

EXCELLENCE THROUGH EQUITY PATHWAY TO MEDICINE



EQUITY SELECTION CRITERIA

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY

Current University of Newcastle Enabling Students

Current Enabling students who meet the Excellence through Equity (EtE) Selection Criteria, and academic requirements, will be ranked for consideration for interview. The 20 highest ranked applicants will be invited to interview in January 2027.

PLEASE NOTE: The Excellence through Equity (EtE) Pathway to Medicine is not available to people who already have a degree or have commenced a degree prior to entering the Enabling Pathway program at the University of Newcastle (i.e., Open Foundation)

Past University of Newcastle Enabling Students

Past Enabling students who have graduated from their Enabling Program within the last five years (from 2021 to 2025 inclusive, for the 2027 intake) and have completed a minimum of one year Full-Time-Equivalent (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, will be subject to the standard minimum academic criteria as outlined [here](#).

Applicants are required to apply through the [standard process](#). This includes; registration for and completion of the UCAT ANZ by the applicable dates as outlined [here](#), direct application to the School of Medicine and Public Health by 30 September 2026, and on-time submission of a UAC application (listing the Joint Medical Program (JMP) as a preference) by 30 September 2026. On-time applications close 30 September 2026. Fee increases after this date. The JMP must be listed as a preference on UAC application by 1 December 2026.

Prior graduates of the University of Newcastle Enabling Programs will be identified through their direct application to the School of Medicine and Public Health. Applicants who have indicated that they would like to apply via the EtE Pathway will be invited to submit a personal statement with relevant documentation to demonstrate sustained socioeconomic disadvantage including financial hardship and two additional equity indicators if they wish to be considered for eligibility. If an applicant demonstrates their eligibility, a lower UCAT ANZ 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.

THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA MUST BE MET:

1. ATAR Equivalent (selection rank) (for Current Enabling students only)

The ATAR equivalent (selection rank) is based on the average mark achieved in the Enabling program. **The minimum required selection rank for current Enabling applicants is 85.**

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

2. Personal Statement

All applicants must provide a personal statement. This is a short reflective piece of writing (about one page in length) or a short video of about two minutes in length that will provide further information about the applicant and their interest in, enthusiasm for and understanding of Medicine. There is no requirement or expectation that applicants provide specific detail about their experiences of adverse circumstances related to the identified equity indicators. The personal statement is an opportunity for applicants to set out the educational challenges they have faced in the context of the identified equity indicators and how these may have enhanced or enriched their understanding of Medicine and/or why they want to study it.

3. Equity Indicators

All applicants, in addition to meeting or exceeding the ATAR equivalent, will need to demonstrate sustained socioeconomic disadvantage including financial hardship, and meet a further minimum of two equity indicators listed in the table below. Sustained socioeconomic disadvantage including financial hardship, and/or equity indicators might be related to current and/or past circumstances.

Relevant documentation in relation to the equity indicators will need to be provided by applicants (**see table below** for assistance with this). In their personal statement, applicants will need to expand on how the identified equity indicators have impacted their education.

Additionally, the personal statement will provide an opportunity for applicants to communicate how their equity-related experiences enhance their applications to study Medicine. The Selection Panel will take the applicants context into consideration, as well as prior and current experiences of disadvantage related to the equity indicators. It is important that applicants make explicit any key information they wish to be considered in their personal statement.

TABLE: EQUITY INDICATORS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

The table below sets out the kinds of documentation you should provide to support your application in relation to meeting the above equity indicators. In order for the Selection Panel to fully consider each application in relation to the equity indicators, we advise that the correct documentation is provided. However, we recognise that in certain circumstances, official supporting documentation will not be available to the applicant. In such cases, it is crucial that an appropriate explanation or justification is attached to the application to enable the panel to consider the individual case of disadvantage being made.

TYPE OF DISADVANTAGE	DESCRIPTION	ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION
Socioeconomic disadvantage including demonstrating financial hardship that has significantly impacted on your studies.	All applicants must demonstrate that they meet the equity indicator of socioeconomic disadvantage, including having currently or previously experienced financial hardship that has significantly impacted on your studies.	Commonly, residential address is used to assess socioeconomic disadvantage. Please indicate whether the Australian Bureau of Statistics assesses your current or prior residential address as being in the lowest 25% of socioeconomic disadvantage in Australia. Applicants must also demonstrate financial hardship that has impacted your education. This can include: Current proof of your Centrelink means-tested allowance (for example, your most recent Youth Allowance, Austudy, Abstudy, Newstart Income Statement). Comprehensive documentation outlining significant financial hardship signed by a responsible person. Students with predicted financial disadvantage may provide the above, and include supporting docs such as Family Tax Benefit Part A and B statements and notice of application lodged with Centrelink. Students with financial hardship who have additional difficulty with costs of compulsory placement in their program should provide supporting documents showing dates, location, and length of placement. If you have experienced prior financial hardship that has significantly affected your studies, include an independent statement about this completed and signed by a responsible person*

APPLICANTS MUST ALSO MEET A FURTHER MINIMUM OF TWO OF THE FOLLOWING EQUITY INDICATORS:

TYPE OF DISADVANTAGE	DESCRIPTION	ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION
Regional, Rural, Remote or Isolated Area	You have lived in a rural, remote or isolated area during your schooling and/or are currently living in a rural, remote or isolated area. Or you work in a remote area, or live or work without reliable internet connection when studying online.	Documents substantiating your residential (not postal) address in a regional, rural, remote or isolated area of Australia for at least 12 months in the two years prior to study with the University of Newcastle. Documents must be in your name. Documents may include bank statements, letter of attendance from a school or higher education provider showing home address at the time they attended, Centrelink letters, electoral commission enrolment form, utilities bill, phone bill. Location may be in any category other than RA1 (Major Cities), although preference may be given to applicants from outer regional and remote areas (RA3 and higher). Search your postcode here
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	You are able to establish Aboriginality and/or Torres Strait Islander Status within the University Policy by providing evidence to demonstrate that you meet the following criteria; 1) are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent, 2) identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person and 3) are accepted as such by the community in which you live or have lived.	Please refer to the Establishing Status within the University Procedure or email wollotuka@newcastle.edu.au for assistance.
Minority ethnic background	You are from an ethnic minority background that is under-represented in higher education and/or you have experienced discrimination related to belonging to a minority ethnic background.	State in your application the minority ethnic background you belong to. Include an independent statement regarding your experience of discrimination, completed and signed by a responsible person* who knows your circumstances.
Carer Responsibilities	You have primary responsibility for care of children and/or other family members while studying. Or you may have had long term carer responsibilities in the past that have significantly impacted your educational opportunities.	Proof of current Centrelink Carer Allowance or Carer payment. An independent statement to support your eligibility for carer responsibilities, completed and signed by a responsible person*
A non-English speaking background or English language difficulty	You experience difficulty with the English language; you came directly to Australia from a non-English speaking country in 2015 or after and before your arrival you didn't undertake any formal education at an institution where the language of instruction was English.	An independent statement regarding your non-English speaking background or English language difficulty, completed and signed by a responsible person* who knows your circumstances.
Refugee status	You entered Australia as a refugee, or on a Global Special Humanitarian visa.	A copy of your Australian entry visa showing refugee status. A copy of your Red Cross or UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) registration if you arrived on a non-refugee visa. A copy of your document for travelling to Australia. A copy of your visa (subclass 200 - 204).
Sole parent responsibilities	You are a sole parent and have sole responsibility for your child.	Current proof of your Centrelink means-tested income support payment as a single person with at least one dependent child, e.g. income statement for Parenting Payment. An independent statement regarding your sole parent responsibilities, completed and signed by a responsible person* who knows your circumstances. You will need to explain why you are not in receipt of a Parenting payment.
Personal illness or disability	For a period of at least six months during your studies you experienced a severe and long-term or a severe and recurrent medical/psychiatric condition or disability or a learning, sensory, physical, psychological or other disability/disorder. Please review the JMP Inherent Requirements and if you are in doubt as to your ability to meet these guidelines, please contact the JMP.	An independent statement to support your eligibility, completed and signed by a doctor or specialist medical professional.

TYPE OF DISADVANTAGE	DESCRIPTION	ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION
Experience of domestic and family violence and/or significant form of trauma	You have experienced ongoing effects of domestic and family violence and/or other significant forms of trauma.	An independent statement regarding your experience, completed and signed by a responsible person* who knows your circumstances.
Out of home care experience	You are currently in care or you have had prior care experience.	A letter from the Minister acknowledging leaving care, OR a letter from a Supported Independent Living or Aftercare worker who is currently supporting you, OR a letter from the designated agency you were in care with confirming your time in care, OR a letter from Department of Communities & Justice (DCJ) confirming your time in care. If you don't have these documents, you can contact the your local DCJ Community Service Centre (CSC) and request that they provide a letter for you.
School type/ environment	You attended a disadvantaged school (according to the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA)). Or you attended a rural, remote or isolated school during Year 11 and/or 12 or equivalent.	A record of attendance from your school. The record of attendance must be issued on the school letterhead, be signed by the principal or another senior person at your school and confirm the period you attended the school. It is not a record of absences. The ICSEA value of the school will be taken into account as an indicator of social disadvantage. You can check the ICSEA value of your school here .
Suffered discrimination in educational history	You have been affected by significant forms of discrimination or adverse events in your educational or occupational history (e.g. discrimination related to gender and/or sexual identity, religion, ethnicity or race, physical and/or mental health or other such forms of discrimination), which have had ongoing ramifications.	An independent statement regarding your experience, completed and signed by a responsible person* who knows your circumstances.
A childhood history of disadvantaged (parental/carer/ family) circumstances	Your education has been disadvantaged as a result of your parental/carer/family circumstances.	An independent statement regarding your experience, completed and signed by a responsible person* who knows your circumstances.

PLEASE NOTE:

- An applicants eligibility can only be determined by the EtE Selection Panel, once the applications have closed.
- The EtE Selection Panel will consider the applicants sustained socioeconomic disadvantage including financial hardship and two additional equity indicators.
- The decision of the EtE Selection Panel is final and detailed feedback will not be provided.
- Meeting the equity selection criteria does not guarantee an offer.
- If you are concerned that you are not able to demonstrate that you meet the criteria and would like to discuss this further please contact the EtE Team.

*RESPONSIBLE PERSON

Responsible person cannot be a relative and must be either a doctor, specialist medical professional, lawyer, accountant, social worker, counsellor, religious or community leader, high school or college principal, higher education or VET educator, year advisor or career advisor. In the absence of the availability of responsible person, a brief statement from the applicant setting out the experience related to the equity indicator will be sufficient. Please note, this does not require any detail about specific incidents that might cause distress to the candidate, but should set out how this impacted on your education.

WHERE CAN I FIND FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?

Please visit: newcastle.edu.au/ete OR email: excelthroughequity@newcastle.edu.au