

ALL ABOUT MED SCHOOL



WITH PHOEBE (MENTOR): BACHELOR OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

(INTERVIEW)

So what's med school actually like?

Med runs super differently to first year, instead of 3 or 4 papers per semester, it runs as a single full year paper. In this there are block modules for the body systems. such as cardiac, respiratory and gastrointestinal. These block modules run for a period of time and include lectures from different departments, such as anatomy, physiology and also pharmacology, blood, genetics, cancer to name a few. Most learning occurs in tutorials and labs rather than lectures, which are more supporting material?

What does a day-in-the-life look like?

My timetable changes every week so I don't have a "normal" day as such, but generally my days can be: four lectures 9, 10, 2 and 3 throughout the day on a Monday and a Friday, with potentially a two hour tutorial or lab in the 11-1 slot. Every day we have a break 1-2 for lunch but aside from that your timetable is different. You work as a stream so you and a quarter of your class have the same timetable and have all your labs together and tutorials in groups of 10 or 11, but lectures are with everyone.

What are the biggest challenges you've faced?

The biggest challenge this year was getting used to the new structure, as having one full year paper where exams are cases, rather than separated out into topics means you have to know everything by the first exam and get good at prioritising what is important.

What did you do in high school that's helped you in med school? Or what did you not do, that you wish you did?

I took chemistry and physics; in first year they were very helpful. I maybe wish I did statistics because epidemiology is a lot of stats, but it was fairly easy to pick up.

What are your tips for current high school students, and for getting into med school?

For getting in: work hard, don't listen to those around you, or try to compare. People will always seem to be working harder or more than you, but working smarter definitely pays off. But also ensure you have a balance, make some friends, go out for coffee sometimes, maybe join a club (but maybe only one in first year), drink if that's what you enjoy. I personally enjoyed going for walks for stress relief so find something like that and remember it's a means to an end.

For med: get involved with the events. I know at the start of the year, the icebreakers are the literal worst but you spend soooo much time with these people and whether you like it or not you will become very close with them, so don't close yourself off to this, I'm flating with med students this year that I had no idea existed at the start of last year; it just happens.