UBC FACULTY OF MEDICINE
MD Undergraduate Program Admissions
The MD Undergraduate Program prepares students to meet the health challenges of tomorrow. Our learners receive the training necessary for careers founded on evidence-based practice, critical reflection, lifelong learning and an ability to deliver service in a highly professional manner. We believe these skills will enable our graduates to transform the communities they serve and improve the health of the population.

In this brochure we hope to introduce you to our program and help you navigate the application process.

A Province-wide approach

Our program is designed to educate and train students in communities across BC where there is an urgent need for more doctors, particularly in rural, northern and island areas. A total of 288 medical school positions are now available across four regional medical programs:

• 192 students in the Vancouver Fraser Medical Program (VFMP); based at UBC’s Point Grey campus
• 32 students in the Southern Medical Program (SMP); based at UBC’s Okanagan campus
• 32 students in the Island Medical Program (IMP); based at the University of Victoria
• 32 students in the Northern Medical Program (NMP); based at the University of Northern British Columbia

All students share the same curriculum, and all earn a UBC medical degree. Graduates then proceed with postgraduate/residency training ranging from 2 to 7 years – depending on the speciality – to become a fully-licensed physician.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The Faculty of Medicine is committed to a policy of inclusiveness, equity and transparency. We seek well-rounded students with excellent cognitive and non-cognitive abilities from a variety of backgrounds, who are motivated, mature, and have a genuine concern for human welfare.

Because of the urgent need for more doctors in every region of the province, particularly in rural, northern and island areas, we encourage those who want to practice in rural, remote, or underserved communities to apply. Students with disabilities are encouraged to apply if they have the skills and abilities to successfully meet the core requirements of a medical degree.

Although all MD students study the same curriculum and complete the same program requirements, the MD Undergraduate Program offers several pathways for entry, and each pathway may require applicants to provide additional information. These include:

Northern, Rural, and Remote Admissions

Those interested in studying in northern, rural or remote communities are encouraged to consider the Northern and Southern Medical Programs. Applicants must complete the Remote and Rural Suitability Survey, which is used to help determine the suitability of applicants for the Northern Medical Program and a select number of positions with the Southern Medical Program; experiences in rural/remote/northern/Aboriginal settings, along with community ties and activities, factor into this assessment.

Aboriginal Admissions

Applicants who self-identify as Aboriginal will be considered under the Aboriginal Admissions Program. This requires supplementary documentation and an additional interview. A number of resources are available for Aboriginals interested in medicine. To learn more, contact James Andrew, Aboriginal Student Initiatives Coordinator, at aboriginal.md@ubc.ca or 604.875.8298 (ext. 68946).

MD/PhD Admissions

The combined MD/PhD program is a 7-year program offered jointly by the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and is designed for students who want to pursue a career as clinician scientists. Information on the program and application procedure is available online at: mdprogram.med.ubc.ca/mdphd.

All applications are submitted electronically through the online application system.

Note: Information presented is based on the current admissions cycle (2016/17) and subject to change for subsequent cycles.
WHAT ARE THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS?

Admission to the UBC Faculty of Medicine MD Undergraduate program is very competitive. Preference is given to BC residents with only 10% (29 seats) of the annual medical school seats available for out-of-province applicants.

To be eligible to apply and enter the MD Undergraduate Program, an applicant:

- Must be a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada
- Must have a minimum of 90 university-transferable credits (with grades) completed by April 30 in the year of program entry
- Must have a competitive Overall (or Adjusted) Academic Average to receive a full file review consisting of a full academic evaluation, a non-academic evaluation and where appropriate, an Aboriginal Essay and/or Rural Remote Suitability Score
- Must have a valid Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) with minimum scores
- Must have a minimum of 6 credits of prerequisite courses (or equivalents) in English

Courses in Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Biochemistry are strongly recommended, but not required. Please visit our website for a comprehensive overview of admission requirements and timelines.

HOW ARE CANDIDATES EVALUATED?

Our students come from all walks of life, including urban and rural backgrounds, science and humanities degrees, as well as all ages. This diversity makes the UBC Faculty of Medicine MD Program a fascinating place to learn and grow. Academic scores are critical, but we believe that a strong non-academic background is equally important to demonstrate an applicant’s suitability to become a doctor. Applications are evaluated based on the following criteria:

ACADEMIC: Overall (or Adjusted) Academic Average, MCAT score

NON-ACADEMIC: Report of Non-Academic Experiences, Employment History, Research Publications, Interview (when offered), Three References (Academic, Community, and Professional), Aboriginal Essay and/or Rural Remote Suitability Score (RRSS) if applicable

Non-Academic activities and achievements are evaluated using the following categories: leadership, service ethic, capacity to work with others, diversity of experience, and high performance in an area of human endeavor.

Generally, higher scores are assigned to activities that demonstrate significant levels of responsibilities, initiative, and commitment. Intentional community involvement is valued and can encompass a variety of experiences within and outside of the health care setting, in paid or volunteer positions.

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Application Deadline: Mid-September
MCAT Deadline: October 1

File evaluation: September to December
Invitations sent out in early December
Interviews held early February
Supplemental Application Forms Due: Mid-February

Final selection process: mid-February to early May
Offers sent out mid-May; $1,000 deposit required upon acceptance
Orientation week at UBC in Vancouver late August
HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED?

Our selection process is designed to choose well-rounded students who meet the goals of our distributed program. Students are expected to perform well in the rigorous curriculum and case-based learning format and balance and enrich their academic experience with strong non-academic skills and interests.

Once applicants complete the on-line application, their files are evaluated to determine interview offers.

Interviews are typically held in February, and are conducted in the multiple mini interview format (MMI) where each candidate rotates through 11 different interview stations. Following interviews, applicants submit their site preference by ranking sites (e.g. VFMP, IMP, SMP, NMP) in order of their preference.

Once site preferences are submitted, the final stage of selection begins. All aspects of the application are rigorously reviewed and evaluated, leading to a final list of candidates who will receive offers.

Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission to the program as the number of qualified applicants significantly exceeds the number of available positions. However, if you are a qualified candidate who is not admitted, you are welcome to reapply in any subsequent year, and may do so without prejudice.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- The Online Application System can be accessed through the MD Admissions website. There you will also find a help guide, which provides information on how to complete the process.
- Offers to the UBC program are site specific and are binding; applicants are encouraged to thoroughly consider all options and only rank sites at which they would be willing to live and study.
- Educational expenses (on average) cost $20,000 for each of the four years of the MD Undergraduate Program; excluding accommodation and living expenses. Information on financial planning and assistance can be found at: mdprogram.med.ubc.ca/student-resources/financial-support/