



Doctor of Medicine (MD) Information for prospective applicants

What is the Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree at the University of Sydney?

The Doctor of Medicine (MD) is a higher doctorate, awarded by published work which, in the opinion of examiners and the Sydney Medical School, has been generally recognised by scholars in the particular field of expertise as a distinguished contribution to knowledge.

The MD, unlike the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is not a research training degree. It may be described as an award that one would receive at the end of one's career, rather than the beginning, for an outstanding contribution to knowledge.

Eligibility for admission

To be eligible for admission, the applicant must hold the degree of Bachelor of Medicine from the University of Sydney; or

- the Sydney Medical School must deem a graduate of another institution as having equal standing to that of a graduate of the University of Sydney; and
- the applicant must have been a full-time member of the academic staff of the University of Sydney for at least three years or have had similar significant involvement with teaching and research; and
- the applicant must have been a graduate of the University of Sydney (or an equivalent institution) of at least five years' standing before the degree of Doctor can be awarded.

Distinguished contribution to knowledge

The published work may be regarded as a distinguished contribution to knowledge if:

- it represents a significant advance in knowledge in its chosen field; or
- it has given rise to or is a major part of a significant debate in scholarly books and journals among recognised scholars in its chosen field; or
- it has directly given rise to significant changes in the direction of research or of

practice of a newer generation of recognised scholars in its chosen field.

How many papers do I need to have?

There is no set number of publications an applicant must have to be awarded the degree. The *Prima Facie* Committee and the Examiners will be asked to judge the work on its quality and based on the criteria stated above, rather than on the quantity of the papers.

How do I apply?

You will need to submit as part of your application:

- An "Application For Admission" available from sydney.edu.au/medicine/future-students/postgraduate/research/index.php. Give details of your academic qualifications and your association with the University;
- A list of your published work that you wish to submit for examination; and
- An overview of the theme of the published work, a statement of how the publications are related to each other and the overall theme, and a self-appraisal of the published work highlighting its significance in relation to research in the field on the world stage.

Prima Facie worthiness

Once you have submitted your application package to the Postgraduate Student Administration Unit, it will be sent to the head of discipline (or his/her nominee) to determine the panel of experts that will need to consider the application for "*prima facie* worthiness".

The Chair of the Board of Postgraduate Studies will Chair the *Prima Facie* Committee and other members of the committee will usually be the head of discipline (or his/her nominee), the professor most concerned with the area of study and any other experts appointed by the Chair.

The *Prima Facie* Committee will consider:

- whether the applicant is eligible for admission to candidature

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- whether the published work is in a field appropriate for the nominated degree
- whether the faculty is able to examine at that level of higher doctorate

If the Committee finds that a prima facie case exists, it shall advise the Board of Postgraduate Studies that it recommend to the Academic Board:

- (a) the admission to candidature
- (b) the appointment of at least three examiners of whom at least two shall be external examiners.

Enrolment

After the Academic Board has admitted the applicant and appointed examiners, the applicant shall submit to the Postgraduate Student Administration Unit five copies of the published work incorporating the description of the theme of the published work and shall enrol as a candidate at the next enrolment period for one part-time semester.

Fees

The Doctor of Medicine (MD) is a full-fee paying course and applicants are required to enrol in one semester part-time. In 2012, this would amount to approximately \$5760 (Domestic), \$3,000 (Current title holder/Staff), \$8940 (International).

The thesis

The thesis should be on international standard A4 size paper sewn and bound in boards covered with bookcloth or buckram or other binding fabric.

The title of the thesis, the candidate's initials and surname, the title of the degree, the year of submission and the name of the University of Sydney should appear in lettering on the front cover or on the title page.

The lettering on the spine, reading from top to bottom, should conform as far as possible to the above except that the name of the University of Sydney may be omitted and the thesis title abbreviated. Supporting material should be bound in the back of the thesis as an appendix or in a separate set of covers.

The publications submitted for examination shall be a record of original research undertaken by the candidate, who shall state the sources from which the information was derived, the extent to which the candidate has made use of the work of others, and the portion of the work claimed as original.

If the publications submitted for examination record work carried out conjointly (whether published as single author or under conjoint authorship), the candidate shall state the extent

to which the candidate was responsible for the initiation, conduct or direction of such conjoint research.

Where the principal publications, as distinct from any supporting papers, incorporate work previously submitted for a degree in this or in any other university, the candidate shall clearly indicate which portion of the publications was so submitted.

The examination process

The thesis will be sent to three examiners (at least two will be external). Examiners recommended should be known to be familiar with the examination of research theses and should normally still be active in research and/or scholarship.

Each examiner shall make a separate and independent report on whether the published work meets the requirements for the award of the degree, i.e., the work is considered as being generally recognised by scholars in the field concerned as a distinguished contribution to knowledge.

Please allow 6-9 months for the entire process.

Outcomes of the examination

When all examiners have reported, the Prima Facie

Committee will reconvene and make one of the following recommendations:

- (a) recommend to the Academic Board that the degree be awarded;
- (b) recommend to the Academic Board that the degree not be awarded;
- (c) recommend to the Academic Board the appointment of a further examiner or examiners.

Please note that there is no provision for amendments or for "revise and resubmit". You cannot submit the same body of work for re-examination if the degree is not awarded.

Upon award of the degree the candidate will submit one bound copy of the published work (printed on acidfree archival paper) to the Postgraduate Student Administration Unit for lodgement with the University Library.

Graduation

At graduation ceremonies, higher doctorates are generally awarded before other degrees. In awarding the higher doctorate, it is customary for the speaker of the ceremony, usually the relevant Dean, to deliver a citation extolling the achievements of the graduand.

Further reading:

Please read this document in conjunction with the Higher Doctorate Resolutions.