



**Maximise your chances of success in...
Medicine**

Job role - what it involves:

Doctors provide medical care for patients, diagnose and treat illness, disease and infection in patients. After Medical School there is a huge raft of specialisms you can enter—see below: Anaesthesia, Intensive Care Medicine, Emergency Medicine, General Practice, Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Occupational Medicine, Ophthalmology, Paediatrics, Pathology, Psychiatry, Public Health, Radiology, Surgery.

Qualifications needed/routes in:

All medical students will need to complete a five year medical degree. Getting onto one of these is competitive:

You must have a minimum of 5 A*/A grades at GCSE plus 3 A Levels with predicted grades of AAA or AAB. Both Chemistry and Biology A Levels are essential at two-thirds of medical schools (see overleaf for specific info by medical school.) Nearly all medical schools also require you to sit the UKCAT—a separate admissions test.

Work Experience

Work Experience and volunteering are extremely important when applying to medical School and should be organised as early as possible in your first year. WEX in a hospital is ideal but can take time to arrange. If you would like a placement at James Cook Hospital, you need to apply ASAP. See your progress tutor for details. Admission tutors recognise that hospital based experience is difficult but expect applicants to have shown their commitment by volunteering in other 'caring' environments. Other possible placements could be: hospices, care and respite homes, special needs schools, GP surgeries, charity shop work, St John Ambulance, British Red Cross, D of E, or any community based project.

Other activities you could get involved with are:

- Visiting Medical Schools, some have a specific day for AS students
- Medlink—free 1 day conference held in Nottingham
- Look into "Pre-Med" at <http://www.premed.org.uk>
- Sign up for PPC Med-Soc, see Diane Bate in college
- Mock interviews practice with Olivia Wytcherley.

Competition per place and how to improve your application

Competition for places is fierce. All medical schools have above 20 applicants per place. To better your chances:

- Research medicine as a career—difficulties as well as rewards
- Do relevant voluntary work in advance of applying and reflect thoroughly on this in your personal statement, keep a diary/journal
- Let Careers and tutors know about your intention for medicine
- Attend Med-Soc, taster days, medical school visits
- Start to read medical journals and articles, be up-to-date on current NHS trends, controversies, famous cases in the media
- Take time to consider your stance on various medical ethical issues such as euthanasia, abortion, NHS funding etc
- Ensure your personal statement includes info about non-curricula activities—many uni's 'score' statements and this is 1 of the criteria

University	Offer	Subjects	Ad Test
Aberdeen	AAA	Chemistry & 1 Science or Maths	UK CAT
Anglia Ruskin *	AAA	1 of Chemistry or Biology	UKCAT
Birmingham	A*AA	Chemistry & Biology	UKCAT
Brighton & Sussex	AAA	Chemistry & Biology at A	BMAT
Bristol	AAA	Chemistry at A & A in either Biology or Physics	UKCAT
Cambridge (6 yrs)	A*A*A	Chemistry, then 2 of: Biology, Maths, Physics	BMAT
Canterbury			
Christ Church*	TBC	TBC	TBC
Cardiff	AAA	Chemistry & Biology	UK CAT
Dundee	AAA	Chemistry & 1 Science	UK CAT
East Anglia	AAA	Biology at A, then A in either Chemistry or Physics	UK CAT
Edinburgh (6yrs)	AAA	Chemistry & 1 of Biology, Maths or Physics	UK CAT
Edge Hill*	TBC	TBC	TBC
Exeter	A*AA-AAA	Chemistry & Biology at A	UKCAT
Glasgow	AAA	Chemistry, 1 of Biology, Maths or Physics	UK CAT
Hull-York	AAA	Chemistry & Biology	UK CAT
Imperial College (6 yrs)	AAA	Chemistry & Biology	BMAT
Keele	A*AA	Chemistry & Biology	UKCAT
Kings College	A*AA	Chemistry & Biology	UK CAT
Leeds	AAA	Chemistry at A	BMAT
Leicester / Warwick	AAA	Chemistry at A	UK CAT
Lincoln*	AAA	Chemistry & Biology at A—apply via Nottingham	UKCAT
Liverpool / Lancaster	AAA	Chemistry & Biology at A	UKCAT/ BMAT
Manchester	AAA	Chemistry & Biology at A plus 1 of: Maths/Physics/ Psychology	UK CAT
Newcastle	AAA	Prefer Chemistry & Biology, 1 of them if other GCSE 7	UK CAT
Nottingham	AAA	Chemistry & Biology at A	UK CAT
Oxford (6 yrs)	A*AA	Chemistry & 1 of Biology/Physics/Maths	BMAT
Plymouth	A*AA- AAB	Biology at A and 1 of: Chemistry/Physics/Maths/ Psychology	UK CAT
Queens (Belfast)	AAAa	Chemistry & 1 from: Biology/Physics/Maths	UK CAT
Queen Mary's, London	AAA	Chemistry at A and 1 of Biology/Maths/Physics	UK CAT
St Andrew's (6 yrs)	AAA	Chemistry & 1 of Biology/Maths/Physics	UK CAT
St George's	AAA	Chemistry & Biology	UK CAT
Sheffield	AAA	Chemistry or Biology plus 1 further science	UK CAT
Southampton	AAA	Chemistry & Biology	UK CAT
Sunderland*	TBC	TBC	TBC
UCL (6 yrs)	A*AA	Chemistry & Biology	BMAT

Interview structure and interview preparation

All but 3 Medical Schools interview applicants. Interviews vary between Universities - in the Careers Library there is a breakdown of the format of the interview for each medical school. Most involve a 20 - 30min interview, either 1:1 or with a panel of 3, but some opt for a multi-mini interview style: eight 5 min interviews (St George's). For many, they focus on medical/ethical dilemmas and personal statement. Some (Warwick and Manchester) do a group interview.

Typical Interview Questions:

- Why do you want to be a doctor?
- How do you prioritise workload, balance interests, how do you relax?
- In your opinion, what is the most serious health concern in the UK today?
- Should the NHS take private patients?
- Do you agree with the concept of Foundation Hospitals?
- How would you allocate funding in the NHS?
- Why is teamwork important in the NHS?
- Which patient groups should have priority for receiving drugs?
- List your top 5 novels/ What is your favourite play?
- How would you deal with the death of a patient?
- What experiences have you had to prepare you for medicine?

Finance

Medical students must pay tuition fees for every year of their course. NHS Bursaries no longer exist. If medical students are struggling in years 4 or 5 of their course, they can apply for an NHS Hardship grant instead.

Related Careers:

All Allied health professions, Dentistry, Prosthetists, Pharmacy, Biomedical Scientist, Clinical Microbiologist, Phlebotomist, Audiologist, Cardiographer, Clinical Engineer, Medical Physicist, NHS manager, Clinical Psychologist.

Relevant websites to use for researching the job role:

British Medical Association: <http://www.bma.org.uk/>

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

Royal College of Physicians: <http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/>

Med Schools Council: <http://www.medschools.ac.uk/Pages/default.aspx>

MedSchools: <http://www.medschools.ac.uk>

UKCAT: <http://www.ukcat.ac.uk/>



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Enhancing futures
Working as part of



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