

Admissions

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Admissions Lead***



Becoming a doctor in the UK



Aston Medical School
Birmingham



1. 4-6 Years in recognised medical school

2. Foundation Years 1 & 2 – competitive allocation

almost 100% employment located
in one part of UK

3. Medical Specialty Training – all branches

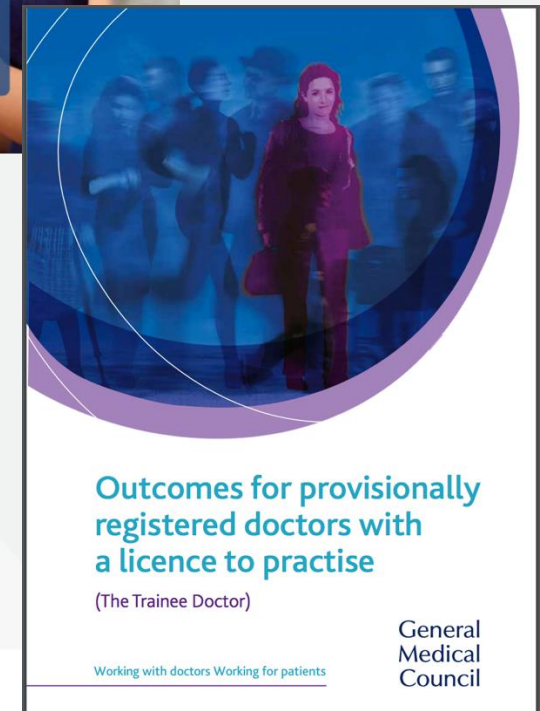
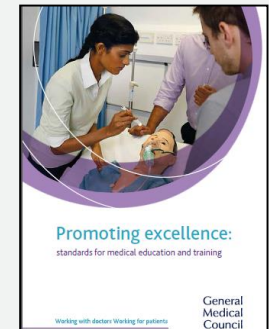
GP – 3 years

Hospital specialties - 5-8 years

All regulated by the GMC

Ref: www.gmc-uk.org/education/undergraduate.asp

Ref: www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/pages/home



Rationale behind admissions requirements



- Select applicants who are academically able to cope with the MBChB
- Well rounded individuals with interest in variety of things (work/life balance)
- Have the relevant non-academic qualities eg teamwork, empathy, compassion
- One set of criteria for all

Equality and Diversity

Welcomed and Valued

- Medical students and doctors should reflect the society they serve
Encourage applicants with physical and mental health difficulties
- With support are required to fulfil Minimum competencies set out in:
GMC's Outcome for Graduates and Promoting Excellence



<https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/guidance/welcomed-and-valued>

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/standards-and-outcomes/outcomes-for-graduates>

https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/Promoting_excellence_standards_for_medical_education_and_training_0715.pdf 61939165.pdf

Duties of a doctor registered with the (GMC) (Promoting Excellence)

- **Knowledge, skills and performance**

(Care of patients, good standard of practice, knowledge, limits of competence)

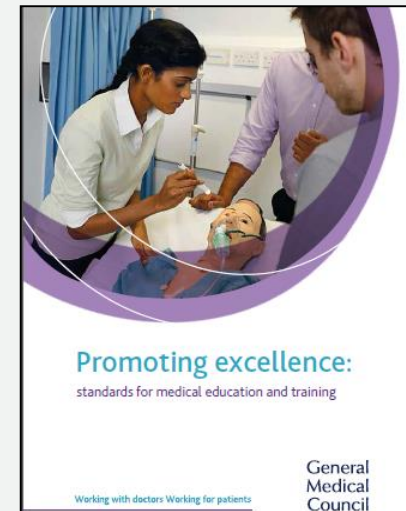
- **Safety and Quality**

(act if patient safety is being compromised, promote health)

- **Communication, partnership and teamwork**
(respect patient's dignity, confidentiality, listen and respond to patients' concerns)

- **Maintaining trust**

(honesty, integrity, treat all patients equally)



- Applications to Medical Schools are normally through UCAS
- Small window for applications:
 - **4th September to 15th October**

Medical School Entry Requirements



Aston Medical School
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Different medical schools have different entry requirements so please check carefully, but generally:

- Do they require specific GCSE and A-Level subjects?
- UKCAT or BMAT?
- Do they ask for work experience in a healthcare setting?
- What type of interview do they have?
- Do they offer a contextual offer?
- Do they accept resits/exceptional circumstances?

Selection considerations



- **Academic**
GCSE and A levels - measure of academic ability
(Able to deal with the large volume of work)
- **Personal statement**
Understanding of studying and practicing medicine
- **UCAT/BMAT**
Test of ability to solve problems, think on your feet, deal with different situations
Knowledge of science
- **Interviews**
Panel or Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs)
(Face to face interaction)

- **GCSEs and A levels**
- 5 or more GCSEs Grades A* to B. Normally Maths, English Language, Chemistry and Biology compulsory
- 3 A levels Grades A* to B. Normally Chemistry and Biology are compulsory
- Most Medical schools look at 3 A levels

Medical Schools Council Website -
<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/applications/resources-for-students-and-teachers>

Personal statements (PS)



- Normally read but not scored
 - **Used to assess applicant's understanding of studying and practicing medicine**
 - **Commitment/motivation**
 - **Ability to reflect on experiences and relate to qualities which are important in studying and practicing medicine**
 - **Demonstrate applicant's non-academic side**
- UCL – Personal statement read and prioritised. Looking for work experience, motivation to study medicine, evidence of teamwork, communication skills, independent learning, other interests
- Kent and Medway – MMI station asks questions about personal statement
- Bristol and Aston. Personal statement read but not scored

Structure of personal statement



Paragraph 1	Paragraph 2	Paragraph 3	Paragraph 4	Paragraph 5
Why do you want to study your chosen course?	What have you done related to your subject area?	Work experience, volunteering	Extra curricular activities, hobbies and interests	Career aspirations and a strong closing statement

What should it look like?



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Introduction



2/3 Academic Focus



1/3 Extra Curricular



Conclusion

"I have one vision- and that is to help all my clients rediscover their confidence by restoring their smile" (Dr Bob Mahey). I feel this quote expresses in a concise way the motivation behind my desire to study Dental Hygiene and Therapy. From an early age, I have always found great satisfaction when providing a helping hand to those in need and this was the most alluring aspect of the course. The precise, meticulous work executed by dentists on a daily basis appealed to my frame of mind and this initially sparked a curiosity in both the theoretical and analytical aspects of this subject.

Having studied Biology and Chemistry from a young age, I have gained a keen interest in the anatomy and physiology of the human body and the way oral diseases can affect people down to the molecular level. In particular, I am intrigued by the development of how common periodontal diseases, such as gum disease occur and the effects it has on surrounding dental tissues. The most attractive modules within the course to me are the Biomedical Sciences and Oral Health Promotion modules, as they help to prepare for the study of disease.

I respect the practical side of A-level Chemistry as it portrays the methodical approaches and precautions required throughout all science based subjects, using transferable skills to those I have gained, such as the manipulation of equipment which will be very valuable in scaling or polishing teeth. I have engaged in many problem solving tasks whilst doing A-level Statistics, using my initiative to overcome any challenges which arose such as binomial distribution; similarly I will be capable of analysing intricate data regarding oral health and coming to a conclusion on the health of patients. During my Extended Project Qualification, my capability to do independent research has developed considerably in addition to my ability to think logically and to be self-critical. I believe my A-Level courses are a good indicator of my ability to become a Dental Hygienist.

In order to understand the day-to-day management of a dental team, I had undertaken a fortnight of work experience at Grove Lane Dental Surgery, where I observed an array of procedures such as: veneering, tooth crowning, bridges, extractions and was even given the rare opportunity to make a wax denture myself. I found this challenging but very rewarding. My communication skills were refined whilst working at the reception desk where I had to interact with a diverse range of patients from all backgrounds. Overall the interpersonal skills and attributes required when pursuing a career in this line of work is to be assertive, courteous and patient; qualities which I believe I possess to be a thriving student.

Juggling between academic focus and leisure, the knitting club was most appealing to me, as it helped develop my manual dexterity; a useful facet needed in 'hands on' professions. Given the opportunity to play competitive sports such as badminton, allowed me to improve my hand to eye co-ordination and teamwork skills. Moreover, attending gym on a regular basis enhances my stamina and physical strength, putting me in the right steps towards the very demanding course.

My fascination with dental health had soon turned into determination and fuelling my desire was my natural enjoyment of science subjects alongside with patient care, maintaining a perfect balance between the two. I aspire to a career in helping people from all walks of life towards achieving a good state of oral health, where I believe I would make a positive contribution in giving specific advice relating to the patients needs, such as smoking or dieting. Researching the course and experiencing the profession first hand, has only increased my desire to study Dental Hygiene and Therapy.

UCAT (formerly UKCAT)



- The UCAT involves reasoning, decision analysis and situational judgement.
- 4 components: verbal reasoning, decision making, quantitative reasoning, abstract reasoning plus SJT score out of 4
- Medical Schools may have a lower total cut off score and/ or minimum requirement for the SJT test
- Registration opens 1st July 2020
- Testing will take place between 3 August and 1 October 2020
- Early November 2020 – results sent to Universities

<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/>

What's in BMAT?

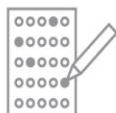
BMAT

BIOMEDICAL ADMISSIONS TEST

1 Thinking Skills



60 minutes



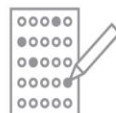
32 multiple-choice
questions

Tests: problem solving and
critical thinking

2 Scientific Knowledge and Applications



30 minutes



27 multiple-choice
questions

Tests: ability to apply
knowledge: Biology, Chemistry,
Physics and Mathematics

3 Writing Task



30 minutes



1 short essay
question

Tests: ability to organise and
effectively communicate ideas
in writing

- The BMAT tends to involve more academic and theoretical questions, whilst the UCAT is more problem-based.

HEI's who require the BMAT

- Oxford
- Cambridge
- Imperial
- UCL
- Brighton and Sussex
- Leeds
- Lancaster
- Keele (for international applicants only)
- Manchester (for international applicants only)

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

BMAT - continued



Registration opens	1 September
Registration closes	Standard fee: 1 October Late fee: 15 October
Results released	27 November

Additional requirements



- **English language for International students**
 - Students whose first language is not English must demonstrate an excellent command of the English language
 - IELTS 7- 7.5 (with minimum requirement in each component)
 - TOEFL

The Medic Portal Comparison:

<https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/choosing-a-medical-school/comparisontool/>

Interview Formats in Medical Schools



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- 32/39 use MMIs
- 6/39 Traditional
Oxford, Cambridge, UCL,
Glasgow, Queen Mary's,
Southampton
- 1/39 ? Interviews
- Edinburgh

Medicine Interview Tips

Got an interview for 2019 entry? We've collected our top tips for an interview at each UK medical school here!

[BOOK AN INTERVIEW COURSE](#)

Med School Interview Tips	Medicine Interview Tips	Medicine Interview Tip
Aberdeen	Anglia Ruskin	Aston
Barts	Birmingham	Bristol
Buckingham	Brighton & Sussex	Cambridge
Cardiff	Dundee	Exeter

Read our top tips for an Aberdeen medicine interview.

Read our top tips for an Anglia Ruskin medicine interview.

Read our top tips for an Aston medicine interview.

Read our top tips for a Barts medicine interview.

Read our top tips for a Birmingham medicine interview.

Read our top tips for a Bristol medicine interview.

Read our top tips for a Buckingham medicine interview.

Read our top tips for a BSMS medicine interview.

Read our top tips for a Cambridge medicine interview.

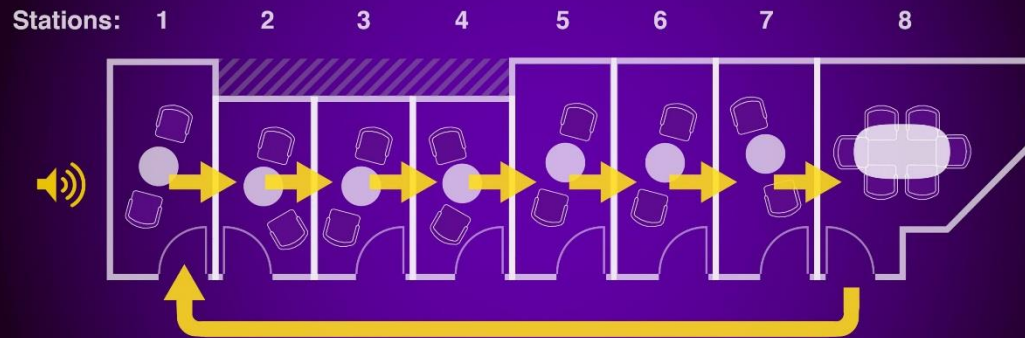
Read our top tips for a Cardiff medicine interview.

Read our top tips for a Dundee medicine interview.

Read our top tips for an Exeter medicine interview.

Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs)

Multiple Mini-Interview (MMI) Overview



Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs)



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- Majority of UK Medical Schools use MMIs
- Usually 8-12 'stations' - test range of attributes
 - domains included in 'GMC's Promoting Excellence'
 - each station tests 1, 2 or 3 attributes.
- Station marks are added to give total MMI score
- Total MMI score used as part of selection process

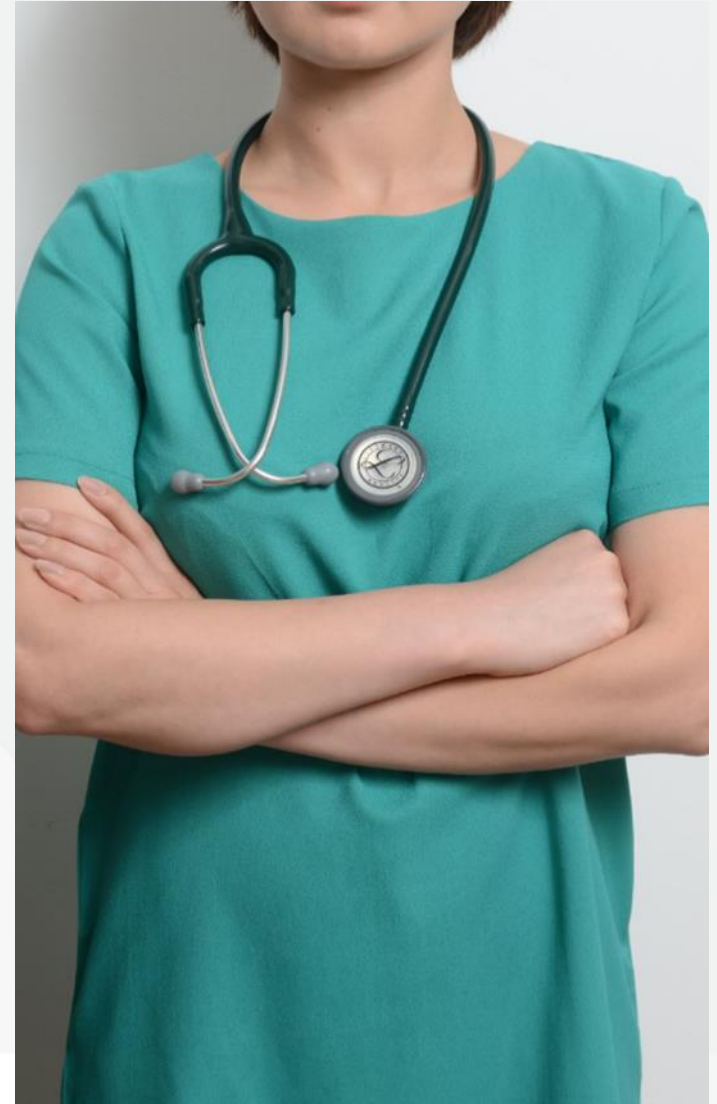
Qualities tested in the MMI



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- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Compassion and empathy
- Resilience
- Problem-solving skills
- Teamwork and leadership
- Insight e.g. knowing limits of own ability
- Reflecting on mistakes/failures
- Learning from mistakes/failures
- Honesty and integrity



Panel interviews



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Set questions on:

- Why medicine
- Demonstrate understanding of studying and practicing medicine
- Demonstrate ability to reflect and learn from 'mistakes'
- Ethical discussion
- Problem solving
- Resilience

WP and Contextual Offers



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- Who are classed as WP?
 - **First Generation**
 - **Free school meals/pupil premium**
 - **Bursary recipients**
 - **Estranged/Care**
 - **Residential or School post code (Polar 4 Quintiles 1 and 2)**
- What is a Contextual Offer?
 - **Identified as WP student, could be eligible for a lower grade offer (normally 1 or 2 grades - ABB)**

Widening Participation (WP) Programmes on Offer




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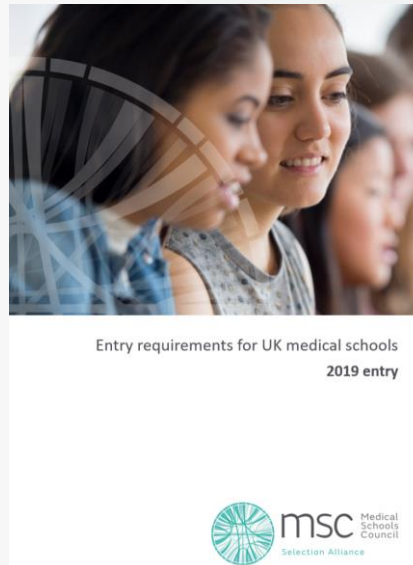
- Aston – Pathway to Healthcare, MBChB strong WP – 40% of places. Contextual Offer
- Birmingham – A2B and Routes in to Professions – Contextual Offer
- Bristol – Pathway to Health Sciences, Contextual offer and guaranteed interview
- Kings' College London - Extended Medical Degree Programme MBBS for WP students
- Leicester – Medicine with Foundation Year (WP only – 25/35 EM only)
- Kings' College London - Extended Medical Degree Programme MBBS for WP students
- Southampton - Medicine with Foundation Year (WP only – National)
- UEA - Medicine with Foundation Year (WP only – National)

Useful Websites

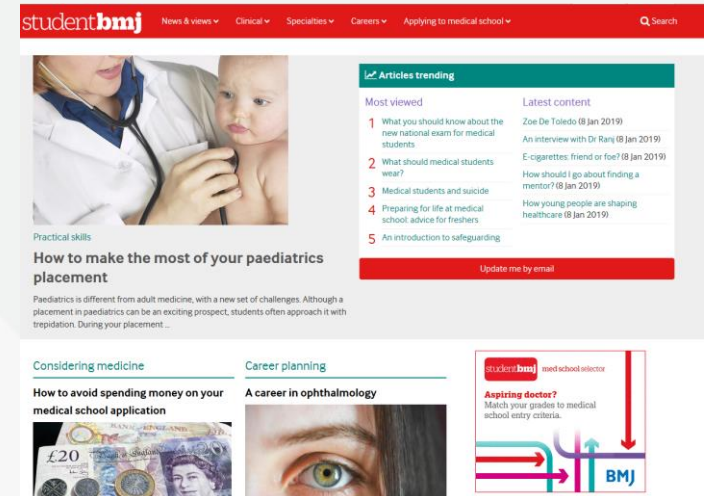
- Medical Schools Council - <https://www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/applications/resources-for-students-and-teachers>
- Medic Portal - <https://www.themedicportal.com/>
- BBC Health - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health>
- BMJ Student - <http://student.bmj.com/student/student-bmj.html>



The Medic Portal website features a header with navigation links: Application Guide, e-Learning, Courses & Conferences, Tutoring, Teachers, Quizzes, Reviews, and Community. A prominent banner reads "Get into Medicine" with the text "In official partnership with the Royal Society of Medicine, used by over one million aspiring medics and advisors". Below the banner, a section titled "I'm interested in..." includes tabs for Courses, Popular, Guides, E-Learning, Tutoring, and Teachers. Four featured course cards are displayed: Interview Course 2018-19, MMI Circuits 2018-19, UCAT (UKCAT) Courses 2019 (highlighting a 10% early bird discount), and BMAT Courses 2019 (highlighting a 10% early bird discount).



The MSC Medical Schools Council Selection Alliance website features a background image of three students. The main heading is "Entry requirements for UK medical schools 2019 entry". At the bottom, the MSC logo is displayed with the text "Medical Schools Council Selection Alliance".



The student.bmj website has a red header with navigation links: News & views, Clinical, Specialties, Careers, and Applying to medical school. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area includes a "Practical skills" section with the heading "How to make the most of your paediatrics placement" and a list of five trending articles. A "Latest content" section on the right lists recent updates. At the bottom, there are sections for "Considering medicine" (with a sub-heading "How to avoid spending money on your medical school application") and "Career planning" (with a sub-heading "A career in ophthalmology"). A "BMJ" logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

Contact

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Questions



Thank you for listening