

## Requirements

Entry requirements for medical school are always high with Universities usually expecting at least A, A, A at A level along with the highest GCSE grades. Applicants will be expected to achieve these grades in chemistry and biology, along with another science based subject or maths.

## Application Overview

You be able to select four choices medical schools on UCAS with a fifth option for a different course (bac- up plan so will be more likely related to medical profession). Deadline is earlier for medicine (15<sup>th</sup> October).

Three different types of medical schools: traditional; integrated; problem-based learning (PBL).

**Traditional** – 2 years of lecture style learning before going into clinical / practical environment. Would suit people who prefer knowledge-based learning.

**Integrated** – main difference is you will combine traditional theory lessons with practical clinical experience from the beginning. You will be taught by topic rather than discipline, so rather than anatomy it will be by digestive system etc.

**PBL** – Mainly working groups with peers and an experienced tutor. For example, you will be given problems to solve by applying what you have learnt and research to hypothetical situations.

## Testing

As well as securing the highest grades, applying via UCAS and attending interviews you will need to sit either a UCAT or BMAT tests depending on where you want to apply. (You can choose to sit both to keep your options open).

**UCAT testing** is 2 hours and will take you through different types of testing from verbal reasoning to situational judgement. Testing opens from June and the last test date is 29<sup>th</sup> September but must be booked by 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Costs approx. £80 depending when you sit it.

**BMAT testing** is usually taken on one date in November. It is traditionally a written test but will be done online tis year (probably). It has more emphasis on maths, science and logical thinking. Some do say this is the harder of the two tests but this is subjective! This costs around £46.

**You will need to prepare for these tests. Find help and practice tests by visiting:**

[www.practice.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.practice.ukcat.ac.uk)

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

## UCAT Universities

University of Aberdeen

Anglia Ruskin University

Aston University

University of Birmingham

University of Bristol

**Cardiff University**

**University of Dundee**

**University of East Anglia**

**Edge Hill University**

**University of Edinburgh**

**University of Exeter**

**University of Glasgow**

**Hull York Medical School**

**Keele University**

**Kent and Medway Medical School**

**King's College London**

**University of Leicester**

**University of Liverpool**

**University of Manchester**

**University of Newcastle**

**University of Nottingham**

**Plymouth University**

**Queen Mary University of London**

**Queen's University Belfast**

**University of Sheffield**

**University of Southampton**

**University of St Andrews**

**St George's, University of London**

**University of Sunderland**

**University of Warwick**

**BMAT Universities**

**Brighton and Sussex Medical School**

**Imperial**

**Lancaster University**

**University College London (UCL)**

**University of Cambridge**

**University of Leeds**

**University of Oxford**

### **Where Should You Apply?**

Luckily, you'll get your UCAT results before the application deadline. This means you'll know how your score compares to other applicants, so you'll know whether you should apply to universities that require a high score or ones that place less emphasis on that one aspect of your application.

If you scored highly, it might be a good idea to apply to universities that place a lot of emphasis on the UCAT. Many of these have a UCAT cut-off score and rank their applicants this way; the higher your score, the higher your chance of getting an interview.

If you didn't get the score you were hoping for, it's a good idea to apply to universities that place more emphasis on other admissions criteria. Some medical schools put more weighting on school grades or personal statements. BMAT universities might also become more appealing in this instance.

### **Work experience**

It is important to show that you are dedicated to a career in the medical profession so you will need to have completed some relevant experience. This can be difficult to obtain in hospitals and GP surgeries, especially given the COVID situation. However, medical schools recognise this and so they also value people who have done charity or voluntary work too as this demonstrates a clear commitment to helping those who are vulnerable or in need.

### **Personal Statement**

As part of the UCAS form you will have to write a personal statement that is only 500 words but has to demonstrate why you are suitable for the course. You could start to develop responses to these three questions to help you structure your ideas: explain why you want to become a doctor with reasons that are *personal* to you; how have your experiences *impacted* on your decision / motivated you / helped you gain further insight; what are your hobbies / interests that showcase you as a well-rounded person.

Further help and tips for your personal statement can be found by using some of the websites below.

### **Useful Websites**

[www.medschools.ac.uk](http://www.medschools.ac.uk)

[www.premedprojects.co.uk](http://www.premedprojects.co.uk)

[www.themedicportal.com](http://www.themedicportal.com)

[www.medicmind.co.uk](http://www.medicmind.co.uk)

[www.ucat.ac.uk](http://www.ucat.ac.uk)