STUDENT FAQs
2020 EXCELLENCE THROUGH EQUITY PATHWAY TO MEDICINE

WHAT IS THE EXCELLENCE THROUGH EQUITY PATHWAY TO MEDICINE?

From 2021, a new pathway – to be known as the ‘Excellence through Equity Pathway to Medicine’ – will be piloted and available to those Open Foundation and Newstep students who meet the required eligibility criteria.

INFORMATION FOR CURRENT ENABLING STUDENTS

AM I ELIGIBLE?

Eligibility will be subject to satisfying the Excellence through Equity criteria. The Excellence through Equity criteria include meeting the threshold of a minimum academic requirement, demonstrating socioeconomic disadvantage and at least three of the following additional equity indicators:

- A non-English speaking background or English language difficulty
- Financial hardship
- Carer responsibilities
- Sole parent
- Experience of domestic and family violence
- School type/environment
- Regional, rural, remote or isolated area
- Refugee status
- Personal illness or disability
- Out-of-home care experience
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

Applicants who satisfy the above are ranked on the basis of their Enabling grade and the 20 highest ranked candidates are invited for interview. Please contact excelthroughequity@newcastle.edu.au to obtain a copy of the Excellence through Equity Selection Criteria.

WHEN AND HOW CAN I APPLY?

Applications will be open from October 2020 and will close on 22nd November 2020. Applicants will be required to demonstrate that they meet specific selection requirements, including:

a. Socioeconomic disadvantage and three additional equity indicators
b. Outstanding performance in Enabling Program*
c. Submit a short reflective personal statement setting out their interest in, enthusiasm for and understanding of Medicine.

Applications will be exempt from UCAT. Applications are submitted via the direct Enabling to Undergraduate application form, available on the Your Next Move webpage.

*Academic and selection criteria, including those about equity, are all assessed according to competitive ranking.

*Additionally, those invited for interview will have achieved the ATAR equivalent score (selection rank) through their Enabling Program.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I APPLY?

Shortlisting will be completed by the Selection Panel and invitations to be interviewed will be sent out in late December 2020. Those who have not been selected for interview will be notified in December 2020.

The 20 highest ranked applicants will be invited to undertake the selection interview alongside all other applicants. The selection interview will be held in January 2021. Offers will be made to students in early February 2021. Applicants must accept within seven days.

HOW MANY PLACES ARE AVAILABLE IN 2021?

There will be up to six places available for current Enabling Pathways students who meet admission requirements.
**WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?**

To assist with the application process, further resources and guidelines will be made available on the University website. Please contact excelthroughequity@newcastle.edu.au if you require any assistance.

**WHAT COURSES ARE REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED FOR ME TO STUDY IN MY ENABLING PROGRAM TO BEST PREPARE ME FOR MEDICINE?**

There are no preferred courses, this pathway is open to Newstep and Open Foundation students who meet the required eligibility criteria.

**WHAT GRADE WOULD I NEED?**

The ATAR equivalent (selection rank) is based on the average mark achieved in the Enabling Program. The minimum required selection rank is 89.

All applicants who have met the Excellence through Equity selection criteria, and who meet the minimum academic requirements, will then be ranked on the basis of their average Enabling mark for consideration for interview.

The 20 highest ranked applicants will be invited to interview in January 2021.

**ARE THERE ANY SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO HELP ME STUDY MEDICINE?**

Current UoN scholarships can be found at newcastle.edu.au/scholarships.

**HOW SHOULD ATS1 STUDENTS APPLY?**

Indigenous students can apply via either the Miroma Bunbilla OR Excellence through Equity Pathway. Each pathway has different steps.

For further advice, please contact the Indigenous Health Unit:
Thurr Indigenous Health Unit
School of Medicine and Public Health
T: 02 4921 5203
E: deadlydocs@newcastle.edu.au

**INFORMATION FOR PAST ENABLING STUDENTS**

**WHAT IF I’M A PAST ENABLING STUDENT?**

This Pathway is open to previous Enabling students who have graduated from their Enabling program in the last five years. This initiative will be time limited and open for three years (2021-2023 entry).

Applicants must have completed a minimum of one year FTE tertiary study (this does not require completion of a full degree and could be part-time or full-time study) since completing their Enabling Program, and will be subject to the standard minimum academic criteria as outlined here newcastle.edu.au/joint-medical-program/selection-process/academic-eligibility.

**WHEN AND HOW CAN I APPLY?**

Applicants are required to apply through the standard process. This includes submission of a UAC application listing the JMP as preference by Oct 31, 2020, direct application to the School of Medicine and Public Health by September 30, and completion of the UCAT by the applicable dates as outlined at newcastle.edu.au/joint-medical-program/how-to-apply.

Prior graduates of the University of Newcastle Enabling Programs will be identified based on the qualifications listed on their UAC application. UAC applicants are encouraged to list ALL prior educational qualifications on their application.

Applicants who have listed prior UON Enabling studies on their UAC application will be invited to submit a personal statement with relevant documentation addressing the Excellence through Equity criteria if they wish to be considered for eligibility.

If they meet the Excellence through Equity criteria, a lower UCAT threshold will be applied, giving greater opportunity for selection for interview.

All applicants have the opportunity to have adjustment factors added to their academic selection rank through the Educational Access Scheme (EAS) and should apply for EAS consideration via the standard UAC process.
**WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I APPLY?**

Late Nov: Applicants are invited to attend interviews.
Dec 4: Interviews are held.
Offers will be made to students via the UAC in January 2021.

**WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?**

To assist with the application process, further resources and guidelines will be made available on the University website. Please contact excelthroughequity@newcastle.edu.au if you require any assistance.

**WHERE CAN I FIND FURTHER INFORMATION?**

Please email excelthroughequity@newcastle.edu.au for further information.