

## Accreditation of The Faculty of Medicine The University of New South Wales

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The AMC is the national body responsible for the accreditation of medical schools in Australia and New Zealand. Medical schools are accredited to ensure that they maintain an acceptable standard of undergraduate medical education. Graduates of AMC-accredited medical schools can be registered as medical practitioners in any Australian state or territory. The AMC maintains a program of ongoing periodic assessment visits to all medical schools to ensure that curricula are in step with contemporary international standards in medical education.

The Faculty of Medicine at the University of New South Wales has developed an entirely new and innovative six-year, three phase undergraduate medicine program. The three phases consist of scenario-based learning, practice-based learning and independent reflective learning. The learning process emphasises student autonomy, learning from experience, collaborative learning, and the development of adult teacher-learner relationships. Assessment is outcome-based, requiring students to demonstrate capability in a range of medicine-specific as well as more generic capabilities.

Four **domains** organise the program throughout the three phases. Three of these domains represent the stages of the human life cycle, the fourth represents the environment in which life exists. The domains are:

- Beginnings, Growth and Development
- Health Maintenance
- Ageing and Endings
- Society and Health

An accreditation visit was made by an Australian Medical Council team in 2003. The Accreditation Team Report to the Medical School Accreditation Committee of the AMC made the following comment:

"The Faculty of Medicine, in partnership with its affiliated teaching hospitals and other Faculties in the University, is breaking new ground in their plans for the new curriculum. The changes are guided by a renewed definition of graduate outcomes which was the result of a thorough consultation process with a range of academic, professional and community groups. Introduction of some of the proposed changes into the current curriculum allows students in the existing course to engage with the new curriculum and makes the transition easier and more rapid."

Following consideration of the Report, the AMC Council resolved to grant the Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery UNSW, accreditation until 31 December 2011.