



13 December 2016

## **The Directors of the Australian Medical Council grant accreditation to the Curtin Medical School Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery medical program until 31 March 2023**

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) is the national accreditation body for the medical profession. The AMC's *Procedures for Assessment and Accreditation of Medical Schools by the Australian Medical Council 2015* provide for the assessment of new medical programs.

In establishing a new school, the education provider must submit a Stage 1 submission to the AMC. The AMC assesses the Stage 1 submission to determine if the planned program of study is likely to comply with the approved accreditation standards and if the education provider has demonstrated that it is able to implement the program.

The AMC will only assess a new medical program if the education provider has the support of the relevant state and national authorities concerning student places and clinical facilities. The AMC does not make a decision on the number of medical training places. Curtin University received federal and state government approval in May 2015.

In 2015, Curtin University, Faculty of Health Sciences sought accreditation of its proposed five-year undergraduate entry Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery medical program, to commence in 2017. The AMC Directors considered the Faculty's Stage 1 assessment and agreed to invite the Faculty to submit a detailed Stage 2 submission and proceed to a site visit by an accreditation team.

A Stage 2 submission must address the accreditation standards and provide the outline of the full program of study with details for at least the first two years; details of the resources to implement all years of the program and to support the program when fully implemented; and an institutional assessment of strengths and weaknesses in relation to this development.

Curtin Medical School provided its Stage 2 submission in late 2015, and an AMC team visited the School and its proposed associated clinical sites from 22 to 26 February 2016. The School's main campus is located at the University's Bentley campus south of Perth, and a large network of clinical schools and facilities will contribute to the delivery of the medical program.

The Curtin medical program will accept 60 students in 2017, growing by 10 students each year to a maximum intake of 110 students per year.

During the site visit, the assessment team met with University, Faculty and School staff; Faculty of Health Sciences students; clinicians who will teach into the program; representatives from other medical schools in the state; and officials from the Western Australian Department of Health. The AMC prepared its accreditation report against the approved accreditation standards. The team considered the full five years of the program, with a concentration on the detail of the first two years of the program and readiness for implementation in 2017.

The accreditation report finds that Curtin's Faculty of Health Sciences is strongly supportive of the Medical School and its new MBBS program. The University student support services

and facilities are excellent, and the University is commended on its campus health precinct, and the design and construction of the new medical school building.

The medical program's stated purpose is to improve the availability of high-quality medical care in the community, with a key focus being the underserved regions of Perth and Western Australia. The School is commended on its intent to address the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by ensuring that its graduates are culturally competent and appropriately educated in the prevention and management of chronic diseases.

Year 1 medical students will join Curtin's established interprofessional first year, completing shared health professional units alongside other health students, in addition to new medicine specific units. The inclusion of interprofessional learning in Year 1 and the plans to continue to integrate interprofessional learning and teaching in later years are a strength of the program.

Years 2 to 5 are modelled on the AMC accredited Flinders Medical Program curriculum. Years 2 and 3 are designed around problem-based learning and Years 4 and 5 involve clinical attachments, including a longitudinal clinical placement in Year 4.

The Curtin Medical School student selection policy applies a proactive approach to the recruitment of students from under-represented groups, from rural and remote origin, and for students of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. The recruitment and retention policies for these students are well designed. The School is commended for its ambition to address areas of significant need in the medical workforce, aiming to produce graduate doctors who are well-equipped to practice in underserved areas, in outer suburban areas, and in rural and remote areas.

In terms of ongoing monitoring, the AMC requires that newly accredited education providers submit annual progress reports to the AMC which address the accreditation standards and report on areas where conditions have been set on the accreditation.

The School is required to provide finalised details of the later years of the program's curriculum, assessment and evaluation prior to implementation, and is required to demonstrate evidence of successful implementation of the program and curriculum as each year is delivered.

The AMC requires the School to demonstrate ongoing consultation and partnerships with stakeholders, including active engagement with the other two medical schools in Western Australia, and confirmation of adequate clinical placements and supervision across all disciplines and clinical sites.

On the basis of the accreditation report, the AMC Directors at their 20 October 2016 meeting agreed that the Curtin University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin Medical School and its MBBS medical program substantially meets the approved accreditation standards.

The AMC has accredited the Curtin University, Faculty of Health Sciences five-year undergraduate entry Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery medical program until 31 March 2023, subject to conditions and a follow-up assessment by an accreditation team in 2018, as outlined in the 2016 executive summary (available [here](#)).

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. The Medical Board of Australia approved the Curtin University medical program on 23 November 2016 for the purpose of providing qualifications for registration in the medical profession.

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