



## GEMSAS Grade Point Average calculations

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The following guidelines have been developed for calculation of Grade Point Averages (GPAs) for the purposes of selection of graduate-entry applicants into Australian medical schools belonging to GEMPASS Australia.

The Graduate Entry Medical School Admissions System (GEMSAS) will use these guidelines in the calculation of GPAs. Typically, the information needed to calculate GPAs will be retrieved from the Automated Results Transfer System (ARTS). Where it is not possible to retrieve results via ARTS, GPAs will be calculated based on official academic transcripts provided by applicants.

All GEMSAS GPAs are calculated using a 7-point grade scale.

### Key degree

Applicants' GPAs will be calculated using the most recent eligible tertiary qualification completed within the time frame required by the medical schools. This is referred to as the 'key degree'. If the applicant has completed multiple qualifications within this time frame, the most recently completed eligible qualification will be used.

### **Eligible Qualifications:**

Only recognised qualifications can be used as a key degree.

These include:

- Degrees awarded by Australian universities;
- Degrees awarded by institutions listed on the [Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency](#) register; and
- Degrees awarded by recognised foreign universities<sup>1</sup>.

All medical schools will accept recognised Bachelor level degrees of three or more years in duration and completed standalone Honours year qualifications for GPA calculation purposes. Some schools will also accept in-progress standalone Honours years, as well as postgraduate coursework and research qualifications. Applicants must typically have completed an initial three full time year equivalent Bachelor degree qualification or be enrolled in the final year at time of application to meet minimum entrance requirements.

It is the responsibility of applicants to check whether the medical schools to which they are applying will consider their qualifications for GPA calculations. Please refer to the individual school entries and FAQ sections in the [Admissions Guide](#) for full details of the types of qualifications that can be used to calculate a GPA for each of the medical schools.

### **Accelerated degrees**

An accelerated degree (a three-year degree completed over two calendar years) can be used to calculate a GPA and meet GEMSAS eligibility requirements, provided it contains 3 FTE (i.e. equivalent of three full time years) of study and will be completed within the required timeframe.

### **Non-standard degrees**

A Bachelor degree of less than two years' duration may not be accepted as a key degree by all medical schools. Please note that this refers to degrees where the standard duration of the program is less than two years. Usually these programs are graduate entry or conversion degrees that require students have a specific prior

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<sup>1</sup> Overseas university/institutions must be listed on the Australian Government's [Department of Education](#) database (formerly the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR)) or on the [UK-ENIC](#) website (formerly UK-NARIC).

qualification or professional background. It does not refer to three-year Bachelor degrees where applicants have exemptions from prior study.

### ***Incomplete recent study***

If additional study has been undertaken since the completion of the key degree, but the program will not be completed in the year of application, it will not be included in the GPA calculation, except for UWA (see the [UWA entry in the Admissions Guide](#)).

### ***Degrees with credit from Associate degree / TAFE study***

Where Bachelor degrees have received credit from a lower AQF level qualification (such as an Associate Degree or Diploma), the amount of credit received may affect whether medical schools will accept it as a key degree. Where a Bachelor degree with credit from a lower level qualification can be used as a key degree, the results from the earlier qualification typically will not be used to calculate the GPA, even where grades are available. Further details can be found in the [Credits \(advanced standing\) and exchange subjects](#) section.

## **Calculation of the GPA**

The GPA is calculated from the last three 'GPA years' of the key degree/s, where a 'GPA year' is the equivalent of one year of full-time study. This may not necessarily be the same as a calendar year or all the units at one level of study. For example, if a full-time study load at a university is 8 subjects, with each subject worth 6 credit points, a GPA year will be 48 credit points' worth of subjects. Even if the 48 credits are completed over two or more calendar years, they are still equivalent to one year of full-time study (1 FTE). Similarly, a 144 credit accelerated degree completed over two calendar years will still be equivalent to three years of full-time study (3 FTE).

The three GPA years used to calculate the GPA are referred to as Final Year, Final-1 Year, and Final-2 Year, where the Final Year is the most recent. The most recently completed subjects will be allocated to Final Year until Final Year is equivalent to 1 FTE. Subjects will then be allocated to Final-1 Year and then to Final-2 Year. Should there be a choice between two or more subjects of equivalent credit points which were studied concurrently, the subjects will be distributed with higher subject results going to the more recent GPA year.

GPA's are usually calculated for each GPA year of the key degree/s using the percentage marks for each subject assigned to that GPA year. Where percentage marks are not available, grades will be converted according to the [Grading System Conversion Table](#).

Where a key degree contains less than 3 years of study, the shortfall will be made up using results from the next most recent eligible qualification. For example, if the key degree is a one-year Honours year, the remaining 2 years will be taken from the next preceding eligible degree. Where an applicant has more than 3 years of eligible study, only the most recent 3 years will be used towards the GPA.

**Exception:** UQ calculates a GPA using the most recently completed eligible qualification, which could have more or less than 3 FTE of results. They do not separate the results into distinct GPA years.

### ***Current study***

For applicants completing the final year of their key degree at the time of application, results up to and including Semester 1 of the current year will be used to calculate a provisional GPA, provided that an applicant has sufficient FTE of graded results available. If the FTE of the available results is below the threshold required by the medical school, the Final Year GPA will be left blank and the applicant's provisional overall GPA will be derived only from Final-1 and Final-2 years. For more details regarding minimum full-time equivalent load for current study please refer to the [Admissions Guide](#).

Where a provisional Final Year GPA is calculated based only on Semester 1 results, any offers of a place will be conditional upon the applicant's final results for Semester 2 reaching the standard required by the offering school.

## 2020 study

The GEMSAS medical schools have considered options for changing GPA methodology, recognising the impact of COVID-19 on 2020 study. As a result, some schools have made changes regarding the inclusion of 2020 results in GPA calculations and/or the threshold of graded subjects required per GPA year.

For **Deakin**, all 2020 results will be excluded from GPA calculations.

For **Griffith**, 2020 results will be used in GPA calculations. Applicants may request to have ALL Semester 1/Trimester 1 grades from 2020 disregarded.

For **The University of Melbourne**, results for 2020 subjects completed before the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e. January 2020 to March 2020) and results for standalone honours subjects completed in 2020 will be included in the GPA calculations for entry to the Doctor of Medicine program. All other 2020 subject results (i.e. completed from April 2020 to December 2020) will be excluded for entry.

Please refer to the [Admissions Guide](#) and see the school entry section for details, changes, and updates.

## Weighted Grade Point Average

Some medical schools will calculate a weighted GPA that puts greater emphasis on more recent study. Where schools use a weighted GPA, GPA years are typically weighted as follows:

Final Year results will be weighted by a factor of 3

Final-1 Year results will be weighted by a factor of 2

Final-2 Year results will be weighted by a factor of 1

Some medical schools may also use different weightings, and some may use different weightings where less than 3 GPA years are included in the GPA. See the [Admissions Guide](#) for more information.

## Bonus points for additional study

Bonus points for additional study (such as a PhD) will not be included in the base GPA. However, they will be added by GEMSAS as appropriate when applicants apply to medical schools that include bonuses in their selection processes. For more details please refer to individual school entries in the [Admissions Guide](#).

## Credits (advanced standing) and exchange subjects

Many applicants receive credit from prior study or from overseas exchange subjects in their key degree. GPA calculations may include these subjects if results are available, provided they are awarded by a recognised institution. The following methods will apply:

**Note:** UWA's GPA is calculated from units within eligible Key Degrees that an applicant has undertaken in the most recent 3 FTE and does not take into consideration specified/unspecified credit, or results achieved on exchange. The below information does not apply; please refer to [UWA's website](#) for further information.

### **Specified credit from prior study:**

If prior study was undertaken within an eligible key degree and is shown as specified credit, it will be included in GPA calculations. However, specified credit, as per the definition, requires the key degree record to show the subject codes, names, weightings, and results. **Most results retrieved through ARTS do not show this information.** If prior credit does not meet this definition, it is treated as unspecified credit. Please note that we do not use hard copy transcripts where results are available via ARTS, and we will not accept transcripts provided as clarification regarding specified credit not shown in ARTS.

### ***Unspecified credit from prior study***

Where unspecified credit is received, we will use the next applicable key degree/s (complete, discontinued or incomplete) to calculate the remainder of the 3 FTE GPA.

Institutional rules vary on whether study of a different level can be considered as unspecified credit:

**ANU, Deakin, Griffith, Notre Dame, and Wollongong** may consider credit from a standalone Honours or higher qualification (AQF Level 8+) towards a more recent Bachelor (AQF Level 7) key degree.

**University of Melbourne and Macquarie** will not use study from AQF Level 8 and above in the GPA as credit to an AQF Level 7 key degree, and would instead use older Bachelor degree study to make up the credit.

**UQ** considers all potential prior tertiary study (at the same AQF level if possible) that may have been used for the credit. This study is then weighted accordingly to make up any missing FTE from the key degree.

### ***Specified or unspecified credit from TAFE qualifications / ineligible prior study***

Programs below AQF Level 7 (such as Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, and Associate Degrees) are typically not factored into GPA calculations, except for UQ, which may use them if necessary. Where these programs have contributed credit to an AQF Level 7 program, the approach taken will depend on the type of credit received.

#### *Specified credit:*

If an applicant has received **specified credit** towards a degree from below AQF Level 7 program/s we will leave space chronologically where these subjects fall. GPAs are not referred to the institution, with some exceptions.

#### **Exceptions:**

**Griffith University** will not consider specified credit from below AQF Level 7 program/s and no space will be left for these specified units.

**University of Melbourne** will leave space where these subjects fall, but GPAs will be referred to the institution.

**UQ** will use these subjects in the GPA calculations if the specified credit is shown in the most recently completed key degree.

#### *Unspecified Credit:*

Where a key degree has received **unspecified credit** from a program below AQF Level 7, we will use previous study at AQF Level 7 or above, if available. If no suitable earlier study exists, the GPA will be calculated from less than 3 FTE of study. GPAs will be referred to the institutions if the deficit exceeds their accepted threshold.

#### **Exceptions:**

**UQ** may incorporate study from below AQF Level 7 in GPA calculations if there is insufficient AQF Level 7 study.

**University of Melbourne** and **Macquarie University** will not consider study at AQF Level 8 and above as credit towards undergraduate programs in GPA calculations.

#### *Ineligible Study:*

Where an applicant has received credit from ineligible study (i.e. study that was not completed at a recognized institution), GPAs will be calculated as per the guidelines outlined above for specified or unspecified credit from below AQF Level 7 programs. However, the GPAs will be referred to the relevant institutions to check.

## Exchange subjects

Where an overseas exchange has been completed, the results that will be considered for GPA calculations are those shown on the transcript issued by the overseas institution, not the home university transcript.

Where overseas exchange subjects are graded the results will be included in GPA calculations. If an overseas grading system is used, the grades will be converted to a 7-point scale, taking the minimum and maximum marks into consideration.

Where overseas exchange results are graded on a pass/fail basis, they will be incorporated into the GPA as ungraded subjects according to the rules outlined in the 'Ungraded Subjects' section below.

## Ungraded subjects

A key degree may contain subjects that are assessed on a pass/fail basis, rather than being awarded grades. This may also apply to 2020/2021 subjects that have disregarded grades because of COVID-19 disruptions. Typically, where these subjects have been passed, they will be included in the GPA year (i.e. their credits will count towards the year of study), but they do not contribute a GPA value to the overall calculation.

Once a GPA has been calculated, GEMSAS will review the amount of ungraded study in each GPA year to ensure that sufficient graded results are present. Each of the three GPA years must contain a minimum amount of graded study for it to contribute to the overall GPA. Institutions may have different requirements; please refer to the [Admissions Guide](#) for details. If a GPA year does not meet this minimum threshold, it will be disregarded for GPA purposes and will not contribute to the overall GPA.

Additionally, if two or more GPA years do not each contain at least 0.375 FTE of graded study, the calculation will be referred to the relevant medical school for checking.

Where an ungraded subject is reported as failed, it will be treated as a fail in a GPA calculation.

If a degree is entirely made up of ungraded passes, the GPA will be referred to each individual medical school for them to consider.

### Exceptions:

**For Griffith**, if there is **more than 0.5 FTE** of ungraded passes in any GPA year the GPA will be referred to the institution. Griffith University will award a GPA value of 4.5 for each ungraded pass in excess of the 0.5 FTE threshold in any GPA year. Where 2020 results are reported from the University of Melbourne as disregarded and an entire GPA year is blank, the overall GPA will be calculated off two GPA years only and this will not be referred.

**For Wollongong**, if the applicant does not have at least 0.375 FTE of graded results in two of the three GPA years across their entire qualifying degree/s in the GPA, but the minimum GPA hurdle (5.5) is met this will **not** be referred.

**For UWA**: Where an applicant has more than 1 FTE of ungraded passes within their most recent 3 FTE the GPA calculation will include results from older eligible study where available. If results are not available and the applicant does not have 2 FTE of graded results used in the GPA, the calculation will be referred to the institution. **Note**: If the applicant is currently studying their initial degree and does not yet have 2 FTE of graded results (i.e. Final Year is blank), the GPA will only be referred if there is more than 1 FTE of ungraded passes.

**For UQ**: There is no minimum graded results threshold per GPA year since GPAs are calculated from the entire qualification as a whole, not a 3-year count back. If credit is received from ungraded subjects these will be included with a grade value equivalent to a pass from that institution.

If an applicant's most recently completed undergraduate key degree is an entirely pass/fail award (ungraded) and they have an earlier key degree that is a graded award, the earlier program will be used as the basis of the GPA assessment.

### Combined degrees

If a combined degree has been completed, the last three years of the combined degree will be used to calculate the GPA. Please note that there are some institution-specific rules for combined undergraduate/postgraduate degrees.

If the applicant has transferred from a combined degree to a single degree, the GPA will be calculated on the single degree provided the academic results **clearly show** which subjects are deemed to make up the single degree. Where this information is missing or not specified, all subjects in the final three years will be included towards the GPA calculation.

Please refer to the individual school entries and FAQ sections in the [Admissions Guide](#) as exceptions may apply.

### Undeclared study

Applicants are required to declare **all** their prior study when they make their application to GEMSAS, regardless of whether it will be used for GPA purposes. Results not declared by an applicant but identified through ARTS will be used for the calculation of the GPA (where applicable).

**For the purpose of university admission, the withholding of information and the submission of incorrect or misleading information are deemed fraudulent. Action taken in such cases may include cancellation of an application for admission, withdrawal of an offer of admission, or cancellation of an enrolment.**

### Overseas study

Where an applicant has completed their key degree outside of Australia, and results are available, they will be used to calculate a GPA. The method of calculation is the same as described above (i.e. working backwards from the most recent results, grades will be allocated to Final, Final-1, and Final-2 GPA years); however, overseas results will first be converted to the Australian 7-point GPA scale. For more details regarding GPA calculations using overseas study please refer to the GEMSAS Overseas Qualification Assessments process document on the GEMSAS website.

### Failed subjects

If undertaken within a key degree, results for failed subjects will be included in calculation of the GPA for the year in which they were studied. Failed subjects from prior study that was then credited to the key degree could not have contributed credit, and therefore will not be included in the GPA.

Failed subjects will be incorporated into the GPA with the credit weighting that would have been awarded if the subject had been passed. This weighting will count towards the 1 FTE total study per GPA year, and GPA years will not be overloaded to account for failed subjects.

#### Exceptions:

**UQ:** Fails from prior study/credited subjects **will** be included in the GPA (as per UQ's specific method of incorporating prior study) but **only** if the subject was repeated and passed. Any failed subject from prior study that has not been passed on a subsequent attempt will not be used for the GPA calculation.

**UWA:** Any failed subjects which took place in the most recent 3 FTE of eligible study will be used in the GPA whether they were in a completed key degree or not.

## Repeated subjects

If a subject in the key degree has been failed and repeated, both sets of results will be included in the GPA calculation (provided they fall within the most recent 3 FTE of study).

If the same subject (i.e. identical subject code) has been taken and passed multiple times within the three GPA years, then both attempts can be used towards the GPA calculation. However, where the first attempt is reported in ARTS as disregarded for GPA purposes, this result will not be used, and the GPA calculation will be referred to the medical schools for checking. The exception is **UWA** calculations, where additional attempts at successfully completed units will not be incorporated into the GPA.

## Conceded passes

Where a conceded pass has been granted, a score of 49% (grade of 3.5) will be attributed to that subject for the purpose of calculating a GPA.

## Concurrent study

An applicant's most recent study may include results from multiple programs undertaken simultaneously, i.e. a second program commences while the first is in progress. For the purposes of GPA calculation, the most recently completed program will be considered the key degree. Where this key degree has received unspecified credit, the most recently completed units of the concurrent study will be incorporated into the GPA to make up the shortfall. The GPA will be calculated from only the most recent 3 FTE of study, so some excess results from the key degree may be excluded. These GPA calculations will be referred to the relevant institution for confirmation.

Where an applicant studied two separate degrees and completed both these awards at the same time (either at the same or different levels) and they are both eligible for inclusion in the GPA, these situations are always referred to the institutions. We typically take the most recent 3FTE from both qualifications.