University Medical Education and Training

The Medical Education and Training (MET) factsheets provide a comprehensive picture of medical education and training in Australia as well as the supply of medical practitioners from overseas. ‘MET3’ is the third data collection in the MET series bringing together the latest information from a range of sources.

FACTSHEETS ARE AVAILABLE ON:

**University Medical Education and Training**

*Data provided by Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand* – includes medical students enrolled in university training at accredited medical schools in undergraduate or postgraduate degrees. This also includes the number of graduates and projections on the numbers expected to graduate.

**Prevocational Medical Education and Training**

*Data provided by State and Territory Health Departments* – includes the number of prevocational junior doctors from internship to postgraduate year 2 across Australia.

**Vocational Medical Education and Training**

*Data provided by the Medical Colleges and the Australian Government Department of Health* – includes specialist training through an accredited specialist medical college. It also includes new and total Fellows of each of the medical colleges.

**International Supply of Medical Practitioners**

*Data provided by the Department of Home Affairs and AHPRA* – includes doctors and specialists who were trained overseas and their visa subclass, education level, countries in which studies were undertaken and pathways for assessment and recognition in Australia.

**Quality, Distribution and Access to programs**

*Data provided by Australian Government Department of Health* – includes Special Purpose Training Programs under section 3GA of the Health Insurance Act 1973.

The MET dataset is made available online each year [https://hwd.health.gov.au/datatool.html](https://hwd.health.gov.au/datatool.html)

University medical education and training

In Australia, university medical schools accredited by the Australian Medical Council provide professional entry-level medical education. In 2018, there were 19 universities with accredited medical schools in Australia. In the past, most medical doctors completed a five or six-year Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree. However, in recent years an increasing number of four-year (graduate-entry) programs have been introduced.

From 2017, most medical schools have moved to a Doctor of Medicine or equivalent program. With the combination of graduate entry and Doctor of Medicine programs, around 60% of medical schools[1] in Australia require seven years of tertiary study to attain a professional entry-level medical qualification, which accounts for around 60% of commencing domestic students. This change is consistent with trends in other health professional programs moving into postgraduate courses.

[1] There are currently 19 universities involving 20 medical schools. Newcastle/UNE is considered one medical school.

Fee type of medical students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee type of medical students</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth-supported</td>
<td>13,060</td>
<td>76.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>HECS-HELP only</td>
<td>9,423</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMP Scheme</td>
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<td>MRBS Scheme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fee-paying</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic</td>
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<td>6.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>2,768</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Medical Students enrolled in Australian universities

- 6 year course (21.9% of all students)
- 5 year course (25.8% of all students)
- 4 year course (52.8% of all students)

Medical Graduates

- 3,475 medical graduates
- 87.1% (3,025) of medical graduates are domestic students
- +11.7% South Australia experienced the highest growth of medical graduates with an 11.7% increase in numbers
- 51.8% of medical graduates are female
Medical graduates by state 2012–2017

The projected number of medical graduates

From 2016 to 2017, the number of actual medical graduates decreased from 3,569 to 3,475.

It is projected that there will be **3,713 medical graduates in 2018**, with a **decrease anticipated in 2019 to 3,686.**

Projections calculated by Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (MDANZ). These figures are based on current and planned enrolments. Attrition has not been factored in to these figures.