

**Becoming a doctor:
Entry in 2010**



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

Student membership as a first year medical student is **FREE**.

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Section 1: Frequently asked questions

Medicine is a popular career choice and competition for places at medical school is very high. This resource 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.

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).

Skills and 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 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 the armed forces, prisons or the police force working as a forensic physician. [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. It should be recognised that doctors do work relatively long hours and will be expected to be on-call at times.

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.

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. The scheme on page 2 gives a general outline of the different stages of career progression from student to senior doctor.

Medical degree (usually 5 years)

The undergraduate course provides students with exposure to the different specialties within medicine. It involves basic medical sciences and practical clinical tasks, and seeks to develop attitudes and behaviours appropriate to the medical profession, as well as the skills of independent learning.

Foundation year 1

Newly qualified graduates from medical school receive provisional registration from the General Medical Council (GMC) and undertake foundation year 1 (F1) which is designed to build on the knowledge and skills gained during undergraduate training. On successful completion of F1, trainees receive full registration with the GMC and can continue to the second year of foundation training.

Foundation year 2

Foundation year 2 (F2) training continues the general training in medicine and involves a range of different specialties, which could include general practice. By the end of foundation training, trainees must demonstrate that they are competent in areas such as managing acutely ill patients, team working and communication skills, to continue training in their chosen specialist area or in general practice.

Specialty and general practice training (between 3 and 8 years)

On successful completion of foundation training, doctors continue training in either a specialist area of medicine or in general practice. The area of medicine you choose will determine the length of training required before you can become a senior doctor. In general practice the training is of three years' duration, and in general surgery, for example, the training is eight years in duration.

During this period of training, doctors learn and practice increasingly advanced areas of knowledge and skills in their chosen specialty or general practice in order for them to be able to undertake senior doctor roles once training is completed. Postgraduate training is overseen by the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB).

Continuing professional development

On successful completion of postgraduate training, doctors gain entry to either the GMC specialist register or GP register and are able to apply for a senior post as a consultant or a GP principal, respectively. While these posts are viewed as career pinnacles, all doctors are expected to continually demonstrate their fitness to practise medicine, and so learning continues throughout a doctor's career.

What qualifications do I need to become a doctor?

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 2010 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 years.

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.

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 where necessary. Contact details are provided in [section 3](#).

Widening participation

Increasingly medical schools are running initiatives to widen access to their courses for students who would not traditionally apply. These initiatives are designed to encourage a more diverse range of students into the medical profession by supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds, mature students, students from ethnic and cultural groups, and disabled students. For further details on widening access initiatives please check with individual medical schools. Contact details of medical schools in the UK are available within [section 3](#) of this publication. Further information on mature students and disabled students can be found on page 8.

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 2010 is **15 October 2009**.

In addition to application through UCAS, the majority of medical schools also require applicants to take admissions tests. One test is called the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) and the other is the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) (see box 1 below).

Box 1

UK Medical Schools Admissions Test

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

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

What are the courses like?

Under the overall supervision of the GMC, which sets standards for undergraduate medical education (for further information please see General Medical Council (2003) [Tomorrow's doctor](#)) 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.

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 and practical clinical skills. 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, trust and communication skills in working with other professions, appreciation of different ways of working, and the strengths of a diverse workforce (see BMA report on [Interprofessional Education](#)).

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](#)).

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.

Medical schools offering foundation courses

Bristol	Manchester
Cardiff	Sheffield
Dundee	Southampton
Keele	

What qualities do medical schools look for in applicants?

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 almost nine to one.

Not all medical schools interview students as part of the selection process. If you are invited for an interview, however, it is important that you are sufficiently prepared. 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](#).

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.

Box 2

Medical careers advice and information

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:

www.bma.org.uk/careers/careers_service/index.jsp

The BMA provides careers information including the guide *Medical Specialties: the way forward*, which is available free to BMA members on the BMA website at the following address:

www.bma.org.uk/careers/careers_service/Medicalspecialties.jsp

The BMA published a report on sign-posting medical careers for doctors which is available free of charge. It can be downloaded from the BMA website at www.bma.org.uk/careers/careers_service/signposting.jsp

BMJ Careers at www.bmjcareers.com is the web's principal source of UK medical jobs and careers advice, and has an online 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 below. 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.

Medical schools with a graduate entry programme to medicine

Barts and The London Queen Mary's School	Liverpool
Birmingham	Newcastle
Bristol	Nottingham
Cambridge	Oxford
Guy's, King's and St Thomas', London	Southampton
Imperial College, London	St George's, London
Keele	Swansea
Leicester	Warwick

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 course completion). In fact a 2004 [BMA report](#) showed that mature students are increasingly found in medical schools. Many medical schools now accept results of Access courses from mature students for entry into medical school, and details of Access courses can be found on the Learn Direct website www.learnirect.co.uk. UCAS also lists these courses under medicine and dentistry. Contact details of both these organisations can be found in [section 5](#). Selection policy varies across individual medical schools, so mature applicants are advised to contact the medical schools of their choice to make sure they are eligible before applying for entry.

Are there any barriers to studying medicine for disabled person?

In the UK, the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 (as amended) makes it unlawful for education providers to treat disabled people less favourably, without justification, for a reason relating to their disability. It also requires them to make reasonable adjustments or accommodations to ensure that disabled people are not put at a substantial disadvantage. For further discussion see the BMA's report on [Disability equality in the medical profession](#), 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 2005 amendment to the DDA places a duty on all public bodies to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people by eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equal opportunities, eliminating disability-related harassment, promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people, and encouraging participation by disabled people in public life.

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:

- an individual's impairment may limit, reduce or prevent him or her from studying and practising medicine, in the absence of reasonable adjustments. The extent to which these requirements can be met by medical schools and subsequent employees needs to be considered
- any health condition or impairment may be made worse by studying or practising medicine
- an impairment and/or the lack of enabling environment might make the tasks unsafe both for the medical student/doctor and fellow workers, 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 a disabled person seeks advice from medical schools well before the deadline for UCAS submissions so that their individual circumstances can be considered. During the application and selection process, it may be appropriate for a disabled student to have a health assessment to determine what effect, if any, their impairment may have on their ability to study and practise medicine. This will focus on what the student can do, rather than what she or he 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.

Deans of medical schools will provide further information and help ([see the contact details in section 3](#)). Students 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 at 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 type of doctor you can be.

Students and doctors with a serious communicable disease are not 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, a student with such a disease may be restricted in their 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, however, that some commonly undertaken additional components of undergraduate medical curriculum may involve students in 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 (BBVs) 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* which is available on the BMA website at www.bma.org.uk and Department of Health (2007) [Health clearance for tuberculosis, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV: New healthcare workers](#)

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

Both 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](#).

Changes to the immigration regulations for doctors in training could restrict opportunities in the UK for some doctors from overseas on completion of their medical degree. The BMA's Junior Doctors Committee has produced guidance on this which can be found at

www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/coming_to_work_in_uk/immigration/guidanceimmigrationapril2006.jsp

UCAS itself cannot deal with enquiries about sources of finance or acceptability of qualifications. Students are strongly advised not to travel to the UK unless they 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. You should be aware that medical qualifications obtained outside the European Economic Area (EEA) 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 (IELTS) 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](#)).

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.

In addition, 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.

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 2007/08 showed that medical students incurred a tuition fees and maintenance loan debt for a single year of £2,531 and £3,591. Respondents in their final year of study reported an average level of total debt of £18,947.

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](#)). Additionally, 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 Student loans, below).

Studying in England

For 2010, students studying in England are required to pay tuition fees of up to a maximum of £3,225 per year, depending on the course and university.

Studying in Northern Ireland

Students starting their course in 2010 will have to contribute up to £3,225 per annum to the cost of their university education.

Studying in Scotland

Eligible Scottish domiciled (ordinarily living in Scotland) and non-UK EU students studying in Scotland normally apply to the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) to have their tuition fees paid. Students from England, Wales and Northern Ireland, starting their medical studies in Scotland in 2010 will be charged the tuition fee set by the institution they have chosen to study in. They will need to apply to their local educational authorities to find out if they are eligible for any financial support.

Studying in Wales

From 2010, students studying in Wales are required to pay tuition fees of up to a maximum of £3,225 per year. Students ordinarily living in Wales and attending a Welsh university are eligible, regardless of family income, for a yearly £1,940 grant paid directly to the place of study towards tuition fees.

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 or £3,225 (2009/2010), whichever is less. 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.
- *maintenance grants* – in 2010, 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 both your tuition fee and maintenance loans once your annual income exceeds £15,000. 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. These bursaries are means-tested and awarded during the final year(s) of undergraduate study. You may also be entitled to a reduced rate student loan during the final year(s) of your degree.

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 www.egas-online.org provides comprehensive advice and information of other sources of available funding.

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.

The Hotcourses Scholarships Search website www.scholarship-search.org.uk provides a comprehensive guide to planning and organising student finances. 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.

Section 2: Entry requirements to medical school in 2010

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. Both 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](#)).

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	AAB	Acceptable on its own & combined with other qualifications. Chemistry is required, plus at least one from Biology, Mathematics or Physics and one other. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. General Studies excluded.	Not accepted	Unavailable	Unavailable
Barts, London, Queen Mary	AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry or Biology. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable combined with other qualifications. Biology at grade B and Chemistry at grade B required. General Studies excluded.	Not accepted	Available	Unavailable
Birmingham	AAA-AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and either Biology or Physics or Mathematics. Human Biology may be offered, but not in addition to Biology. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Biology at AS level is required if not offered at A level. Human Biology may be offered instead of Biology.	GCE A Level Double Award, GCE AS Level Double Award and AEA acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	Available	Unavailable
Brighton and Sussex	340 tariff points	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Biology or Chemistry required at A grade. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology. General Studies excluded.	FSMQ, BTEC National Award, GCE A Level and GCE AS Level Double Awards - Acceptable combined with other qualifications.	Unavailable	Unavailable
Bristol	AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Two sciences to include Chemistry. Chemistry at grade A required and one laboratory based science at grade A or B. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable combined with other qualifications. Minimum four subjects.	GCE A Level Double Award, GCE AS Level Double Award, BTEC National Award, acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. BTEC National Diploma acceptable on its own and combined with other subjects	Available	Available
Cambridge	AAA	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 and AEA acceptable only when combined with other subjects.	Available	Unavailable
Cardiff	370 tariff points	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Two of Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Mathematics, Statistics. One being Chemistry or Biology. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry or Biology if not taken at A level at grade B. General Studies excluded.	ASVCE, AVCE BTEC National Award, BTEC National Diploma, BTEC National Certificate and Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	Unavailable	Available
Dundee	AAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry at grade A, science subject at grade A and any science subject at grade A. General Studies excluded.	Not accepted	Not accepted	Unavailable	Available

University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
East Anglia - Norwich	AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Biology should be at least at B grade. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	FSMQ and AEA acceptable only when combined with other subjects. Social Sciences preferred.	Unavailable	Available
Edinburgh	AAAb	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and any of Mathematics, Physics or Biology.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Biology required if not held at A level.	Not accepted	Unavailable	Available
Glasgow	AAB	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	Not accepted	Unavailable	Unavailable
Guy's, King's and St Thomas', London	AAAb	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Biology and Chemistry at least one to A Level. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Biology or Chemistry. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	AEA and Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma acceptable only when combined with other qualifications	Available	Unavailable
Hull York	AABb	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.	Not accepted	Unavailable	Unavailable
Imperial College, London	AAAb	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Biology or Chemistry required. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable combined with other qualifications. Biology and Chemistry required. General Studies excluded.	Not acceptable	Available	Unavailable
Keele – Stoke-on-Trent	AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications Chemistry plus one from Biology/Physics/Maths plus one further academic subject if only two sciences are offered.	Not acceptable	Not acceptable.	Available	Available
Leeds	AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required. General Studies and Critical Thinking excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma acceptable only when combined with other subjects.	Unavailable	Unavailable
Leicester	AAB	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 BTEC National Diploma acceptable only when combined with other subjects.	Available	Unavailable
Liverpool – Liverpool curriculum also delivered at Lancaster University.	AABb	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology required. Critical Thinking excluded	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. General Studies and Critical Thinking are not acceptable as third A Level.	BTEC National Diploma and Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma acceptable only when combined with other subjects.	Available	Unavailable

University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
Manchester	AAB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and either Biology or Human Biology or Physics or Mathematics, plus a further rigorous academic subject. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. General Studies excluded.	FSMQ, AEA, BTEC National Award, BTEC National Certificate, Welsh BaccaLaureate Advanced Diploma, OCR National Certificate, OCR National Diploma, OCR National Extended Diploma acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	Unavailable	Available
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.	AEA and Welsh BaccaLaureate Advanced Diploma acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	Available	Unavailable
Nottingham	AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology (or Human Biology) at A grade. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	Welsh BaccaLaureate acceptable combined with other qualifications.	Available	Unavailable
Oxford	AAA	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.	ASVCE, AVCE, AVCE Double Award, FSMQ, AEA Diploma in Foundation Studies, BTEC National Award, BTEC National Certificate, BTEC National Diploma and Welsh BaccaLaureate Advanced Diploma, OCR National Certificate, OCR National Diploma, OCR National Extended Diploma acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	Available	Unavailable
Peninsula - Plymouth	370-400 tariff points	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Biology or Chemistry or Physics at grade A plus two further subjects at A level, preferably to include one non-science subject.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. General Studies excluded.	AEA, BTEC National Diploma and OCR National Certificate, OCR National Diploma, OCR Extended Diploma, Welsh BaccaLaureate Advanced Diploma acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	Unavailable	Unavailable
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 excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. General Studies excluded.	Not acceptable	Unavailable	Unavailable
Sheffield	AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and any Science subject. General Studies excluded.	Not accepted	Not Acceptable	Unavailable	Available

University	GCE entry requirements	A levels	AS levels	Other qualifications considered	Graduate entry?	Pre-medical / access course?
Southampton	AAB	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.	Available	Available
St Andrews	AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology, Mathematics or Physics. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma acceptable only when combined with other qualifications	Unavailable	Unavailable
St George's, London	AAAb – BBCb	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology required. General Studies excluded.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	AEA and Welsh Baccalaureate acceptable combined with other qualifications.	Available	
Swansea	Graduate entry course.	Partnership arrangement with Cardiff for five-year medical degree. Contact medical school for further details.	-	-	Available	Unavailable
University College London	AABe	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry Biology required.	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	Not acceptable	Unavailable	Unavailable
Warwick - Coventry	Graduate entry course.	Contact medical school for further information	-	-	Available	

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 Human Biology, Maths and Physics.
Barts, London, Queen Mary's	AAA	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry or Biology required.	AB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Biology or Chemistry required.
Birmingham	AAAAB	Acceptable when combined with other qualifications. Three Advanced Highers also required.	AAB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology required.
Brighton and Sussex	340 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.
Bristol	AAAAA	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required.	AB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and another lab-based science required.
Cambridge	-	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	AAA - AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. One from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics. Chemistry required at least to Higher level.
Cardiff	AAAAB	English, Biology, Chemistry and Physics required.	AA	Chemistry required.
Dundee	AAABB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and any science subject required.	Not accepted.	Entry based on first sitting of Highers, not Advanced Highers.
East Anglia - Norwich	AAAABB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Acceptable with two Advanced Highers.	AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Biology required at grade B.
Edinburgh	AAAAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and two from Biology, Mathematics and Physics.	-	The study of at least Advanced Highers encouraged. Preferably Chemistry and Biology.
Glasgow	AAAAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and two from Mathematics, Physics and Biology or Human Biology.	Not accepted	
Guy's, King's and St Thomas', 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.
Hull York	AAAAB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology required, only acceptable in one sitting.	AB	Chemistry and Biology required.
Imperial College, London	AAA	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	Chemistry/Biology essential plus one from Biology/Physics/Mathematics plus one further academic subject if only two sciences are offered. Alternatively two Advanced Highers plus one new Higher may be offered. If Advanced Higher Chemistry not offered Higher Chemistry with minimum of B is required.
Leeds	AAAAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required. Individual cases considered.	AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry required. Individual cases considered.

University	Higher grades required	Subjects	Advanced Higher grades required	Subjects
Leicester	AAAAB-AAABB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and Biology.
Liverpool	AAAAA - AAABB	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		Contact the medical school for further information	AAB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.
Newcastle	AAAAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and/or Biology required.	-	Acceptable only 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.
Oxford	AAAAA - AAAAB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications.	AAB	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry and one from Mathematics, Biology or Physics.
Peninsula - Plymouth	390-400 tariff points	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. At least one Science subject at grade A and preferably one non-Science required. Only acceptable in one sitting.	-	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. At least one Science at grade A and preferably one non-Science required. Only acceptable in one sitting.
Queens University, Belfast	AAAAA	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Chemistry at grade A and Biology at grade A.	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).
Sheffield	AAAAB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Only acceptable in one sitting.	AB	Chemistry at grade A and any Science subject at grade B. 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 Physics, Biology or Mathematics.	-	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications.
St George's, London	AAAAB	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, English 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	-	

Section 3: UK medical school contacts

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

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 and Dentistry
73 University Road
Belfast
BT7 1NN
028 9097 1444
Email s.clinmed@qub.ac.uk
www.qub.ac.uk/schools/mdbs

Birmingham

University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TT
0121 414 3858
Email MED-Admissions@bham.ac.uk
www.medicine.bham.ac.uk

Brighton

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.bris.ac.uk

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
Health Park Campus
Cardiff CF14 4XN
029 2074 3436
Email medicalschooll@cardiff.ac.uk
www.cardiff.ac.uk/medic

Coventry

University of Warwick
Warwick Medical School
Coventry
CV4 7AL
024 7657 4880
Email wmsinfo@warwick.ac.uk
www2.warwick.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
The Chancellor's Building
49 Little France Crescent
Edinburgh
EH16 4SB
0131 242 6407
Email medug@ed.ac.uk
www.mvm.ed.ac.uk

Glasgow

University of Glasgow
Faculty of Medicine
Wolfson Medical School Building
University Avenue
G12 8QQ
0141 330 6216
Email admissions@clinmed.gla.ac.uk
www.gla.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

Hull

University of Hull
Hull York Medical School
Hull
HU6 7RX
01904321767
Email admissions@hyms.ac.uk
www.hyms.ac.uk

Leeds

University of Leeds
The Admissions Office
School of Medicine
Room 7.09 Worsley Building
Leeds
LS2 9JT
0113 343 4362
Email a.e.gaunt@leeds.ac.uk
www.leeds.ac.uk

Leicester

Leicester School of Medicine
Maurice Shock Medical Sciences Building
University of Leicester
P O Box 138
University Road
Leicester
LE1 9HN
0116 252 9692
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 2240
Email medicaladmissions@qmul.ac.uk
www.smd.qmul.ac.uk

Guy's, King's and St Thomas'
Medical School
Management Suite
First Floor
Hodgkin Building
Guy's Campus
London
SE1 1UL
020 7848 6501
Email guysadmissions@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 medicine.enquiries@manchester.ac.uk
www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk

Newcastle-upon-Tyne

The Medical School
Newcastle University
Framlington Place
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE24HH
0191 222 5594
Email enquiries@ncl.ac.uk
www.ncl.ac.uk

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 undergraduate.admissions@admin.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 medadmissions@sheffield.ac.uk
www.shef.ac.uk/asksheffield

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>

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

Swansea

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

Section 4: Key medical specialties

Accident and emergency medicine

College of Emergency Medicine
Churchill House
35 Red Lion Square
London WC1R 4SG
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
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
14 Princes Gate
Hyde Park
London SW7 1PU
Tel: 0845 456 4041
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
Royal College of Physicians
6 St Andrew's Place
Regents Park
London NW1 4LB
Tel: 020 7317 5890
www.facocmed.ac.uk

Ophthalmology

Royal College of Ophthalmologists
17 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QW
Tel: 020 7932 0702
www.rcophth.ac.uk

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

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine
1 St Andrew's Place
London NW1 4LB
Tel: 020 7224 0343
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

Section 5: Useful contacts and resources

Further essential or useful information about application 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

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

Details of access 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 (13th Edition)

James Burnett
Published by Trotman and Company Ltd
ISBN 978 1 84455 159 0
Available from Hammicks BMA Bookshop
399 - 401 Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9BL
0161 276 9704
Fax 0161 276 9700
Email orders@hammicksbma.com
www.hammicksbma.com

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

Learning Medicine (18th Edition)

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