions are rewritten for the following round. Studies have shown that receiving specific ‘training’ for the interview is counter-productive. ‘Trained’ versus ‘natural’ responses may conflict with each other, which may lessen an applicant’s overall performance. The interview should be treated seriously by applicants as this is preparation for becoming a future health professional.

**Spatial awareness and manual dexterity admission tests**
The Spatial Awareness Test is a 30-minute paper-and-pencil multiple choice test produced by ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research). The test assesses an applicant’s ability to imagine how objects look from different points of view.

The test will be undertaken by applicants when they attend their selection interview and will be assessed on a 2-grade marking system (pass/fail). The test will not be used in final ranking of applicants; however applicants will need to pass the test in order to be included on the final ranked list.

The Manual Dexterity test is an experience of virtual drilling that allows applicants to self-assess the manual dexterity/coordination required for a clinician in the dental profession.

The Manual Dexterity Test will be undertaken by applicants when they attend their selection interview. The test will be a requirement for applicants at interview; however the results obtained will only be used for research purposes and will not form part of the selection process.

**Eye Sight Requirements**
There are visual requirements for the DMD and students could fail and be excluded if they do not have these visual requirements. Applicants are recommended to have an eye examination to determine if they have any vision defects which will interfere with their ability to practice as a dentist. Vision defects that can be corrected, such as the wearing of glasses, should be done so prior to enrolment in the DMD.

**Rankings**
The Assured Pathway (High Academic Achievement) and Broadway Pathway applicants will be ranked using their achieved academic score, interview score and UMAT score. These are weighted 2:2:1 for the Academic, Interview and UMAT respectively.

Rural applicants will be ranked using ATAR, UMAT, Interview and Rurality score in the ratio 30:15:30:25 respectively.

**Transfers**
Having commenced studies on one of the School Leaver Pathways for the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD), a student cannot transfer into the Doctor of Medicine (MD) and vice versa at any stage of their studies (i.e. during the undergraduate degree at UWA or during the postgraduate degree at UWA).

Instead applicants would need to lodge a fresh application as a graduate and apply competitively with all other graduate applicants for first year entry of the professional course. Selection criteria apply.
Information in this publication was compiled in March 2015, but is subject to change from time to time. In particular the University reserves the right to change the content/entry requirements/course content and number of places at any time.