Welcome to Australia Guide

University of Queensland
2012 Edition

For international students.
By international students.

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The Australian Medical Students’ Association (AMSA) is the peak representative body for medical students in Australia. The key mandate of AMSA is to connect, inform and represent each of Australia’s 16,491 medical students at Australia’s 20 medical schools. AMSA’s core operations include advocacy, events and programs, and publications. AMSA advocates for medical students through policy development, advocacy campaigns and representation to governments, universities and relevant medical bodies. Additionally, AMSA organises renowned educational, social and leadership opportunities for students. These include programs aimed at improving medical student health and wellbeing and others to increase awareness of community, rural and global health issues. AMSA advocates on a range of issues that affect international students.

The International Students’ Network

The International Students’ Network (ISN) is the committee of AMSA that is specifically dedicated to address the needs of international students. It is comprised of an international student representative from each Australian medical school. Almost 1 in 5 medical students in Australia are international students, and AMSA strives to effectively represent every one of these students. To better advocate for these students, AMSA must have a comprehensive understanding of their issues and opinions.

The ISN goals are:

• To advocate for all international medical students studying in Australia
• To provide support for graduating international students seeking internship in Australia
• To provide support for international students wishing to return home to complete internship
• To assist graduating international students who are unable to attain an internship in Australia in finding employment alternatives
• To connect current and future international medical students and to inform them of the issues currently facing international students in Australia

Important notice about this guide

This guide has been written for international students who have moved to study medicine in Australia for international students who have recently or are about to move to study medicine. However, AMSA is unable to guarantee the accuracy of the information contained herein and we recommend that you read the full disclaimer at the end of this guide.

As you’ll have probably gathered, there is a ton of stuff to sort out before you arrive in Australia. Don’t worry, we all got through it, and so will you. Here are a few tidbits of information that we picked up along the way, and maybe wish we’d had in our back pocket before getting here.
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Introduction

Welcome

The AMSA ISN and UQMS (University of Queensland Medical Society) extends a warm and sunny welcome to all of our International Students from all over the globe - from North America to South Africa, all over South East Asia and even as far away as France. We hope that your time at UQ is enriching, a time where your medical studies are coloured with new comrades and adventures in Australia, and where you can look back on these days as some of the most fulfilling days in your medical career.

Gateway Organizations

Oztrekk & Australearn are two gateway organizations that will help Canadian students with their application to the UQ School of Medicine. Oztrekk is recommended due to an established, strong relationship with UQ, and many previous students have utilized them. Do NOT hesitate to contact them about anything concerning the school, tuition, or life in Australia. Links to Oztrekk and Australearn can be found here.

International Pathways is the American organization that assists with the applications to the Ochsner program. Visit http://www.mededpath.org/ to apply or ask questions.

The International Medical University in Kuala Lumpur provides a pathway for our Malaysian students entering in years 3 and 4. Students interested in this option or links to opportunities at the IMU facilities can visit their website.

Finally, the Singaporean Medical Association of Queensland has been recently formed in order to accommodate many health care fields applying for training back in Singapore through MOHH (the holding company of Singapore’s public healthcare assets). The Singapore Medical Association of Queensland website is the best point of call for further information.
The International Subcommittee

Your main point of call

Your time here in Queensland will both be exciting and full of challenges. The UQMS International Subcommittee, consisting of one elected member per MBBS year and one additional member elected "At Large," is designated to assist you with your advocacy needs in medical school and to guide you into life and study here in Australia. These members are elected at the UQMS Convenor Elections at the beginning of each year and hold office until the next election round.

International Buddy System - just before you leave

Studying med is hard. Studying med in another country can be even more difficult, but it doesn’t have to be. So, the UQMS operates a buddy system designed to ease your transition into life in Australia and life as a medical student. Before arriving in Australia, each MBBS I International Student is matched to a volunteer mentor from his or her country of origin (as much as possible) and is encouraged to make contact and suss out what it’s all about. The mentor students from higher year levels who sign up want to help you with as much as they can, so take them up on the offer and get in touch!

You can ask them just about anything - what to bring, what not to bring, what texts you’ll need, where to live, how to get a cell phone, where can you access the health service and much more. But it doesn’t stop there - this is your ticket to all the secret insider gossip on sitting the USMLE/MCCEE in Australia, how to best prepare for UQ Med Exams (an experience in itself) and to keep in touch for a career long friendship.

A Brief History of the International Subcommittee

The International Subcommittee was first established in 2004 in order to better reflect and represent the interests of the growing international student cohort. In its year of inception, the former Head of School, Prof Ken Donald, acknowledged the difficulties that international students would face in future years with respect to training places here in Australia and back at home. This set the direction for the role the International Subcommittee would play in advocating on all international student matters for UQ students. At a national level AMSA also advocates for international students

Since then, the International Subcommittee has grown to have a voice that can powerfully advocate with the School of Medicine. Advising and working closely with the UQMS Executive, the group has successfully lobbied for opportunities to do rotations overseas, adherence to contracts in school fees, etc. They have acted as an invaluable source of institutional knowledge of the workings of North American Board Exams, Visas and Permanent Residency issues. Today, the Subcommittee continues to advocate to ease transition into training places in their countries of origin on issues, ranging from MSAT Year IV substitution with USMLE Step II to stratification of rotation order in Clinical Years to better suit core requirements for electives in Year IV.

The UQMS believes the School of Medicine (SoM) has a social responsibility to facilitate measures that assist international students to begin practice and training in their home countries. This is particularly pertinent given the uncertainty of being able to stay in Australia after medical school training that will occur in Australia over the next few years. To do this would
only reflect positively on the SoM in their vision to become a truly world class Graduate Medical Course.

Get Involved

Medical School isn't just about the study - it's about getting out there and getting out as much as you put into it. There are squillions of avenues where you can participate - by jumping on the International Subcommittee, getting involved with Med Revue and much much more - so the UQMS theme for you is...Just DO IT.
Settling in at UQ

Australia, the Land Down Under

This place is gorgeous. January is summer (hot) so bring lighter clothing & sun protection. The sun will burn you in 15 minutes without hesitation. June is winter (actually cool) so bundle up. It's not freezing (below 0 C) but can get down to 5 C at night and early morning. Depending on the climate you’re used to light jackets, sweaters & pants (yes you need pants) should suffice, so you probably don’t need to bother with heavy winter clothing. Learn more about the climate of Queensland and Brisbane at the Australian Bureau of Meteorology website at http://www.bom.gov.au/.

Obtaining Adult Recognition - Driver Licence vs 18+ card

Carrying around your passport to prove you’re over 18 is a total drag. So get yourself organised and get an 18+ card. At the time of writing the costs was A$24.15 and the 18+ card can be obtained from Queensland Transport. More information is about how to obtain a card is available at (http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Licensing/Getting-a-licence/Identification-requirements.aspx).

Driver’s licenses from all places are accepted for banks, rental applications and entrance to premises licensed to serve alcohol, but are often not accepted as ID for mobiles/cell phones.

Driving

Be a safe driver during your time in Australia. Information about driving in Queensland can be found at http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Safety/Queensland-Road-Rules.aspx. Some things that you should not do include:
- Driving faster than the speed limit
- Drive whilst exceeding the legal maximum blood concentration of alcohol
- Take illicit drugs whilst driving
- Talk on your cell whilst driving
But don’t just take it from us – read the road rules and you’ll be all over be a safe driver.

Accommodation

**DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THIS, START LOOKING BEFORE YOU GET HERE**

Have a few options and do not get your heart set on one place. Make sure you have copies of bank statements (from home), a few forms of ID (Passport, Driver’s License), school enrollment etc to accompany your applications.

Temporary accommodation whilst you're looking

So you’ve arrived in Australia and you are looking for a temporary place to stay whilst looking for a more permanent abode - International House, St. Leo's College, or Union College are the residential colleges affiliated with the Uni of Qld and can accommodate students during this tricky time.
International House has good rates per week, and has all the necessities you need to get started on your search for home sweet home. Don't forget there will be heaps of other international students also searching for houses, apartments...and housemates. You can catch up with other students to discuss and plan accommodation over facebook or in person.

Click to find more about International House.

**Where to start your house search**

The UQ Accommodation Service is a great website that we've found useful to start a search for on or off campus housing. It also contains a clear guide to the residential colleges and application processes for international students. The website also contains a great bonus in its comprehensive guide of all the basics that you'll need to apply and secure housing.

Click to find more about UQ Accommodation Services.

**Where exactly should I be considering**

Where you live will be directly influenced by what year you're in. You should probably look at securing a lease in MBBS I (first year) in the following areas: St. Lucia, Dutton Park, Toowong, Taringa, Fairfield, Indooroopilly.

Rent is paid PER WEEK, so allocate that into your financial budget.

Click to find more about Off Campus Housing available in Brisbane (user friendly model)

**Communications**

**Internet**

The internet here is DIFFERENT from home. Cable internet is newer, ADSL is common. There is a download quota given per month that usually includes peak and non-peak times. Shop around for download quotas, prices, and availability in your house (you may need to also install a phone line). The school of medicine gives you (400MB) of download per month, but that may not suffice. Having said all of this, you may want to load up on anything you frequently purchase & download (ie movies, shows, music, etc) before you arrive. Internet bundles have begun to increase the downloadable quota, but be sure you have an idea of what you use before you arrive to ensure you know the best amount required.

**Making new friends**

Prior to arriving, make sure you reach out to people who will be coming to UQ as well. Facebook groups for international students as well as MBBS students are started well before class begins - make friends, get in touch with those before you. For Canadians Oztrekk also does a very good job of grouping you together.

The UQMS Forums also provide a great place for you get insight into life in the UQ medical program as well as a place for you to ask questions (anonymously, if you like) - and it's open to anyone (no need for a log in).
Keeping in touch with home

Cell phones - Beware, Aussies call them "Mobiles"

Skype provides a free way to talk over the internet for hours. We kid you not. It’s easy to set up at your friends/family’s places back at home before you leave, and you can even purchase a skype mobile phone here from only $30/month.

Take a look at the options at the website for Skype. For the cellphone, head to the Three website and search for the "skype mobile phone."

Getting around

Brisbane’s public transit system is quite good and there is no real need for a vehicle for the first couple of years. An excellent site for planning trips on public transport - Translink.

Money Matters

Banks, Paying Tuition, & Foreign Exchange

Australia is expensive. Do NOT underestimate how much things cost here. For example a case of 24 cans of Coca-Cola is $30. Be prepared to spend more, especially on fruits & veggies.

Link to "Student Aid" UQ International

Australian Banks

As a student you should be entitled to free EFTPOS (debit/client card) transactions with any of the Australian major banks. Student status needs to be confirmed. To open an account a passport may be required. The four major banks in Australia are:

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ)
Commonwealth Bank of Australia
National Australia Bank
Westpac Banking Corporation

Both ANZ and Commonwealth Banks have branches at the St. Lucia Campus. There are other banks in Australia and that you may also wish to investigate.

Paying Tuition

You can pay tuition in a variety of forms. You might save money on loan interest payments by taking care to time when you pay your tuition. But be careful because the fee for paying this late has now increased to $100.

Methods of payment include:

- B-pay system
- Visa and MasterCard
- Telegraphic Transfer (Wire transfer)
For current information on Telegraphic (Wire Transfer of fees) please phone student financials: +61 7 3365 2328

**Foreign Exchange**

The exchange rates you see on the news/internet are mid-market rates and it's not usually possibly to obtain these rates when converting currency because exchange companies also charge a commission. Make sure you factor in commissions when trying to find the best exchange rate. There are various ways to transfer and exchange money – some methods include:

- Commercial Banks
- Third Party Exchange services
- Credit Cards and Foreign Exchange
- Wire Transfers
- Bank Draft
Studying at UQ

Tips on studying medicine

Each year, the Academic VP runs a comprehensive crash course to all MBBS I students on how to get the best out of your medical studies. Here are a few of the basics:

At first it will all seem overwhelming, especially with the amount of information that is thrown at you. Everyone will hear different things & techniques throughout the year, but you need to find out what is right for you. It’s important that you get into a steady routine once you are accustomed to Australia. Get attuned to your own study style. This may take a while, but don’t fret. What works for some people won’t for others. Don’t let the superneurotic habits of others get to you.

Textbooks are expensive so it’s a good idea to use the texts available to you in the PBL study rooms to establish which ones you like the most before you invest in your own. A good way to start is to get a basic comprehensive pathology, pharmacology, anatomy and physiology textbook as these are very common themes. Although any helpful textbooks that you already own cannot hurt, except if you’re lugging them around the world.

Online Resources can be useful as well as free. Heaps of these are available through the School of Medicine Portal. Think Harrisons, Murtagh’s General Practice, Lange’s Surgical Diagnosis, etc but this will be covered during the first couple of weeks of classes.

MBBS I

First Year is H-A-R-D – not because of the difficulty of the concepts, but the workload. Each week is focused on a problem (hence PBL - problem based learning) but students may be tested on variations of a theme. They are almost entirely based at St Lucia campus. Mondays and Thursdays are PBL group learning days. Lectures are held at St Lucia Campus, Hawken Theatre on most days. Prac classes are scheduled sporadically and may include microbiology, anatomy, physiology etc. Clinical Communication workshops are held 3-5 times a year. Clinical Coaching - where you learn physical examinations - are held weekly and examined weekly

There are two written exam sessions, one midyear (25%) one at the end of year (70%) and a lifecourse assignment (5%).

See Elective section below for further details on the MBBS I Elective.

Enjoy your holidays - they are the last "long" 2-3 week block you’ll ever have.

MBBS II

Second year is probably considered the hardest year of them all. If you can get through this, you can get through anything. It is more spread out over Brisbane. PBL classes are held at Mater Hospital, Princess Alexander Hospital and Royal Brisbane Hospital. Lectures are held at St Lucia. Some lectures are being recorded and placed online.
Tuesdays and Fridays are PBL group learning days
Lectures are held at St Lucia usually on Mon-Wed, but sometimes Thurs/Fridays
Symposia are held on Fridays, usually one per system block
Clinical Communication Workshops are held 3-5 times a year
Clinical Coaching is held on a weekly basis at the hospitals

There are two written exam sessions, one midyear and one at end of year.

There is also a MSAT - MultiStation Assessment Tasks- Examination where students undergo 5 practical stations - Clinical Hx taking, Clinical Examination, Clinical Communication, Advance Life Support and Ethics Station. This is subject to change.

At the end of MBBS II students are asked to choose a clinical site to spend Year III. International Students DO NOT have the option of going to a rural clinical school. They still however, participate in the Rural Rotation. As of 2010, International students entering the UQ MBBS program will not have the chance to participate in the year 3 rural rotation in Australia. Instead, International students will be given the option of completing a Rural Rotation overseas or completing a Medicine in Society rotation.

**MBBS III**

Third Year consists of 5 x 8 week rotations. The rotation order is Surgery, Mental Health, General Practice, General Medicine, Rural and must be completed in that order, though obviously students will begin on different rotations.

A variety of clinical sites are used. A car would be handy at this stage, though it is not essential. Only some rotations are able to be completed overseas with limited places (General Practice in Brunei, Surgery in Brunei.) International Students are not eligible to go to a rural clinical school for the year. International student are eligible to undertake a rural rotation overseas.

Every week 8 is exam week. There is a one-week holiday between each rotation. There is no cumulative exam at the end of third year.

**MBBS IV**

Fourth year also consists of 5 x 8 week rotations. The rotation order is Obs/Gyn, Paediatrics, Elective, Medical Specialty, Surgical Specialty and must be completed in that order, though obviously students will begin on different rotations. A variety of clinical sites are again used, and again, a car would be handy but not essential.

Every Week 8 there is an exam. There is a one week holiday between each rotation. At the end of fourth year another MSAT is held - but more extensive than the second year MSAT.

*Currently undergoing changes - further updates are forthcoming.*
Outside of Medical Education

Sports & Activities!

There is a Gym available to you at UQ at a low cost.

UQMS also runs recreation activities. Sport teams that are available through UQMS include: soccer, touch footy, rugby, netball, Aussie rules. Other sports, such as ice hockey, baseball, & basketball are available at locations across Brisbane.

Overall, remember you are in Australia so make sure you take advantage of the beautiful surroundings where you have chosen to complete your medical degree. There is an abundance of natural heritage listed areas, theme parks, stunning beaches, coastal trips, mountain climbing adventures, hiking trails and much, much more to enjoy!

For more leisurely activities - see the @Brisbane link on this website.

Outside of Medical Education - Music!

The UQMS has been involved with the Queensland Medical Orchestra; which involves students, residents, consultants, and even other health professionals, for quite some time now. They generally run 3 performances throughout the year to the delight of many.

Volunteering!

The local charity with which UQMS is involved is the Ashintosh Foundation. There are a plethora of events that one can signup for and help run throughout the year, from weekly Elementary school educational visits to annual Marathon runs.
Electives for International Students

Electives in MBBS I and IV

Make sure you make the most of these. Very few degrees will ever give you the opportunity to so freely participate in the health force and learn purely by exposure and immersion.

MBBS I - At the end of first year in the month of November, all students undertake a 4 week elective in any area of their choice at any destination of their choice provided there is a supervisor to, well, supervise. Minor assessment and a feedback form. Just over 50% of all MBBS I choose to go overseas, with a significant proportion heading to communities in the developing world. You can view the AMSA policy on Overseas Medical Placements here http://amsa.org.au/content/official-policy.

MBBS IV – The elective is similar to MBBS I but it is 8 weeks long. It also entails minor assessment and a feedback form.

For more information on UQ Med electives, visit our website’s general Electives section and our ever-growing Ashintosh Medical Electives Database.

Observership vs. Elective Lingo for North America

In North America the term ‘observership’ is a clinical experience, which has informal structure and expectations. Within an observership there are no guarantees of hands on experience while the quality of education varies drastically depending upon the preceptor and program.

The term ‘elective’ on the other hand is more formalized, with expectations of knowledge and a standard skill-set similar to the completion of core rotations within the clinical years of medical school. Outside of UQ 4th year electives/rotations, enquires regarding clinical exposure with North American Doctors, Boards of Physicians and Universities should be referred to as ‘observerships’.

1st year Electives in Canada

First year electives in Canada are a foreign idea to Canadian doctors, universities, and regulatory boards. The unfamiliarity compounds the difficulty finding a doctor to take the time out of their busy practice to teach and supervise a 1st year student. Finding an elective is a lot easier with a personal contact of some nature, but not impossible without such a contact, just more challenging. Due to litigious environment within North America health care you may encounter some difficulties finding opportunities to practice your skills on patients. When inquiring about ‘electives’ in Canada refer to them as ‘Observerships’ both for the college of physicians and the doctors themselves. The term ‘elective’ in Canada is reserved for elective rotations in clinical years.

Canadian Electives

Check out our researched Canadian Elective Opportunities.
USA Electives

Here is an external link to a useful resource on finding an elective in the USA. Additionally the following link enables students to determine at which elective locations USMLE step 1 can be undertaken.

North American Board Exams

**USMLE Step I - a guide**

**US Terminology** will help you to get in with the lingo.

**The exam**

The USMLE is a computer-based exam, which means that you must do it at an accredited Prometric Testing Site. There are 350 multiple choice test items, divided into seven 60-minute blocks administered in one 8-hour testing session. There is a 15-minute optional intro session to the FRED testing software and 45 minutes of breaks throughout the day. For any additional info please refer to the USMLE Step 1 Bulletin of Information.

**Timeline**

**Note this is a suggested timeline based on the authors’ experiences. You should talk to others and formulate a plan early. It’s a tough exam and you will need to be prepared.**

**MBBS I**
don’t think about the USMLE.

**MBBS II**
Jan – July: Start thinking about exam & gathering resources. Keep up to date with UQ topics using USMLE material as you go.
Aug: Start studying more intensely
Sept: Register for USMLE Step 1 exam if want to sit in December (choose Eligibility Block Dec-Jan-Feb)
Sept – Oct: Keeping studying and start practice questions. One useful resource is the USMLE World Online Question bank, although it’s not free. Register in at this time for USMLE World Online Question bank (if interested in a 3-month registration)
Nov: Keep up with the USMLE studying and ensure that you prepare sufficiently for UQ’s exams Late Dec: 3-4 weeks before exam, practice on NBME exams to get a good idea of score and whether you’re ready to write the exam.
Write the exam (you will be ineligible to write the exam in Nov and the exam isn’t offered in the first 2-weeks of January. NB MBBS III begins in the 3rd week of January).

**MBBS III & IV**
You are allowed to write the exam at any point after MBBS II. However, due to time concerns, we would recommend doing the USMLE at the end of MBBS II or early on in MBBS III (after studying over the holidays and first few weeks of January). Remember that there is also a Step 2 (and a Step 3, depending on the visa that you want) that must be done by graduation if you’re interested in US residency programs.
Study Resources

This list has been compiled by the authors based on their experiences and that of their peers.

Strongly recommended

First Aid for the USMLE Step 1 - REALLY good, but you must go through Errata stated online because often there are mistakes. Really good to annotate addition facts from answers to USMLE World’s Qbank questions.
Goljan Rapid Review Pathology - excellent resource
USMLE World Online Question bank (www.usmleworld.com) - Register and pay for the desired period of time (we bought 3-months, but there are also 6-month time periods available). You can do questions in Tutor Mode or in Timed Blocks of Q’s - go through answers thoroughly and annotate the things that you don’t know into the respective First Aid section.
NBME practice tests (USD$40.00 each) – can buy them from www.nbme.org

Recommended depending on your areas of weakness

BRS Physiology – excellent overview of essential and heavily tested physiology
Rapid Review Biochemistry - way too much information, but good to supplement First Aid to supplement learning in weaker areas
High Yield Cell & Molecular Biology - 1999 version - pretty good, don’t think it made much of a difference though. 1999 version is MUCH better as latest version is way too big.
High Yield Neuroanatomy - good book. Some years exams are very neuro heavy, ours weren’t, but great book to cover all the essentials that other books don’t.
Kaplan Homestudy – tons of compact information in 4 books, good as a first review. However, very expensive. We wouldn’t recommend them unless you can get them cheaply.

The main thing about studying for the USMLE is that it’s very difficult to take someone else’s study books and plan and apply it directly to you. We found that all the advice we got from people, we took in, really thought about it, did some research and changed it to fit our needs. Various students who have sat the USMLE and contributed to the writing of this guide have emphasised the amount of time that is required to prepare. The authors of this guide recommended good study habits throughout the year with 3 months of 6-8hours of study per day. AMSA is concerned about the impact that this would have on student wellbeing for students who seek to do this during the university semester. Give considered thought to how you plan your study so that you can maintain your health and wellbeing. The USMLE is an important exam for many students, but it’s vital to stay healthy. Also make sure you factor in time to study for the UQ MBBS II end of year exam.

Application process

Register through ECFMG (http://www.ecfmg.org). After registration and payment, you will be directed to an application form to get authorised by the medical school. If you would like to write the exam in December, you must request a letter from the medical school stating that you will have officially completed the 2nd year of medical school by November of that year. That letter must be sent with your authorised application form.

Exam registration costs

At time of writing this gudie the exam registration costs were: USD$710.00 if written in the US or Canada with an additional $130 (International Test Delivery Surcharge) if written in Australia.
Test centres

Scheduling occurs through Prometric (http://www.prometric.com). However, Test Centre you are not able to select your test centre until you have completely registered for the exam and have been sent your scheduling number from ECFMG. There are a number of test centres through the United States and Canada. Centres in Australia are located in Sydney and Melbourne.

Essential resources

US Medical Licensing Exam: www.usmle.org

USMLE Step 1 Bulletin of Information:

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates: www.ecfmg.org

National Board of Medical Examiners: www.nbme.org

Prometric: www.prometric.comwww.studentdoctor.net
Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Exam

Make sure you visit http://www.mcc.ca/en/exams/ee/ to ensure you have up to date and accurate information on this exam.

The Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Exam (MCCEE) is for graduates of international medical schools. Passing this examination is one of the conditions required for entrance to the Qualifying Examinations of Council. The MCCEE is now a computer-based test. Duration is now 4hrs (previously 8hrs). It is offered up to 6 times a year in a 2-3week testing windows. Prometric is the company chosen to administer the exam with 500 sites worldwide. The fee is approximately $850

Eligibility

International Medical Student (IMS) – must be in your final clinical year and expected to graduate and receive final medical diploma within the 9 months following MCCEE examination.

Application Process

Submit an application to the Physician Credentials Registry of Canada (PCRC), the application takes several weeks to process. PCRC approval is required to be eligible for the MCCEE.

Examination Subject Matter

Subject matter for the test is addressed in the Objectives for the MCCEE and Qualifying Exam Part 1 and Part 2.

Suggested resources

Click the link to the suggested Reference Books.

The Self Administered Evaluating Examination (SAEE) is available as a practice test to prepare for the MCCEE

Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination Part 1 (MCCQE1)

MCCQE Part I is a computer based test that assesses the competence of candidates who have obtained a medical degree, for entry into supervised clinical practice in postgraduate training programs, with respect to their knowledge, clinical skills, and attitudes.

8 hour test: morning session is comprised of 196 multiple choice questions. The afternoon session is a clinical decision making component consisting of short answer questions; 60 cases with 1-4 questions each. Fees approximately $680.

Examination Dates and locations


Application Procedures of International Medical Graduates/Students
Eligibility – must have passed the MCCEE. It is possible to write the test before graduation but results will be held until the MCC receives your final diploma & transcript.

**Examination Subject Matter**

Subject matter for the test is addressed in the Objectives for the MCCEE and Qualifying Exam Part 1 and Part 2.

**Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination Part II**

To be eligible for the MCCQE Part II, a candidate must have a pass standing on the MCCQE Part I and have satisfactorily completed a minimum of 12 months of postgraduate clinical medical training, which may be served anywhere in the world.
Canadian Residency Matching Service

What’s CaRMS?

The Canadian Residency Matching Service works with the medical educational community, medical schools, and students to provide an electronic application service and a computer match for entry into postgraduate medical training throughout Canada. For an introduction about how residency training in Canada is organized and how the role of the Canadian Residency Matching service, please follow this video link (11 mins).

There are two iterations of the ‘Match:’

1st Iteration of the match includes all graduating students and graduates from Canada, accredited US, and International Medical graduates (IMG) of Canadian Citizenship. The inclusion of IMGs in the 1st round of matching has differing criteria from province to province. Some provinces, Manitoba and Quebec, allow direct competition with domestic applicants. Whereas most of the others offer ‘parallel’ streams for specifically allocated spots that are usually attached to return of service agreements. Please see CaRMS website for details.

2nd Iteration - Essentially all unmatched Canadian and International medical graduates compete for unmatched spots from the first iteration. Every applicant not matched in the first round is automatically registered for the 2nd iteration. Unmatched spots and unmatched applicants are common. The 2nd iteration relaxes most of the restrictions placed on international medical graduates (IMGs) of Canadian citizenship allowing them to freely compete for the remaining available spots.

Statistics

Every year the statistics of the match are published publically including, who is applying, from where, how many spots went unmatched, and specific IMG data. CaRMS Statistics Link (2008)

Eligibility

• Must be Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents for both iterations. Permanent Resident: Must live in Canada for 2 of the last 5 years. This point essentially excludes Australian and other nationalities from residency training.
• Must be a graduate or medical student whom has received their medical degree by July 1st of the Match year (start of residencies).
• Must have passed the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Exam (MCCEE) or registered for the September MCCEE (registration by July 3rd for 2007)
• To be eligible for the 2nd iteration of the CaRMS match the MCCEE can be written in January of the same year

Timeline

Here is a timeline for International Medical Students wishing to participate in CaRMS
Warning: Applying for Canada and USA

A person whom is matched through the USA National Resident Match Program may be withdrawn from the CaRMS matching program and vice versa.

For much more information visit the Canadian Residency Matching Service website.
Moving Forward

Best of luck

The AMSA ISN sincerely wishes you the best of luck on your transition to life in Australia and journey through medical school. Remember, the AMSA mission is to connect, inform and represent Australian medical students, both domestic and international.

Ways to get involved

We would love you to get involved with AMSA, The ISN or your medical student society. International students are a unique group and working together we can make the experience better for everyone."

• Visit and sign up to AMSA (http://amsa.org.au/) - remember to tick the box for the ISN
  Contact your local AMSA Rep and get involved in AMSA and your local medical students’ society
• Visit the ISN page on the AMSA website, watch the video and take the survey
• Stay tuned for more opportunities from AMSA and the ISN
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