

# EXCELLENCE THROUGH EQUITY PATHWAY TO MEDICINE



## CURRENT ENABLING STUDENT FAQs

### WHAT IS THE EXCELLENCE THROUGH EQUITY (ETE) PATHWAY TO MEDICINE?

The University of Newcastle is committed to enabling and supporting medical practitioners dedicated to the highest quality practice embedded in a commitment to equity.

The EtE pathway opens opportunities for people who bring many diverse experiences, including having navigated educational disadvantage and social inequalities, who wish to study the Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine (Joint Medical Program). Through the pathway, up to six places will be available to Open Foundation students who meet the EtE Selection Criteria.

This initiative will be piloted until the end of 2025.

### AM I ELIGIBLE?

Eligibility will be subject to satisfying the [Excellence through Equity Selection Criteria](#). The Excellence through Equity Selection Criteria include meeting the threshold of a minimum academic requirement (to be determined on completion of your enabling studies), demonstrating socioeconomic disadvantage including financial hardship, and at least two of the additional equity indicators as shown in the table below, as well as a demonstrated interest in studying medicine. Socioeconomic disadvantage including financial hardship and/or equity indicators might be related to current and/or past circumstances.

EQUITY INDICATORS	
School type/environment	Regional, rural, remote or isolated area
A non-English speaking background or English language difficulty	Personal illness or disability
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Minority ethnic background
Out-of-home care experience	Sole parent responsibilities
Carer responsibilities	Suffered discrimination in educational history
Refugee status	A childhood history of disadvantaged (parental/carers/family) circumstances
Experience of domestic and family violence and/or significant form of trauma	

Applicants who satisfy the Excellence through Equity Selection Criteria are ranked on the basis of their Enabling grade. The 20 highest ranked candidates are invited for interview. Please contact [excelthroughequity@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:excelthroughequity@newcastle.edu.au) to obtain a copy of the Excellence through Equity Selection Criteria or you can view the Criteria [here](#).

## WHEN AND HOW CAN I APPLY?

Direct applications via the [Your Next Move](#) website will open at 1pm on 25 October 2023.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate that they meet specific selection requirements, including:

- a. Socioeconomic disadvantage including financial hardship, and two additional equity indicators
- b. Submission of a short reflective personal statement setting out their interest in, enthusiasm for and understanding of Medicine
- c. Outstanding performance in Enabling Program\*.

**Current Enabling Applicants will be exempt from UCAT ANZ.**

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.

**NOTE:** If you complete Open Foundation in Semester 1, 2023 and commence another undergraduate degree in Semester 2 you will not be able to submit a direct application. Please express your interest in applying for the EtE Pathway via [email to excelthroughequity@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:excelthroughequity@newcastle.edu.au) by 11:59pm Sunday 19 November 2023 to be considered. You will then be invited to submit your equity supporting documents by 11:59pm Sunday 26 November 2023.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I APPLY?

### NOVEMBER 2023:

- Applicants will be invited to submit their response to the Excellence through Equity(EtE) Selection Criteria.
- Closing date for applicants submit their equity supporting documents.

### DECEMBER 2023:

- Equity supporting documents are reviewed and applicants are advised of the outcome.
- Academic eligibility is assessed and the 20 highest ranked Applicants are identified. Those who have not been selected for interview are notified.

### JANUARY 2024:

- The 20 highest ranked Applicants who have met the equity and academic excellence eligibility criteria are invited to undertake the selection interview alongside all other applicants.
- Interviews are held.

### FEBRUARY 2024:

- Up to 6 applicants who have met the academic hurdle are made an offer. Applicants must accept the offer within seven days.

Timeframes are indicated on the [EtE Webpages](#).

## HOW MANY PLACES ARE AVAILABLE IN 2024?

There will be up to six places available for current Open Foundation students who meet admission requirements.

## 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 Open Foundation students who meet the required eligibility criteria. You may however benefit from selecting the Open Foundation suggested courses for this Pathway found [here](#).

## 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 85.

The Educational Access Scheme (EAS) is not available to applicants of this Pathway, and the minimum ATAR equivalent (selection rank) of 85 cannot be adjusted any further.

All applicants who have met the Excellence through Equity selection criteria, including meeting 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 2023.

## WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

To assist with the application process, further resources and guidelines can be found [here](#).

Students who are offered a place in the JMP will also form part of the EtE Scholars Network, where the Pathway Coordinator will provide additional support throughout your University journey.

Please contact [excelthroughequity@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:excelthroughequity@newcastle.edu.au) if you require any assistance or information.

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

Current University of Newcastle scholarships can be found [here](#).

## HOW SHOULD ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS APPLY?

Indigenous students can apply via either the Miroma Bunbilla OR the Excellence through Equity Pathway. Each pathway has different steps. For further advice, please contact the Thurru Indigenous Health Unit on (02) 4921 7963 or email [deadlydocs@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:deadlydocs@newcastle.edu.au).

## WHERE CAN I FIND FURTHER INFORMATION?

Please visit: [newcastle.edu.au/joint-medical-program/newstep-and-open-foundation-students](http://newcastle.edu.au/joint-medical-program/newstep-and-open-foundation-students) or email [excelthroughequity@newcastle.edu](mailto:excelthroughequity@newcastle.edu)