

INDIGENOUS ENTRY INTO MEDICINE

2010 Explanatory Notes



OUTLINE

There are an estimated 120 doctors in Australia who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, with a similar number in training. To provide the Indigenous population with access to an Indigenous medical practitioner, at a similar level of availability as non-Indigenous doctors to the non-Indigenous population, would require around 1,000 doctors. The Indigenous Entry into Medicine Scheme at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) aims to play a significant part in redressing the existing imbalance by offering suitable students an alternate entry scheme who best meets the selection criteria (outlined below). The scheme is designed for high school students, current undergraduate and postgraduate students or mature age students.

A career in medicine is a challenging and ambitious choice. The challenges include providing comprehensive care to patients and those who support them, and staying abreast of clinical and scientific advances. UNSW Faculty of Medicine is dedicated to helping you gain the knowledge and skills that will equip you to be an effective doctor for the 21st Century, and assisting you to establish a pattern of life-long learning. We believe that your experiences and learning to date are very important: they have influenced your consideration, for example, of Medicine as a career. We ask you to take some time to reflect and write about yourself as part of the application process. If you are called for an interview, we will look forward to talking with you about yourself and your experiences, and your interviewers will have read your application before they meet with you, as an introduction to getting to know you.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION

1. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The definition is as follows; Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander parentage, self-identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person and are accepted by an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.
2. Evidence of Academic Capability
Please note: *A number of measures may be used to assess this criterion, for example:*
 - Secondary education records
 - Tertiary education records
 - Examples of educational attainment
 - Other evidence of the applicant's ability to succeed in studying Medicine at UNSW
3. Sound communication and interpersonal skills
4. Commitment to and knowledge of community concerns relating to Indigenous health issues

SELECTION OF APPLICANTS FOR INTERVIEW

Students will be selected for interview using the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated motivation to practice medicine
2. Academic capability, including, the capacity to achieve within the UNSW Medical Program
3. Demonstrated ability to relate to Indigenous Health issues

Please note: *All three of the above criteria will be taken into account in selection for interview*

THE INTERVIEW

Interviews will be held in **October 2009**, in Sydney at UNSW. The interview lasts approximately 40 minutes. The interview panel will consist of interviewers drawn from:

- The Rural Clinical School, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW
- Nura Gili, Indigenous Programs at UNSW
- Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW

PARTICIPATION IN THE PRE-MEDICINE PROGRAM (PMP)

Suitable applicants will be asked to participate in a four-week Pre-Medicine Program (PMP) which helps UNSW assess a person's readiness for studying Medicine at UNSW. The PMP will be held in Sydney at UNSW from **Monday 23rd November to Friday 18th December 2009**. Applicants will be invited to participate on the basis of three criteria: performance at interview; academic capability/capacity to achieve with in the UNSW Medicine Program; and identification with an Indigenous community. In exceptional circumstances, exemption from the PMP may be granted.

ACCEPTANCE INTO MEDICINE

Students who complete the Pre-Medicine Program (PMP) must do so at a level deemed satisfactory by the UNSW Faculty of Medicine. Acceptance into Medicine at UNSW is based on a combination of criteria and includes overall performance and motivation, academic capability and a commitment to Indigenous health and community issues. Final selection for UNSW Indigenous Entry into the Medical Scheme will be made once the program has been completed. *Please note:* Satisfactory performance in the Pre Medicine Program does not guarantee a place in the UNSW Medicine Program.

ASSUMED KNOWLEDGE	
<p>There are no prerequisites for entry into Medicine at UNSW, however, there is assumed knowledge in English. Assumed knowledge is a level of achievement in the HSC (or equivalent) considered desirable for successful study in a University Program or first year course. Students who have not completed chemistry in their high school or undergraduate studies may be advised during the Pre Medicine Program that they will need to complete bridging courses before they enter into the UNSW Medical Program.</p>	
SUPPORT	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A number of scholarships are available. For more information, refer to the UNSW website http://www.scholarships.unsw.edu.au 2. The Rural Clinical School and Nura Gili, Indigenous Programs at UNSW will coordinate and provide ongoing academic and personal support to all Indigenous medical students at UNSW. The Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) is available at UNSW 	
STUDENT OBLIGATION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accept the support of Nura Gili, the Faculty of Medicine and the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA). 2. Support the activities of the Rural Clinical School in the UNSW Faculty of Medicine where the student feels able, such as promotion of the Indigenous Entry into Medicine Scheme to high school students, during their studies at the UNSW. 	
APPLICATION and SELECTION PROCESS	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Send the attached application form to BJ Newton at Nura Gili Indigenous Programs by 30th September 2009. 2. Apply through the NSW University Admission Centre (UAC) by 30th September 2009. For more information please telephone UAC directly on (02) 9752 0200 or visit their website: http://www.uac.edu.au 3. Applicants selected for interview notified early October 2009 4. Interviews conducted mid October 2009 5. Applicants successful at interview advised by late October 2009 of progression to UNSW Pre-Medicine Program 6. Pre Medicine Program held Monday 23rd November to Friday 18th December 2009 	
CONTACTS	
<p><i>For further information on Nura Gili and it's student support programs contact:</i></p> <p>BJ Newton, Student Liaison Officer Nura Gili Indigenous Programs UNSW SYDNEY NSW 2052 Telephone: 02 9385 3926 Fax: 02 9385 3534 Email: b.newton@unsw.edu.au Website: http://www.nuragili.unsw.edu.au</p>	<p><i>For specific information about studying Medicine at UNSW, contact:</i></p> <p>Genevieve McAuliffe Rural Clinical School - Sydney Campus Faculty of Medicine UNSW SYDNEY NSW 2052 Telephone: 02 9385 3210 Fax: 02 9385 1970 Email: g.mcauliffe@unsw.edu.au Website: http://indigenous.med.unsw.edu.au</p>

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2010 Application Form

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

The details we ask you to provide assist us to select applicants for interview, to contact you and to link the application with other parts of the selection process. No information will be passed on to any third party.

- Limit your application to 20 pages.
- Pages must be securely fastened (**no** presentation folders or bound documents please).
- Send photocopies of documents only.
- No additional information is to be sent after the closing date (unless requested).
- Faxed applications are not accepted.
- Late applications will not be accepted. Please use Express Post if sending an application from a rural area

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

Family Name: _____ First Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Male Female (please tick)

Postal Address: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: () _____ Mobile: _____ Fax: () _____

Email: _____

2. APPLICATION DETAILS

UAC Number: _____ Predicted UAI Score: _____ (2009 HSC Students only)

3. EDUCATIONAL HISTORY (LAST 10 YEARS ONLY)

Years of Study	Name of School/University/College	Course(s) undertaken	Completed? (Y/N)

4. WORK EXPERIENCE Include any experience that may be relevant to Medicine

Years	Name of Employer	Main Duties

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

	Included (please tick)
1. One short essay: (no more than 500 words) that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Outlines your reasons for wanting to do Medicine▪ Outlines what area of Medicine you are interested in▪ Describes any health or community related experience you have undertaken and, if relevant, describes how this experience has influenced your decision to study Medicine.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Copies of Year 11 School reports and the half-yearly report of Year 12 (if completing the Higher School Certificate, or equivalent in other states, in 2009).	<input type="checkbox"/>
For non-High School Applicants Copies of HSC UAI (or equivalent) and subject results/academic results from university course(s) or any other evidence of academic achievement.	
3. Proof of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background in the form of a signed letter from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander organisation, including the organisation's common seal.	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. DECLARATION

- I am of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background.
- I believe I have provided truthful answers to all these questions, in my own words.
- I have included all necessary documentation as indicated in section 5.

I am / am not* aware of any reason that might potentially restrict my ability to obtain registered medical student status with the NSW Medical Board** or practise as a doctor in future. (*Delete one option)

Signature: _____ Date: ___ / ___ /09

**Please Note:

Working as a doctor may be both physically and emotionally demanding. You may be exposed to stresses and diseases that could make your life difficult. If you have any concerns about these issues or if you are aware of any reason (such as a chronic illness, a disability or a criminal conviction) or any impairment that might make it difficult for you to gain medical student registration with the NSW Medical Board, or to practise as a doctor after graduating from UNSW, we urge you to ask to speak about this in confidence with one of our independent Faculty advisers. This person will play no part in the selection process. Please **Contact Dr Suzy Allman on 9385 1931**.

Such confidential matters might, for example, include a previous illness (especially chronic illness or potential infectious illness), disability or criminal conviction. It is preferable that you consider these matters as a part of your thinking through the decision of applying to enter into the study of Medicine.

POST APPLICATION TO:

Nura Gili Indigenous Programs
University of New South Wales
Sydney, NSW 2052
Attention: BJ Newton

CLOSING DATE: 30th SEPTEMBER 2009