The University of Queensland School of Medicine
Ochsner Clinical School
A New Global Medical Education Paradigm

The University of Queensland School of Medicine Ochsner Clinical School offers qualified American premedical students a unique opportunity to pursue the MD degree, leading to participation in the US Match, in an academically superb international setting. Students in the UQ School of Medicine Ochsner cohort receive a world-class medical education at The University of Queensland School of Medicine in Brisbane, Australia, and at The UQ Ochsner Clinical School in New Orleans, Louisiana.

UQ Ochsner offers an integrated, global medical education on two continents providing students with a distinct advantage. They receive a first-rate international educational experience that offers clinical training in a highly acclaimed US academic medical center, ranked one of the nation’s top 15 teaching hospitals by Thomson Reuters. Additionally, if they choose, students are afforded the advantage of pursuing world-class research on both campuses.
The Medical School Mission

The School provides a medical education which aims to instill in its graduates: enhanced critical reasoning and communication skills; a highly developed awareness of their ethical and professional responsibilities to individual patients and to the community; the skills to cope with the humanistic and technical challenges of medicine; a life-long commitment to continuing education and an ability to contribute to the continuing evolution of medical knowledge.
The Program

The Doctor of Medicine (MD) at The University of Queensland School of Medicine is a four-year program that students begin after having graduated from college or university with a Bachelor’s, or higher, degree. The MD curriculum focuses on excellence in clinical competence, leadership in a range of areas, research skills, and global medicine.

Working in partnership with a dedicated community of scholars and clinicians, both domestically and internationally, The University of Queensland School of Medicine promotes excellence in medical education by providing integrated case-based/PBL training, complemented by lectures, research methodologies, labs and clinical coaching sessions for its student doctors.

The curriculum has been planned to capture the enthusiasm of its entrants and to help them develop into highly skilled medical graduates capable of entering the wide variety of career options open to them. The four-year curriculum may be viewed as a spiral in which students repeat the study of a subject, each time at a higher level of difficulty and in greater depth.

During Phase I, years one and two, students learn alongside students from Australia and 25 other countries within a Problem Based Learning Curriculum (PBL). Students are provided with an extensive support program for USMLE Step One beginning in year one. (Details are available on the website at www.mededpath.org.)

During Phase II, years three and four, students attend the UQ-Ochsner Clinical School at the Ochsner Health Center in New Orleans, where they pursue their clinical rotations, guided by the clinical faculty. The Ochsner clinical faculty has been training American medical students for more than 60 years. As part of the UQ-Ochsner international experience, students return to Australia for a single rotation in the fourth year.

The faculty and deans also advise each student concerning the student’s choice of specialty and how best to achieve their future goals. Students may join one or more Academic Interest Groups to meet with faculty and fellow students to explore different specialties and sub-specialties in depth.

The faculty also advises students about how best to prepare to be competitive applicants for the Match and how to select potential residency programs. The faculty and deans assist and advise each student about his or her plans and prospects for a match, and students participate in Match Day. The Ochsner Health System has 262 residencies and 23 Academic Training positions to offer on a competitive basis.
Problem Based Learning

Problem-based learning (PBL) is a key component of the program. Students work cooperatively in small groups of about 10 on a series of carefully planned patient-centered problems. Each group examines a problem, designed to highlight principles and issues in health and disease. Early patient contact and clinical reasoning skills, while working with a faculty member whose role is that of a facilitator and expert resource, are incorporated into the PBL curriculum to develop high levels of clinical expertise and to instill both medical knowledge and the ability to be a continual and continuous learner.

Key features of the program include:
- Simultaneous learning of basic, clinical, biological and social sciences
- Teaching of communication skills
- Incorporation of ethics and professional development as an integral part of the curriculum
- Incorporation of information technology and computing skills to ensure that graduates are able to utilize technological advances to improve their learning skills and knowledge acquisition

Clinical Coaching Sessions

The Clinical Skills 1 course is designed to develop and demonstrate knowledge and skills in history-taking, patient examination, communication, clinical reasoning and procedural skills and is conducted in weekly small group tutorials led by a clinical coach. Students are encouraged to develop and demonstrate the basic clinical skills that are integral to medical consultations. Students cover the five major body systems over the year in Clinical Skills 1 and 2. Clinical Communication Skills concentrates on the process of communicating with patients using history taking as the context. A bio-psychosocial model underpins the theory that the students learn and then demonstrate.

Clinical Practice 2 builds on the skills learned in the previous courses and is facilitated by exposing the students to real patients both under supervision and in their own time. Students’ skills are developed to enable them to take a focused history, perform a focused examination and then use clinical reasoning to establish both provisional and differential diagnoses.
Teaching and Learning Activities are planned around 11 academic disciplines

- Anesthesiology and Critical Care
- General Practice, also known as Family Practice
- Medical Education
- Radiology
- Medicine
- Molecular and Cellular Pathology
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Pediatrics and Child Health
- Psychiatry
- Rural and Remote Medicine
- Surgery

For a detailed description of the MD curriculum, please visit the website at www.mededpath.org.
Research at UQ

The University of Queensland supports more than 60 active research groups of world-class researchers at the forefront of their fields. UQ has numerous research institutes including:

Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology
Institute for Molecular Bioscience
Mater Research Institute
Queensland Brain Institute
The University of Queensland Diamantina Institute
Translational Research Institute

Research at Ochsner Health System

Research at Ochsner Health System encompasses translational, clinical, and health services research. Each contributes to the development of new treatment modalities and processes of care to better serve the patients of each community.

Laboratory research at Ochsner is conducted in the Institute for Translational Research and is currently focused in the areas of cancer, kidney disease, nerve injury, organ transplant and infectious disease.

Clinical trials offer our patients alternative therapies critical particularly for those who are refractory to standard of care. Clinical Research is conducted largely through the Institute for Clinical Research (ICR) and the Clinical Trials Unit at Ochsner-Baptist (CTU). Ochsner currently has 430 active clinical trials with more than 4300 participating subjects. Trials are offered in diverse disciplines including surgical and nonsurgical areas, with predominance in our Centers of Excellence including Cardiology, Oncology, Neurosciences, Maternal-Fetal Health, and Transplantation. Approximately 60 clinical research coordinators and nurses assist our physician-scientists in the process of conducting trials and enrolling patients.

Health services research fosters close collaboration among multidisciplinary investigators, system administrators and healthcare providers to support implementation and rigorous evaluation of quality improvement initiatives that foster value-based healthcare and evidence-based practice. Current studies focus on chronic disease management (hypertension, diabetes), health service delivery redesign and health information technology assessments.
**Student Organizations**

**The University of Queensland Medical Society and Ochsner Medical Student Association**

UQMS is an independent organization that aims to serve the nearly 1,600 enrolled UQ medical students. Through its advocacy and community activities, the UQMS will ensure its members graduate with more than just a degree. UQMS organizes orientations, numerous social events, and extra-curricular activities for students at the School of Medicine throughout the year. Please go to [www.uqms.org](http://www.uqms.org). The School of Medicine has a strong mutually supportive relationship with The University of Queensland Medical Society (UQMS).

**Ochsner Medical Student Association (OMSA)**

OMSA is a student advocacy organization run by the students in the UQ-Ochsner cohort. OMSA assigns each incoming student a second-year Student Mentor who will be a guide and be a resource to a first-year student. Academics, research, community outreach, and social events are a few of the facets of student life in which OMSA is involved. In essence, OMSA’s mission is to help its students make the most of their education at UQ Ochsner and to prepare them for US residency training following graduation.

**Application Requirements**

**Grade Point Average (GPA)**

Minimum requirements for consideration are a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree earned within the last ten years, a B average, and minimum MCAT scores.

**MCAT Scores**

For the class entering in February 2015, the minimum MCAT score for accepted students was 26. This minimum is subject to change annually. The MCAT exam has been redesigned and there is a new scoring system. When information about the minimum score for the new MCAT is available, it will be posted on the website at [www.mededpath.org](http://www.mededpath.org).

**Interviews**

When a student’s application is complete and deemed to have met the minimum standards for that entry year, the student will be invited for an interview, either in New Orleans at the UQ Ochsner Clinical School campus or via Skype. Information about the interview may be found on the website at [www.mededpath.org](http://www.mededpath.org).

Admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis; seats are offered as applicants are accepted. It is recommended that interested students submit their applications as early as possible. Students with questions about application timing should contact MedEdPath at info@mededpath.org.

**Academic Calendar**

The University of Queensland runs on the Australian academic calendar. Early February is the beginning of Term I for the School of Medicine—it is then summer in Australia. July is the beginning of Term II. Summer vacation runs from late November to late January. There is a brief winter break in late June/early July for two weeks—it is then winter in Australia.
About The University

The University of Queensland (UQ) is one of Australia’s premier learning and research institutions, internationally renowned for its highly awarded teaching staff, world-acclaimed researchers and superior campus facilities and services.

UQ’s longstanding reputation for quality is reinforced by affiliations with prestigious national and international groups, including the Australian Group of Eight (Go8) and Universitas 21. Internationally, the University ranks in the world’s top 40 in a ranking compiled in by the prestigious Times Higher Education Supplement. It also consistently ranks as one of the best universities in the Asia-Pacific region by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University’s Academic Ranking of World Universities.

UQ welcomes students from around the world to a friendly community of dedicated students and leading academics. The University of Queensland includes six faculties, 33 schools, and 420 degree programs. A range of services, including international student advisors, counseling and disability support, learning assistance, and IT support are available, as well as assistance in finding accommodations and airport pick-up to students free of charge.
Ochsner Health Center, New Orleans

About Ochsner Health Systems

Ochsner, one of the largest non-university based physician training centers in the United States, is a non-profit, academic, multi-specialty, healthcare delivery system dedicated to patient care, research and education. Ochsner’s faculty has trained American medical students for over 60 years. The UQ Ochsner Clinical School is part of the Ochsner Health System, which is comprised of 11 hospitals and over 42 health centers, utilizing 950+ physicians in over 90 medical specialties and subspecialties. Ochsner boasts more than 400 clinical research trials annually. Ochsner’s awards and recognitions include:

- *Thomson Reuters* ranked Ochsner in the top 15 US Teaching Hospitals
- Health Grades ranked Ochsner among the top 5% of hospitals in the U.S. for exceptional patient care
- *US News* ranked Ochsner in the top 50 in the country in 11 specialties
MedEdPath

MedEdPath is the exclusive educational representative for The University of Queensland School of Medicine - Ochsner Clinical School. For more information, please contact an advisor:

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