Graduate Entry to Medicine

Four year graduate only courses (UCAS code A101)

For information to help you decide whether graduate entry to medicine is for you and for details of where you can study go to: www.medicalcareers.nhs.uk/considering_medicine/graduate_entry_programme.aspx. The further resources section on this website has current details of institutions offering four year courses for graduates.

Items you will need to research in preparation for your application:

- course title and course code
- academic requirements-degree discipline and classification, A’ level subjects and grades
- admissions tests/additional requirements
- work experience/voluntary work (type, length, paid etc)
- details of medicine courses commenced previously

Five year Medicine courses (UCAS code A100) may also consider graduates of relevant degrees for entry onto their programmes. Check UCAS for course providers and consider contacting institutions directly to discuss your application. Go to the section on finance for exploring the big differences between funding and access to financial support for the graduate only pathway and the undergraduate medical pathway as a graduate.

Pre-medicine foundation year courses

Some institutions offer pre-medicine foundation years, designed to equip able students who have not studied scientific A levels. These generally lead to the institution’s five year, undergraduate medicine course. Check with individual websites for details.

Entrance exams

UKCAT
Apply online at www.ukcat.ac.uk
Payment required during online registration.
You must register by a specific deadline (usually during September)
Test centres located around country (registration number and photo ID required on day of test)

UKCAT generally consists of five subtests:

- **Verbal reasoning** – your ability to think logically about written information and to arrive at a reasoned conclusion.
- **Quantitative reasoning** – your ability to solve numerical problems.
- **Abstract reasoning** – your ability to infer relationships from information by convergent and divergent thinking.
- **Decision analysis** – your ability to deal with various forms of information, to infer relationships, to make informed judgements, and to decide on an appropriate response, in situations of complexity and ambiguity.
- **Non-cognitive analysis** - identifies the attributes and characteristics of robustness, empathy and integrity that may contribute to successful health professional practice.

Tests are multiple choice, separately timed and take 2 hours in total.
Results are valid for the current year of entry (or deferred entry) only.

Preparation & Practice
The UKCAT website has practice questions and hints and tips
GAMSAT

Applications to take the test must be made online at the GAMSAT website: [http://gamsat.acer.edu.au/gamsat-uk](http://gamsat.acer.edu.au/gamsat-uk)
 Payment required during online registration.

You must register by a specific deadline (usually by end of July)
Test centres located around the country (registration number and photo ID required on day of test)
Test results remain valid for 2 years.

Test lasts 5.5 hours and is in 3 sections, all taken on one day.

- **Section 1:** 75 questions in 100 minutes, covering reasoning in humanities and social science
- **Section 2:** 2 essay questions in 1 hour, testing written communication.
- **Section 3:** 110 questions in 170 minutes, covering reasoning in science. (Biology 40%, chemistry 40% and physics 20%)

The test requires you to be of at least A' level standard in science (even if you have not followed A level science courses).

Preparation & Practice

[www.gamsat.co.uk](http://www.gamsat.co.uk) is a good source of information and includes an on-line practice test.

BMAT

[www.bmat.org.uk](http://www.bmat.org.uk)

Test results are only valid for the current year of entry— all candidates take the test on same date see website for details.

You must be registered by an approved BMAT centre and cannot register yourself directly (visit BMAT’s website for details of how and where the BMAT can be taken)

BMAT fees (plus any further administrative fees imposed by the centre at their discretion) to be paid to the test centre

Registration must be made by certain deadline – check website (possibility of late registration at increased cost)

Test lasts 2 hours and is in 3 sections, all taken on one day.

- **Section 1:** Aptitude and Skills (60 minutes - 35 multiple choice questions)
- **Section 2:** Scientific Knowledge and Applications (30 minutes - 27 multiple choice questions)
- **Section 3:** Writing Task (30 minutes - 1 essay question from a choice of 4)

Preparation & Practice

Visit BMAT’s website for a large selection of practice tests

Please note that UKCAT and Careers Network do not endorse any organisations that offer a paid for service with regards to the medical application process.

Applications - Preparing your personal statement

Places on all medical courses are competitive, so a strong personal statement is essential in order to be considered for interview.

Your personal statement needs to show:

- Why you want to study medicine
- What has inspired you to apply
- Your personal commitment to the profession
- That you have researched careers in medicine and have a clear understanding of the qualities required to be a doctor
- Details of any work experience you have completed
- Details of any voluntary / community work you have completed (related or unrelated to medicine)
- Some information about your hobbies, activities and achievements, both inside and outside of academic life, that help show you are a well rounded applicant
- Details of any experiences of responsibility (e.g. paid employment, caring for relatives etc.)
- Conclusion about why you should be selected
Think about how you can demonstrate you have the personal attributes required to successfully practice medicine including:

- Integrity
- Insight into strengths and weaknesses
- Ability to cope with stressful situations
- Ability to work compassionately and professionally
- Respect for others / interest in people
- Desire to contribute to the good of the wider community
- Motivation to complete the course and have a successful dental career
- Team-working and communication skills
- Leadership skills and initiative

Writing style

As well as providing examples of your relevant experience and skills, your statement should also show you can reflect on those experiences. It should explain what you learned and how this contributed to your determination to study medicine and understanding of your own capabilities. Avoid either listing examples of work experience or extra curricular activities without explanation as to how they impact on your application or stating your understanding of the requirements without backing these up with examples of how you meet the criteria. Remember that your statement is a personal document and should express your own inspirations and reasons for application. Avoid using example statements as a template for your own; as computer software will check statements for plagiarism!

Important details

Taking time to ensure your statement is free of minor errors will help your content avoid being overlooked. Spelling and grammar mistakes show a lack of attention to detail or care and so reflect badly on your ability to apply these skills as a doctor. Check your application carefully and ask someone else to look over it too, as a pair of fresh eyes can often spot mistakes you may have missed. Write your statement in a different programme, before pasting into your online UCAS form so you can print off versions and make amendments without the risk of submitting before it is ready.

If you’d like a careers adviser to look over your application before you submit it, bring it to an appointment or contact us via our Student query system at studenthelp.bham.ac.uk

Interviews - What to expect

Institutions operate different interview process, details of which are likely to be provided at the time you are invited. Interview questions will test your motivation and commitment and your understanding of the qualities and competencies of a good doctor. They will also cover your knowledge of the profession, current issues as well as ask ethical questions.

The interview could involve a panel of 2 or more people, or a series of interviews at different “stations”, often referred to as Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs). These have several stations in rotation, where the interview question/activity in that station will focus on a specific scenario, question or task. There are likely to be different stations, usually 6-10, with a set time limit (e.g. 6-8 minutes). Instructions for the station may be posted outside the room and the applicant given 2 minutes to read and analyse the instructions prior to entering the room. Interviewers may not have seen UCAS personal statement.

Top tips

- Check university websites, your invitation to interview correspondence or information gained from attending university open days, and be clear of the interview process and format.
- Re-read your personal statement and rehearse what to expand on e.g. your work experience and what you gained in terms of understanding what is required to be a doctor.
- Keep up to date with health, science and medicine related news e.g. read the BMJ, New Scientist, BBC Health web pages. You may be asked questions to determine your knowledge and understanding of current issues in the sector.
• Think about first impressions. Dress smartly, arrive early, be courteous and professional.

• Try to relax, be honest, be yourself and smile.

Financing Graduate Entry Medicine

The Department of Health funding arrangements for graduate entry programmes are in place for up to 2015 entry but do be aware that things can change. There is a different funding structure for graduates studying graduate entry medicine courses to those graduates undertaking the longer undergraduate route. It is vital that you are aware of the financial implications. You can seek guidance from the following:

• NHS bursaries (income assessed for years 2-4 of course): www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/816.aspx

• NHS Careers: www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/details/default.aspx?id=557

• Government information about education and training and funding for medical and health related courses: www.gov.uk/nhs-bursaries

• Medical Careers.nhs.uk: www.medicalcareers.nhs.uk/considering_medicine/graduate_entry_programme.aspx

• NHS Business Services Authority – provides information about student bursary eligibility for Home and International students www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students.aspx

• The Admissions Office for Graduate Entry Medicine courses at individual universities will also be able to advise with regards to available funding, and any scholarships the university may offer.

Useful resources

• **NHS Medical Careers Website** General information and advice about how to prepare for interviews, what to expect on the day and useful information about what happens post interview. www.medicalcareers.nhs.uk/considering_medicine/interviews.aspx

• **British Medical Association (BMA)** From finance through to the essential guide to help you decide if a career in medicine is right for you http://bma.org.uk/developing-your-career/becoming-a-doctor/entry-to-medical-school

• **The Student Room** Online discussion forum. Topics include medicine admissions procedures. The link below provides information about the admissions process for medicine as well as example interview questions. This site is public and can be edited by anyone so use your own judgment as to the authenticity of the accuracy of information. www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Medicine_at_University#Interviews

• Enrol on the “Applying to Graduate entry to Medicine” **Canvas course**, You can download the presentations from careers workshops run by Careers Network.

Careers workshops take place throughout the year and can be found on our “Events” page intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers/events

Reference books