

GHWY Uni Connect CPD Medicine, Dentistry, and Alternative Routes

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Session Overview

In today's session we will look at:

- Entry requirements for Medicine and Dentistry programmes and the admissions process
- What medical and dental schools are looking for in candidates, and how this is assessed
- Alternative pathways into Medicine and Dentistry
- Top tips for supporting students in your contexts

We will also have time for questions at the end of today's session



What are the entry requirements for Medicine and Dentistry?



Medical Schools in the UK



Forty-two standard undergraduate Medicine courses in the UK

Additionally, there are also:

- Graduate entry courses
- Gateway and preliminary year courses
- Transfer routes from biomedical related degrees



Dental Schools in the UK



Fourteen standard undergraduate Dentistry courses in the UK

Additionally, there are also:

- Graduate entry courses
- Gateway and preliminary year courses
- Transfer routes from biomedical related degrees



Differences between Schools

Main differences include:

- Teaching style – integrated, traditional, problem-based learning (PBL)
- Placements – when and where
- Facilities – subject specific and general
- Location – distance from home, location in town / city, distance from placements
- Student experience and research



Differences between Schools

Each university will select their students in different ways:

- Entry requirements
- Admissions tests – BMAT (2023) or UCAT
- Selection process and interviews

They will also have different criteria and support in place for WP candidates, as well as differing approaches to outreach activity



Example Entry Requirements

University of Leeds Medical School
MB ChB Medicine and Surgery (A100)
5 years

	Home	International
Number of applicants per interview	-	-
Number of applicants per place	-	-

Use in selection		
Application	Degree qualifications (for graduate applicants)	2.1 in appropriate topic. If Chemistry or Biology is not offered at A level grade B or above then equivalent content must be offered at degree.
	Predicted A levels/Scottish Highers	AAA at A level including Chemistry or Biology. Physics or Maths must also be offered if Chemistry is not taken. Scottish Highers: Typical offer AAAAB at Higher including Biology and Chemistry, and AB at Advanced Higher, including A in Chemistry or Biology.
	GCSEs/Scottish Nationals	Six subjects at minimum grade 5 (B) including English Language, Maths, Double/Additional Science or Chemistry and Biology. This is a minimum entrance requirement and the majority of applicants will have qualifications well above this standard.
	International Baccalaureate	35 points with a mark of 6 in three Higher Level subjects one of which must be Chemistry or Biology. Two subjects from Chemistry, Biology, Maths and Physics must also be offered at either Higher or Standard Level if not offered at GCSE. If English not offered at GCSE, this must be offered with a mark of at least 5 at Standard level.
	Personal statement	Not formally scored, but it is essential that applicants take this opportunity to demonstrate their motivation and enthusiasm to study.
	Admissions test	BMAT

Interview	Interview method	Multiple mini-interviews
	Work experience	Experience in a healthcare setting, though this definition is broad.

Widening participation	Access to Leeds applicants receive special consideration from admissions tutors and those who receive an offer are given an alternative offer alongside their standard offer. See website for details. Interdisciplinary Science Foundation Programme (CFGD) ; Students who successfully complete the year may transfer to the MBChB.
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To confirm this information, see details on the course's entry requirements, and learn more about the course itself, see its webpage: [University of Leeds Medical School](#).

Queen Mary University of London School of Medicine
MBBS Medicine (A100)
5 years

	Home	International
Number of applicants per interview	3	5
Number of applicants per place	7	20

Use in selection		
Application	Degree qualifications (for graduate applicants)	Applicants with a 2:1 degree in a bioscience subject have no further A level requirements in Biology or Chemistry; if in science subject that does not contain these elements then minimum grade C in Biology or Chemistry is required; if in a non-science degree then minimum grade B in Biology or Chemistry is required plus one other science also at grade B.
	Predicted A levels/Scottish Highers	A*AA at A level including Chemistry or Biology and a second science subject (Chemistry, Biology, Physics or Maths). Any third A level can be taken except for Further Maths. AAA in Scottish Highers, including Biology and Chemistry. Grades AA in Advanced Highers in two of the subjects offered at Scottish Highers, including Chemistry and/or Biology.
	GCSEs/Scottish Nationals	777666 (AAABBB for GCSEs taken before 2015) or above in any order to include Biology, Chemistry, English Language, and Maths (or Additional Maths or Statistics).
	International Baccalaureate	38 points with a minimum of 6 points in the Higher level science subjects and 6 points in the third Higher level subject. Three subjects are required, including Chemistry or Biology and one other science or mathematical subject at Higher level, and three subjects at Standard level including Chemistry or Biology, if not offered at the Higher level.
	Personal statement	They are referred to at the interviews but not part of the initial assessment process.
	Admissions test	UCAT

Interview	Interview method	Structured panel Interviews
	Work experience	Interview panels will ask about work experience and candidates will be expected to draw on their experiences to answer competency based questions.

Widening participation	Please refer to our Admissions Policy .
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To confirm this information, see details on the course's entry requirements, and learn more about the course itself, see its webpage: [Queen Mary University of London School of Medicine](#).



Medicine at the University of Leeds

Five-year integrated MBChB:

- Early placements and patient contact
- Prosection

- AAA including Chemistry and Biology
- At least 6 GCSEs at a Grade 6 including English Language, Maths, and two Sciences

- UCAT

- 2600 applications each year
- 700 applicants invited to interview – MMI
- 240 places on the course



Dentistry at the University of Leeds

Five-year integrated MChD/BChD BSc:

- Qualify at master's level
- Train alongside the whole dental team
- Early clinical and patient exposure

- AAA including Chemistry and Biology
- At least 6 GCSEs at a Grade 6 including English (Lang or Lit), Maths, and two Sciences

- 600 applications each year
- 250 applicants invited to interview – MMI
- 75 places on the course



MSC / DSC Guidance



Entry requirements for UK medical schools
2023 entry

Each year, the Medical Schools Council and the Dental Schools Council publish their guide to entry requirements. This includes:

- Applicant to interview and applicant to place ratios
- GCSE and Level 3 entry requirements
- Interview method
- Work experience requirements
- WP schemes and criteria

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/making-an-application/entry-requirements>



Applying to Medical / Dental School



Schools use the information from the UCAS form to help decide who to invite to interview:

- GCSE grades
- Level 3 predicted grades
- Personal statement
- Teacher reference

Schools will also use the results of various admissions tests in their shortlisting process

Applicants need to apply by the earlier UCAS deadline of **15th October**



Admissions Tests

Two main admissions tests used by Medical and Dental Schools to aid selection:

BMAT – three sections, paper based, sat at school / college in October of Year 13

2023 is the last year the BMAT will be used

UCAT – five sections, online, sat at a Pearson Vue test centre between July and late September

All dental schools now use the UCAT

Thousands of free past paper questions and preparation materials on their own websites



BMAT Universities



- Brighton and Sussex Medical School
- Imperial
- Lancaster
- UCL
- Cambridge
- Oxford

<https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/bmat-october/>



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UCAT Universities

- All Dental Schools and the majority of Medical Schools now use the UCAT
- Each University will use the test result in different ways
 - Cut off score
 - Shortlisting based on SJT banding
 - Holistically alongside academic criteria
- It's important that applicants do their research and apply strategically based on their circumstances

UK Universities		
A20	University of Aberdeen	A100, A201
A60	Anglia Ruskin University	A100
A80	Aston University	A100
B32	University of Birmingham	A100, A200
B78	University of Bristol	A100, A108, A206, A208
B84	Brunel University London	A100
C15	Cardiff University	A100*, A200
C30	University of Central Lancashire	A100*, A202
C55	University of Chester	A101
D65	University of Dundee	A100, A200
E14	University of East Anglia	A100, A104
E42	Edge Hill University	A100, A110
E56	University of Edinburgh	A100
E84	University of Exeter	A100*
G28	University of Glasgow	A100, A200
H75	Hull York Medical School	A100, A108
K12	Keele University	A100*, A104
K31	Kent and Medway Medical School	A100
K60	King's College London	A100, A101, A102, A202, A205, A206
L23	University of Leeds	A100, A101, A200
L34	University of Leicester	A100, A199
L41	University of Liverpool	A100*, A200
M20	University of Manchester	A104, A106, A204, A206, A300, A301
N21	University of Newcastle	A100, A101, A206
N84	University of Nottingham	A100, A10L, A108, A18L
P60	Plymouth University	A100, A206
Q50	Queen Mary University of London	A100, A101, A110, A200
Q75	Queen's University Belfast	A100, A200*
S18	University of Sheffield	A100, A101, A200
S27	University of Southampton	A100, A101, A102
S36	University of St Andrews	A100, A990
S49	St George's, University of London	A100, BB96
S84	University of Sunderland	A100
S85	University of Surrey	A101
W20	University of Warwick	A101
W80	University of Worcester	A101



Example Admissions Processes

Medical School A

- Checks applicant meets minimum academic criteria and has sat the UCAT
- Checks applicant has met UCAT cut off score
- Two members of staff score the personal statement
- Applicants invited to interview based on personal statement score

Medical School B

- Check applicant meets minimum academic criteria and has sat the BMAT
- Allocates score to top 8 GCSEs and top 3 A Levels
- Adds on BMAT score
- Applicants invited to interview based on academic criteria and BMAT score

Medical School C

- Check applicant meets minimum academic criteria and has sat the UCAT
- Applicants who have met that year's threshold and achieved Band 1 or 2 in SJT invited to interview
- Remaining interview places allocated based on overall UCAT score, academic criteria and contextual flags



**What are we
looking for?**



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Skills and Attributes

WHAT DO MEDICAL SCHOOLS WANT TO SEE?

Medical schools want students who have commitment, perseverance, initiative, concern for others and the ability to communicate. Every medical school will highlight the particular qualities they are looking for on their websites.

You should be able to demonstrate:

- Motivation to study medicine and genuine interest in the medical profession
- Insight into your own strengths and weaknesses
- The ability to reflect on your own work
- Personal organisation
- Academic ability
- Problem solving
- Ability to deal with uncertainty
- Risk management and an ability to deal effectively with problems
- Honesty
- Ability to take responsibility for your own actions
- Conscientiousness
- Insight into your own health
- Effective communication, including reading, writing, listening and speaking
- Teamwork
- Ability to treat people with respect
- Resilience and the ability to deal with difficult situations
- Empathy and the ability to care for others.

More information about each of these attributes is included in the Medical Schools Council's statement, which is based on the NHS values (see More help and advice).

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/outreach-and-support/resources-for-teachers-and-students>



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Personal Statement

Used in different ways by different medical schools. Some will use to:

- Screen for any WP flags
- Select applicants for interview
- As part of the interview process

Each School may look for different things, so it's important that applicants research what each School is looking for in the personal statement and how it will be used

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/media/2766/personal-statement.pdf>



What do Schools want to see?

Medical schools want to see your experience, skills and attributes relevant to medicine:

- Think about what medicine means to you and express it in your own words
- Focus on what you have learned about being a doctor and working in the healthcare profession from your work or voluntary experience
- Write about the knowledge you have gained about life as a doctor rather than the activity itself
- When talking about skills, explain why these skills are important for a doctor
- Write about any outreach that has supported your understanding of what it will be like to study medicine, or be a doctor
- Include some information on any areas of medicine that interest you
- Include some information about what you like to do in your spare time and how it has developed you.

Finally, double-check your punctuation, spelling and grammar, and avoid using clichés.



Interviews and Selection Events



Medical Schools interview in different ways:

- Traditional panel interview
- Panel and Group interview
- Multiple Mini Interview (MMI)

Interviews may be face to face or online

Interviews take place from November to March, with most Schools interviewing in January and February

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/media/2773/interviews.pdf>



What do Schools want to see?

Interviews are usually designed to test your suitability and aptitude to study medicine and become a doctor. Medical schools appreciate that some candidates will be nervous and will, of course, make allowances for this. Medical schools will have information available regarding what they are looking for at interview. In general medical schools are looking for an applicant's:

- **Ability to communicate**

Applicants should be able to express their ideas clearly and coherently and to be able to follow a reasoned argument. Applicants who give spontaneous yet well thought-out answers to questions are more likely to impress the interviewers than those who give obviously rehearsed and 'coached' responses.

- **Attitude**

Medical schools look to see if applicants have the right attitudes to study medicine and be a doctor. This includes flexibility, integrity and conscientiousness.

- **Motivation to be a doctor**

Medical schools will want to see evidence of the experiences that have influenced an applicant's decision to study medicine. They will want to know that an applicant has an understanding of what a career in medicine entails.

- **Previous caring experience**

This can be from an applicant's work, home or voluntary experience. Medical schools will not only want to hear about the type of experience but also what an applicant has learned and their emotional response.

- **Knowledge of what is happening within medicine**

Applicants will not be expected to have a detailed knowledge but have an intelligent layperson's view on areas of medicine that are currently within the media or in the spotlight. It is important that applicants demonstrate an awareness of scientific and medical issues. Medical schools will want to see the applicant's intellectual potential.

Interview Questions / Stations

- Assessment of motivation and insight
- Situational and scenario-based questions
- Role play
- Presentation
- Data interpretation
- Literacy and numeracy



What other routes are there into Medicine and Dentistry?



Gateway and Preliminary Years - Med



There is 1 Preliminary Year and 19 Gateway to Medicine courses in the UK

- Additional year before progressing onto a Medicine programme
- All have a combination of WP and geographical criteria in their entry requirements
- Usually for students who may have a lower entry profile or have not taken enough science at Level 3

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/media/2951/entry-requirements-document-2023-entry.pdf>



Gateway and Preliminary Years - Dent



There is 1 Preliminary Year and 3 Gateway to Dentistry courses in the UK

- Additional year before progressing onto a Dentistry programme
- All have a combination of WP and geographical criteria in their entry requirements
- Usually for students who may have a lower entry profile or have not taken enough science at Level 3

<https://www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk/making-an-application/entry-requirements/>



Graduate Medicine and Dentistry



There are 16 graduate entry programmes in the UK for Medicine, and four for Dentistry

- Usually for graduates from bioscience related programmes
- Four years rather than standard five

Extremely competitive – some graduate programmes have 25 apps per place

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/media/2951/entry-requirements-document-2023-entry.pdf>



Alternative routes at Leeds



Gateway to Medicine – A101

- Same criteria as Access to Leeds
- BBC including Chemistry or Biology at B. If Biology, also need Maths or Physics
- 6 GCSEs at Grade 4 and above

Interdisciplinary Science Foundation Year – CFG0

- Meet one of three WP criteria
- CDD
- GCSEs in English, Maths and Science at Grade 4
- Apply by **15 October**



Medicine and Dentistry aren't for everyone



Not everyone has the right motivators, skills or grades for applying to Medicine or Dentistry

- Family pressure
- Lack of awareness of other professions
- Financial attraction
- Qualifications and GCSEs

Important that students are made aware of the 300+ other careers within the NHS, as well as non-patient facing roles

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>



Alternatives to Medicine and Dentistry

- Allied Health Professions (AHPs)
- Healthcare Sciences
- Nursing and Midwifery
- Pharmacy
- Dental Hygiene and Therapy

- Lab based professions

- Physicians Associate

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>



How can you support aspiring Medics?



Supporting 11-16 students



- Early exposure to the professions – via local practitioners or universities
- Develop transferable skills – communication skills, teamwork, leadership
- Address stereotypes – anyone from any background can work in healthcare
- Work and voluntary experiences – encourage students to gain exposure to different roles working with people
- Academic achievement – GCSE performance can restrict options when applying to Medicine and Dentistry



How we can help at Leeds



Talks and Workshops

- Anatomy masterclasses – inspire a love for science and link to real world
- Mini A&E workshop – introduce to different professions
- Student life talks – role models

Taster Days

- Interactive on campus events throughout the year for Medicine and health related programmes
- Free of charge to attend

<https://www.healthsciences.leeds.ac.uk/teachers/pre-16-activities/>



Supporting Post-16 students

Developing insight and demonstrating motivation is important

- University events and outreach schemes
- Work experience and volunteering
- Online courses – FutureLearn

Managing expectations is crucial – over 20,000 applicants to Medicine are rejected each year

Alternatives to Medicine – health professions vs STEM based subjects



How we can help at Leeds

Talks and Workshops

- Alternatives to Medicine
- Careers in Medicine and Health
- Medicine and Dentistry – the Lowdown
- Life at Medical School
- Preparing for Admissions Tests
- Preparing for Interviews

Leeds Futures – 12 month programme – separate Medicine and Dentistry strands

Reach for Excellence – 2 year programme

<https://www.healthsciences.leeds.ac.uk/teachers/post-16-activities/talks/>



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Further Support and Guidance

Medical Schools Council - <https://www.medschools.ac.uk/>

Resources for Teachers and Students - <https://www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/outreach-and-support/resources-for-teachers-and-students>

Studying Healthcare - <https://studyinghealthcare.ac.uk/>

General Medical Council - <https://www.gmc-uk.org/>

University Subject Outreach Teams - <https://www.healthsciences.leeds.ac.uk/>

University Admissions Teams – find details on the course website

Local CCGs and NHS Trusts

Local Care and Nursing homes



Any Questions?

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