MEDICAL COMMUNICATION AND health sciences program

## Course Description

This program has two, broad objectives. Firstly, students will develop communication skills that are directly relevant to a career in the medical professions. Example activities include writing medical themed reports, giving presentations based on a particular health topic and reading medical texts. In addition, communication classes will prepare students for the Health content components of this program.

The second objective is to expose MBBS students to an alternative approach to the study of medicine and in addition, to foster a greater awareness of the Australian health system and how this differs from the students’ own health care systems. Students will develop skills in analysing and assessing patients, and in decision making, both individually and in teams.

As part of this second objective, students will have the opportunity to more fully explore a specific medical issue using a case based learning (‘CBL’) methodology that will encourage them to use existing knowledge, and material covered in classes to real world scenarios in small groups, in order to promote higher level cognition.

The teaching methodology is based on a communicative approach, with participants doing pair work and group tasks. This approach is designed to build students’ skills in teamwork and problem solving, as well as to enable them to display initiative and grow confidence.

Entry Requirements

Students should be enrolled in a MBBS program and is best suited for students in their second or third year. Students are required to have an IELT’s score of 5.5, a CET4 score of 450 or equivalent.

## Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course students will be:

* Familiar with the structure of the Adelaide University Medical Course
* Familiar with the Integrated Structure of Medical Learning and Teaching Principles
* Competent in searching Online Medical Databases
* Aware of the nature of the patient-clinician relationship in Australia
* Competent in Diagnosing, Treating and Managing patients by Small Group Approach
* Familiar with the Delivery of Health and Medical Services in South Australia
* Familiar with global health care systems

Course modules

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| **Course module** | **Content Description** |
| ***Module 1: Medical Communication***  *36 Hours* | Students will build and develop communication skills required by Health professionals, increasing their ability and confidence to work with patients and colleagues in the Health Sciences context. This module will also prepare students for the other modules of this program. |
| ***Module 2: Simulation and Tours***  *6 Hours* | Students will experience our simulation lab (<https://health.adelaide.edu.au/engage/facilities-services/adelaide-health-simulation>) and conduct simulated treatment and analysis.  There will also be a tour of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences building.  In additional, students will participate in an anatomy class at the Ray Last laboratory: <https://health.adelaide.edu.au/engage-with-us/facilities-services/ray-last-laboratories> |
| ***Module 4: Case Based Learning (CBL)***  *26 Hours* | A series of sessions where students will work together as a team, under the guidance of a University of Adelaide Faculty of Health Sciences tutor, on a realistic health sciences case, giving students the opportunity to apply learning, problem solve and practice decision making in an authentic manner. This module includes the program overview for Health Sciences and an Introduction to using Online Databases. |
| ***Module 5: Health Sciences Lecture Series***  *4 Hours* | A series of lectures will be delivered by University of Adelaide academics connected to the Faculty of Health Sciences. These lectures are designed to give students the foundation knowledge to enable them to be successful in their CBL classes as well as an overview of health care topics.  Please note that the regular class teacher will scaffold the lecture content and vocab prior to the lecture and using the lecture information in a tutorials and activities.  **Lecture series:**  Lecture 1: Diabetes: introduction and background for CBL  Lecture 2: Stroke Rehabilitation  Lecture 3: Australian Health System  Lecture 4: Scientific Basis of Diabetes |

## Delivery or Engagement Mode

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|  | Hours |
| 1. Face-to-face | 24 Hours PW |
| 2. Assignments, team project work, reading and research | 2 Hours PW |
| TOTAL | 26 Hours PW |

## Assessment

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| **Assessment** | **Length** | **Weighting** |
| Oral Presentation | 5 minutes | 20% |
| Summary Writing | 500 – 800 words | 20% |
| Comprehension (Note taking) | 500 – 800 words | 20% |
| Annotating Readings | 500 - 800 words | 20% |
| Participation | Ongoing | 20% |