

## HEAR FROM PREVIOUS CANDIDATES ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AS WELL AS THEIR ADVICE ON HOW TO BEST PREPARE FOR THE **UCAT ANZ**.



### **VIVEK DODDI, STUDYING MEDICINE AT GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY**

Sat UCAT ANZ in 2023

Vivek, aged 19, has always been passionate about developments in medical science and their positive impact on people's health. Inspired by his own personal experiences in hospitals and with medical professionals growing up, his desire is to help others — whether that be by treating patients for physical or mental conditions — and this passion has led him to pursue a career in medicine.

He first learned about the UCAT ANZ in 2022 through friends and then found further information online through the UCAT ANZ website. The test assesses a range of abilities identified by universities as important to practising in the fields of medicine, dentistry, and clinical sciences. Verbal Reasoning evaluates the applicant's critical thinking with written information; Decision Making tests their judgement using complex details; Quantitative Reasoning measures their analysis of numerical data; and Situational Judgement assesses the candidate's understanding of real-world scenarios and appropriate responses.

Vivek found the official practice questions that are freely available on the UCAT ANZ website invaluable for building his confidence with the test and developing his problem-solving skills. Vivek sat the UCAT ANZ at a Pearson Test Centre in Auckland, New Zealand. He's now studying Medicine at Griffith University in Queensland, Australia.

When asked, Vivek's primary advice to prospective students is: "Take your time to really delve into the UCAT ANZ and all that it has to offer. The format of the assessment has helped me gain a new appreciation for thought and critical thinking."

Used in collaboration with other admissions processes (such as interviews and academic qualifications), one of the aims of the UCAT ANZ is to identify key characteristics in applicants which will make them go on to be good dentists, doctors, and clinicians in the future. Vivek advises prospective students to really think about why they're required to take this type of assessment — "it's not just about getting the score you want, but about being ready for the types of real-life scenario you'll encounter in your medical career," he explains.

For more information  
about UCAT ANZ visit  
[www.ucat.edu.au](http://www.ucat.edu.au)  
or scan our QR code.



***"The UCAT ANZ encouraged me to approach problems with a very unique set of problem-solving skills — techniques that I've carried into the fields I'm now studying for my degree."***



Transferable skills are currently a very hot topic — and Vivek developed these — both through preparing for, and sitting the assessment: “The UCAT ANZ encouraged me to approach problems with a very unique set of problem-solving skills — techniques that I’ve carried into the fields I’m now studying in my degree.”

Creating a personalised study plan with the many tutorials, question banks, and practice tests available on the UCAT ANZ website, gave Vivek a solid foundation, not only for taking the UCAT ANZ, but for his undergraduate medical degree and beyond.

When asked if he felt anyone — irrespective of their socio-cultural, geographical or economic backgrounds, could pursue a career in medicine or dentistry, he said: “I believe they definitely can. Many people from certain backgrounds will have already overcome some kind of challenge in their lives. However, those who have enough drive, determination, and passion will find their path forward and be successful.”

He summarised his experience by saying: “My greatest goal is to keep learning. Not only by going through university to eventually become a doctor, but by continuing to adapt and grow on a personal level. I aspire to share my knowledge and insights with others — to help them appreciate and experience the profound impact of continuous learning.”

## **DAYMON TUTHILL, STUDYING MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Sat UCAT ANZ in 2021

Daymon, aged 21, first found out about the UCAT ANZ test when he overheard a conversation between some of his classmates in his Year 12 Biology class. He knew that he had an interest in science and realised that in applying to study medicine, it would allow him to follow his passion, and “express it in a meaningful way — through the field of healthcare,” as he explains.

Daymon explored what the UCAT ANZ had to offer online through the UCAT ANZ website and discovered the computer-based admissions test offered an opportunity for him to demonstrate the appropriate abilities and professional behaviours he would need to fulfil his dream of becoming a surgeon. “The nature of medicine demands only the best practice and always pushes the healthcare practitioner to learn,” he says. However, Daymon acknowledges there are perceptions that medicine is difficult, and that some students are unsure whether they have what it takes.

*“Anything worth doing in life is difficult, but the challenge itself will always provide you with a learning experience — to better prepare you for tackling complex tasks in the future. No matter the specialist field you end up in, the UCAT ANZ will help you to think outside the box. A skill the world will always need.”*



Daymon sat his UCAT ANZ test at a Pearson Test Centre in Perth, Australia, and believes preparing for the different sub-tests of the assessment has shaped both his personal and professional outlook: "Anything worth doing in life is difficult, but the challenge itself will always provide you with a learning experience — to better prepare you for tackling complex tasks."

Daymon was accepted into the medical programme at the University of Western Australia (UWA) in Perth. Indeed, he is starting to play his own part in breaking down barriers around medicine. He's recently started teaching anatomy lab sessions at UWA Medical school — a pursuit he hopes will lead to him becoming a better educator in the future. Similarly, he feels taking the UCAT ANZ gave him the confidence to tackle these types of opportunities and to encourage more students to consider this pathway.



"Whilst there are still perceptions that people from certain backgrounds are more likely to pursue a career in medicine, there are now more resources and tools available to support students from underrepresented groups. It's changing and improving every day to allow individuals such as myself to be further represented." Indeed, the UCAT ANZ Consortium is committed to fairness in selection to its undergraduate courses and to the widening participation in medical, dental, and clinical training of under-represented social groups.

## **JOORY ABULHAGAG, STUDYING DENTISTRY AT GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY**

Sat UCAT ANZ in 2023

Educated on the significance of oral hygiene as a young girl, Joory, aged 19, was never a child who feared going to the dentist. Her fascination in how dentistry merges science and art, motivated her to pursue work experience placements at dental clinics during her time at high school: "Coming from a third world country — and then moving to a rural Australian town, I've experienced first-hand how a scarcity of resources, a shortage of health professionals and, most significantly — a lack of information can affect not only individuals, but entire communities regarding their health and well-being."



Gaining practical experience in dentistry led Joory to researching requirements for undergraduate courses — which was when she discovered the UCAT ANZ. The UCAT ANZ test is a popular pathway to studying dentistry in Australia and New Zealand, assessing a range of abilities identified by universities as important to practising in this field. As Joory explains, effective preparation is key to being successful in the assessment: "I found the many practice tests and question banks on the UCAT ANZ website extremely helpful. When I practised, I recreated the exam conditions as closely as possible. I used a laminated notebook and a whiteboard marker, wore ear plugs to condition myself to focus in complete silence (something I was not used to!) and, as my test date approached, even dressed in the outfit I planned to wear on my test day."

***"You'll hear a lot of different opinions about how much effort and time you're required to put in when taking the UCAT ANZ. If you're passionate about doing well in the test, then work hard for it, regardless of how well you believe you can do."***

Before Joory sat her exam at a Pearson Test Centre in Rockhampton, QLD, she messaged with like-minded students on online forums. Engaging with others going through the same experience built her confidence — as well as being disciplined around her hours of study and taking the time to look over her mistakes in the practice tests. Joory urges prospective candidates to get familiar with the different subtests in the UCAT ANZ and to really think about how they can best prepare — but to be kind to themselves: "You'll hear a lot of different opinions about how much effort and time you're required to put in when taking the UCAT ANZ. If you're passionate about doing well in the test, then work hard for it, regardless of how well you believe you can do. At the same time, be careful not to burn yourself out — that will be counterproductive. Listen to your body's needs and wants and follow them wisely."



In fact, studying for and sitting the UCAT ANZ developed Joory's strong sense of personal belief in her abilities — she's now studying for a Bachelor of Dental Health Science at Griffith University (that leads into a Master of Dentistry). She encourages anyone — regardless of their background to consider dentistry as a career: "I believe there is real progress being made around bridging the equity gap and making these types of courses more accessible for anyone to pursue as a career."

Joory feels strongly that the attributes she developed from preparing for and taking the UCAT ANZ, have transferred across to her studies: "The goal I'm working towards at present is to become the most disciplined and productive version of myself I can be. I'm grateful to be pursuing a course that I really love. One day I look forward to serving and educating people in underprivileged communities. I believe that good oral health is a human right, not a privilege."

***For more information and registration details, visit [www.ucat.edu.au](http://www.ucat.edu.au) or scan our QR code.***



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