

# UQ MD DESIGN

## Reimagining the UQ MD Program

### Background and Drivers for Change

The Faculty of Medicine at The University of Queensland commenced a multi-year transformation of its medical program (the MD Design Project) in May 2019. The MD Design Project is a **major step in a longer term evolution** of the UQ Medical Program. The end result of the MD Design, will be the successful implementation of a new medical program, commencing in January 2023. The new program will better prepare UQ graduates for modern clinical practice in Australia, and globally.

There are a number of internal and external drivers for change for the UQ MD including:

- **Changing needs of the populations** that our future graduates will serve [ageing; chronicity; comorbidities; significant and growing health inequities]
- **Shifts in models of care** [person-centeredness; team-based care; digital healthcare; and care closer to home];
- **Changes in the health workforce** [stronger focus on multi-disciplinary team; emergence of the generalist/extensivist; need for greater adaptability; recognition of mental health and wellbeing considerations]
- **The evolution of medical education and training** [with a shift towards a more outcome-based model; greater recognition of university education in the context of a continuum of life-long learning and transitions (including the transition to practice)]; and
- **Opportunities for UQ to improve** [particularly in terms of student diversity, student experience, graduate satisfaction and preparedness for internship].

Notably, the MD Design is **building from a range of improvement initiatives** that have focused on admissions, introducing greater student choice into the program and improving student support.

### Strategic Direction for our new UQ MD

Our Vision for our new UQ MD is: *To nurture and educate future medical graduates who are clinically capable, team players, kind and compassionate, serve responsibly and are dedicated to the continual improvement of the health of people and communities in Queensland, Australia and across the globe.*

In this context, six primary roles of the future UQ MD graduate have been identified (Figure 1), which are integral to the high level design. These six roles together make up the entire portfolio for the fully fledged UQ MD Graduate.

### High Level Program Design

Figure 2 provides an overview of the proposed new UQMD four year Program Structure. Each year will build on what has come before with staging of learning outcomes and standards of achievement that align and build towards overarching Program level Graduate Attributes. Learning in a clinical setting will progressively ramp up from year one through to full clinical immersion from year three and a transition to practice in the second half of year four.



Figure 1: Six Roles of the UQ Medical Graduate

## UQMD Program Structure





	Semester 1	Semester 2	KEY
 Year 1 FOUNDATIONS	Foundations of Medical Sciences; Foundations of Clinical Practice; Introduction to Health Systems and the Role of the Doctor in Society Early Clinical Experience   Learning Families   Building Blocks across 6 Roles Year-long, 16 Unit Course		Progression Decision Emphasis on Learning in a Structured Teaching Setting
 Year 2 DEVELOPING	Application of medical knowledge to pathological processes; Development of clinical skills; Elective opportunity Application of knowledge   Broadening of Clinical Skills and Contexts   Student Choice Year-long, 16 Unit Course		Progression Decision
 Year 3 CLINICAL IMMERSION	Clinical Immersion – Community and Hospital Settings; Team Scholarly Project Clinical Experience Across the Lifecycle   Student Choice Year-long, 16 Unit Course		Progression Decision
 Year 4 TRANSITION TO PRACTICE	Clinical Immersion – Community and Hospital Acute Care Immersion   Career Development 8 Units Progression Decision	Remediation Transition to Practice – Pre-Internship / Residency Placement; Elective Capstone   Work-readiness 8 Units Graduation Decision	Emphasis on Learning in Clinical Setting

Figure 2: Proposed UQMD Program Structure

In summary, the key defining features of the new program are:

- **Simplified and cohesive program organisation** with year-long courses for years 1-3 and a whole of program approach to assessment that is explicitly linked to staged learning outcomes;
- Learning outcomes which prepare our graduates to work across a **wide range of communities**, including **rural and regional Australia**;
- **Earlier meaningful clinical experience** facilitated by allocation to a ‘learning family’ from commencement;
- More **learner choice and focus on student enrichment opportunities**;
- **Embedding of First Nations health** throughout the curriculum;
- **Embedding of research literacy, critical thinking and research application** across the program, with a **team scholarly project in Year 3** for all students;
- Greater emphasis on **multi-disciplinary teams** and **generalist/extensivist** pathways achieved through longitudinal and/ or repeated exposure to various clinical contexts;
- A **stronger focus on career planning and the safe and effective transition to internship** including a dedicated transition to practice term in the last semester of Year 4; and
- Greater **emphasis on advocacy and stewardship** for the broader healthcare system and health improvement.

Notably, the six MD graduate roles will run throughout the program as themes and facilitate greater cohesion and integration of medical and clinical sciences and clinical practice, improved student learning experiences and clearer progression pathways.

### Forward Project Timeline

The project commenced in May 2019 and was well progressed with the High Level Design as of March 2020 when it officially went ‘on hold’ due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project officially recommenced in August 2020 with a view to completing the High Level Design by mid-November 2020.

It is planned that the project will now move into Stage 2: Detailed Design and will commence the formal Academic Program Approval process for a new and major program initiative from March 2021.

It is anticipated that the new curriculum will be ready for accreditation by the Australian Medical Council in 2022 with the commencement of the new UQ MD program in January 2023 (Figure 3).

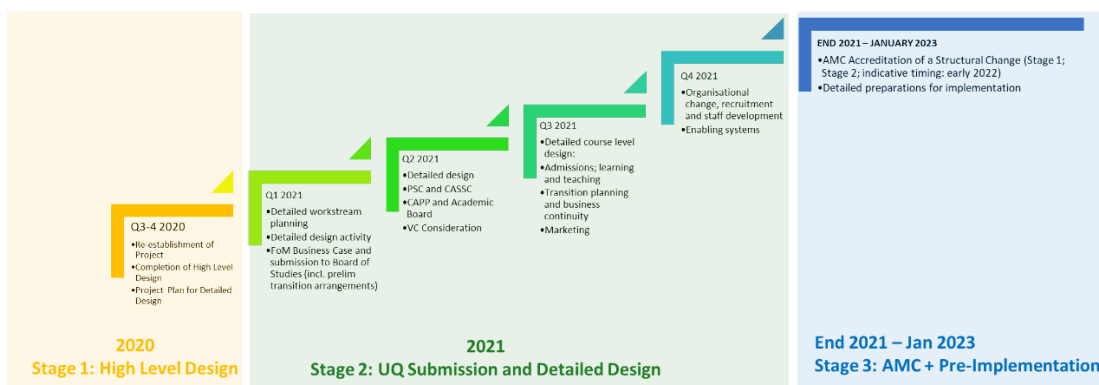


Figure 3: MD DESIGN Long Range Timeline (Q3 2020 onwards)