Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL LEAVERS

Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s Health Professionals
Perth and Western Australia
Perth is the capital city of Western Australia and is in the same time zone as Asia. As Australia’s sunniest capital city, enjoying 3000 hours of sunshine a year, Perth has over 80km of beaches and has a variety of places to choose from for shopping and eating out. Sporting and cultural activities are easily available. It is not far from the famous Margaret River wine region and flights can be taken to see some of the amazing areas of the state such as Broome or Albany. For more information see westernaustralia.com

The University of Western Australia
The University of Western Australia was established in 1911 and is located 5km from the Perth CBD and 20.5km from the International Airport. The 65-hectare Crawley campus is widely acclaimed for the beauty of its setting beside the Swan River and for its grounds and buildings. The University is a member of the Group of Eight (Go8) which is a coalition of leading Australian universities, intensive in research and comprehensive in general and professional education.

In addition, UWA belongs to the World Universities Network (WUN) comprising 15 research-led universities which help to build global research communities, and has recently become a member of the Matariki Network of Universities. In 2012 there were over 24,000 students enrolled at UWA, including over 5000 international students, with over 2000 being enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. The University’s academic, research and professional staff come from all around the world.

Knowledge for a changing world
The Faculty of Dental Sciences was initially established in 1946 and the Faculty of Medicine in 1956. The two combined into one academic and resourcing body as the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry on 1 January 1994. Today it is known as the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. The Faculty endeavours to provide education, service and research to create better health for the benefit of the West Australian, Australian and international community. Implicit in this statement is an acknowledgement of the rights and needs of indigenous peoples.

The Faculty endeavours to provide inspiration for the next generation of medical and dental practitioners, health professionals and health educators through the promotion, implementation and delivery of medical, dental and health sciences education, health service and all aspects of health related research at the highest standards of international excellence.

The Faculty has established world-class breadth and depth to its research profile. Students have the opportunity to become engaged in a broad spectrum of research across nine schools and five medical research institutes, plus access to additional service-oriented facilities. Nobel Laureate Clinical Professor Barry Marshall is a member of the Faculty’s staff. Internationally-acclaimed researchers provide expert teaching and research leadership in areas including Aboriginal health, anatomical pathology, burn injury and wound healing, cancer, emergency medicine, general practice and orthopaedics, orthodontics, endodontics, and oral pathology.

As part of the significant curriculum reform at The University of Western Australia, the Bachelor of Dental Science (BDSc) program has been replaced by a postgraduate qualification, the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD).

By offering the DMD at the postgraduate level, UWA is in line with leading universities across the world. The benefits for students include:
- Greater career opportunities within a global workplace;
- Improved links with industry and professional practice;
- A stronger foundation and knowledge-base from the 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 DMD 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.

The School of Dentistry welcomed our inaugural intake of graduate students to the DMD course in 2013 and hopes that the following information will assist you in making a decision about your future studies at UWA.

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Dr Nick Boyd
Interim Head of School of Dentistry/Interim Director (OHCWA)
Dentistry, School of/Oral Health Centre of Western Australia (OHCWA)
The Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)

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 is 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.

The first clinical contact is in first year, and is aimed at providing students with essential dental clinical skills.

In the second year students build on the knowledge developed in first year and are exposed to essential dental disciplines across the streams (Patient Care, Conservative and Preventive Stream, Restorative Stream and Child and Adolescent Oral Health Stream).

The third year is dedicated to deepening the knowledge from the first two years in the Conservative and Restorative Streams, while simultaneously broadening the scope of patient care by introducing multi-disciplinary dental units. In this year students will also actively engage in a research project.

The final year is occupied by quasi-independent practice which will take place in and outside of the School, with compulsory rural (Dental Health Service) and private practice rotations.

Requirements

All applicants wishing to study dentistry at UWA are required to complete an Australian undergraduate bachelor degree or equivalent before completing the new 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.

Eye Sight Requirements

There are visual requirements for the DMD and students could fail and be excluded if they do not meet 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 addressed prior to enrolment.

Pathways

There will be two entry pathways for international applicants to gain access into the DMD:

- Assured Pathway (International School Leavers)
- Standard Pathway – for international graduates

Number of places available

There is a total of 6 places available for international applicants. Approximately 3 of these places are for the Assured Pathway (International School Leavers) and approximately 3 places for the Standard Pathway (international graduates). There are 50 places for domestic applicants. Pathways and quotas form part of these places. The number of places is restricted by the number of dental chairs in the Dental School.

Prerequisite subjects

All applicants must meet the University’s requirement for English language competence (ELC). Visit studyat.uwa.edu.au/elc for details.

Applicants for the Assured Pathway should check if there are prerequisites for the bachelor degree they intend to study.

To be eligible for the Assured Pathway (International School Leavers) an applicant cannot have achieved any results in tertiary studies and instead can apply for the International Graduate Standard Pathway on completion of their undergraduate degree and having at least the minimum entry requirements.
Assured Pathway – International School Leavers

The Faculty understands the importance of recognising the achievement of students with excellent academic results. Packaged offers of a place are available for international school leavers and there are conditions attached to these places.

The benefits for students on the Assured Pathway (International School Leaver) are:

1. **Broad education**
   The UWA undergraduate degrees have a simple but flexible structure which allow students to study a broad range of subjects in their first year, and develop greater focus as students move through their degree. This provides a stronger foundation and knowledge-base. Students do not have to study a science degree, but can study a Bachelor of Arts, Commerce, Design or combine a Bachelor of Science major with a non science major such as Management or Accounting.

2. **Highly developed communication and research skills**
   Employers want graduates who have not only performed well in their chosen field but also have communication and problem-solving skills that set them apart from the crowd.
   To prepare students for success in a global workforce, students develop their ability to communicate effectively and learn how to find, interpret and critically evaluate information.

3. **Community engagement**
   Leadership qualities and a sense of community are expected in a well-rounded graduate. To help students develop these skills they are encouraged to participate in a structured experience with a not-for-profit organisation.

To be eligible for the Assured Pathway (International School Leavers) an applicant cannot have achieved any results in tertiary studies and instead can apply for the International Graduates Standard Pathway on completion of their undergraduate degree and having at least the minimum entry requirements.
Admission requirements

- Sufficient ISAT score
- ATAR of 96 or equivalent (e.g. A levels 14 points or IB of 37 points)
  For more equivalents contact the International Centre
- Spatial Awareness and Manual Dexterity admission tests
- Interview

The conditions attached to a packaged offer
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]
   All bachelor degrees are of three years’ duration. For more information on the new undergraduate degrees visit studyat.uwa.edu.au

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

Having met these conditions students will automatically proceed into the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD).

Recommended Subjects
It is recommended that applicants have knowledge of Australian year 12 physics and university year 1 biology/human biology and chemistry in order to be prepared for the DMD coursework.

Fees
Please note fees for the undergraduate degree years will be less than those for the DMD years. Please contact the International Centre for further information.

Guaranteed Accommodation
All applicants for the Assured Pathway (International School Leavers) will be guaranteed a place in one of the residential Colleges for their first year of study. Applicants are strongly recommended to apply to the Colleges at the same time as applying for a place to study at UWA. It is recommended that applicants stay in one of the Colleges for their first year as this is an opportunity to interact with peers, senior students, academic and support staff in a collegiate environment combined with the array of academic, cultural and social experiences and programs.

Do you intend on applying for Permanent Residency?
If you are planning to apply for Permanent Residency during the 2014 application cycle you will need to notify us as soon as possible. The Faculty requires this information as applicants who receive permanent residency during the application year cannot be considered for an international place and instead must compete for a domestic place. Applicants in this situation must complete the UMAT (as domestic students can only sit the UMAT) and even if they have already been interviewed for the MD and/or DMD as an international applicant, they will still need to have met the minimum thresholds for domestic applicants in order to be ranked for a position in the course. If applicants meet the minimum requirements as a domestic applicant and are competitively ranked, they can be made an offer for a domestic place. The Faculty will need to be made aware of the situation as soon as possible. In order to be considered for a domestic place the Faculty will require confirmation of permanent residency before October 1st 2014.

Please see page 7 for further information. These tests will be graded Pass / Fail and will not be used to rank applicants.
Standard Pathway
The Standard Pathway is for those applicants who already have completed a bachelor degree. There are no restrictions placed on the length of time since the bachelor degree was completed.

There are no specific subject prerequisites and an applicant’s undergraduate degree can be in any chosen field of study. However, 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:

1. Length of degree
Regardless of an applicant’s undergraduate study, the length of the DMD will be 4 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).

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

3. 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. (Australian Year 12 physics, 1st year university level biology/human biology and chemistry).

4. 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 degree with minimum grade point average (GPA) of 5.5
- Suitable GAMSAT / MCAT
- Manual Skills and Spatial Awareness Admission Tests
- Interview

Application process
Standard Pathway applicants should apply through the International Centre by the first Friday in June. MCAT results should also be submitted by the first Friday in June.

Applications submitted after the first Friday in June will not be considered.

© See page 7 for further information. These tests will be graded Pass/Fail and will not be used to rank applicants.
© Minimum 3-year Australian bachelor degree or equivalent. Degrees completed outside of Australia and New Zealand will need to be assessed by the Faculty in order for a GPA to be calculated.
© The Graduate Australian Medical Schools 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. For further information on the GAMSAT please see gamsat.acer.edu.au
© MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) is a standardised, multiple choice exam, that assesses problem solving, critical thinking, writing skills and knowledge of science concepts and principles. The minimum required scores are 8 (Verbal Reasoning), 8 (Physical Sciences), M (Writing Sample) and 8 (Biological Sciences). For more information please see aamc.org/students/mcat/
Interviews

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 out of three components used to rank applicants – the others being the admissions test (ISAT for international school leavers and either GAMSAT or MCAT for graduates) 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.

The interview is structured and therefore there is no opportunity for applicants to talk about their achievements and skills outside the scope of the actual questions asked; i.e. there are no generic questions at the end that enable applicants to list their accomplishments and so on.

The questions are read out as they are written down, so that every applicant is asked the same question in exactly the same way.

There are no trick questions and no right answers. The questions are designed to encourage interviewees to think and to explain their reasoning. The questions can be scenario based, awareness based, or experientially based, but the assessment is evidence based, – that is interviewers can only rate interviewees on what they say. This is why it is important for the interviewers to take notes and for the interviewees to give more than one sentence answers.

Assured Pathway Application Process

Assured Pathway (international School Leavers) applicants should apply through the International Centre by June 30th. Applicants must have sat the ISAT by this date to be considered.

Applications submitted after 30th June will not be considered. Likewise applicants listing ISAT test dates after June 30th will not be considered.

Applicants should use the same name as on their passport when registering for the ISAT and on their UWA application form.

The University communicates with applicants through email and therefore it is important that applicants provide an email address on their application that is easily accessible from home.

The application is processed through the International Centre before being passed to the Faculty who then short list for interviews based on the ISAT score and the expectation that an applicant has achieved, or been predicted to achieve at least the minimum academic requirement. Having conducted interviews and ranked applicants the Faculty then advises the International Centre who to make offers to.

Applicants with A level results

A level applicants may apply for the Assured Pathway by June 30th of their final year of A level studies. The ISAT will also have to be sat by this date. Successful applicants receive a conditional offer based on their predicted grades, ISAT and Interview scores. The conditions of this offer are that they subsequently:

- Achieve the minimum A level scores required
- Complete the UWA bachelor degree with a grade point average (GPA ) of 5.5

Applicants offered such a place would be able to commence their undergraduate degree in the February (before their A level results are released in March). If the condition regarding the A level scores are subsequently not met then the applicant would lose their Assured Pathway place, but would not lose their place on the undergraduate degree and would still be eligible to apply later for graduate entry to the Doctor of Dental Medicine.

Applicants with IB Results

IB Applicants can apply with predicted or achieved results by June 30.
Length of interview
Applicants are asked to arrive 45 minutes to an hour before the interview time (depending on interview location). This is for registration (including the signing of a confidentiality agreement) and for pre-reading. The interview itself usually lasts up to 45 minutes, with additional time required for the spatial awareness and manual dexterity admission tests.

Attire
The Admissions Team works to ensure that each component of the selection process is fair to all applicants. Applicants should not wear any uniform, accessories or badges, which identify membership of a particular organisation. This is to avoid the perception that bias has entered the selection process.

Applicants do not need to dress too formally but should dress as if attending a job interview. They should be smart, comfortable, but not too casual and to have layers in case they become too warm or cold.

What to bring
Applicants are asked to bring along photographic ID – this can be a passport or drivers licence or school card.

Interview topics
The list of criteria for the interview has been consolidated into 9 topics, three of which will be constant across 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
- Ethics and values
- Provision of assistance
- Self-awareness
- Trust and trustworthiness
- 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 International Centre and the Faculty Admissions Office of any changes to an email address.

Upon accepting an interview invite applicants will be sent further information about the interview which includes general advice about preparing for the interview and 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 dental interview preparation courses. Each year, after the completion of the interview process, all questions are evaluated. Questions are then rewritten for the following year. 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

Spatial Awareness and Manual Dexterity Admission Tests
The Spatial Awareness Test is a 35-minute paper-and-pencil multiple choice test produced by ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research). 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 uses a virtual reality dental machine and tests manual coordination. The Manual Dexterity Test will be undertaken by applicants when they arrive in Perth to commence their studies. 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.

Rankings
International school leavers will be ranked using their academic score (predicted or achieved), interview score and ISAT score. These are weighted 2:2:1 for the Academic, Interview and ISAT respectively.

International graduates will be ranked using their academic score, interview score and GAMSAT/MCAT score. These are weighted 2:2:1 for the Academic, Interview and GAMSAT/MCAT.

Deferrals*
International applicants offered a place in the DMD will not normally be able to defer this place to the following year.

*subject to final approval

Transfers
Having commenced studies on the Assured Pathway (International School Leavers) 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 students 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.
The test
The test assesses the ability to understand and analyse given material. The questions typically include reading and thinking about a passage of writing, the interpretation of graphical displays of information and using mathematical relationships to reason about tables of data. All the information required to answer the question is included in the stimulus material.

The test itself is a 3 hours multiple choice. It has 100 questions with 4 or 5 answers that a candidate can chose from. There is only one right answer, and no marks are deducted for a wrong answer. The aim of the test is to assess the candidate’s ‘critical’ and ‘quantitative’ reasoning skills.

Critical Reasoning assesses a candidate’s understanding, reasoning and critical thinking skills. These questions use material from the humanities and social sciences.

Quantitative Reasoning assesses a candidate’s comprehension, application, decision making and solving skills. These questions use material from mathematics and sciences.

Results
Results are released to candidates via email normally within two weeks of sitting the test. The email will advise a candidate of an access code and weblink which the results can be downloaded from. A statement of results will be generated to print off.

When applying to UWA
Applicants must provide their ISAT registration number if they have it at the time of application to UWA or as soon as they have it. This is so UWA can verify the ISAT results.

ISAT

Introduction
The ISAT (International Student Admissions Test) is required if an applicant is applying for the Assured Pathway (International School Leavers) for the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) or Doctor of Medicine (MD) at UWA.

How does UWA use the ISAT?
The overall score is used to determine whether an applicant will be short listed for an interview. Applicants must achieve above or at least the 25th percentile in each section. On final ranking of applicants the ISAT score is worth 20 percent of the overall ranking (along with academic achievement and the interview score). The Admissions Office will consider the two most recent years’ ISAT scores and will use the highest score.

Preparation for the test
ISAT measures skills acquired over a period of time, including the ability to reason, make logical deductions and form judgements. As the test does not draw on any particular subject knowledge the best preparation is to read widely and think critically about what has been read. There are also sample questions on the website that can be used for practice purposes.

Test day
Candidates will be advised in their confirmation email what to take to the test, the accepted forms of identification and guidelines for unethical behaviour.

To find a test centre refer to the ISAT website where the centres are listed alphabetically by their suburb or centre. Bookings should be made online or by phoning the Prometric Candidate Care number in the candidate’s region.

A credit card and email address are required to register.

Candidates can attempt a second sitting of the ISAT, but it has to be twelve months after the first sitting.

Registration
Test sessions usually run between April and February. Candidates can only sit the ISAT once every twelve months. When registering students are able to choose a date and time that suits them within the testing window but must sit before June 30 of the application year. The test is offered in provided by Prometric and there are over 5000 test centres around the world.
Resources and Facilities

Accommodation
The 5 residential halls and colleges affiliated with UWA are located adjacent to the campus:
- **Currie Hall**
  www.currie.uwa.edu.au
- **St Catherine’s College**
  www.stcatherines.uwa.edu.au
- **St George’s College**
  www.stgeorgescollege.com.au
- **St Thomas More College**
  www.stmc.uwa.edu.au
- **Trinity**
  www.trinity.uwa.edu.au

As it is competitive for a place in one of the Colleges, applicants are strongly encouraged to apply to the Colleges at the same time as applying for a place to study at UWA.

Each college has an online application form or can be applied to via studyat.uwa.edu.au/unilife/accommodation/oncampus

Renting or leasing
Accommodation located close to UWA is in high demand and varies in price depending on the size, locality and quality of the accommodation. Rental accommodation is also available in the wider Perth metropolitan area.

Support to find housing
The University’s Housing Service provides an online database for UWA students. Visit studentservices.uwa.edu.au/ss/housing

Student Support
Student support is provided through the Associate Dean, Faculty Manager (Student Affairs) and the Student Support Co-ordinator. The University Medical Centre and counselling services are available on campus.

Student Guild and Societies
The Student Guild represents the students of UWA to the University, government and the wider community and provides a range of non academic services to UWA students. There are a number of clubs and societies that students can join, including the University Dental Students Society (UDSS) udss.net. For more information see guild.uwa.edu.au/home/clubs

International Centre Information
International students should also visit international.uwa.edu.au/studentnet/ esos which gives more information about the study environment, course fees and refund policy, support services and schooling obligations for dependent children.
Studying at UWA
studyat.uwa.edu.au

askUWA—
answers online anytime
ask.uwa.edu.au

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Information in this publication was compiled in February 2014, 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.