

## Hear from Claudia Christensen, studying Medical Science at Central Queensland University on her experiences as well as her advice on how to prepare for the UCAT ANZ

“Taking the UCAT ANZ test has taught me the importance of consistency, resilience, and trusting my ability to improve over time. It showed me that progress doesn’t come from cramming, but from showing up regularly and learning from mistakes.”



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Claudia Christensen, a regional student from Rockhampton, is in her second year of the Bachelor of Medical Science (Pathway to Medicine) at Central Queensland University. Her motivation to pursue medicine stems from its unique blend of science and real-world application. “It’s not just about memorising facts,” Claudia explains. “It challenges you to think critically, adapt, and use what you know to help real people.”

She first learned about the UCAT ANZ in Year 11 from a Queensland university representative visiting her high school. When it came time to prepare, Claudia’s approach was all about consistency. “Just slowly making progress, through small bits of dedication at a time makes all the difference,” she says. She began with a full mock exam to understand what lay ahead, then integrated 15 minutes of practice into her daily routine, gradually increasing the time as the test day approached. Claudia sat the UCAT ANZ at a Pearson Test Centre in her hometown of Rockhampton.

For students considering the UCAT ANZ, Claudia’s advice is to start early and treat preparation like honing any other skill. She stresses the importance of balancing study with schoolwork and personal life. “When schoolwork isn’t as demanding, allow more time for UCAT preparation, but when it’s exam time at school, don’t be afraid to make schoolwork a priority again,” she advises. “My biggest piece of advice is to make sure you continue to do things you enjoy outside of study, guilt-free, so you can enjoy it.”

Claudia believes that anyone, from any background, can pursue a career in medicine, though she acknowledges the path can be more challenging for some. “I am definitely not a ‘typical’ medicine applicant,” she explains. “I come from a rural background, have no doctors in my family, and had a part time job throughout high school, as well as working three jobs during my first year of university.”

But she believes that with determination, people from all backgrounds can succeed: “There’s no single mould for a medicine or dentistry applicant. Over time, I’ve learned that confidence is built through action: by backing yourself, staying consistent, and being willing to improve.”

Her own journey into medicine wasn’t a lifelong dream but a passion that crystallized over time. The turning point was a surgical placement at a local hospital: “It was during this experience that everything finally ‘clicked’, and I realised this was the path I wanted to pursue. If my journey shows anything, it’s that you don’t have to be perfect or fit a certain mould to pursue medicine; – you just have to follow your passions.”

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