



7 August 2017

The Directors of the Australian Medical Council have accredited Macquarie University's new medical program until 31 March 2023.

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) is the national accreditation body for the medical profession. In an accreditation assessment the AMC assesses the medical program against the *Standards for Assessment and Accreditation of Primary Medical Programs by the Australian Medical Council*. It sets up an expert accreditation team, which reviews documentation provided by the medical school, and completes a program of site visits and meetings.

In 2016, Macquarie University, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences sought accreditation of its proposed medical program to commence in 2018.

Macquarie University proposed a four-year graduate-entry Masters Degree (Extended) leading to a Doctor of Medicine (MD). An annual student intake of 60 fee-paying students (40 domestic places and 20 international) is proposed. The University did not seek any medical Commonwealth Supported Places.

As a new medical program, Macquarie University had to first demonstrate a capacity to implement the medical program and that that program was likely to meet the accreditation standards.

The University has proposed that students have a significant period of international education, including core clinical placements and selective opportunities at the Apollo Health City Hospital in Hyderabad, India. The AMC required the University demonstrate that it satisfy specific additional criteria concerning an offshore program. These criteria require that students undertake a period of clinical experience in Australia, and comparability between the offshore and onshore program requirements. The proposed program also had to satisfy the purpose of AMC accreditation, namely producing graduates competent to practise safely and effectively under supervision as interns in Australia and New Zealand, and with an appropriate foundation for lifelong learning and further training in any branch of medicine.

In March and April 2017, the AMC's accreditation team completed its visits to teaching sites in Hyderabad, India and Sydney. The team met University and Faculty staff, clinical school staff and clinicians, and representatives of teaching health services

The AMC accreditation report on the program commends Macquarie University and the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences for the commitment to the implementation of a highly distinctive MD program, which is embedded in Australia's first fully integrated University hospital and academic health care centre. The distinctive international dimension of the program is also noted.

The AMC accreditation report also indicated that the program is well-designed to offer an educational experience which links learning and translational research to clinical activities. The Faculty's partnerships with Apollo Health Group, the MindSpot Clinic and the Northern Sydney Local Health District will provide valuable clinical experiences. Students will be exposed to a wide mix of patients and volume of clinical cases while undertaking clinical rotations at Apollo Health.

The program will include online communities of practice to facilitate comparative case-based tutorials between students undertaking parallel clinical placements in similar disciplines in India and Australia in Year 3. This approach will facilitate learning opportunities, including conversations regarding differences in health care systems, and clinical presentations and management.

On the basis of the accreditation report, the AMC Directors have determined that the Macquarie University, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and its medical program meets the approved accreditation standards.

The AMC has accredited the Macquarie University, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences four-year graduate-entry Masters Degree (Extended) Doctor of Medicine (MD) program until 31 March 2023, subject to conditions and a follow-up assessment by an accreditation team in 2019. The 2017 accreditation report is available [here](#).

The AMC requires that newly accredited medical programs submit annual progress reports to the AMC outlining the progress in implementation of the program, and addressing areas where conditions have been set on the accreditation.

In early progress reports, the AMC requires the Faculty to provide finalised information concerning the implementation of monitoring and evaluation, and specific learning objectives for the early years of the program. The AMC will follow up its assessment with a visit in 2019 to look in detail at the implementation of years 3 and 4 of the four-year program.

The AMC presents accreditation decisions and reports to the Medical Board of Australia to make a decision on the approval of the programs of study for registration purposes. The Medical Board of Australia details its decisions about accredited programs of study in communiqués published on its [website](#) following each meeting. On 26 July 2017, the Medical Board of Australia approved the Macquarie University medical program for the purpose of providing qualifications for registration in the medical profession.

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