

**RUN BY DOCTORS, FOR ASPIRING STUDENTS**



# **MEDESSENTIALS**

MEDICINE ENTRANCE SPECIALISTS

MedEssentials is Australia's leading selective UCAT and interview training program for admission to medicine and dentistry. Learn more about your potential and how we can assist you to achieve your career goals.



# WHY MEDICINE?

Very few careers offer satisfaction, job security and a broad academic learning scope like medicine.

There are many reasons people want to be a doctor

- Personal experience and appreciation as a patient*
- Inspiration from public figures and family*
- Pursuit on higher learning*
- Opportunity to display technical prowess*
- Wide range of specialist pathways*
- Any many more...*

## NUMBERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

95% of medical students will ultimately graduate to become doctors. 100% of domestic medical school graduates will be offered an internship in Australia. (National Statistics)

In comparison, an attrition rate of up to 60% has been reported for comparatively academic degrees, such as Law, Engineering, and Sciences at certain Australian institutions.

# WHAT DO MEDICAL SCHOOLS LOOK AT?

Students at MedEssentials are guided to apply nationally to all available medical schools to maximise their chances of gaining admission. Even at the interview stage of application, only 10 – 15% of candidates are ultimately offered a position.

Different institutions will have varying requirements and weighting for admission. As a general guide, we recommend **English, Maths Methods and Chemistry** to allow for a full range of applications Australia wide.

Specific requirements to Adelaide-based medical schools are:

## UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

- ATAR (40%)
  - Average admission ATAR 99.35
- UCAT (20%)
  - Minimum for interview offer 90 percentile (mid-2800s raw score)
- Interview (40%)
  - Two 15min stations: One for personality-based questions, other to tackle a complex leadership scenario

*Prerequisites of ONE OF: (Biology or Chemistry or Maths Methods*

## FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

- ATAR (90%)
  - Requiring high 99ATAR
- UCAT (10%)
  - Generally requiring 80 percentile, dependent on ATAR

*\*Please note: Above UCAT/ATAR scores are estimates only based on feedback from past students in our Masterclass Program. These scores DO NOT necessarily guarantee an interview offer or admission.*

# WHAT IS THE UCAT ABOUT?

The UCAT is a 2-hour, high intensity and high stakes exam.

Competitive students will treat studying for the UCAT as an extra individual subject.

The MedEssentials program receives substantive feedback from students and educators who sit the UCAT exam; subsequently adapt our teaching annually to match new questions styles and areas of student concern. While the questions are not necessarily complex, this exam rewards students who have studied extensively and understand the concepts well to optimise their potential marks.



**We believe key indicators of high outcomes are:**

- Familiarity of anticipated question flow per section
- High confidence with foundation techniques
- Time management and question prioritising skills

*Below is a breakdown of each individual section.*



## VERBAL REASONING

The verbal reasoning subtest assesses a student's ability to make inferences and draw specific conclusions based on information presented.

*44 questions, 21 minutes test time*

## DECISION MAKING

The decision-making subtest assesses a student's ability to interpret text, charts, tables, graphs or diagrams in order to reach a decision or conclusion.

*29 questions, 31 minutes test time*

## QUANTITATIVE REASONING

The quantitative reasoning subtest assesses a student's ability to solve problems by extracting information from tables, charts, and/or graphs.

*36 questions, 24 minutes test time*

*All sections include 1-minute instruction section that is not included in the actual test time.*

## ABSTRACT REASONING

The abstract reasoning subtest assesses a student's ability to identify patterns amongst abstract shapes. There are 4 different question types in this subtest:

- **Type 1:** Students are presented with 2 sets of shapes (Set A and Set B). The question involves a test shape and students are asked to determine which Set (Set A or Set B) does the test shape belong to.
- **Type 2:** Students are presented with a series of shapes. The question asks students to determine the next step in the series.
- **Type 3:** Students are presented with a statement involving a group of shapes. The question asks students to determine which shape completes the statement.
- **Type 4:** Students are presented with 2 sets of shapes (Set A and Set B). The question asks students to select which of the response options belong to Set A or Set B.

*55 questions, 13 minutes test time*

## SITUATIONAL JUDGEMENT

The situational judgement subtest assesses a student's capacity to understand practical situations. Students will be tested on their ability to consider either the appropriateness of possible actions, or the importance of possible considerations, based on a series of scenarios.

*69 questions, 26 minutes test time*

# HOW DOES MEDESSENTIALS HELP?

MedEssentials is an integrated learning stream with the sole purpose of finding your place in medicine. It is run and taught by doctors and dentists, with the assistance of medical and dental students locally.

Your education will be purposeful and holistic. Being part of the MedEssentials Training Program is much more than just UCAT tutoring. Our experts have been through the process and have an in-depth understanding of implicit requirements. The teaching style has constantly evolved with over 300 successful applicants in Adelaide over the past few years.

We provide very specific answers to medical school written applications, career advice, UCAT training and other relevant inquiries. Even if you are unsuccessful getting in from Year 12, we provide you with meaningful advice of how to apply via Tertiary Transfer or Gap Year Entry Schemes to truly offer you the best shot.

It is essential to be guided by educators relevant in the field, who understand what is required to be successful.

**CONSULTATION &**

**CAREER PATHWAY**



**UCAT TRAINING**



**INTERVIEW COACHING  
& WRITTEN APPLICATIONS**



**SUCCESS!**

**SENIOR TEACHING TEAM:**

Complete Profiles via:

<https://www.medessentials.com.au/medessentials-tutors>

**DR BRAD GUO MBBS | PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Doctor (Central Adelaide)  
Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery (Adel)  
Associate Clinical Lecturer (Adel)

**DR IAN TAN MBBS | CO-PRINCIPAL**

Doctor (Central Adelaide)  
Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery (Adel)  
Associate Clinical Lecturer (Adel)

**DR ARYA RAO BDS | EDUCATION LEAD**

Dentist (Central Adelaide)  
Bachelor of Dental Surgery (Adel)va



# WHY CHOOSE MEDESSENTIALS?

- **Qualification:** Our teaching team is guided by qualified medical professionals with Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degrees.
- **Experience:** MedEssentials is one of the longest running UCAT and medicine training providers in Australia. We now have over 10+ years of experience and is proud to have developed the original small group “Masterclass” teaching model.
- **Success:** Our UCAT Masterclass Program produces one of the highest UCAT score averages (87.6 percentile) among training providers. 71.4% of our students are successful in obtaining a medical school interview/admission.



# WHAT FREE RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

MedEssentials provides substantial online and face-to-face advice for students interested in careers of medicine and dentistry. As practicing doctors, we follow a philosophy of giving back and this is the principle for which we spend quality time to teach aspiring students.

## 01

### **FREE FULL UCAT EXAM:**

- Available via [www.medessentials.com.au](http://www.medessentials.com.au)
- Visit the “Free Trial Exam” Tab
- Full set of questions under exam time conditions
- Marked with answers
- Raw scores and percentiles available on completion

## 02

### **FREE MEDICINE & UCAT WORKSHOP DAY:**

- Available via [www.medessentials.com.au](http://www.medessentials.com.au)
- Visit the “Free Medicine & UCAT Workshop” Tab
- Learn about a medical career
- See an overview of the UCAT pathway
- Guest speakers are medical specialist and surgeons
- Speak with educational leaders
- Have an opportunity to attend a publicly available tutorial with MedEssentials

# WHAT FREE RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

## 03

### **FREE INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY:**

- Speak to a MedEssentials educator with your - parents about what you need to do to be successful getting into medicine
- Held at our offices on 242 Glen Osmond Road, Fullarton
- Get advice specific to your circumstances
- Offers for interview on application:  
<https://www.medessentials.com.au/apply-for-masterclass>

## 04

### **FREE CONSULTATION FOR CAREERS ADVISORS & SCHOOL GROUPS**

- MedEssentials will come to your school on application
- A doctor, dentist or senior educator will present regarding
- Highly subject to availability, 1-2 months advance notice recommended
- Email requests to reception:  
[info@medessentials.com.au](mailto:info@medessentials.com.au)

RUN BY DOCTORS  
FOR ASPIRING STUDENTS

# HOW DO MEDESENTIALS STUDENTS PERFORM?

## *Cumulative 5-year outcomes*

We are very comfortable to publishing our student outcomes owing to high performance and grateful students who report back. 75% of students share their scores with us, compared to other groups that may 'cherry-pick' their average outcome.

### **UCAT Scores**

MedEssentials Average  
*87.6 percentile*

National Standard  
*50 percentile*

### **Admissions following Interview Training**

MedEssentials Average  
*79.2% admissions rate*

National Standard  
*10 - 20% admissions rate (university dependent)*

### **Students Offered Medical or Dental Interview Rate**

MedEssentials Average  
*71.4% of applying students are offered an interview or training position to at least one university Australia-wide (provided our subject and application selection advice followed)*

National Standard  
*Significantly less than 10% of applying students are offered an interview*

# HOW IS UCAT TAUGHT?

## TIMING

The Selective UCAT Masterclass Program comprises of continuous weekly UCAT tutorials between February and June of each year. There are an additional 6 - 8 weeks for continuing students and new students between October - December.

## EXPECTATIONS

The MedEssentials team is experienced with the UCAT exam and has created a clear syllabus of key learning points to master the exam.

**Students participating in the program appropriately will be able to:**

1. Identify all questions of the UCAT exam
2. Confidently manage the test under strict time pressure
3. Know their progress objectively and areas of improvement

Our philosophy is that there should be no surprise questions on the actual UCAT exam day. The content of the exam is very undifferentiated and we are able to teach and practice exhaustively with all question styles.





## STRUCTURE

Phase 1: Introductory tutorials and syllabus-based teaching

Phase 2: Students to complete questions independently with tutor demonstrations

Phase 3: Online practice with MedEssentials platform and exam optimisation

Phase 4: Written Application and Interview Training

If relevant, students who fall short in areas of their application are invited to discuss future planning with the MedEssentials team to gain entrance to undergraduate medicine.

## UCAT TUTORIALS ARE:

- 2 hours face-to-face per week
- 1 – 1.5 hours of take home work
- Hardcopy questions and notes for students to keep
- Availability to email or meet between tutorials to discuss problem areas
- Progress quizzes every 6 – 7 weeks with published results

# WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M INTERESTED IN MEDICINE OR DENTISTRY NOW?

MedEssentials is always interested in speaking with students who want to be doctors or dentists. Our free interview opportunity is designed to help you answer questions with your parents. To be ultimately successful getting into medicine, a lot of hard work and time is needed.

We are able to see potential and pathways of all students, regardless of baseline performance. At the same time, we believe in ethical practice with our training program. Unique to training with MedEssentials, is the consistent face-to-face exposure you will have - our service is not a "once off Questionbank sale". For this reason, we will ensure students are fully informed of processes and their suitability for intensive training to get into competitive university degrees such as medicine.

Our flagship Masterclass Program is selective based on criteria:

- School Grades (40%)
- Interview Impression (40%)
- Motivation to Study (20%)



Students interested in the program are encouraged to sit an interview. This is generally

**Applications via link:**

<https://www.medessentials.com.au/apply-for-masterclass>

We recommend students start their preparation in Year 11. In exceptional cases, we may offer positions for Year 10 students. We provide a comprehensive 2-year program for Year 11 students, and average UCAT results are 10.1% better, compared to Year 12 only.

Our cohort typically will comprise of:

- Gap Year (15%)
- Year 12 (45%)
- Year 11 (30%)
- Year 10 (10%)

# FAQS

## WHEN IS THE UCAT?

Students select a convenient date along the month of July. We generally recommend later dates to allow more preparation time, and so we can advise students if there are problem areas in the exam.

## HOW MUCH DOES MEDESENTIALS COST?

We are very flexible and most students pay as they come per session. It is \$35 per hour for the 2 hour tutorial. Students sick or having other commitments during a teaching week will have hard copy notes and questions posted to their address.

## WHERE IS THE PROGRAM HELD?

Our main teaching facility is 242 Glen Osmond Road, Fullarton. For special teaching days, these may be held at UniSA and Lincoln College, University of Adelaide.

## WHAT TIMES CAN I ATTEND?

The MedEssentials program runs from 9:00AM – 5:00PM both Saturday and Sunday. Once accepted to the program, you will be allocated to a permanent 2 hour training period.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM NOT ACCEPTED TO THE PROGRAM FOLLOWING THE SELECTION INTERVIEW?

Our intake is capped to approximately 100 students per year to allow sufficient individualised time for each student to ask questions and have their concerns resolved. Our teaching and assistance team comprises of three doctors and five senior medical students.

We generally accept 90% of applications to interview and 70% of students who attend MedEssentials for a selection interview.

Students who are not initially accepted are given purposeful advice on areas of improvement and are warmly welcome to re-apply once there is evidence of progress.

## WHAT ABOUT PRIVATE TUITION OR ONLINE PROGRAMS?

Private tutors will not have the formal structure and experience that MedEssentials will be able to offer. As the original and highest outcome Masterclass program in Adelaide, our decade of experience has proven to work and we routinely publish our student results. During university exam periods, many tutors will be unavailable to commit to full time teaching, which as a company we will always be available. MedEssentials is accountable and with a reputation being doctors, we will maintain high standards in all occasions.

Online programs are definitely a relevant part of the MedEssentials study experience. In the later teaching phases, there is a significant emphasis of practice tests under timed conditions and this is a service we offer complimentary via our platform. Many MedEssentials students will also supplement their learning experience with an online subscription to other services, for extra UCAT exposure. This is a good opportunity to attempt techniques taught in class, and get feedback from the tutorial the following session. We are always happy to provide good recommendations for enrolled students in the program.



RUN BY DOCTORS  
FOR ASPIRING STUDENTS

07

# CONTACTS

## MedEssentials Reception

e. [info@medessentials.com.au](mailto:info@medessentials.com.au)

p. (08) 6333 0750

## Apply for Training

<https://www.medessentials.com.au/apply-for-masterclass>

## Dr Brad Guo

e. [brad.guo@medessentials.com.au](mailto:brad.guo@medessentials.com.au)

## Dr Ian Tan

e. [ian.tan@medessentials.com.au](mailto:ian.tan@medessentials.com.au)



07

