

WESTERN SYDNEY  
UNIVERSITY



Pathways to Medicine for  
Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Islanders

2016



# WHY STUDY AT WESTERN SYDNEY?

## → OUR STUDENTS SIT AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO

Our student-centred approach offers you the choice of on-campus, online and blended study options combined with work-integrated learning. Through work experience placements, internships and volunteering opportunities, you'll get the real-life experience, practical skills and knowledge you'll need for your future career.

## → OUR STUDENTS ARE PARTNERS IN LEARNING

Unlike the traditional lecturer-down approach, our pioneering model of co-created learning treats our students as partners in their education.

## → OUR CURRICULUM PREPARES YOU FOR TODAY'S WORLD

We work with our community, business partners and industry leaders to develop course content that meets the needs of employers, the jobs of the future and responds to the challenges of a global workplace.

## → WE OFFER UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITIES TO OUR STUDENTS

Western Sydney University understands the importance of nurturing and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. We offer financial and study skills support to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

The School of Medicine on Campbelltown campus also offers state-of-the-art learning spaces and facilities for medical training.

# Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery (Mbbs)

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER APPLICANTS

### ABOUT MBBS

The School of Medicine at Western Sydney University recognises the large Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Western Sydney and throughout rural and regional Australia and the current shortage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors. Since 2007, the University has offered a Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and has committed to increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders studying medicine.

The University's medical program is situated in a state-of-the-art building at Campbelltown campus. With its modern features and great facilities, the School of Medicine is an ideal place for MBBS students to undertake their studies towards becoming a doctor. It also offers students a healthy balance between theory and practical work. All students will undertake clinical placements in metropolitan and rural hospitals to help increase their skills and familiarity with medicine so they can enter the workforce with confidence.

The Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery can also be combined with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Medical Research.

### TUITION

Western Sydney University supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with their studies through the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS). The program enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to receive individual or group tuition with qualified tutors. Students studying MBBS are entitled to two hours tutoring for each subject per week and five additional hours during the examination period.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying MBBS are entitled to apply for a range of scholarships that help with the cost of study and accommodation. Many of the scholarships vary and are suited to particular students.

Scholarships are based on a student's financial need, equity, academic ability, and leadership potential. Many of the scholarships offered at Western Sydney University are not only funded by the University, but by industries and community bodies.

Make sure to check the scholarships website at [westernsydney.edu.au/scholarships](http://westernsydney.edu.au/scholarships)

### THE BADANAMI CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

The Badanami Centre, which was established in 2006, is an example of the University's commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The purpose of the centre is to offer support and encouragement to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. With offices located on each campus the Badanami centre offers a range of services and support to help guide students through their studies. For students studying MBBS, the Badanami Centre can offer information on study skills courses, counselling, computer access 24/7 and student support.

### WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY RESIDENCES

Western Sydney University has purpose-built student accommodation on Campbelltown campus.

Website address: [residences.westernsydney.edu.au/campbelltown\\_accommodation](http://residences.westernsydney.edu.au/campbelltown_accommodation)



# How to Apply

The School of Medicine strongly encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to apply for the Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery and to pursue a career in medicine with Western Sydney University. It is a great opportunity for students to help benefit the health of all Australians including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Western Sydney and rural Australia. To be eligible for the MBBS, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants must have completed the NSW HSC or equivalent.

It is also not necessary but encouraged for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to lodge an application with the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) and sit the Undergraduate Medical and Health Science Admissions Test (UMAT). If interviewed you address the most important criteria, which is your passion and desire to become a doctor.

The panel consists of:

- the Dean
- an Academic
- a community member
- Indigenous Program Officer (IPO).

In general there will be questions about motivation, educational experience and aspirations. The panel will take all of these factors into account when making an offer.

### For further information contact

Cris Carriage  
Indigenous Programs  
**02 4620 3637**  
[c.carriage@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:c.carriage@westernsydney.edu.au)

## THERE ARE A FEW STEPS ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER APPLICANTS MUST FOLLOW TO APPLY FOR MBBS AT WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.

# 1

### MBBS REGISTRATION FORM - (COMPULSORY STEP)

All applicants apply direct to the School of Medicine website and must complete the online Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery registration form, which is compulsory and ensures that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander is identified. The form will be available from August and must be completed and received at the School of Medicine by the end of September.

The MBBS registration form can be found at: [westernsydney.edu.au/medicine/som/courses/applying\\_for\\_medicine/](http://westernsydney.edu.au/medicine/som/courses/applying_for_medicine/)

# 2

### UNIVERSITIES ADMISSIONS CENTRE (UAC)

It is not compulsory but encouraged for Indigenous applicants to lodge an application with the Universities Admissions Centre NSW and ACT (UAC). For students that wish to lodge an application, they must abide by UAC's strict guidelines and dates for the lodgement of all applications. For more information: [uac.edu.au](http://uac.edu.au) or phone: **02 9752 0200** or **1900 957 500**.

# 3

### UMAT - (NOT COMPULSORY)

The Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admissions Test (UMAT) is a test developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). The purpose of the test is to assist with the selection of students into medicine, health science and dentistry degrees at an undergraduate level. However, at Western Sydney University, we recognise the need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors in Western Sydney and rural Australia, so it is not compulsory for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants wishing to undertake a Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery at Western to sit UMAT. However, if you wish to sit UMAT, you can, as UMAT can help you decide whether medicine is the right path for you. UMAT has strict guidelines and deadlines, so we recommend that those wishing to sit the test, check the UMAT website for details: [umat.acer.edu.au](http://umat.acer.edu.au)

# Leaders in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Education

**Western Sydney University's School of Medicine received recognition by the Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) network at their annual conference in New Zealand in November 2011.**

Cris Carriage, Indigenous Program Officer, and Jenny Akers, Rural Program Manager proudly accepted the award in the category of 'Leading Innovation in Community Engagement' for the Year 5 Indigenous Health attachment.

The innovative program is undertaken by all Year 5 students in a five week attachment with Aboriginal Medical Services across New South Wales and in metropolitan Sydney. Western Sydney University also has rural clinical schools located in Bathurst and Lismore where students undertake their attachments during their placement.

Cris Carriage, Indigenous Program Officer says, 'I am delighted to have been involved in the development of the program which puts students at the heart of the Aboriginal community to experience Aboriginal health in urban, rural and remote settings.'



The program has a number of key learning outcomes for students, including a broad understanding of primary health care, the many roles an Aboriginal Medical Service plays in the community, plus the importance of community involvement that contributes to health care delivery and services.

The award-winning program has been developed with the advice, support and encouragement of the Aboriginal Medical Services Partners and through the sheer commitment of School of Medicine staff over a number of years. The strong investment made by the School of Medicine to establish and develop relationships with the partners is providing invaluable knowledge to the students who are now learning about, and contributing to, the work of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and the communities they serve



## IMPORTANT DATES

### 2015

#### September

Campus Experience Tours

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Future Students Information Evenings  
15th Campbelltown campus  
17th Penrith campus

### 2016

#### January

6th Course Decision Day

#### July

Parent Information Days

#### August

28th Open Day

More information:  
[westernsydney.edu.au/events](http://westernsydney.edu.au/events)

## GET CONNECTED

#### Future students

[westernsydney.edu.au/future\\_students](http://westernsydney.edu.au/future_students)

#### Events

[westernsydney.edu.au/events](http://westernsydney.edu.au/events)

#### Facebook

[facebook.com/westernsydneyu](https://facebook.com/westernsydneyu)

#### Twitter

[twitter.com/westernsydneyu](https://twitter.com/westernsydneyu)

#### Instagram

#westernsydneyu

#### Call

1300 897 669

#### Email

[study@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:study@westernsydney.edu.au)

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[study@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:study@westernsydney.edu.au)

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