



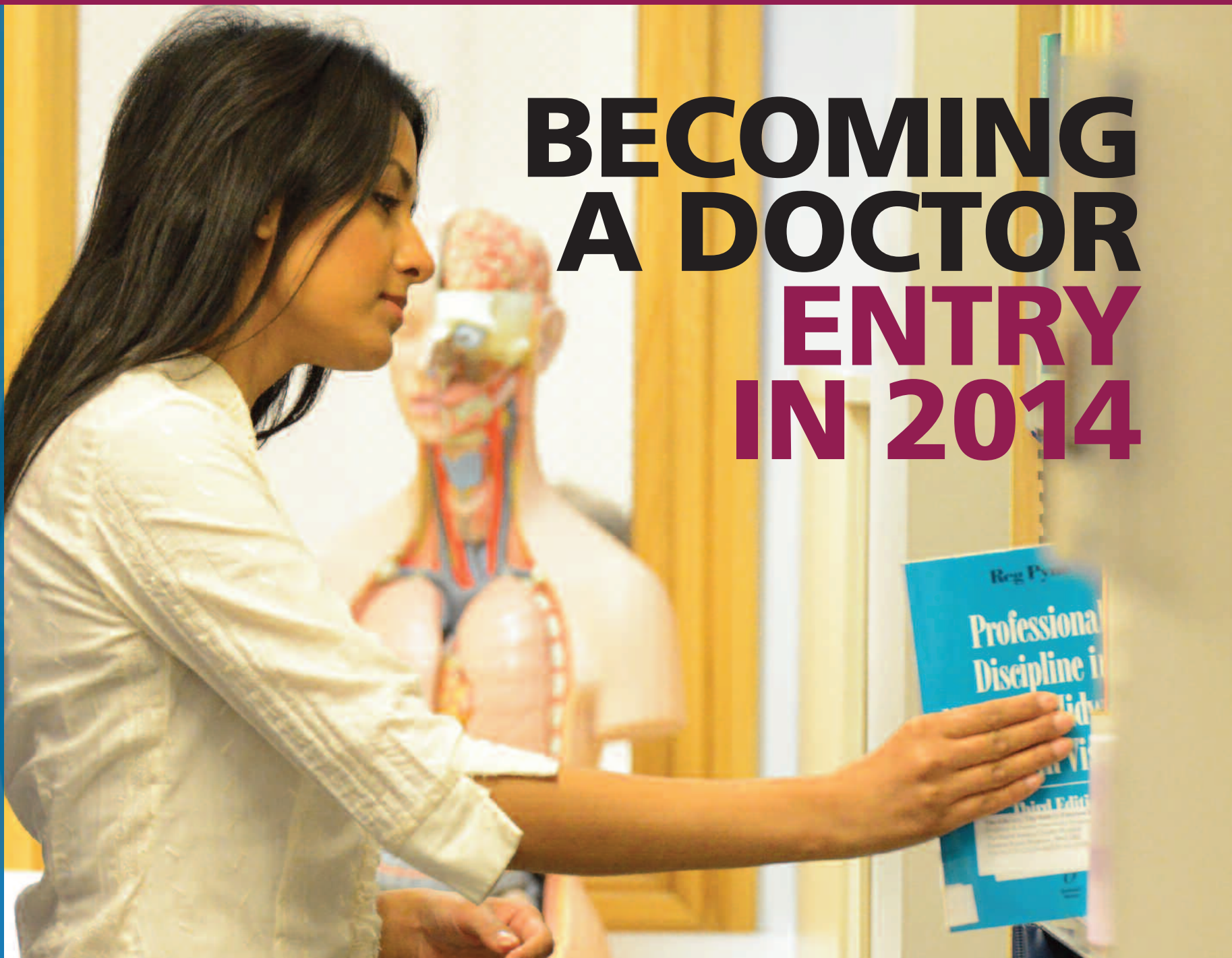
SCIENCE & EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

BECOMING A DOCTOR
13th revision July 2014

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What is the BMA?

The BMA is the professional organisation for doctors established to look after the personal and professional needs of its members. It is also an independent trade union dedicated to protecting individual members and the collective interests of doctors.

The BMA fights for medical students interests on issues like fees, widening access and foundation programme application system. The BMA provides members with high quality support, advice and information during training and throughout their careers, offering help on matters relating to personal and professional finance, and also providing support for the future of doctors and the medical profession. The BMA has many resources on offer to help medical students, such as the BMA Library, access to the Student BMJ, help with preparing for exams and keeping you abreast of important developments in medicine.

For further information about the benefits of student membership see the BMA website bma.org.uk.

Click on any of
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Student membership as a first year medical student is **FREE**.

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Medicine is a popular career choice and competition for places at medical school is very high. This resource from the BMA's Science and Education Department is produced annually to reflect any changes in medical education, including entry requirements, funding arrangements and career structure. It is designed to help those who are considering a career in medicine. While it raises some questions that potential medical students should consider, the main purpose of the document is to answer commonly asked questions about becoming a doctor and provide relevant information and sign-posting where further information can be obtained. If you are currently at school or college, an additional source of advice would be your careers advisor.



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Am I suited to becoming a doctor?

Contemporary medicine is challenging, exciting and dynamic. Countless new discoveries are making their impact on medical practice. Doctors qualifying now will see even more dramatic changes in the future, with the development of many new therapies, involving not only drugs, but also treatments arising from research in electronics, nuclear physics, genetics and molecular biology.

A career in medicine offers doctors an opportunity to provide a service to the public through the diagnosis and treatment of illness and diseases. Doctors are able to choose which area of medicine they practise in. This should suit their own personal aptitudes. For example, community-based doctors such as general practitioners (GPs) have daily face-to-face contact with patients, while some other doctors concentrate on advancing medicine in terms of undertaking scientific research, which may involve less patient contact.

Attributes that are considered the 'core values' of doctors

Competence	Caring	Responsibility
Integrity	Compassion	Advocacy
Confidentiality	Commitment	Spirit of enquiry

There are a large number of specialty career paths in medicine with over 50 career options available. The possible options include becoming a surgeon, a GP, a geneticist, a psychiatrist, a lecturer at medical school, a medical researcher, or a public health physician, to name a few. Although the majority of doctors work within the NHS, opportunities exist in other settings, such as doctors in the armed forces, providing medical service in prisons, or working as a forensic physician in the police force. **Section 4** lists the major medical specialties with contacts for the organisations who can provide further information. **Section 5** and **box 2** of this guide provide some sources of medical careers information.

A medical career should not be embarked on lightly. Following completion of formal training at medical school, doctors go on to train further in their chosen specialty, which involves on the job training as well as studying for exams.





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What is the career path of a doctor?

Medicine is a rewarding career path and being a doctor involves a lifetime of learning. This begins at medical school, where students undertake an undergraduate medical degree. Following successful completion of the undergraduate medical course, graduates undergo a period of postgraduate training which incorporates foundation training followed by a period of higher training. Once graduates begin their foundation training they are entitled to a salary from the NHS.

The content and duration of postgraduate training will depend on whether you wish to pursue training in a specialist area of medicine or in general practice. **Figure 1** gives a general outline of the different stages of career progression from student to senior doctor.

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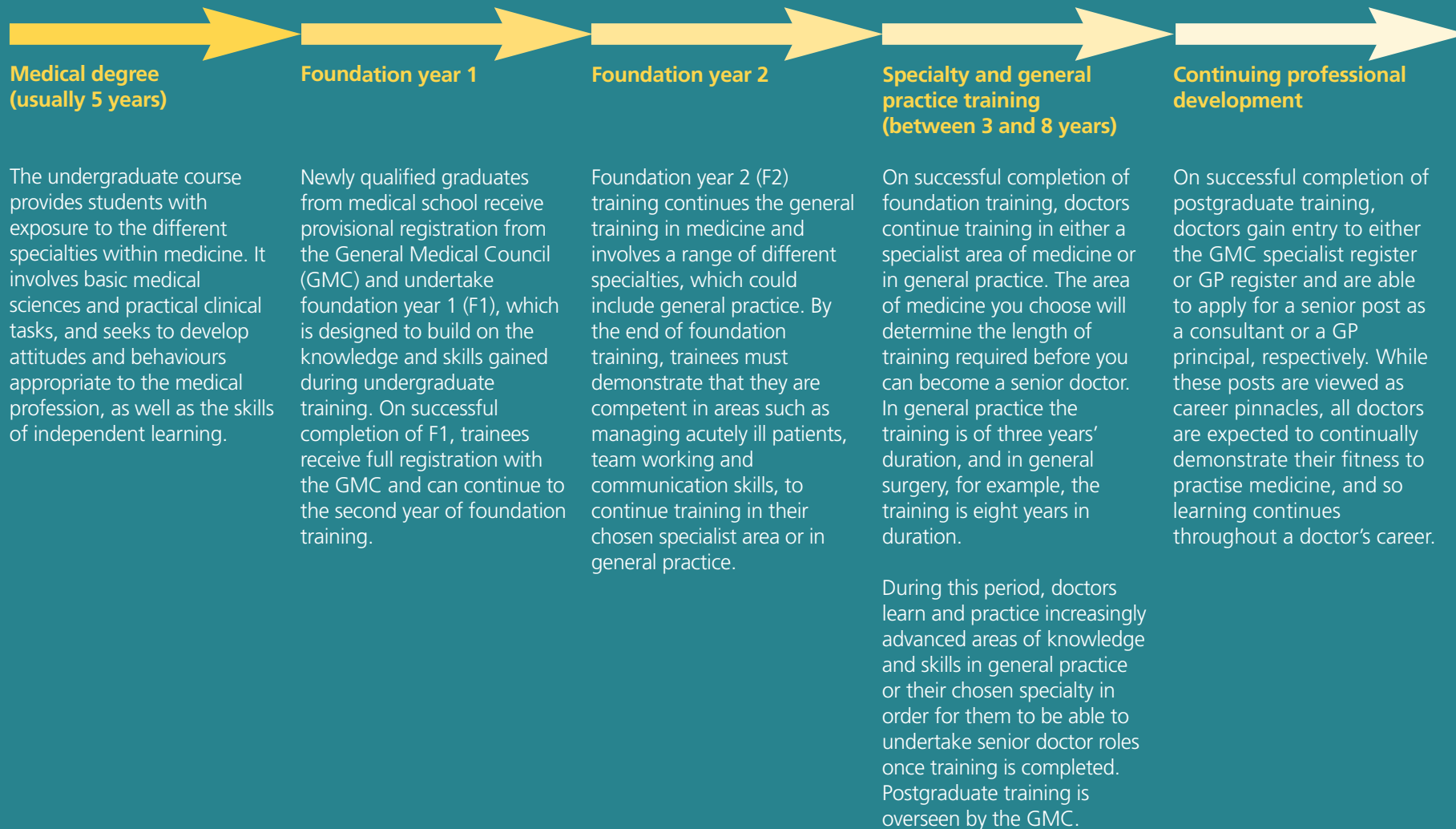
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Figure 1: Stage of career progression of a doctor





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What qualifications do I need to study medicine?

Medical schools set their own selection criteria. Details of the entry requirements at each university in the United Kingdom (UK) are published annually on the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) website www.ucas.com. The grade requirements of medical schools for entry in 2014 are summarised in **section 2** of this guide.

For students from England, Wales and Northern Ireland, all UK medical schools accept applications that demonstrate a combination of GCSEs, AS levels and A levels. The majority will require good grades in science subjects as these form the foundation of the medical curriculum. Generally, medical schools seek a good grade in chemistry at A level and often require A level biology. One other science subject is often required, eg physics (or physical science), or mathematics. A good A level grade in an arts subject such as history or a modern language will usually be accepted as a third A level. All applicants will be expected to have good GCSE passes in English and mathematics. Students with mainly non-science A levels are normally required to study a foundation course (see *How can I study medicine if I do not have a science background?*), which is an extra year in addition to the standard five year undergraduate course.

The majority of medical schools will not accept A level general studies and an increasing number of medical schools are not accepting A level critical thinking as relevant qualifications. In addition, most medical schools will not give an advantage to applicants who have a qualification in Key Skills. A small number of medical schools will accept a vocational A level (AVCE) but only when combined with a traditional A Level (GCE) and only in a limited number of subjects (typically health and social care, and information and communication technology).

Requirements vary between schools so it is important to check with the individual medical schools, and have your reply in writing.

Scottish students who apply to medical schools both within Scotland and the rest of the UK will be accepted on their results in Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers. The majority of medical schools will accept a combination of Highers and Advanced Highers and generally look for high grades in science subjects such as chemistry and biology. Please refer to **section 2** for further details.

Applicants with other qualifications, eg international baccalaureate, should contact the individual medical schools or UCAS for details on equivalent entry requirements.

A number of medical schools are now accepting access to medicine courses for entry into medical schools. These courses are designed to encourage a more diverse range of students into the medical profession by supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds, mature students, students from minority ethnic and cultural groups, and disabled students.

It is important to note that each medical school sets its own entry criteria so students should use this BMA advice as a general guide only and contact the individual medical schools for more detailed information. Contact details are provided in **section 3**.



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How do I apply to study medicine?

To study medicine, you have to make an application to the medical school of your choice through UCAS. You must look at the prospectuses for your preferred medical schools so you understand the nature of the courses offered – each school is unique. A list of the UK medical schools, their contact addresses and website addresses are listed in **section 3**. **Section 5** lists the contact details for UCAS, and a number of resources in which medical students review the medical schools. The application deadline for entry into medical schools in 2014 is **15 October 2013**.

In addition to application through UCAS, the majority of medical schools also require applicants to take admissions tests. These include the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT), the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT), and the Graduate Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT) (**see Box 1**).

Box 1

UK Medical Schools Admissions Tests

UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT)

The UKCAT is a test for medical school entry in the UK. It is used in the selection procedure for 26 of the UK's medical schools to help universities select entrants from among the many highly-qualified students who apply to study medicine.

The UKCAT is not a test of knowledge but focuses on testing attributes considered to be valuable for healthcare professionals and aims to ensure that applicants selected to medical school have the most appropriate mental abilities, attitudes and professional behaviours required for new doctors to be successful in their careers.

If you are applying to a medical school that requires the UKCAT, you should ideally take the test before applying to the medical school through UCAS. If you have any doubt about whether you are required to take the UKCAT, you should contact the universities to which you are planning to apply.

Further information, including the list of medical schools requiring this test can be found on the UKCAT website **www.ukcat.ac.uk**



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BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT)

The purpose of the BMAT is solely to provide an assessment of candidates' potential in an academically demanding undergraduate biomedical degree, and not their fitness to practice medicine or veterinary medicine - which universities will continue to assess in other ways. The test is designed to be challenging, in order to discriminate effectively between able applicants for university courses, including those who may have achieved the highest possible grades in school examinations.

BMAT is a subject-specific test taken by applicants to Cambridge, Imperial College London, Oxford and University College London medical schools. BMAT is a two-hour pen and paper test which covers:

- Aptitude and skills
- Scientific knowledge and applications
- Writing task

Further information can be found on the BMAT website
www.bmat.org.uk

Graduate Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT)

The GAMSAT was developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research, specifically to assess applicants to graduate-entry medical courses. It is required for applications to graduate-entry programmes at St George's University of London, the University of Nottingham at Derby, the University of Wales Swansea, and Keele University.

The GAMSAT involves testing your ability to think critically, analyse information and express your thoughts clearly and effectively. It includes testing of cognitive skills, ethical orientation, aspects of empathy and creativity, elements of psychometric testing and analytical reasoning.

Registration for sitting the GAMSAT is between June and August, and the test takes place once a year in mid-September. If you are uncertain about whether you are required to sit the GAMSAT, contact the medical school to which you are intending to apply. Further information can be found on the GAMSAT website
www.gamsatuk.org.



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What is the deadline for applying to medical school?

The application deadline for entry into medical schools in 2014 is **15 October 2013**.

What are the courses like?

Under the overall supervision of the GMC, which sets standards for undergraduate medical education (for further information please see *Tomorrow's doctors* (2009), General Medical Council) every university, medical faculty and medical school has its own syllabus and regulations for the course of study in medicine.

There are generally three approaches to the training provided at medical school: the traditional pre-clinical and clinical course, the integrated course, or the multi or interprofessional learning course.

For the **traditional courses**, students begin their training with two years of 'pre-clinical' work, involving study of the basic medical sciences. This is followed by the 'clinical' course, of approximately three years, during which they work in hospital wards under the supervision of consultants. Throughout the final three years they also attend lectures on all aspects of medical practice. Medical schools in the UK that offer this style of course include Oxford and Cambridge.

Integrated courses, which the majority of medical schools have now implemented, integrate what was previously learnt at the pre-clinical and clinical stages, to provide a seamless course. Teaching methods can include problem-based learning (PBL) and practical clinical skills. PBL is a very patient-oriented approach and students can expect to see patients right from the beginning of their course. Students are given medical cases to resolve and learn from, guided by group work with a tutor as well as self-directed learning. Group work, on top of academic and clinical learning, helps students develop communication, teamwork and problem solving skills, personal responsibility and respect for others. Medical schools in the UK that offer this style of course include Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, Queen Mary, Peninsula, Sheffield, Keele, Hull, Barts and East Anglia.

There are also medical schools which focus on **multi or interprofessional learning**. Multi professional learning methods involve two or more professions learning the same content side by side. Interprofessional learning focuses on not only the subject matter, but also on the way in which practitioners work together. It may include aspects on developing respect for other professions, appreciation of different ways of working, trust and communication skills in working with other professions, and the strengths of a diverse workforce.

Each course is different and uses different methods of teaching so it is important that you think carefully about the kind of course that would suit you. You can obtain a copy of the syllabus from each medical school by contacting them directly (see medical school contact details in **section 3**).



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Is there an opportunity to study for an intercalated degree?

In addition to studying a degree in medicine, most schools offer students the opportunity to take an extra year (sometimes two) in the middle of the medical degree to study a subject of interest, which will lead to a BSc (Hons) or equivalent. At some schools this opportunity is only available to high achievers whereas at other schools an intercalated BSc (Hons) is built into the curriculum. These degrees can be in the basic sciences, or if taken later in the course, may be in clinically related subjects. This additional year of study can provide students with experience in front-line scientific research, laboratory techniques and writing scientific papers. Some schools will allow students to study a wider range of subjects, including humanities or modern languages. For full details on intercalated degrees, you should contact the medical schools directly (see medical school contact details in **section 3**).

How can I study medicine if I do not have a science background?

While medical schools are now more likely to accept students who have specialised in some non-science subjects, a general understanding of the sciences is preferred. If the school considers you to have an inadequate science background you may be required to take a foundation course (also referred to as pre-medical courses) or you may need to sit the relevant examinations.

Foundation year courses allow students with good grades in non-science subjects the opportunity to study basic science, providing a route into studying the full medical degree. Medical schools that currently offer foundation courses are listed below. The nature of each course will vary from school to school, so it is important to contact the individual schools if you are considering applying.

A number of medical schools are now accepting access to medicine courses for entry into medical schools.

Medical schools offering foundation courses

Bristol	Manchester
Cardiff	Nottingham
Dundee	Southampton
East Anglia	Sheffield
Keele	St Georges


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What qualities do medical schools look for in applicants?

Any student from any background, who has the ability, personal attributes and motivation, can apply to study medicine. The BMA supports initiatives that encourage medical school applications from a wider socio-economic base. The BMA believes that it is important to work with medical schools to ensure that those with the potential to meet the academic requirements to enter medical schools are supported. For further information please see the *BMA report Equality and diversity in UK medical schools* and *widening participation web pages*. The standards of entry for all medical schools are high and competition for places is strong. For example, UCAS figures show that the ratio of applications to medical school in comparison to places available is just over ten to one.

What if I get invited to an interview?

Not all medical schools interview students as part of the selection process. If you are invited for an interview, it is important that you are sufficiently prepared. Students are encouraged to seek guidance from their school careers advisor and seek opportunities to take part in practice interviews. An interview can provide an opportunity for you to demonstrate your awareness of what studying medicine and becoming a doctor will entail. You will usually face questions about your motivation to study medicine, your understanding of the course, your work at school, hobbies and personal interests, as well as having to produce evidence of your academic achievements. A key question will be your reasons for wanting to become a doctor. You may also be expected to demonstrate a reflective approach to communication and learning. Finally, you could also be asked about current medical topics in the news.

It can be beneficial to demonstrate relevant paid or voluntary work experience, eg work as a hospital auxiliary, or in nursing and residential care. You can find more about what it is like to be a doctor by having a formal period of work observation. The BMA does not hold information on voluntary work and does not arrange work observation. Students may wish to approach local hospitals and residential homes directly. Other potential sources of advice on volunteering can be found in **section 5**.



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The BMA has put together a **guide to widening access schemes in medical schools** with the Medical Schools Council. It includes information on open days, mentoring and summer schools offered by each medical school, all aimed at students from less advantaged backgrounds who have an interest in medicine and the potential to become a doctor.

When considering a medical career, do your research – be sure that this demanding career is for you. Some useful references are listed in **section 4**. Alongside the ability to demonstrate a long-term commitment to medicine to reach a senior post, there are other factors to consider such as the financial impact of training. Information about funding to study medicine is provided in **section 5**.

Do I need to know what type of doctor I want to be when I apply to medical school?

When considering a career in medicine, you may form an opinion of the area in which you think that you would like to work. In **section 4**, a list of some of the medical specialties is provided, with the names and addresses of organisations that produce further information to help you understand what is required for the various specialties. You will not be expected, however, to make an explicit career choice at this stage. You will do this later in your medical career during postgraduate training. **Box 2**, provides some sources of medical careers information from the BMA.





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Box 2

Medical careers advice and information

The BMA's medical students committee has a student representative at each medical school. You are encouraged to contact them for guidance and advice on their medical school. Students can find out who their BMA medical student representative is at the following website:

<http://bma.org.uk/about-the-bma/how-we-work/negotiating-committees/medical-students-committee/find-your-msc-rep>

The BMA has a careers service for its members. This service provides BMA members with a range of specialist careers advice throughout their career. Further information can be found at the following address: <http://bma.org.uk/developing-your-career>

BMJ Careers at www.bmjcareers.com is the principal online source of UK medical jobs and careers advice, and has a database of the Career Focus articles which appear weekly in the British Medical Journal (BMJ).

How can I apply to study medicine as a graduate?

Graduate candidates for medicine normally need a first or upper second class honours degree. It is important to check with the medical school whether or not your first degree will be considered relevant before you apply. Most medical schools require applications from graduates to be made through UCAS, which will supply details on how and when to apply for medical school and all other university courses. **Section 5** has contact information for UCAS.

The GMC has approved a number of shortened courses for graduates, listed on page 19. These courses vary in length and structure, but are shorter than standard undergraduate medical degrees and normally last four years. The majority of graduate entry programmes require students to have their first degree in a science subject, but some medical schools also consider applicants with a first degree in an arts subjects. Graduates can also apply to enter undergraduate medical courses.



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Medical schools with a graduate entry programme to medicine

Barts and the London School of Medicine, Queen Mary's	
Birmingham	Liverpool
Bristol	Newcastle
Cambridge	Nottingham
Cardiff	Oxford
Imperial College, London	Southampton
King's London	St George's, London
Stoke on Trent	Swansea
Leicester	Warwick, Coventry

How can I apply to study medicine as a mature student?

Medical schools welcome applications from mature students who are able to meet the entry criteria (ie have the relevant examination subjects and grades or access to medicine course completion). Many medical schools now accept results of access to medicine courses from mature students for entry into medical school, and details of access to medicine courses can be found on the Learn Direct website www.learndirect.co.uk. UCAS also lists these courses under medicine and dentistry. Contact details of these organisations can be found in **section 5**. Selection policy varies across individual medical schools, so you are advised to contact the medical schools of your choice to make sure you are eligible before applying for entry.

Is it possible to transfer from my current degree to a medical degree?

It is extremely rare for students to be allowed to transfer from the middle of their undergraduate degree – even if it is a degree in science or biology – to the middle of a medical degree. Medical schools do not encourage this practice. If you are considering studying medicine, you should contact the medical school to discuss the options available to you. Depending on the stage of your studies, you may consider completing your undergraduate degree before applying to a graduate-entry medical degree, or applying to study an undergraduate medical degree with entry into the first year.

Do I need to have work experience for entry into medical school?

Medical students are encouraged to gain some work experience before they enter medical school so that they can decide whether medicine is the career choice for them. Experience gained from work placements can also be mentioned in medical school applications and personal statements. Medical schools do not judge applications on work experience, but gaining some work experience shows the medical school that you have considered whether the demands of a caring profession is for you, and that you are committed to studying medicine.



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Is there a minimum age limit for entry to medical school?

Some medical schools in the UK specify that medical students should be 18 years of age by the beginning of their medical degree. This is generally the case with medical schools that teach the medical degree in a way that requires medical students to have clinical contact with patients from the outset of the course. You are advised to check the minimum age requirement of the medical schools before applying.

Are there any barriers to studying medicine for a disabled person?

In the UK, the Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful for education providers to treat disabled people less favourably, unless it can be objectively justified. It also requires them to ensure that disabled people are not put at a substantial disadvantage by providing 'reasonable adjustments'. For further discussion see the BMA's report on ***Disability equality in the medical profession, 2007***, which examines the provision of disability equality in the medical profession, looking specifically at the accessibility of medical careers to disabled people, and the support provided to disabled medical students and disabled doctors.

The Equality Act 2010 also places a duty on all public bodies to promote equality of opportunity across the protected characteristics, including disability, to eliminate discrimination prohibited under the Equality Act 2010, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between diverse groups.

Medical schools therefore have a duty to create a climate where disabled people are able to participate. In applying to study medicine, there are three main areas for consideration with respect to disability including whether:

- your impairment may limit, reduce or prevent you from studying and practising medicine, although, the provision of reasonable adjustments should also be considered. The extent to which these requirements can be met by medical schools and subsequent employees will be a factor. Advice on reasonable adjustments can be provided by the medical school's occupational health service.
- your health condition or impairment may be made worse by studying or practising medicine
- your impairment and/or an environment where adjustments can not reasonably be provided might make the tasks unsafe for you, your colleagues, or for patients and the community.

Medical schools welcome diversity among their applicants and are positive about accepting disabled students. It is important, however, that you seek advice from medical schools well before the deadline for UCAS submissions so that your individual circumstances can be considered. During the application and selection process, it may be appropriate for you to have a health assessment to determine what effect, if any, your impairment may have on your ability to study and practise medicine. This will focus on what you can do, rather than what you cannot do, and is considered separately from the interview process. The medical school's occupational health service will be able to offer practical advice and the university's support services can offer confidential help.


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Deans of medical schools can provide further information and help (see the contact details in **section 3**). You may also be eligible for financial help, such as the disabled students' allowance. For further information see the SKILL: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities website, www.skill.org.uk. The GMC's guidance on **Gateways to the professions – Advising medical school: encouraging disabled students** is primarily aimed at medical schools and provides practical suggestions to help schools ensure that disabled students do not face unnecessary barriers to successful medical careers. In addition, contact your local education authority, the university's occupational health service and the disability service.

What if I have a serious communicable disease such as HIV, hepatitis B or hepatitis C?

Having a serious communicable disease should not prevent you from studying medicine, however, it may restrict the specialty of medicine you can practice.

If you have a serious communicable disease, you will not be allowed to perform exposure prone procedures (EPPs) – ie procedures where there is a risk that the communicable disease is passed from the student/doctor to a patient. At medical school, students are not required to undertake EPPs in order to obtain provisional registration with the GMC. Freedom from infection with a serious communicable disease is therefore not an absolute requirement for those wishing to train as doctors, however, having such a disease may restrict your final career choice. This recognises that many career paths are available to doctors which do not require them to be able to perform such procedures. It is important to note that some commonly undertaken additional components of

undergraduate medical curriculum may involve EPPs. Additional health clearance is therefore recommended for those students who will be involved in EPPs.

The GMC guidance **Tomorrow's Doctors** states that medical students should take responsibility for their own health in the interest of public safety. If a student knows that he or she has a serious communicable disease they will need to comply with occupational health supervision and seek guidance from the head of the medical school course.

Please note: Medical students may be asked by their medical school to undertake a test for the presence of blood borne viruses such as HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. It is only compulsory to undertake this test if you have opted to participate in an EPP. Further information can be found in the BMA Medical Students Committee guidance **Focus on testing medical students for Blood Borne Viruses**, 2007 and Department of Health **Health clearance for tuberculosis, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV: New healthcare workers**, 2007.



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How can I study medicine in the UK if I am not a UK national?

You should be aware that medical qualifications obtained outside the European Economic Area are not automatically recognised by the GMC and this may prevent you from practising in the UK. You may need to take further tests, for example, the International English Language Testing System and the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB), before you can work as a doctor in the UK. Overseas trained doctors may obtain further information from the BMA International Department (**see contact details in section 5**).

Undergraduate and graduate applicants from outside the UK should apply through UCAS and should follow the instructions provided with the application form. This can be obtained from British Council offices, schools or colleges, or by contacting UCAS (**the address is in section 5**).

Most British Council offices will have information and advice about entry to UK medical schools and whether or not your qualifications are acceptable. British Embassies or High Commissions, or your country's education authority may also be able to advise on questions about grants and scholarships. Further information can be obtained by contacting directly any of the medical schools listed in **section 3**.

There are often changes to the immigration regulations, for up-to-date information on immigration please refer to the **BMA Guide to the Immigration System**.

Medical school tuition fees for international students are substantially higher than UK/EU student fees and may vary between medical schools. You should contact the medical school that you are planning to attend for information on tuition fees. UCAS itself cannot deal with enquiries about sources of finance or acceptability of qualifications. You are strongly advised not to travel to the UK unless you have been accepted for a course of study.

How can I study medicine abroad?

If you are interested in studying medicine in another country, you should contact the country's embassy or High Commission for information.

Are there any private medical schools in the UK?

The GMC is responsible for accrediting all medical schools in the UK. There are plans to open private British medical schools in the UK but, without GMC approval, medical graduates from these would not be able to register with the GMC and therefore practise medicine in the UK. **Section 3** of this guide contains a list of all the medical schools in the UK accredited by the GMC.

There are several private international medical schools operating out of the UK. These do not come within the jurisdiction of the GMC, and the GMC cannot accept liability for the reliance placed on these institutions or for any action or decision taken. A list of these medical schools can be found on the GMC website at **www.gmc-uk.org**.

If you are in any doubt about the authenticity of a private medical school, please contact the GMC for further information.


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What if I don't get into medical school?

It is important to remember that not getting a place at medical school can often simply be a reflection of medical schools in the UK being vastly oversubscribed, with competition for the limited number of places being very tough indeed. At this stage it is important to consider if you still want to study medicine. Medical schools try to select people who will make good doctors and who have the right ability and motivations for studying medicine, but even so, some students choose to leave mid-course and others fail exams. The selection panel has a responsibility to make the right decision for the medical school, and you have a responsibility to yourself and your potential future patients to make sure you are making the correct choice. Examine your reasons for wanting to study medicine. If in doubt, or if you have felt pushed in the direction of medicine, it might be better to look at different courses or careers. You may find it useful to speak again with your careers advisor to discuss other career options available to you.

To enable you to move forward from here, it is important for you to gain an understanding of why you were not successful in your previous applications. You might wish to approach the medical school to which you applied and ask for some constructive feedback. You may also consider reviewing your personal statement.

How much does it cost to study medicine?

Undertaking a medical degree is likely to be a large financial commitment, particularly if you also intend to study a foundation year or an intercalated degree in addition to the standard five-year medical degree. A BMA survey for 2010/11 showed that medical students incurred a tuition fees and maintenance loan debt for a

single year of £3,162 and £3,899. Respondents in their final year of study reported an average level of total debt of £24,092.

For students entering medical school in 2013 the debt will be substantially larger as medical school fees have been increased to £9,000. The BMA are currently in the process of carrying out a survey of medical student finances and the *Becoming a Doctor* resource will be updated accordingly once the results of the survey have been published.

Tuition Fees

The following details on tuition fees apply to home students and EU students only. Medical schools have a separate fee structure for international students, details of which can be found on medical school websites (see contact details in **section 3**). UCAS has more specific details on how much universities charge for tuition fees. In many cases the payment of tuition fees can be deferred by taking out a student loan (**see Loans and Grants page 24**).

There are differences between the four nations so each nation is dealt with separately in the following paragraphs:

Studying in England

For 2013/14, students studying in England are required to pay tuition fees of up to a maximum of £9,000 per year, depending on the course and university. Before applying to study medicine it is advisable to check with the medical school what their tuition fees are.





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Studying in Northern Ireland

Students domiciled in Northern Ireland starting their course in Northern Ireland in 2013/14 will have to pay tuition fees of £3,575 per annum. Students from Northern Ireland starting their course in 2013/14 in England, Wales or Scotland will be charged tuition fees of up to £9,000 per annum.

Studying in Scotland

Eligible Scottish domiciled and non-UK EU students studying in Scotland will continue to have their tuition fees paid by the Scottish Government. Students from England, Wales and Northern Ireland, starting their medical studies in Scotland in 2012/13 will be charged the tuition fee set by the institution they have chosen to study in and can be charged tuition fees of up to £9,000 per annum. Students will need to apply to their local educational authorities to find out if they are eligible for any financial support.

Studying in Wales

From 2012/13, medical schools in Wales can charge new full-time students from all of the UK countries and the EU up to £6,000 per year. Some medical schools that meet strict conditions will be able to charge a maximum of £9,000 per annum. Eligible Welsh students will be able to access a non means-tested tuition fee loan up to £3,575 and a non means-tested tuition fee grant to cover the difference between the maximum tuition fee loan available and the tuition fee actually charged by the UK university (a maximum grant of £5,425 if a tuition fee of £9,000 is charged).

For all students from year five onwards, tuition fees will be paid by the NHS Student Bursary Scheme and you will be eligible to apply for a

means-tested NHS bursary to cover maintenance costs and a reduced maintenance loan from Student Finance England. Students will also have access to a non-means tested grant of £1,000 as part of their NHS Bursary award.

What financial support might be available to me?

As a student you will normally have to pay for two things; your tuition fees and your living costs. There are a number of financial aids available to fund these costs, including student loans, bursaries, grants and scholarships. In **section 5** of this guide, under **Finance**, you can find contact details for sources of financial information and the student finance agencies through which you apply for loans, bursaries and grants.

Loans and grants

The Student Loans Company administers the following government-funded loans and grants to students throughout the UK to help cover the costs of tuition fees and basic living costs (rent, bills, food etc):

- *tuition fee loan* – a non-financially assessed loan to meet the cost of tuition fees. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available is always the amount of tuition fees charged by the institution. This is paid directly to the higher education institution.
- *maintenance loans* – the maintenance loan is the main student loan for living costs for full-time undergraduate students. It comprises a non-financially assessed portion, which all students who are eligible for the loan can receive; and a financially assessed portion, which depends on household income. Maximum entitlement is affected by place of residence, year of course, and entitlement to other financial support (eg NHS bursaries). Maintenance loans are paid directly to the student in three instalments.


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- *maintenance grants* – all new full-time students from lower income households will be entitled to an income-assessed maintenance grant for general living costs while they study.

When you have finished your course you will be required to repay your tuition fee and maintenance loans once your annual income exceeds £21,000. In most cases, these repayments are collected automatically through the tax system. The rates of interest charged are below the rates of commercial loans, for example from a bank or building society. If you are eligible for a maintenance grant, you will not be required to repay this once you finish your course.

Bursaries

NHS bursaries are available to undergraduate medical students living and studying in the UK and are awarded through the student finance agency of your home country. To be eligible for NHS student support in the form of an NHS bursary, you must firstly be accepted for an NHS funded place which leads to professional registration as a doctor. All eligible students can receive a non-means tested bursary of £1,000 in their fifth and sixth year of study. In addition, eligible students can also apply for a means tested maintenance grant. This means that, where appropriate, your income and that of your parent/s or your spouse, partner or civil partner will be used to calculate the amount you are entitled to receive. Students eligible for an NHS student bursary, will also have their tuition fees paid via this scheme for the fifth and sixth year of their course.

Student support packages in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, are broadly comparable to the arrangements that apply in England, but students will need to consult with the relevant national authorities for further details.

Medical students whose country of residence is England are supported through the NHS Bursary Scheme during the later stages of their training irrespective of which home country their medical school is situated in. However, medical students living in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland should consult the relevant national authorities.

Medical schools may offer extras sources of financial help in the form of bursaries and scholarships. Students will need to contact their medical school directly to find out if they are entitled to this financial help.

The BMA's Medical Students Committee has published guidance on different aspects of student finance, which can be found on the **Student Finance webpages**.


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Further information on student support packages in the devolved nations can be found on the following websites:

England

www.direct.gov.uk

Wales

www.studentfinancewales.co.uk

Northern Ireland

www.studentfinancenir.co.uk

Scotland

www.saas.gov.uk

Other sources of financial assistance

There are many different types of financial support for which you might be eligible depending on your circumstances. For example, disabled students or students with adult dependants may be eligible for additional support. Further information can be found in **section 5**, under **Finance**, which has contact details for the four UK student finance agencies.

There are many scholarships in the UK to help students fund their higher education. The institution that you wish to attend will have details of scholarships for which you might be eligible, and the Educational Grants Advisory Service provides comprehensive advice and information of other sources of available funding, www.egas-online.org.

If during your course you experience serious financial difficulties, then you may be eligible to apply for a hardship loan. Your university will assess your circumstances and decide whether it is appropriate to certify a one-off additional loan amount between £100 and £500.

BMA Charities has a list of alternative sources of funding for graduates who want to take medicine as a second degree. You can obtain the list by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to BMA Charities, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

For further information please see their **webpage**, or you can contact them for further information at the following email address: info.bmacharities@bma.org.uk.



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The Hotcourses Scholarships Search website provides a comprehensive guide to planning and organising student finances, **www.scholarship-search.org.uk**. It has a search facility for sources of funding according to the subject matter of your degree. It also has a budget planner and a loan repayment calculator to make planning your finances easier.

Money4MedStudents website was set up by the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund, **www.money4medstudents.org**. It provides practical and unbiased financial information for medical students.

Brightside UNIAID is an organisation that guides and supports young people to make informed choices about their future, providing them with accessible and impartial information about education, money and careers. Their website can be accessed at: **www.brightsideuniaid.org**.

Brightside UNIAID have a student budget calculator available at the following website: **www.studentcalculator.org.uk/**



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This guidance outlines the most flexible A-level combination acceptable and the typical grades required at first attempt for entry to medicine (excluding pre-medical courses). In addition, it details the entry requirements for applicants studying Scottish qualifications.

Notes

- 1 Requirements may change and should always be confirmed with medical schools before application. Individual medical schools will also be able to advise students offering other qualifications such as the international baccalaureate.
- 2 In addition to academic qualifications, most medical schools now require applicants to take an admissions test. See ***How do I apply to study medicine?*** for further information.
- 3 Some medical schools use the UCAS tariff point system to designate entry requirements. This point system establishes agreed comparability between different types of qualifications and between applicants with different types and volumes of achievement. A copy of the UCAS tariff guide can be downloaded at www.ucas.com/candq/tariff/tariff_sep06.doc.
- 4 GCE entry requirements written as, for example, AABc , ask that the applicant has, in this instance, two A levels at grade A, one at grade B, and an AS level at grade C (designated by the lower case letter).

Note to applicants from non-EU countries

Each medical school has its own admissions criteria for overseas applicants. Undergraduate and graduate applicants from outside the UK should apply through UCAS and should follow the instructions provided with the application form. This can be obtained from British Council offices, schools or colleges or by contacting UCAS (see the section **Useful contacts and resources**).





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For applicants with qualifications from England, Wales and Northern Ireland

University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
Aberdeen	AAA	Acceptable on its own & combined with other qualifications Chemistry is required, plus at least one from Biology, Mathematics or Physics. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. General Studies excluded.	International Baccalaureate, European Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications.	Unavailable	Unavailable
Barts, London, Queen Mary	AAAb	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry or Biology required plus any science subject. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Biology at grade B and Chemistry at grade B required. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	International Baccalaureate, European Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications.	Available	Unavailable
Birmingham	A*AA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology required. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	GCE AS Level Double Award Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma and AEA acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. GCE A Level Double Award, International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other qualifications.	Available	Unavailable


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For applicants with qualifications from England, Wales and Northern Ireland

University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
Brighton and Sussex	AAAb	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Biology and Chemistry required at A grade. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology at A grade. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	FSMQ, BTEC National Award, BTEC National Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma, AEA, GCE AS Level Double Awards – Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. International Baccalaureate accepted on its own and combined with other qualifications.	Unavailable	Unavailable
Bristol	AAA	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry at grade A required and one laboratory based science. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Minimum four subjects. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	GCE A Level Double Award, GCE AS Level Double Award, BTEC National Award, BTEC National Certificate, acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. BTEC National Diploma, International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other subjects.	Available	Available


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For applicants with qualifications from England, Wales and Northern Ireland

University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
Cambridge	A*AA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. One from Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics. Chemistry required at least to AS level.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Three of Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics. Chemistry required at AS level.	FSMQ, Welsh Baccalaureate and AEA acceptable only when combined with other subjects. International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other subjects.	Available	Unavailable
Cardiff	AAA	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Two sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. General Studies, Mathematics Further and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry at grade A or Biology at grade A. General Studies and Mathematics Further excluded.	International Baccalaureate, Cambridge Pre-U Diploma and Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	Available	Available
Dundee	AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry at grade A and Any Science subject at grade A and Any Subject at grade A. General Studies excluded.	Not accepted	International Baccalaureate accepted on its own and combined with other qualifications.	Unavailable	Available


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For applicants with qualifications from England, Wales and Northern Ireland

University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
East Anglia – Norwich	AAAb	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Grades AAA required which must include Biology and Chemistry or Physics. General Studies, Critical Thinking and Citizenship Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other subjects. FSMQ and AEA acceptable only when combined with other subjects.	Unavailable	Available
Edinburgh	AAAb	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and any of Mathematics, Physics or Biology. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Biology required if not held at A level.	International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Certificate accepted only when combined with other subjects.	Unavailable	Unavailable
University of Exeter	A*AA-AAA	Acceptable on its own or combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required and one other from Biology or Physics. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	GCE A Level Double Award, BTEC National Diploma, BTEC National Certificate, BTEC National Award acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. International Baccalaureate Welsh Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications.		


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For applicants with qualifications from England, Wales and Northern Ireland

University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
Glasgow	AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required and one from Biology, Mathematics or Physics. Biology or Human Biology in addition to Chemistry is preferred. General Studies excluded.	Not accepted	International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other qualifications.	Unavailable	Unavailable
Hull York	AAAb	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology required. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Biology and Chemistry required.	International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on its own and combined with other subjects.	Unavailable	Unavailable
Imperial College, London	AAAb	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Biology or Chemistry required. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Biology and Chemistry required. General Studies excluded.	Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma acceptable only when combined with other subjects. International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on its own and combined with other subjects.	Available	Unavailable


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For applicants with qualifications from England, Wales and Northern Ireland

University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
Keele – Stoke-on-Trent	A*ABb-AAAb	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry or Biology and one other science subject.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other subjects.	Unavailable	Available
King's College, London	AAAb	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry or Biology required General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Not acceptable.	AEA and Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other qualifications.	Available	Unavailable
Lancaster University	AAA	Acceptable on its own and when combined with other qualifications. Biology and Chemistry required at A2 level and only one of Maths or Further maths considered. General Studies and Critical Thinking considered as fourth subject.	Not acceptable	International Baccalaureate, European Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other qualifications.	Unavailable	Unavailable


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University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
Leeds	AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	GCE AS Double Award, GCE A Level Double Award, acceptable only when combined with other subjects. Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma and International Baccalaureate acceptable on its own and combined with other subjects. Cambridge Pre-U Diploma three distinctions (D3) in 3 principal subjects one of which must be Chemistry	Unavailable	Unavailable
Leicester	AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required at grade A. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable combined with other qualifications. Biology and Chemistry required. General Studies excluded.	FSMQ, AEA, BTEC National Award, BTEC National Certificate and Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma acceptable only when combined with other subjects. International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other subjects.	Available	Unavailable


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University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
Liverpool – Liverpool curriculum also delivered at Lancaster University.	AAAb	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Critical Thinking and General Studies only considered as fourth subject.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. General Studies and Critical Thinking are not acceptable as third AS Level but accepted as fourth AS Level subject.	BTEC National Diploma and Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma acceptable only when combined with other subjects. International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other subjects.	Available	Unavailable
Manchester	AAA	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. General Studies excluded.	FSMQ, AEA, BTEC National Award, BTEC National Certificate, OCR National Certificate, acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. International Baccalaureate and Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma accepted on its own and combined with other qualifications. Cambridge Pre-U Diploma welcomed, contact admissions office.	Unavailable	Available



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University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
Newcastle	AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry or Biology required. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	GCE AS Double Award, GCE A level Double Award, AEA and acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other subjects.	Available	Unavailable
Nottingham	AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry at A grade and Biology or Human Biology at A grade. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	GCE A Level Double Award and GCE AS Double Award acceptable combined with other qualifications. International Baccalaureate and Welsh Baccalaureate acceptable on their own and combined with other qualifications.	Available	Available


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University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
Oxford	A*AA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry with either Mathematics or Biology or Physics. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. General Studies excluded.	GCE AS Double Award, GCE A level Double Award, FSMQ, AEA, BTEC National Award, BTEC National Certificate, BTEC National Diploma, OCR National Extended Diploma acceptable combined with other qualifications. Welsh Baccalaureate, International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other qualifications	Available	Unavailable
Peninsula – Plymouth	A*AA – AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	GCE AS Double Award, GCE A level Double Award, AEA, Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other subjects.	Unavailable	Unavailable


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For applicants with qualifications from England, Wales and Northern Ireland

University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
Queens University, Belfast	AAAA	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry at grade A and (Biology at grade A or Mathematics at grade A or Physics at grade A). General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded. Acceptable only when combined with other	qualifications. General Studies excluded.	International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other subjects.	Unavailable	Unavailable
Sheffield	AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and any Science subject. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	International Baccalaureate, European Baccalaureate, Welsh Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other subjects.	Unavailable	Available
Southampton	AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. General Studies excluded.	BTEC National Certificate and BTEC National Award acceptable combined with other qualifications. International Baccalaureate acceptable on its own and combined with other subjects.	Available	Available


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University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
St Andrews	AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology, Mathematics or Physics. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other subjects.	Unavailable	Unavailable
St George's, London	AAAb – BBCb	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology required at least one to A Level and one to AS level. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	AEA, Welsh Baccalaureate, International Baccalaureate and European Baccalaureate acceptable on its own and combined with other subjects..	Available	Available
Swansea	Graduate entry course.	Partnership arrangement with Cardiff for five-year medical degree. Contact medical school for further information.	–	–	Available	Unavailable


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For applicants with qualifications from England, Wales and Northern Ireland

University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
University College London	AAAe	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology required. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	GCE AS Double Award acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. GCE A level Double Award, Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma, International Baccalaureate, European Baccalaureate and Cambridge Pre-U Diploma acceptable on their own and combined with other qualifications..	Unavailable	Unavailable
Warwick – Coventry	Graduate entry course.	Contact medical school for further information.	–	–	Available	


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For applicants with qualifications from Scotland

University	Higher grades required	Subjects	Advanced Higher grades required	Subjects
Aberdeen	AAAAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry is required, plus two from Human Biology/Biology, Maths and Physics.	ABB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry is required if not achieved at Highers plus one from Biology, Maths or Physics.
Barts, London, Queen Mary's	AAA	Acceptable when combined with other qualifications. English, Mathematics Biology and Chemistry required.	AA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Biology or Chemistry required.
Birmingham	AAAAB – AAAAA	Acceptable when combined with other qualifications. Three Advanced Highers also required.	AAA	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology required.
Brighton and Sussex	370 tariff points	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Biology and Chemistry required.	–	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Biology or Chemistry required at grade A.
Bristol	AAAAB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required and another lab-based science required.	AA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and another lab-based science required.
Cambridge	AAAAB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. To include Chemistry, Physics, Biology and English.	AAA – AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Two subjects with grade A to include Chemistry


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For applicants with qualifications from Scotland

University	Higher grades required	Subjects	Advanced Higher grades required	Subjects
Cardiff	AAAAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. English, Biology, Chemistry and Physics required.	AA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required.
Dundee	AAABB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications.	Not accepted.	Entry based on first sitting of Highers, not Advanced Highers.
East Anglia – Norwich	390 tariff points	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Biology required at grade A.
Edinburgh	AAAAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and two from Biology, Mathematics and Physics.	–	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications
University of Exeter	AAAAB – AAAAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required and one of Biology or Physics.	AAB – AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required and one of Biology or Physics. Glasgow
AAAAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other	qualifications. Chemistry and two from Mathematics, Physics and Biology/Human Biology.	–	Not accepted.


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For applicants with qualifications from Scotland

University	Higher grades required	Subjects	Advanced Higher grades required	Subjects
Hull York	AAAAA	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology at A grade required, only acceptable in one sitting.	AA	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology required at A grade, only acceptable in one sitting.
Imperial College, London	–	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Biology and Chemistry required.
Keele – Stoke on Trent	–	Not accepted	AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Two Advanced Highers from Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Maths.
King's College, London	BBB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology required.	AA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry or Biology required.
Lancaster	AAAAB – AAAAA	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Biology and Chemistry required.	AA	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Biology and Chemistry required at A grade.


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For applicants with qualifications from Scotland

University	Higher grades required	Subjects	Advanced Higher grades required	Subjects
Leeds	AAAAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Biology required. Individual cases considered.	AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required. Individual cases considered.
Leicester	–	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	–	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology required.
Liverpool	AAAAA – AAAAB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	AA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology both at A grade.
Manchester	–	Not accepted.	AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications.
Newcastle	AAAAA	Acceptable on its own and when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and/or Biology required	–	Acceptable on its own and when combined with other qualifications.
Nottingham	–	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology at grade A.


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For applicants with qualifications from Scotland

University	Higher grades required	Subjects	Advanced Higher grades required	Subjects
Queens University, Belfast	AAAAA – AAABB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry at grade A and Biology at grade A.	AA-AAA	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry at grade A and (Biology at grade A or Mathematics at grade A or Physics at grade A).
Oxford	AAAAA	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required.
Peninsula – Plymouth	–	Not accepted.	AAA	Acceptable on its own and when combined with other qualifications. Must include Chemistry and one of Biology or Physics.
Sheffield	AAAAB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Only acceptable in one sitting.	AA	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry at grade A and any Science subject at grade A. Only acceptable in one sitting.
Southampton	AAAAB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required.	AB	Chemistry required.
St Andrew's	AAAAB	Acceptable on its own and with other qualifications. Chemistry and one of Physics, Biology or Mathematics.	–	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications.



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For applicants with qualifications from Scotland

University	Higher grades required	Subjects	Advanced Higher grades required	Subjects
St George's, London	AAAAB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and English all required.	AAB	Acceptable on its own and when combined with other qualifications. Biology and Chemistry required.
Swansea	Graduate entry course.	Partnership arrangement with Cardiff for five-year medical degree. Contact medical school for further details.	–	–
University College London	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology required.
Warwick – Coventry	Graduate entry course.	Contact medical school for further details	–	–



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A map of medical schools in the UK





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The following is a list of universities with schools/faculties of medicine. Additional information regarding entry requirements may be obtained from the schools themselves.

The BMA's medical students committee has a representative at each medical school. Students can find out who their **BMA medical student representative is on the BMA website**



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Aberdeen

University of Aberdeen
School of Medicine
Polwarth Building
Foresterhill, Aberdeen
AB25 2ZD
01224 554975
Email medicine@abdn.ac.uk
www.abdn.ac.uk/medicine-dentistry

Belfast

Queen's University, Belfast
School of Medicine, Dentistry and
Biomedical Sciences
Health Sciences Building
97 Lisburn Road
Belfast
BT9 7BL
028 9097 2349
Email s.pjmedschool.qub.ac.uk
www.qub.ac.uk/schools/mdbs

Birmingham

College of Medical and Dental Sciences
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TT
0121 414 3858
Email mdsenquiries@contacts.bham.ac.uk
www.medicine.bham.ac.uk

Brighton and Sussex

Brighton and Sussex Medical School
BSMS Teaching Building
University of Sussex
Falmer
Brighton
BN1 9PX
01273 643 528
Email medadmissions@bsms.ac.uk
www.bsms.ac.uk

Bristol

University of Bristol
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry,
69 St Michael's Hill,
Bristol,
BS2 8DZ
0117 928 7679
Email med-admissions@bristol.ac.uk
www.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school

Cambridge

University of Cambridge
Department of Medicine
Level 5, Addenbrooke's Hospital (Box
157)
Hills Road
Cambridge
CB2 2QQ
01223 336844
Email admissions@cam.ac.uk
www.med.cam.ac.uk

Cardiff

School Admissions Officer
Medical School Office
Cardiff University
UHW Main Building
Health Park
Cardiff CF14 4XN
029 2074 3436
Email meddean@cf.ac.uk
medicine.cf.ac.uk

Dundee

University of Dundee
Medical School Office
Level 10
Ninewells Hospital &
Medical School
Dundee DD1 9SY
01382 632763
Email srs@dundee.ac.uk
www.dundee.ac.uk

Edinburgh

University of Edinburgh
College of Medicine and Veterinary
Medicine
The Queen's Medical Research Institute
47 Little France Crescent, Edinburgh
EH16 4TJ
0131 242 9300
Email medug@ed.ac.uk
www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/medicine-vet-medicine/home

Exeter

Registrar & Secretary's Dept
Northcote House, The Queen's D
EXETER
EX4 4Q
0844 6200012
Email ug-ad@exeter.ac.uk
<http://medicine.exeter.ac.uk/>

Glasgow

University of Glasgow
Faculty of Medicine
Wolfson Medical School Building
University Avenue
Glasgow
G12 8QQ
0141 330 5921
Email admissions@clinmed.gla.ac.uk
www.gla.ac.uk

Hull

University of Hull
Hull York Medical School
Hertford Building
Hull
HU6 7RX
08701245500
Email admissions@hyms.ac.uk
www.hyms.ac.uk



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Keele – Stoke on Trent

University of Keele
School of Medicine
Keele University campus
Staffordshire
ST5 5BG
01782 583994
Email medicine@hfac.keele.ac.uk
www.keele.ac.uk

Lancaster

University House
Lancaster University
Bailrigg
Lancaster
LA1 4YW
United Kingdom
01524 592028
Email ugadmissions@lancaster.ac.uk
<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/shm/med/cme/>

Leeds

University of Leeds
The Admissions Office
School of Medicine
Room 7.09 Worsley Building
Leeds
LS2 9JT
0113 343 7234
Email a.e.gaunt@leeds.ac.uk
www.leeds.ac.uk

Leicester

Leicester School of Medicine
Maurice Shock Building
University of Leicester
P O Box 138
University Road
Leicester
LE1 9HN
0116 252 2969
Email med-admis@le.ac.uk
www.le.ac.uk

Liverpool

University of Liverpool
School of Medical Education
Cedar House
Ashton Street
Liverpool
L69 3GE
0151 795 4370
Email mbchb@liv.ac.uk
www.liv.ac.uk/medicine

London

Barts and The London

Queen Mary's School of Medicine and
Dentistry
Garrod Building
Turner Street, Whitechapel
London
E1 2AD
020 7882 8478
Email medicaladmissions@qmul.ac.uk
www.smd.qmul.ac.uk

King's College London

Medical School
Management Suite
First Floor
Hodgkin Building
Guy's Campus
London
SE1 1UL
020 7848 6701
Email ug-health.admissions@kcl.ac.uk
www.kcl.ac.uk

Imperial College School of Medicine

Level 2, Faculty Building
South Kensington Campus
Exhibition Road
London, SW7 2AZ
020 7594 8056
Email
medicine.ug.admissions@imperial.ac.uk
www1.imperial.ac.uk/medicine

St George's Hospital Medical School

The Admissions Office
Cranmer Terrace
London
SW17 0RE
020 8672 9944
Email webmaster@stgeorges.nhs.uk
www.sghms.ac.uk

University College London

Royal Free and University College
Medical School
Gower Street
London
WC1E 6BT
020 7679 0841
Email medicaladmissions@ucl.ac.uk
www.ucl.ac.uk/medicalschoo

Manchester

University of Manchester
School of Medicine
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL
0161 275 5025/5774
Email ug.medicine@manchester.ac.uk
www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk



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Newcastle

The Medical School
Newcastle University
Framlington Place
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE24HH
0191 222 7005
Email medic.ugadmin@ncl.ac.uk
mbbs.ncl.ac.uk

Norwich

University of East Anglia
Undergraduate Admissions Office
Institute of Health
Norwich, NR4 7TJ
01603 591515
Email admissions@uea.ac.uk
www.uea.ac.uk/med

Nottingham

University of Nottingham
Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences
Queen's Medical Centre
Nottingham
NG7 2UH
0115 823 0000
Email medschool@nottingham.ac.uk
www.nottingham.ac.uk/mhs

Oxford

University of Oxford
Medical Sciences Office
John Radcliffe Hospital
Oxford
OX3 9DU
01865 221689
Email admissions@medschool.ox.ac.uk
www.medsci.ox.ac.uk

Plymouth

Peninsula Medical School
The John Bull Building
Tamar Science Park
Research Way
Plymouth
PL6 8BU
01752 437444
Email pmsenq@pms.ac.uk
www.pms.ac.uk

Sheffield

University of Sheffield
School of Medicine
Beech Hill Road
Sheffield
S10 2RX
0114 271 3349
Email med-school@sheffield.ac.uk
www.shef.ac.uk/medicine

Southampton

University of Southampton
Southampton General Hospital
Tremona Road
Southampton
Hampshire
SO16 6YD
02380 796586
Email bmadmissions@soton.ac.uk
www.som.soton.ac.uk

St Andrews

University of St Andrews
Bute Medical School
Bute Building
St Andros
KY16 9TS
01334 463599
Email medicine@st-andrews.ac.uk
<http://medicine.st-and.ac.uk>

Swansea

School of Medicine
Grove Building
University of Wales Swansea
Singleton Park
Swansea
SA2 8PP
01792 513400
Email medicine@swansea.ac.uk
www.swan.ac.uk/medicine

Warwick – Coventry

University of Warwick
Warwick Medical School
Coventry
CV4 7AL
024 7657 4880
Email wmsinfo@warwick.ac.uk
www2.warwick.ac.uk



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There are a number of medical royal colleges in the UK and each is responsible for a different medical specialty within the medical field. The medical royal colleges supervise the training of doctors within their chosen specialty. They set the examinations and the curriculum for medical graduates as well as set the standards for professional practice.

The following is a list of medical royal colleges in the UK. Additional information regarding different medical specialties and training may be obtained by contacting the medical royal colleges directly.



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Accident and emergency medicine

College of Emergency Medicine
7-9 Bream's Buildings
London EC4A 1DT
Tel: 020 7404 1999
www.collemergencymed.ac.uk/CEM

Anaesthetics

Royal College of Anaesthetists
Churchill House
35 Red Lion Square
London WC1R 4SG
Tel: 020 7092 1500
www.rcoa.ac.uk

Allergy

Audiological Medicine
Cardiology
Clinical Genetics
Clinical Neurophysiology
Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics
Dermatology
Endocrinology
Gastroenterology
General medicine
Genito-urinary medicine
Geriatric medicine
Haematology
Immunology
Infectious Diseases
Neurology
Nuclear Medicine
Palliative Medicine
Renal medicine
Respiratory medicine
Rheumatology and rehabilitation

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

9 Queen Street
Edinburgh EH2 1JQ
Tel: 0131 225 7324
www.rcpe.ac.uk

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

232-242 St Vincent Street
Glasgow G2 5RJ
Tel: 0141 221 6072
www.rcpsg.ac.uk

Royal College of Physicians of London

11 St Andrew's Place
London NW1 4LE
Tel: 020 7935 1174
www.rcplondon.ac.uk

Dental surgery

Faculty of Dental Surgery
The Royal College of Surgeons of England
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3PE
Tel: 020 7869 6810
www.rcseng.ac.uk/fds

General practice

Royal College of General Practitioners
30 Euston Square
London
NW1 2FB
Tel: 020 3188 7400
www.rcgp.org.uk

Medical research

The Medical Research Council
20 Park Crescent
London W1B 1AL
Tel: 020 7636 5422
www.mrc.ac.uk

Occupational medicine

Faculty of Occupational Medicine
3rd Floor, New Derwent House
69-73 Theobald's Road
LONDON
WC1X 8TA Tel: 020 7242 8698
www.facocmed.ac.uk

Ophthalmology

Royal College of Ophthalmologists
17 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QW
Tel: 020 7935 0702
www.rcophth.ac.uk



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Obstetrics and gynaecology

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
27 Sussex Place
Regent's Park
London NW1 4RG
Tel: 020 7772 6200
www.rcog.org.uk

Paediatrics

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
5-11 Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8SH
Tel: 020 7092 6000
www.rcpch.ac.uk

Pathology

Royal College of Pathologists
2 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AF
Tel: 020 7451 6700
www.rcpath.org

Pharmaceutical medicine

3rd Floor
30 Fournival Street
London EC4A 1JQ
Tel: 020 7831 7662
www.fpm.org.uk

Psychiatry

Royal College of Psychiatrists
17 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8PG
Tel: 020 7235 2351
www.rcpsych.ac.uk

Public health medicine

Faculty of Public Health
4 St Andrew's Place
London NW1 4LB
Tel: 020 7935 0243
www.fphm.org.uk

Radiology/Oncology

Royal College of Radiologists
38 Portland Place
London W1B 1JQ
Tel: 020 7636 4432
www.rcr.ac.uk

Sports and exercise medicine

Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine
The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
6 Hill Square
Edinburgh EH8 9DR
Tel: 0131 527 3409
www.fsem.co.uk/site/2398/default.aspx

Surgery

Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
Nicolson Street
Edinburgh EH8 9DW
Tel: 0131 527 1600
www.rcsed.ac.uk

Royal College of Surgeons of England

35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3PE
Tel: 020 7405 3474
www.rcseng.ac.uk

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

232-242 St Vincent Street
Glasgow G2 5RJ
Tel: 0141 221 6072
www.rcpsg.ac.uk



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Further essential or useful information about applying to medical school can be found in the following sources.

Application to medical school

For details of admission to medical school, and access and foundation courses contact:

UCAS

Rosehill
New Barn Lane
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL52 3LZ
01242 222444
www.ucas.ac.uk

Details of access to medicine courses in your area are also available from
Learn Direct 0800 101 901
Lines are open from 7am to 11pm
www.learndirect.co.uk

Entry to medical school and medical careers

Getting into Medical School 2014 Entry (18th Edition)

Simon Horner
Published by Crimson Publishing Ltd
ISBN 978 1 90604 194 6
Available from Hammicks BMA Bookshop

The Insiders' Guide to Medical Schools 2007/2008 (9th Edition)

Compiled by the BMA Medical Students Committee. Ed. Leigh Bissett, David Burke, Sally Girgis,
ISBN 1405157488
Available from Hammicks BMA Bookshop

Learning Medicine (18th Edition)

Rosalind Foster, Elizabeth Ingall, Peter Richards and Simon Stockhill
ISBN 0521709679
Available from Hammicks BMA Bookshop

Medical School Survival Guide

Ashley McKimm
Published by Trauma Publishing
ISBN 0954765702
Available from Hammicks BMA Bookshop and other good bookshops

Hammicks BMA Bookshop
399 – 401 Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9BL
0161 276 9704
Fax 0161 276 9700
Email orders@hammicksbma.com
www.hammicksbma.com

NHS Medical Careers is a career planning guide designed to assist students in understanding their options for choosing their future career as a doctor in the NHS. Available at:
www.medicalcareers.nhs.uk

So you want to be a doctor is a website that is set up by medical students from the Leeds widening access to medical schools scheme. It aims to deal with any questions that prospective medical students may have and advises students from a wide range of backgrounds on how to successfully apply to medical school. Their website is:
www.wanttobeadoctor.co.uk

Finance

Student loans

Student Loans Company Ltd
100 Bothwell Street
Glasgow G2 7JD
0800 405 010
www.slco.co.uk

Students from England

For NHS student bursaries:
Student Grants Unit
0845 358 6655
www.nhsstudentgrants.co.uk

For loans and other finances:

Student Support Direct
0845 300 50 90
www.studentfinance.direct.gov.uk

Students from Northern Ireland

Student Finance NI
0845 600 0662
www.studentfinancenl.co.uk

Students from Scotland

Student Awards Agency for Scotland
0845 111 1711
www.student-support-saas.gov.uk/



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Students from Wales

Student Finance Wales
0845 602 8845
www.studentfinancewales.co.uk or
www.cyllidmyfyrwyrwymru.co.uk

BMA Charities

Graduates wishing to take medicine as a second degree, and looking for funding, should send a stamped self-addressed envelope to:
BMA Charities
BMA House
Tavistock Square
London
WC1H 9JP

Disabled students

SKILL: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities
Chapter House
18-20 Crucifix Lane
London
SE1 3JW
020 7450 0620
Email skill@skill.org.uk
www.skill.org.uk

Financial guidance

For a comprehensive guide to finding, planning and organising student finance:
Student Money
www.scholarship-search.org.uk

General information

Medical Schools Council

Woburn House
20 Tavistock Square
London
WC1H 9HD
020 7419 5494
www.medschools.ac.uk

General Medical Council

Regent's Place,
350 Euston Road,
London
NW1 3JN
0845 357 8001
www.gmc-uk.org

International Department

British Medical Association
BMA House
Tavistock Square
London
WC1H 9JP
020 7383 6793
Email internationalinfo@bma.org.uk
bma.org.uk

Modernising Medical Careers

The MMC Programme Office
Department of Health
Skipton House
Room 531B
80 London Road
London
SE1 6LH
www.mmc.nhs.uk

Science and Education Department

British Medical Association
BMA House
Tavistock Square
London
WC1H 9JP
020 7874 7018
Email info.science@bma.org.uk
bma.org.uk

Volunteer Work

Volunteering England

Regent's Wharf
8 All Saints Street
London
N1 9RL
020 7520 8900
www.volunteering.org.uk

Community Service Volunteers

237 Pentonville Road
London
N1 9NJ
020 7278 6601
www.csv.org.uk



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The following provides a list of the abbreviations used in this resource.

Abbreviation	Meaning
BMAT	BioMedical Admissions Test
EPP	Exposure prone procedures
GAMSAT	Graduate Medical School Admissions Test
GMC	General Medical Council
GPs	General Practitioners
PBL	problem-based learning
PLAB	Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board
UCAS	Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
UKCAT	UK Clinical Aptitude Test