

New medical degree on offer

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A NEW degree to be offered by the University of South Australia will enable more students to study medicine and help meet future demand for medical researchers created by a new facility to be built in Adelaide.

The three-year Bachelor of Medical Science, starting next year, will not skill graduates as doctors but as medical researchers who can go on to further study in

medicine, physiotherapy and other related fields.

Graduates will be qualified to work at the new \$200 million South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute to be built as part of the planned new Royal Adelaide Hospital - announced in this year's Federal Budget.

The 675-position facility will be open by the end of 2012.

UniSA School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences program di-

rector Sandra Orgeig said there already was plenty of demand for the skills offered by the new course, at hospitals and companies such as those in the Thebarton Bioscience Precinct.

"It also would be perfect timing for graduates from this new program to come out and find employment there (at the new facility)," she said.

"This (degree) expands the options for South Australian students who might be in-

terested in medicine to stay for longer in South Australia with the option of medical entry later on."

UniSA expects to take on between 30 and 50 students, including 10 international students, in the first year of the new degree.

The curriculum will cover such topics as genetics, immunology, biotechnology, pharmaceutical chemistry, nutrition, anatomy and molecular biology.