



Medicine

Changing lives

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Leehe Vardi MB ChB

Medicine is the general term used to describe what doctors (also known as physicians) do to assist you to care for your health and wellbeing. Medical doctors prevent, diagnose, treat, and cure illness, injury, and disease, and provide healthcare whenever required. Doctors choose to work in one role or a combination of many roles including clinical medicine (patient care in general practice, surgery, psychiatry, paediatrics, and many more), medical research, teaching, and administration (in hospitals, medical schools, and government ministries). There is no denying the hours worked by doctors are long and the need for continuing study is demanding. But the role of a doctor is rewarding and there is potential for great personal satisfaction.

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What is Medicine?

Medicine is a scientific, research, and evidence-based profession, which covers many areas of specialisation, including general practice, public health, and hospital-based specialties such as surgery, psychiatry, cardiology, and many more. If you are considering a career in medicine, you should be prepared for life-long learning to maintain your practising standards. Society expects a high level of technical competence. Patients expect to be treated with patience, kindness, and humanity. Ethical behaviour and rapport with people are necessary so patients can trust you with problems of their body and mind.

What will I study?

After selection from Health Sciences First Year (HSFY), or the Graduate or Alternative categories, you commence second year of the six-year Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB).

Second- and third- year Medicine offers an integrated course based on various body system modules and core clinical cases. The clinical cases run throughout the programme and act as a framework for learning, as well as bringing relevance to the underlying clinical and basic science. Learning clinical skills and a focus on health in the community start at the beginning of second year, and feature prominently through a variety of modalities including experimental practise (laboratories, clinical skills, talking with people), lectures, small group discussions, and independent learning. After third year, you will complete studies at one of Otago's campuses in Dunedin, Christchurch, or Wellington.

Fourth- and fifth- year Medicine offer increased interaction with people and are centred around clinical work in hospital wards and in outpatient clinics in teaching hospitals, in smaller rural practices, and in general practices; and completing components of public health and community medicine.

Sixth-year Medicine is an apprenticeship-style year, also known as the Trainee Intern (TI) year. You assume greater responsibility in hospital wards and general practices. This final year

includes a three-month 'elective' involving a project or clinical work usually in another hospital, or overseas.

There are research opportunities within the medical programme, including the option of taking one year off after third or fifth year to complete a Bachelor of Medical Science with Honours (BMedSc(Hons)) degree. Some medical graduates choose to undertake further research and may enrol in a higher degree such as a PhD.

Before you can practise as a doctor in New Zealand, you must register with the Medical Council of New Zealand and complete one year of supervised practice in a hospital.

There are limited, if any, New Zealand hospital places available for international students who will normally complete registration requirements in their home country.

Background required

There are no subject requirements for entry into the Health Sciences First Year programme, but we strongly recommend you take Chemistry, Physics, and Biology at Year 13. HSFY must be your first year of university study. If you are considering tertiary study before enrolling, you are strongly advised to contact the Health Sciences Admissions Office beforehand.

Admission to the programme

Admission to Medicine is competitive, and there are only 282 places available each year.

There are different categories of admission to Medicine, but the majority of places are offered to students who have completed the HSFY programme at the University of Otago.

Selection into Medicine from HSFY is very competitive. Selection is based on your grades in the HSFY papers and results in the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT). High grades are required and no compulsory paper grade can be less than a B. The UMAT is a test, which measures non-academic attributes. For more information go to acer.edu.au/umat.

Applications are also considered in the Graduate category (UMAT required) and Alternative category (allied health professionals and mature graduates). Additional places are available for international students who return to their home country after graduating. Applicants who are of Māori or Pacific Island (Polynesian) descent, or who have had a rural NZ upbringing and/or education, may request this be taken into account as part of their application.

How do I apply for admission to Medicine?

Application information for admission into the Health Science professional programmes from all categories is available online at otago.ac.nz/healthsciences.

Clinical requirements

Some aspects of teaching in the Health Sciences professional programmes require students to partially disrobe and take part in activities that include physical contact between students. This training is closely supervised and all students are required to participate. Students who anticipate situations sensitive to their culture or beliefs should contact the Associate Dean for Student Affairs of the relevant school for advice.

Immunity status

Students seeking admission to Medicine must provide evidence of their serology status. For further details please refer to otago.ac.nz/healthsciences.

International applications

Persons who do not hold New Zealand citizenship or permanent residence should address their enquiries to the University's International Office, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand.

PROFILE

Leehe Vardi MB ChB

Leehe Vardi already knew she was going to become a doctor when she moved to New Zealand, from Israel ten years ago.

"I am the sort of person who loves having lots of options. Medicine combines science, public health, ethics, social science, and human biology—it's so wide-ranging. You can combine your interests in everything you do."

Leehe chose to study at Otago for a number of reasons. Coming from a small community in Israel, Dunedin's size appealed, as did the University's integration with daily life of the city.

So what was studying Medicine at Otago like?

"It was a real experience!" Leehe says, "Fun, interesting, but never easy! Initially, I found integrating and being a mature student a challenge but the medical school gave me a lot of support."

Leehe especially enjoyed the clinical experience in hospitals during her degree. "It gives you a window to your future," she explains, "and allows you gradual contact with patients and the medical system." Leehe also found learning about "complete biological systems" in second- and third-year anatomy exciting, and enjoyed her visits to rural medical centres in Central Otago and the West Coast.

Now a registrar at Dunedin Hospital, Leehe thoroughly enjoys her interaction with patients on a daily basis and the opportunity they give her to "learn something new every day." Leehe's medical degree has allowed her to bring her life experience into her chosen career, and taught her the importance of self-directed and continuous learning in a field that is endlessly evolving.



For questions about
Medicine
otago.ac.nz/medicine

