

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 Excellence through Equity (EtE) Pathway to Medicine opens opportunities for people who bring many diverse experiences, including having navigated sustained 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 Excellence through Equity (EtE) Selection Criteria. **PLEASE NOTE: The Excellence through Equity (EtE) Pathway to Medicine is not available to people who have already have a degree or have commenced a degree prior to entering the Enabling Pathway program at the University of Newcastle Enabling program (i.e., Open Foundation).**

AM I ELIGIBLE?

Eligibility will be subject to satisfying the **Excellence through Equity (EtE) Selection Criteria**. The EtE Selection Criteria includes meeting the threshold of a minimum academic requirement (to be determined on completion of your enabling studies), demonstrating sustained 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. Sustained 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/carer/family) circumstances
Experience of domestic and family violence and/or significant form of trauma	

Applicants who satisfy the EtE Selection Criteria are ranked on the basis of their Enabling grade. The 20 highest ranked candidates are invited for interview. The EtE Selection Criteria can be viewed [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.** All applicants who have met the EtE 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 2027.

NOTE: 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.

WHEN AND HOW CAN I APPLY?

Direct applications via the [Your Next Move](#) website will open in Semester 2, 2026.

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

- a. Sustained 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 their Enabling Program by achieving a minimum ATAR equivalent (selection rank) of 85. The selection rank is based on the average mark achieved in the Open Foundation 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](#) website.

NOTE: If you complete Open Foundation in Semester 1, 2026 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) to be considered. You will then be invited to submit your equity supporting documents in November 2026.

Students completing Open Foundation (OF) should confirm which program they are enrolled in (Open Foundation or Open Foundation Extended) and that you expect to fulfil the requirements of that program by the end of Semester 2 2026. If you are unsure, please contact the [Pathways Team](#).

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I APPLY?

NOVEMBER 2026:

- 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 2026:

- 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.
- The 20 highest ranked Applicants who have met the equity and academic excellence eligibility criteria will be invited by the Joint Medical Program (JMP) to undertake the selection interview alongside all other applicants.

JANUARY 2027:

- Interviews are held.

FEBRUARY 2027:

- Up to six 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 Website](#).

HOW MANY PLACES ARE AVAILABLE VIA THIS PATHWAY?

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

WHAT COURSES SHOULD I STUDY IN MY ENABLING PROGRAM TO BEST PREPARE ME FOR MEDICINE?

To maximise preparedness for the Joint Medical Program (JMP), Open Foundation Students intending to apply via the EtE Pathway to Medicine are strongly encouraged to select courses from the [Recommended courses list under Medicine - Excellence through Equity Pathway](#).

If you have not completed any health or science courses in Open Foundation, we strongly suggest you complete [NUPrep course/s EPPREP960 AND EPPREP790](#) before commencing the Joint Medical Program.

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 Joint Medical Program (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 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?

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students can apply via either the [Miroma Bunbilla Program](#) 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.