

Medical Schools Entry Requirements August 2017

This paper is an update to the “Medical Schools Entry Requirements” report produced in August 2016. The aim of this research is two-fold:

- Support the GSA / HMC Universities Committee in their work in lobbying to Medical Schools¹.
- To act as a useful reference document for ISC schools and candidates who are looking to apply to a Medical School this autumn².

It is very important to note that readers are encouraged to use this document in conjunction with their own research. Please see reference notes 1 and 2 for more details and context.

As with last year’s report, we have where possible, captured the intentions of Medical Schools in responding to exam reform (new GCSE numerical grading and linear A-levels). With the exception of a few Medical Schools, AS levels no longer form part of an offer to study Medicine. It is interesting to note that Medical Schools equate GCSE grades under the old system to numerical grades differently. For example some that require grade B in a subject ask for an equivalent grade 6, whereas others ask for grade 5.

For the second year, we have shared a draft version of the report with all Medical Schools to allow them the opportunity to comment or amend their information. Medical Schools were given one month advance notice that the report will be shared and one week to review the draft report and respond. 23 responded. 15 did not respond.

According to UCAS data resources, in 2016 there were 74,860 applications for medicine and just 7,830 places. In addition, in 2013 UCAS reported that 1,800 students with straight As at A-level failed to get a place³. In a recent survey of HMC & GSA schools, approximately 40% of pupils applying for medicine in 2017 did not get a place. With an increasingly competitive landscape, students will be wise to broaden their horizons (for example, considering an international Medical School or a school with a high offer rate). Moreover, an article written by Peter Stanford, an admissions tutor, was quoted as saying “*We might as well start picking names out of a hat. We all know that would go against every principle of rewarding educational achievement, but frankly I am beginning to wonder what alternative we have*”. Monitoring admissions practices is therefore more important than ever before.

ISC Research Team, August 2017

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Summary - Medical Schools at a Glance⁴

University name	Year of entry on which info is based	Course Details						Entry Requirements										Useful stats / other info							
		Degree Type	UCAS code ⁵	Duration (years)	Annual fee (UK students) ⁶	Course fee (UK students) ⁶	Deferred offers considered	A-levels (lower case indicates AS subject requirement)	Obligatory Biology / Chemistry A-level	Minimum Chemistry level	Minimum Biology level	Can EPQ sub 4th AS?	IB points	IGCSE English 0500 (first language) accepted	Info on GCSE new grading requirements?	Apptitude test ⁷	Estimated minimum aptitude score ⁸	Has medical school responded to draft report?	Recent/planned changes ¹	% applicants receiving offers ⁹	Applications per entry ¹⁰	Dropout rates within 1st year ¹¹	Student satisfaction rate ¹²	Popularity ranking (GSA & HMC schools only) ¹³	A100 - A106 Offer Rate (GSA & HMC schools only) ¹³
University of Aberdeen	2018	MBChB	A100	5	£1,820/£9,000	£9k/£45k	yes	AAA	Chemistry	A-level	none	n/a	36	no	yes	UKCAT	1600 ^{8a}	yes	yes	19%	12	1%	97%	22	21%
Aston University	2018	MBChB	A100	5	£9,250/£37,000 ^{5a}	£46k/£185k ^{5a}	yes	AAB	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	35	no info	no	UKCAT	no info	no	Not applicable: the course launches in 2018						
University of Birmingham	2018	MBChB	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	A*AA	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	32	yes	yes	UKCAT	2360 ^{8a}	yes	yes	45%	7	0%	90%	1	44%
Brighton and Sussex Medical School	2018	BMBS	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	AAA	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	36	yes with conditions	yes	BMAT ^{7a}	17.5 ^{8b}	yes	yes	17%	12	0%	95%	27	37%
University of Bristol	2018	MBChB	A100	5	£9,500	£48k	yes	AAA	Chemistry	A-level	none	n/a	36	yes	yes	UKCAT	no info	no	yes	11%	no info	0%	85%	2	34%
The University of Buckingham	2019	MBChB	71A8	4.5	£36,200	£163k	yes	AAB	Chemistry	A-level	AS	no	34	no	yes	none	n/a	yes	yes	11%	6	0%	no info	32	33%
University of Cambridge	2018	MB BChir	A100	6	£9,250	£56k	yes	A*A*A	Chemistry	A-level	none	n/a	40-42	no info	n/a	BMAT	no info	no	yes	23%	5	0%	75%	14	36%
Cardiff University	2018	MBBCh	A100	5	£9,000	£45k	yes	AAA	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	36	yes with conditions	yes	UKCAT	no info	no	yes	16%	10	0%	96%	3	33%
University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) Primarily for non-UK/EU students	2017	MBBS	A100	5	£38,000 ^{5a}	£190k ^{6a}	yes	AAB	Chemistry	A-level	none	n/a	36	no info	no	none	n/a	yes	no info	no info	13	no info	no info	no data	no data
University of Dundee	2018	MBChB	A100	5	£1,820/£9,250	£9k/£46k	yes	AAA	Chemistry	A-level	GCSE	no info	37	no	yes	UKCAT	no info	no	yes	22%	no info	1%	96%	26	33%
University of East Anglia (UEA)	2018	MBBS	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	AAA	Biology	none	A-level	n/a	36	no info	yes	UKCAT	2400	yes	yes	30%	8	1%	96%	17	49%
The University of Edinburgh	2018	MBChB	A100	6	£1,820/£9,250	£11k/£56k	yes	AAA	Chemistry	A-level	GCSE	n/a	37	yes	yes	UKCAT	2370	yes	yes	16%	12	0%	78%	8	37%
University of Exeter	2018	BMBS	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	A*AA-AAA	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	36-38	yes	yes	UKCAT	no info	yes	no	19%	13	0%	96%	19	20%
University of Glasgow	2018	MBChB	A100	5	£1,820/£9,250	£11k/£46k	yes	AAA	Chemistry	A-level	AS	n/a	38	yes with conditions	no	UKCAT	2680	yes	yes	18%	9	1%	91%	23	42%
Hull York Medical School	2018	MBBS	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	AAA	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	36	yes with conditions	yes	UKCAT	no info	yes	yes	39%	9	1%	85%	23	58%
Imperial College London	2018	MBBS and BSc	A100	6	£9,250	£56k	yes	A*AA	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	38	yes	no	BMAT	11.6	yes	yes	19%	7	0%	89%	7	44%
Keele University	2018	MBChB	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	A*AA-AAA	either	GCSE	GCSE	n/a	35	yes with conditions	yes	UKCAT ^{7b}	1730 ^{8a}	no	yes	9%	8	1%	96%	28	21%
King's College London	2018	MBBS	A100	6	£9,250	£56k	yes	A*AA	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	35	yes	no	UKCAT	no info	no	yes	22%	11	1%	59%	6	58%
Lancaster University	2018	MBChB	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	A*AA-AAA±b	both	A-level	A-level	yes	36	yes with conditions	no	BMAT	10.5	yes	no	21%	11	1%	95% ¹²	31	50%
University of Leeds	2018	MBChB	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	AAA	Chemistry	A-level	none	n/a	35	yes with conditions	yes	BMAT	no info	yes	no	14%	9	0%	95%	12	31%
University of Leicester	2018	MBChB	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	AAA	Chemistry	A-level	AS	n/a	36	no info	yes	UKCAT	no info	yes	yes	26%	9	3%	83%	18	51%
University of Liverpool	2018	MBChB	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	AAA	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	36	yes	yes	UKCAT	2500	yes	no	33%	8	0%	69%	10	41%
The University of Manchester	2018	MBChB	A106	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	AAA & a pass at AS	either	none	none	yes	37	yes	yes	UKCAT	1960 ^{8a}	no	yes	34%	5	0%	79%	20	69%
Newcastle University	2018	MBBS	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	AAA	either	GCSE	GCSE	n/a	38	yes	yes	UKCAT	2730	yes	yes	22%	8	1%	95%	5	37%
University of Nottingham	2018	BMBS & BMedSci	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	AAA	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	36	no info	yes	UKCAT	no info	no	yes	24%	11	0%	89%	4	53%
University of Oxford	2018	BMBS	A100	6	£9,250	£56k	yes	A*AA	Chemistry	A-level	none	n/a	39	no	yes	BMAT	12.0 ^{8c}	yes	yes	10%	11	0%	98%	8	15%
Plymouth University	2018	BMBS	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	A*AA-AAA	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	36-38	yes with conditions	yes	UKCAT ^{7c}	1870 ^{8a}	yes	yes	19%	10	0%	96%	30	65%
Queen Mary, University of London	2018	MBBS	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	no info	AAA	either	GCSE	GCSE	n/a	38	yes	yes	UKCAT	1731 ^{8a}	no	no	23%	9	1%	93%	16	48%
Queen's University Belfast	2018	MBBCh BAO	A100	5	£4,030/£9,250	£20k/£46k	no info	AAAa	Chemistry	A-level	AS	yes	36	no info	yes	UKCAT	no info	no	yes	37%	no info	0%	94%	29	41%
The University of Sheffield	2018	MBChB	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	AAA	Chemistry	A-level	none	n/a	36	yes	yes	UKCAT	2460	yes	yes	19%	7	0%	94%	14	49%
University of Southampton	2018	BMBS, BMedSc	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	AAA	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	36	yes	no	UKCAT	no info	yes	yes	26%	7	0%	83%	13	44%
University of St Andrews	2018	MBChB / MBBS & BSc	A100	6	£1,820/£9,250	£5k/£28k ^{6b} in 1st 3 years	no	AAA	Chemistry	A-level	GCSE	n/a	38	yes with conditions	yes	UKCAT	2400	yes	no	29%	6	0%	96%	23	58%
St George's, University of London	2018	MBBS	A100	5	£9,250	£46k	yes	AAA	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	36	no info	no	UKCAT	2600	no	yes	25%	no info	0%	84%	21	53%
University College London (UCL)	2018	MBBS BSc	A100	6	£9,250	£56k	yes	A*AA	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	39	yes	yes	BMAT	no info	yes	yes	22%	7	0%	90%	11	41%
CEU Cardinal Herrera University, Valencia ¹⁴	2017	Grado en Medicina	n/a	6	€21k/€19k	€126k/€114k	no info	AAB	none	none	none	n/a	32	no info	n/a	none	n/a	no	n/a	no info	no info	no info	no info	n/a	n/a
Charles University, First Faculty of Medicine, Prague	2018	MUDr	n/a	6	CZK360k/€12k	CZK2,160k/€74k	no info	CCC	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	no info	no info	n/a	entrance exam	244	yes	n/a	no info	10	no info	no info	n/a	n/a
Humanitas University, Milan ¹⁴	2017	Degree in Medicine and Surgery	n/a	6	€10k-€20k/€9k-€18k	€60k-€120k/€54k-€108k	no info	3 passes	none	none	none	n/a	no info	no info	n/a	admissions test ^{7a}	20	no	n/a	no info	no info	no info	no info	n/a	n/a
Medical University, Sofia ¹⁴	2017	Master's Degree in Medicine	n/a	6	€8k/€7.2k	€48k/€43k	no info	no specific requirement	both	A-level	A-level	n/a	no info	no info	n/a	admissions test	no info	no	n/a	no info	no info	no info	no info	n/a	n/a

Detailed Information - UK

University of Aberdeen

Medicine MBChB (A100) - duration 5 years

- 178 places in 2017: 162 Home/EU and 16 international.
- 2060 applications for 2017 entry (approximately 12 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Chemistry and at least one from Biology/Human Biology, Mathematics or Physics.
- Taken together at first sitting over a maximum of two years of study.
- General Studies and Global Perspectives and Research are not acceptable.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** At least 36 points overall (including core) with 3 subjects at Higher level at grade 6 or better including Chemistry, one of Mathematics, Biology or Physics, and 3 subjects at Standard level with an average of 6. IB must offer Chemistry (at Higher level) plus a total of two sciences out of Mathematics, Biology or Physics. Maths studies cannot be considered as one of the two sciences).
- **Pre-U:** Principal Subjects can be offered in combination with A-level subjects to meet our academic requirements. Please contact Medical Admissions for Pre-U grade requirements.
- **Scottish Highers:**
 - S5 minimum of AAAAB from five full academic courses to be taken at one sitting from Highers and Advanced Highers.
 - Higher level: Chemistry is required (grade B minimum), plus two from Biology/Human Biology, Mathematics and Physics.
 - S6: Candidates, who have achieved AAAAB or better in S5, may choose to continue their studies in S6 and are free to choose a programme of study which is of particular interest to them, noting: that Aberdeen expect candidates to engage fully with a S6 programme of study. Higher Biology will prove useful. Any offer of a place made to an applicant undertaking S6 studies will be a Conditional offer. Each application is considered individually when setting these conditions, but a typical condition is BBB.
 - National 5 qualifications: English and Maths are required (grade B minimum); Biology and Physics are recommended but not compulsory (grade B minimum). A combination of grade A and B passes at Standard Grade / National 5 is expected, especially in science subjects.
 - The majority of successful applicants have achieved AAAAB or better at first sitting in S5. However, if AAABB or AAAAC are achieved at first attempt in S5, further studies in S6 can be considered providing applicants are estimated to achieve one of the following programmes of study:
 - One new Higher at A plus two Advanced Highers at minimum BB or
 - Two new Highers at AA plus one new Advanced Higher at minimum B or
 - Three Advanced Highers at ABB (Chemistry required plus one science) or
 - Three A-levels at AAB (Chemistry required plus one science).
 - AAAA in four Highers taken at first sitting may be considered owing to school policy or because of very exceptional personal difficulties. In this case, further S6 studies must include:
 - One (specified) Higher at A plus two Advanced Highers at minimum BB or
 - One (specified) Higher plus one new Higher at AA plus one new Advanced Higher at minimum B.
 - First sitting of Highers in S6 may be considered if this is the result of very exceptional personal difficulties, such as ill health.
 - The Admissions Committee will not normally consider applications to Medical School directly from Year 5. Only under very exceptional circumstances can applications from candidates be considered who only offer five S5 Scottish Highers without additional S6

studies. In this is the case, AAAAA in five Highers taken at one sitting is required including Chemistry plus two of Mathematics, Biology & Physics, plus two other Highers.

- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** Three Higher Level subjects at grade H1 including Chemistry and Biology and three Higher Level subjects at grade H2 including English and either Mathematics or Physics. Grade B or better is required in English, Mathematics and Science in the Irish Junior Certificate (Higher Level). Junior Level: Physics is required; Maths and Biology are strongly recommended.

GCSE Requirements

- Grade C/4 in English and Maths are required.
- Biology is recommended; Physics is recommended (or Dual Award Science).
- A combination of grades A-B/9-6 passes at GCSE is expected, especially in science subjects.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language is not accepted. Only IELTS Band 7.0 overall with a minimum of 7.0 in speaking section is accepted to demonstrate English proficiency.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants must complete the UKCAT by the appropriate closing date for that year's entry.
- A minimum UKCAT cut-off score is not used. A score (between 1200 - 3600) is allocated based on the applicant's overall performance in UKCAT compared with all other applicants to Aberdeen.
- As a guideline, for 2017 entry the lowest total score (excluding the Decision Making subset^{8a}) for an applicant invited to interview was 1600 and the highest 2480 and the lowest total score for successful applicants who were made offers was 1660 and the highest 2480.
- For 2016 entry (which includes four subsets), the lowest total score for an applicant invited to interview was 2180 and the highest 3350 and the lowest total score for successful applicants who were made offers was 2480 and the highest 3350.
- The Situational Judgment Test will not be scored, but it may be used in offer making when there are candidates with similar scores.

Personal Qualities

- Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they possess a range of skills and attributes that are required to study medicine. Applicants should structure their Personal Statement to cover the following three areas: commitment to Medicine, knowledge of core qualities required of a doctor and teamwork.
- **Commitment to medicine can be demonstrated by:**
 - Researching and understanding of the scope of the role, training involved, and commitments required.
 - Researching life as a doctor (job shadowing, talking with doctors and medical students)
 - Keeping abreast of recent news in medicine
 - Understanding your choice of Medical School including curricula, facilities, clinical attachments, location etc.
- **Core Qualities of Doctors:**
 - Good communication skills.
 - Evidence of concern for the welfare of others (e.g. appreciating the concerns of patients for example the disabled and the elderly).
 - Demonstration of being trustworthy and honest.
 - Demonstrable through paid/unpaid work of a caring nature (e.g. undertaking work that benefits school colleagues, being involved in caring/charity groups at school) and developing a sense of social awareness and shouldering responsibilities (e.g. being involved in school life: clubs, mentoring, buddy and anti-bullying campaigns etc. and undertaking paid part-time work with the public).
- **Teamwork skills:** Candidates should demonstrate they are able to work in teams and able to assume different roles within the team.

Interview

- The admissions procedure involves the detailed assessment and scoring of a range of aspects of an application, including academic attainment/predictions (30%), UKCAT (20%), and then subsequent interview performance (50%).

- Approximately 40% of applicants were offered interviews in 2016 (837 out of 2105 applicants).
- Interviews are conducted between November and February using the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) format.
- MMI format: Candidates rotate around seven successive question stations. At each station, a selector will explore one area/domain for 7 minutes and score the candidate's performance against pre-determined criteria. Communication and interpersonal skills are also scored at each station. The interview will last approximately 1 hour.
- The student will be scored in several areas including:
 - Ability to express ideas freely and coherently.
 - How well they use their existing knowledge to formulate answers to unknown areas.
 - Their ability to follow a reasoned argument and to formulate an opinion.
 - The degree to which they are prepared for questions.
 - Their ability to discuss different aspects (advantages & disadvantages) of a problem/situation.
 - The degree of motivation, commitment, reflection and sensitivity demonstrated.
- Each station will also independently score communication and interpersonal skills.

Deferred Entry

- Deferred entries are considered and should be noted on the UCAS form at the time of application. A request to defer once an offer of a place has been given for the current admissions cycle cannot normally be considered.
- Applicants are expected to have a clear plan of activity for the year, preferably involving work of a caring nature. The Admissions Team will certainly look favourably upon applications which include as much relevant experience in healthcare as possible.
- Deferred entry will not be granted to applicants whose current courses of study will not be complete at the start of the 'deferred' year. This includes school candidates from S5 who intend returning to school to complete S6, as well as those who are part way through an undergraduate degree programme.

Resits and Reapplications

- The Medical School does not normally consider applicants who have achieved less than the minimum academic requirements at first sitting or who are resitting their examinations to upgrade results unless very serious personal difficulties at the time of the first sitting can be demonstrated. To be considered, any serious personal difficulties experienced at the time of undertaking an examination must be declared at the time and validated immediately. This verification will only be considered following receipt by the Medical Admissions Office no later than the UCAS deadline of 15 October.
- The Medical School is happy to consider an application from a candidate who has previously applied to the medical programme but was unsuccessful. Candidates are recommended to ask for feedback from the Admissions Lead to ensure that a second application addresses areas of weakness.
- It should be noted that where a candidate is applying for a second or third time, the Admissions Team will take into account information from earlier applications and any interview outcomes.
- Where a candidate has applied to the Aberdeen MBChB degree programme and been unsuccessful on three occasions, Aberdeen are normally unable to consider any further applications.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- For 2018 entry, A-level Global Perspectives and Research is not acceptable; this was not specified for 2017 entry.
- GCSE English and Mathematics are required at grade C for 2018 entry and this was the case for previous cycles; however, the previous year's report incorrectly stated grade B was required for 2017 entry. There has been no change to the minimum required grade.
- Irish Leaving Certificate: For 2017 entry, AAAAAA at Higher Level in Chemistry, plus two from Biology, Mathematics and Physics was required. For 2018 entry, three Higher Level subjects at grade H1 including Chemistry and Biology and three Higher Level subjects at grade H2 including English and either Mathematics or Physics are now required. In addition, the following has been specified for 2018 entry but was not specified previously: grade B or better in English, Mathematics and Science in the Irish Junior Certificate (Higher Level) and Physics is required at Junior Level.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Aberdeen responded with comments and this report was subsequently amended as appropriate. Aberdeen was satisfied with the above information.

Aston University

Medicine MBChB (A100) - duration 5 years

- 2018 is the Medical School's first cohort of undergraduate medical students.
- This course is subject to validation but applicants can still apply for this course while it is being approved.
- 60 places: **the majority are reserved for international students** with the remainder allocated to a small number local UK students who successfully complete the Sir Doug Ellis Pathway to Healthcare Programme (see website for details). The medical school will not be accepting applications from any other UK or EU fee paying students (subject to change).

A-level Requirements

- Minimum of AAB including Chemistry and Biology and one other subject (in any grade order).
- General Studies and Critical Thinking are not accepted.
- A pass in the practical element of science A-levels is required.
- If more than three A-levels are taken, the Chemistry, Biology and the next best grade in a science subject, if taken, will be the grades considered.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** Overall score of at least 35 points with a mark of 6, 6, 5 in three Higher level subjects including Chemistry and Biology and the rest from three Standard level subjects.
- **BTEC:** Considered on a case-by-case basis but will need to obtain a minimum of DD in the BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Applied Science in combination with Chemistry and Biology A-levels with grades A and B in any order.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** Minimum of H1 H1 H2 H2 H2 H2, including Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics.

GCSE Requirements

- Minimum of five GCSEs/IGCSEs at grade B or above, which must include English Language, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology or Double Science (or overseas equivalent).

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All Applicants will be required to take the UKCAT in the year of application and cannot be carried over from the previous year.
- Aston medical School will use the UKCAT as an additional parameter and have not set the minimum requirement as they want to evaluate the importance of this particular factor in the selection students to study medicine.

Personal Qualities

- The medical school recruits students with both the intellectual capacity and personal attributes to become safe, competent and caring doctors who are able to play a full role in whichever health system they choose. They look for applicants who are well rounded individuals with the ability to cope with an intensive course and a demanding career.
- While it is desirable to have experience of medically related placements, Aston Medical School understands that this is not always possible and voluntary or community related work is equally valuable. It is important to demonstrate continuity of commitment for example helping in a care home, work with young children, helping at youth clubs etc. over a period of time.

Interview

- The final stage of the admissions process will require applicants who have satisfied criteria related to academic and personal qualities to attend for Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) which will take place in December, January, February and if needed March. All applicants will be required to attend the MMIs and offers will be made subject to their performance at these interviews.
- MMIs consist of individual work stations, each of which are intended to test an applicant's skills in relation to their suitability to study and practice medicine

- In one MMI cycle there are normally seven to ten stations, each lasting five or six minutes with one or two minute breaks in between. Interviewers are present in each station providing independent assessment of the interviewee.
- Stations are formulated to address and test various aspects including:
 - Capacity to reflect upon the applicant's own life events and experiences as described in their Personal Statement.
 - Ability to demonstrate an understanding of what is involved in studying and practicing medicine.
 - Ability to communicate and empathise with simulated patients simulating medical scenarios.
 - Ability to follow instructions for a practical task involving interaction with a simulated patient and of capacity to interact sensitively with the patient when undertaking the task.
 - Ability to identify strengths and weaknesses of communication skills exhibited during a simulated consultation between doctor and patient.
 - Ability to observe and summarise information from a video recorded interview between a doctor and a simulated patient.
 - Comprehension and verbal explanation of ideas presented in writing.
 - Numerical skills relating to common tasks in the practice of medicine.
 - Ability to identify the characteristics of effective and ineffective teamwork.
- Performance at each station is scored according to a check list, defined in advance, by the trained interviewer who may be a doctor, scientist or simulator. The number of marks available at each station is the same. For each applicant a total score is cumulated across stations and applicants are ranked according to total score. The rank of an applicant is part of the main factors influencing whether an offer of a place is made.

Deferred Entry

- Deferred entry and gap years are permitted; however interviews, UKCAT and academic qualifications must be obtained in the year of application.

Resits and Reapplications

- Aston Medical School will accept applications from students who resit their A-level or equivalent examinations once. Applicants who have more than one resit due to extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Resits for GCSEs, A-levels and equivalent qualifications will be considered on a case by case basis.
- No information regarding reapplications.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- None: 2018 is the Medical School's first cohort of undergraduate medical students.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Aston expressed an intention to review the report but did provide further comment.

University of Birmingham

Medicine and Surgery MBChB (A100) - duration 5 years

- 360 places (2018 entry): 332 Home/EU and 28 international.
- 2456 applications in 2016 (approximately 7 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- A*AA. Candidates should have predicted AAA including Biology and Chemistry (Human Biology is acceptable as an alternative to Biology). General Studies and Critical Thinking are not accepted. Other non-standard subjects may not be accepted. Please contact the Medical School for advice.
- All A2 modules of three subjects must be undertaken in Year 13.
- For candidates studying four A-levels:
 - If all A-level subjects are examined for first time in Year 13, the offer will be AAAB (Biology and Chemistry must be at grade A).
 - If an A-level is completed in Year 12 at grade A or above (or more than 50% of the modules have been examined), the offer for the remaining subjects studied in Year 13 will be AAA (plus grade A for the subject that was not fully completed in Year 12).
 - Selection for interview will neither be influenced by taking more than three subjects nor by achieved AS or A-level grades.
- Mathematics: if an applicant is studying a single Mathematics A-level and they wish this subject to be included in an offer requirement they must follow a curriculum that involves the study of three modules in Year 13. Each of these modules must contribute to the final A-level Mathematics result and must be studied and examined for the first time in this year.
- The following applies to students who also study Further Mathematics:
 - Birmingham will consider a module combination that leads to an A-level in Mathematics and an AS level in Further Mathematics after two years of study (Years 12 and 13).
 - Three modules must be studied in Year 13. The module results may contribute to either the Mathematics A-level or the Further Mathematics AS level.
 - The Mathematics component of an offer will be based on achieving A/A* in A-level Mathematics and A in AS level Further Mathematics.

AS Requirements

- AS grades (if they are available) are no longer used for selection for interview.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** Minimum of 32 points must be attained. Higher level: 766 from Chemistry, Biology and one other approved subject (in any order). Subsidiary level: The subjects must include English and Mathematics if not offered at Higher level (Maths Studies is acceptable). Applicants must provide results either from the Middle Years Programme or an acceptable GCSE-equivalent qualification. MYP results will be scored according to the following equivalencies to GCSEs: 7 = A*; 6 = A; 5 = B. A minimum of 5 must have been achieved in Science, English and Mathematics.
- **Pre-U:** D3, D3, D2 from three subjects, including Biology and Chemistry.
- **Scottish Highers:** Highers: Five subjects at grade A including, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and English. Advanced Highers: Three subjects including Chemistry and Biology must be offered (grade requirements: AAB).
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** Minimum of grade H1 in four subjects including Biology and Chemistry. For the Junior Certificate, Grade A must be achieved in six subjects including Biology, Chemistry, English and Mathematics.
- **European Baccalaureate:** Overall score of 85%, with a minimum of 85% in the sciences, to include Chemistry and Biology as full options. Evidence of meeting this standard must be provided for interim results.

GCSE Requirements

- All Home/EU applicants must offer a qualification that is equivalent in standard and type to GCSEs (IGCSEs are considered equivalent).
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language at grade B.

- An application will receive a score for academic achievement based on GCSE (or equivalent) results (70%), used in combination with the UKCAT score (30%).
- The subjects that will be scored are: English (both English Language and English Literature), Mathematics (or one, but not both, of Methods in Mathematics and Applications of Mathematics), Biology and Chemistry (or dual award science), plus two additional GCSEs (any subject), must have received B or above.
- For the subjects specified above, a minimum grade of B/6 must be offered. The scores allocated to the different grades will be 4 points for A*/9/8, 2 points for A/7, and 1 point for B/6. For each of the two unspecified subjects, a score of 2 points will be allocated when an A*/9/8 grade has been obtained (lower grades will not receive a score). The maximum score is 24 pts.
- The total GCSE score will be scaled to a maximum of 7.0. Therefore, when this is combined with a score for the UKCAT result, the combined maximum score is 10.0.
- A GCSE grade profile that will be acceptable cannot accurately be defined. For guidance purposes, based on applications received in 2015 and 2016, Birmingham is able to indicate a threshold total (GCSE and UKCAT) score of 7.0 for collection for interview. **An application score calculator is provided on the website.**
- Birmingham's GCSE numerical grading: Grade 9 and 8 = A*, Grade 7 = A, Grade 6 = B, Grade 5 = minimum acceptable grade.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants must sit the UKCAT test in their year of application.
- The UKCAT results will be used in combination with GCSE results to produce a score; weighting: academic 70% (max score 7.0); UKCAT 30% (max score 3.0). There is no minimum cut-off score.
- Total UKCAT scores of Birmingham applicants (excluding the band score for the Situational Judgement Test component) will be separated into deciles and scored. For guidance, 2016 applicants in the following deciles were given the following scores (scaled up to take account 4 subsets including the Decision Making subset in 2017 as this subset was not counted in 2016^{8a}):
 - 10th decile: UKCAT score ≥ 2970 gives a scaled score of 3.00.
 - 5th decile: UKCAT score ≥ 2590 gives a scaled score of 1.33.
 - 1st decile: UKCAT score < 2360 gives a scaled score of 0.00.
- The band score for the Situational Judgement Test component may be used to determine the outcome of the interview.

Personal Qualities

- It is important for candidates to demonstrate their motivation towards a career in medicine and to show evidence that they are capable acquiring the values of the NHS (including: working together for patients, respect and dignity, compassion, commitment to quality of care, resilience), through people-focused work experience or volunteering.
- It is essential that candidates provide evidence of an understanding of working in a healthcare environment and an on-going commitment to medicine. For UK nationals and for international applicants living or studying in the UK for more than one year this evidence will relate to the National Health Service (NHS). The types of experience that the admissions team values include voluntary work in a nursing home, care home, hospice or hospital volunteer. Applications are not ranked on the amount of experience that has been obtained, though it is expected that the time spent is stated. The Medical School are more likely to be reassured of an applicant's commitment if they offer a combination of around two full weeks of experiences. The Medical School will consider the difficulties in obtaining healthcare experience if these are stated. Shadowing of doctors is not required and, though it has its benefits, active involvement in a healthcare setting is preferred.
- The Medical School recognises that extracurricular activity in areas outside of healthcare can supplement the development of the broader qualities required of a potential doctor. Therefore, candidates must offer significant and substantial involvement. Non-academic experiences that take place outside of school are especially appreciated (such as a job in a customer-focused role). A voluntary role giving a prospective student responsibility for a group of individuals is also valued (such as a leader for one of the youth organisations like the scouts or guides or a sports coaching role). In general, relevant activities should have commenced at least one year before application, be on-going and involve significant interactions with a broad range of people in a responsible capacity.

Interview

- From those who apply, approximately 1100 candidates are invited to attend for interview.
- Interviews take place between November and March.
- Selection: An application will receive an overall score, which is the sum of weighted scores for each of the academic and UKCAT components. The weightings will be: academic – 70%; UKCAT – 30%. Home/EU applicants will be ranked according to this score. The number of interview places will define the threshold application score but it is not possible to determine the threshold score in advance. It may be necessary to rank applicants who receive the same threshold score, in which case Birmingham will use GCSE results. The Personal Statement is not scored but a decision will also be based on ensuring that an applicant provides sufficient evidence of commitment, motivation and relevant personal qualities.
- Interviews are organised in a multiple mini interview format. Candidates will participate in six separate, short interviews, lasting 6 minutes each. There will be an additional interview station for candidates to undertake some basic calculations but no interviewer will be present. The format allows candidates to start afresh at each mini-interview. A range of personal attributes relevant to studying medicine will be assessed by means of different tasks.
- Interview stations are designed to assess aspects such as: motivation for medicine; communication; self-insight; ethical reasoning; data interpretation; ability to evaluate information and identify relevant aspects.
- There will be seven stations: six separate, short interviews, lasting 6 minutes each (prior to each interview, you will have 2 minutes preparation time) and one station in which you will be asked to carry out simple calculations on your own and will last 8 minutes.
- The seven stations will be: data interpretation (two stations), motivation and insight into medicine, dealing with personal and ethical challenges, interactive task, debate task and ethics.
- The scores from each interview station are used to calculate an overall interview score and if a candidate's score is within 5% of the cut-off score, their band score for the Situational Judgement Test component of the UKCAT will be considered.

Deferred Entry

- Approximately 10% of Birmingham students have taken a gap year.
- Prospective students will not be at a disadvantage if applying for deferred entry or after having completed school leaving qualifications.
- If an applicant intends to do this, however, the year should be used to broaden their experience either by working, travelling, voluntary service or some other activity. It is not expected that all experiences to be directly related to medicine but healthcare involvement must be on-going. The Personal Statement must leave admissions officers in no doubt that a candidate will be engaged fully in significant activity.

Resits and Reapplications

- Resit grades are not considered, except in extenuating circumstances.
- Anyone whose application has been rejected previously following interview will not be considered. Otherwise, those applying for medicine for a second time will be considered. Birmingham Medical School does not consider applicants who have studied Medicine previously.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- Irish Leaving Certificate: for 2018 entry, the minimum requirement is grade H1 in four subjects including Biology and Chemistry and for the Junior Certificate, grade A must be achieved in six subjects including Biology, Chemistry, English and Mathematics. Whereas for 2017 entry, the minimum requirement was grade A in six subjects including Biology, Chemistry, English and Mathematics, to include grade A1 in Biology and Chemistry and with same standard applied in the Junior Certificate.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Birmingham responded with comments and this report was subsequently amended as appropriate. Birmingham was satisfied with the above information.

Brighton and Sussex Medical School

Medicine BMBS (A100) - duration 5 years

- 143 places for 2018 entry: 132 Home/EU and 11 international.
- 12 applications per place.

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Biology and Chemistry.
- The nature of the third A-level subject is not specified and the vast majority of applicants will choose to study Maths or Physics; however Brighton and Sussex strongly encourage applications from students who study humanities or the arts as they recognise their value in broadening academic horizons.
- General Studies and Critical Thinking are not accepted.
- BSMS welcomes candidates who have successfully completed an Extended Project (EPQ), recognising the effort that they have expended and the valuable skills and knowledge that they will have gained. However the EPQ will not form part of any offers made.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 36 points overall including Biology and Chemistry at Higher level (both at grade 6).
- **Pre-U:** The Medical School will consider applicants with Cambridge Pre-U qualifications either as a combination with A-levels or as a standalone qualification at grade D3.
- **Scottish Highers:** Applicants will normally be required to have three Advanced Highers including Biology and Chemistry grades A or two Advanced Highers in Biology and Chemistry at grades A plus 2 Higher Level subjects at grades A.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** At least grades H1 H1 H2 H2 H2 H2 (or at least A1 A1 A2 A2 A2 A2 under the old 2016 system) at Higher Level including H1 in both Biology and Chemistry subjects. At least O2 (or B2 under the old 2016 system) in English and Maths components at Ordinary/Standard Level.
- **Welsh Baccalaureate:** Applicants will normally be required to achieve an A grade in the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma as well as 2 A grades at A-level to include both Biology and Chemistry.

GCSE Requirements

- Grade B or above or 6 or above in Maths and English Language or English Literature, or if English is not the first language, an IELTS of 7.0 with a minimum of 7.0 in each component.
- IGCSE English 0500 as a First Language is accepted at overall grade B and a minimum of grade 2 in both listening and speaking.

Aptitude Test

- **BMAT:** All UK/EU applicants are required to sit the BMAT in the year of application in order to be considered for interview. Non-UK/EU applicants do not have to sit the BMAT.
- BMAT is scored out of 28 (9 marks for Section 1, 9 marks for Section 2 and 5 marks for each element of Section 3). Applicants are then ranked according to their total score out of 28 and work down the rankings to fill interview places. For 2017 entry, applicants who scored 17.5 or higher were invited for interview (though the cut-off score varies each year).

Personal Qualities

- Brighton and Sussex expect students to become compassionate practitioners who are really in touch with their patients and committed to the core values of the NHS. Candidates must possess the abilities, the commitment and the personal qualities necessary to become an excellent doctor. In assessing an application, the admissions team look for:
 - Academic achievement and potential.
 - BMAT score.
 - A realistic attitude to medical training and clinical practice.
 - A commitment to quality of care, compassion and improving lives.

- The ability to communicate and work effectively in a team for the benefit of patients.
- The ability to appreciate other people's point of view.
- An appreciation of the need to treat people with respect and dignity.
- A willingness to accept responsibility.
- For UK/EU applicants the Personal Statement will not be used in the selection process. The Personal Statement will only be used to assess international applications; it should not merely list activities and attributes but be able to clearly demonstrate why the information an applicant choose to give enhances their application.

Interview

- Multiple mini interviews (MMIs) are held during BSMS admissions days, which the Medical School aim to hold on Wednesdays and Saturdays between January and March.
- International applicants will be interviewed by a panel (not MMIs); interviews will take place at the Medical School or via video-link for students based overseas.
- MMIs will consist of five discussions, each lasting ten minutes, with a minute between each discussion. Applicants will move from each discussion in turn, until they have completed a full circuit - this will take 54 minutes.
- Before the beginning of the circuit each applicant will be assigned a starting discussion. Each discussion will be assessed and scored separately, at the end of the circuit the assessments for each individual applicant will be collated; applicants will receive a global score for the MMI.
- Four of the discussions will be with one assessor. One of the discussions will feature two assessors, both of whom will submit comments and a score.
- BSMS will assess each discussion as: Excellent, Good, Adequate or Inadequate. Please note that to it is expected that applicants achieving Good in each station will be offered a place to study with BSMS.

Deferred Entry

- Students may apply either during their A-level year (for deferred entry, noted in application) or during the gap year itself. However, applicants intending to spend a gap year abroad should appreciate that BSMS will require them to attend for interview.
- An applicant seeking deferred entry is expected to have developed plans for the gap year and be able to explain its value to them.
- Very exceptionally the Medical School will consider requests for deferral for one year from applicants to whom they have already made offers. There must be very good grounds for making such a request. No such requests will be considered after 1 August in any year and requests must be put into writing to medadmissions@bsms.ac.uk.

Resits and Reapplications

- Resit applicants are considered. However, the Medical School will ordinarily only consider applications from individuals who have slipped a grade in one subject and obtained a B (so for A-levels AAB / A*AB / A*A*B but predicted AAA / A*AA / A*A*A including Biology and Chemistry).
- Anyone below AAB after two years of study, or who is not predicted an A at retake, would only be eligible to apply after receiving AAA including Biology and Chemistry after 3 years of study. BSMS will consider an application if the applicant gains the entry requirements (AAA including Biology and Chemistry) but only after 3 years of study and on already obtaining the entry requirements.
- Applicants retaking their AS level year can apply if predicted grades AAA including Biology and Chemistry for your third year of study.
- If an applicant does not meet any of the requirements but believe they have exceptional circumstances that affected their A-level studies, they may ask to consider their application on exceptional grounds; however they will still need to be predicted or need to have achieved our entry requirements.
- An applicant can reapply as many times as they wish without disadvantage.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- Irish Leaving Certificate: for 2018 entry, a minimum of O2 (or B2 under the old 2016 system) in English and Mathematics components at Ordinary/Standard Level is required; no minimum grade was specified for 2017 entry.

- All applicants were required to sit the BMAT for 2017 entry; for 2018 entry, the BMAT is no longer a requirement for non-UK/EU applicants.
- For 2018 entry, the Personal Statement will not be used in the selection process for UK/EU applicants; previously Personal Statements were used in the selection process for all applicants.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Brighton and Sussex Medical School responded with comments and this report was subsequently amended as appropriate. The Medical School has since confirmed that they are satisfied with the above information.

University of Bristol

Medicine MBChB (A100) - duration 5 years

- 236 places in 2017.

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Chemistry and one other lab-based science.
- **General Studies and Critical Thinking are not accepted.**
- Due to overlapping content, Bristol is unable to consider the following subject combinations: Biology and Human Biology.
- A-levels will be used to form part of the interview selection process (15% weighting).

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 36 overall with 18 points at Higher level including 6 at Higher level in Chemistry and 6 at Higher level in another lab-based science.
- **Pre-U:** Requirements are as for A-levels, where grade A* is D2, A is D3, B is M2, and C is M3.
- **Scottish Highers:** AA at Advanced Higher including Chemistry and another lab-based science, and AAAAB at Standard Higher.
- **Welsh Baccalaureate:** Requirements are as for A-levels where the same non-subject specific grade may be substituted for the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate grade.
- **BTEC:** DDD in a medically related subject, plus grade A in A-level Chemistry.

GCSE Requirements

- Grade A/7 in Mathematics and grade C/5/4 in English Language.
- GCSEs will be used to form part of the interview selection process (15% weighting). Credit is given for the best eight GCSE subjects.
- Applicants who did not achieve the minimum required GCSE results in their first sitting can apply with resits achieved or with results pending.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language accepted at grade A.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants are required to take the UKCAT in the current cycle. The UKCAT score will be used to form part of the interview selection process (20% weighting).
- There will not be a cut-off score.
- Scores for the Situational Judgement subtest will not be taken into account.

Personal Qualities

- The Medical School are looking for students who are passionate about studying medicine and have the potential to become compassionate, safe and effective doctors.
- It is suggested that applicants have a minimum of two weeks work experience in a care-based setting. Suitable work experience and subsequent reflection is important to inform a candidate about their potential vocation and what a career in healthcare entails.
- Substantial emphasis is placed upon the quality of the Personal Statement, which will be used to form part of the interview selection process (50% weighting). Applicants need to show:
 - A realistic interest in medicine.
 - Relevant life skills.
 - A wide range of interests.
 - Acts of altruism and voluntary work.
 - Communication and interaction skills.
- The Reference will be included in the assessment of the Personal Statement. References will be assessed for information on the applicant's motivation, ability to work independently, powers of analysis and expression.

Interview

- Applications are scored and ranked based on their academic record, according to their achieved or predicted results, and their Personal Statement with the following weightings: GCSE 15%, A-level 15%, Personal statement 50%, UKCAT 20%. The combined score determines which applicants will be invited to attend an interview.
- Interviews take place from December to April.
- Applicants are required to complete a form prior to attending the interview which documents the type and duration of their work experience.
- At the interview, applicants will move around a series of ten Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) stations, each taking five minutes, and will be assessed on a particular criterion at each station. The stations include communication skills, work experience, coping with adversity, teamwork and observation.
- Each station will be directed by one or two interviewers.

Deferred Entry

- Deferred entry welcomed on application. In fairness to the following cycle of applicants Bristol can only make a limited number of deferred offers.
- Applicants who have not applied for deferred entry at the point of making their application, but who subsequently wish to defer after being made an offer, must request deferral by the 28th February 2018 or within 10 working days of receiving an offer (whichever is the latest date). Late deferral requests will only be considered if there are exceptional circumstances.

Resits and Reapplications

- Applicants are required to take three A-levels in one two-year sitting. Applicants completing resits of GCSE and/or A-levels (or equivalent level 3 qualifications) will be considered. A maximum of one resit is allowed in any one subject. An exception will only be made where there are mitigating personal circumstances. The decision to allow an exception will be made at the discretion of the University.
- Reapplications are accepted; the Medical School does not consider previous interview performance for those applicants who were interviewed in previous cycles.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- Previously, Bristol specified that the following subjects would not be considered in combination with A-level Biology: Human Biology, Physical Education, Sports Science, Zoology and Botany. For 2018 entry, the only combination that is not considered is Biology and Human Biology.
- Previously, the Medical School did not consider applicants who have had to resit their A-levels (or equivalent), unless there were extenuating circumstances. For 2018 entry, a maximum of one resit is allowed in any one subject.
- For this cycle, candidates must achieve GCSE Mathematics at grade A/7 and English Language at grade C/5/4 at a minimum. Previously, there was a requirement of minimum five GCSEs at grade A to include Mathematics, English Language and two science subjects.

Other Undergraduate Medicine Courses Provided

- Gateway to Medicine MBChB (A108) - duration 6 years.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Bristol acknowledged receipt of this report but did not comment.

The University of Buckingham

Medicine MBChB (71A8) - duration 4.5 years (course starts in January 2019)

- 88 places.
- 507 applications for 2017 entry (approximately 6 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- AAB including Chemistry and one from Mathematics or Biology. If Biology is not offered, it must be offered at AS level at grade B.
- Third A-level can be any subject excluding General Studies.
- The case of applicants offering more than three A-levels, the Chemistry grade and the two best others will be considered.

AS Requirements

- In the case of applicants who do not offer Biology at A-level, they should have studied the subject to AS level and achieved at least a grade B.
- EPQ cannot substitute 4th AS.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** At least 34 points overall (excluding Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay) including 3 Higher level subjects. A minimum of Higher level 6 in Chemistry and Biology.
- **Scottish Highers:** AAABB in S5 level with 3 Advanced Highers to include Chemistry and one from Biology or Mathematics at a minimum of BBB.
- **Welsh Baccalaureate:** Grade A in the Welsh Baccalaureate in lieu of a third A-level, Chemistry and Biology A-Levels (AA) are still required.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** Minimum of H1 H1 H2 H2 H2 H2 to include Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics.
- In the case of applicants offering alternative secondary school qualifications, they should have or be expected to achieve qualifications at a level equivalent to A-level, and with a pattern of grades equivalent to AAB, including Chemistry and Biology at the most senior level studied.

GCSE/ Requirements

- Grades C/5 in Mathematics GCSE (or equivalent).
- Demonstrate competence in English language:
 - For native English speakers, attainment of at least grade C in English at GCSE (or equivalent).
 - For non- native English speakers, attainment of at least 7.5 overall and 7.0 in each component of the IELTS; alternatively, attainment of Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) Certificate of overall average score of 191, with a minimum of 185 in each paper.
- English IGCSE as a First Language is not accepted.

Aptitude Test

- None required.

Personal Qualities

- The Personal Statement should indicate the reasons for wishing to study medicine.
- Those who meet the academic threshold will enter the second stage of selection which is intended to judge personal attributes relating to suitability for practice as a doctor. This is assessed in the Objective, Structured Selection Examination (OSSE) during the interview to test abilities related to 'Good Medical Practice', published by the UK General Medical Council, including:
 - Knowledge, skills and performance (develop and maintain professional performance, apply knowledge and experience to practice, record work clearly and accurately).
 - Safety and quality (protect patients and colleagues, respond to risks to safety).
 - Communication, partnership and teamwork (communicate effectively, work collaboratively, teaching, training supporting and assessing, continuity and coordination of care, establish partnership with patients).

- Maintaining Trust (show respect for patients, treat patients and colleagues fairly and without discrimination, act with honesty and integrity).

Interview

- There will be at least three Selection Days held in March, a second in July, and a third in September.
- They are intended to judge personal attributes relating to suitability for practice as a doctor. It consists of Objective, Structured Selection Examination (OSSE), made up of a series of tasks intended to test abilities related to “Outcomes for Graduates”, published by the UK General Medical Council (see Personal Qualities above).
- OSSE consists of up to 10 stations manned by an assessor who may be a practising hospital doctor or General Practitioner. Each task lasts for seven minutes. The tasks are designed to test empathy, communication skills with colleagues and future patients, comprehension and numerical skills relevant to the practice of medicine, analytical skills, manual skills and team-working. Example of station types include:
 - **Communication Skills:**
 - Observed interaction with an actor simulating a patient with a challenging life history.
 - Structured interview that examines your reaction to life events.
 - Structured questioning on a comprehension task.
 - **Observation Skills:**
 - Analysis of video recording of interactions between doctors and patients.
 - Abstracting salient features of a patient’s story.
 - **Comprehension and Numerical Skills:**
 - Structured questioning on comprehension task.
 - Questions on calculations relevant to the practice of medicine (e.g. dose calculations).
 - **Manual Skills:**
 - Test of ability to follow instructions for a simulated clinical procedure.
 - **Team Working Skills:**
 - Analysis of team functioning.
- Each station is scored separately and the total marks are then combined and candidates ranked according to overall performance. Offers will be made on the basis of this ranking.

Deferred Entry

- If an applicant is selected and presented with an offer to study Medicine starting in January after academic and OSSE assessment, the place can only be deferred if that applicant’s rank is in the top 30% of all applicants. The applicant can request their decile ranking once the selection process has been completed and an offer has been received.
- Entry can also be deferred if an applicant is selected and presented with an offer to study Medicine starting in January after academic and OSSE assessment, but medical reasons or exceptional circumstances prevent the applicant from starting the course.

Resits and Reapplications

- Neither is accepted.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- The number of Advanced Highers that candidates taking Scottish qualifications must now achieve has increased from 2 at BB previously to 3 at BBB for 2019 entry.
- Following changes to the grading system for the Irish Leaving Certificate, a minimum of H1 H1 H2 H2 H2 H2 is now required; previously a minimum of A2 B1 B1 B2 B3 was required.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Buckingham responded with comments and this report was subsequently amended as appropriate. Buckingham has since confirmed that the above information is correct.

University of Cambridge

Medicine MB BChir (A100) - duration 6 years

- 269 places: 248 Home/EU and 21 international.
- 1274 applications for in 2016 entry (approximately 5 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- A*A*A in Chemistry and one of Biology/Human Biology, Physics, Mathematics.
- Most applicants have at least three science/mathematics A-levels and some Colleges require this and/or particular subjects. See College websites for details.
- Students are expected to complete and pass any practical assessment in science subjects.
- Critical Thinking is not accepted
- Key Skills and General Studies and Critical Thinking are not included in academic assessment.
- In the past three admissions rounds, 98% of applicants offered three or more science/mathematics A-levels and, of these, 30% were successful in obtaining a place. Of the 2% of applicants who offered only two science/mathematics A-levels, 6% were successful in gaining a place.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 40-42 points with 776 at Higher level. A-level subject requirements also apply to the IB. Higher Level subjects satisfy A-level subject requirements.
- **Scottish Highers:** Offers usually require AAA at Advanced Higher Grade. Advanced Highers will satisfy A-level subject requirements.
- Applicants taking other recognised examinations are expected to demonstrate a level of understanding in science and Mathematics roughly equivalent to those applying with A-levels and should consult any College Admissions Tutor for further advice.

GCSE Requirements

- There are no GCSE (or equivalent) requirements for entry to Cambridge. GCSE results are looked at as a performance indicator, but within the context of the performance of the school/college they were achieved.
- Applicants have generally achieved high grades in subjects relevant to their chosen course, and most students who apply have at least four or five As or A*s at GCSE.

Aptitude Test

- **BMAT:** All applicants are required to take the BMAT either in September or November.
- The BMAT is used to assess scientific aptitude and focuses on scientific abilities relevant to the course. It is based on factual knowledge of mathematics and science to GCSE/IGCSE, and does not require special teaching or preparation.

Personal Qualities

- The Clinical School makes the following statement about the key qualities of a medical student. They:
 - Are knowledgeable about the scientific basis of medicine, including its most recent developments.
 - Are honest, caring, knowledgeable and competent and equipped to maintain good medical practice.
 - Show respect for their patients at all times.
 - Have excellent communication skills for use in the health care of diverse populations.
 - Understand the importance of physical, psychological and social aspects of patient care.
 - Possess a sound appreciation of ethical, legal and community issues.
 - Are able to work effectively in multidisciplinary teams.
 - Possess the capacity for inquiry and are prepared to continue learning, teaching, evaluation and research throughout their careers and to prepare them fully for their roles as doctors.

- The Colleges subscribe to the principles for medical admissions that have been approved by the General Medical Council's 'Statement on the Core Values and Attributes needed to study Medicine' and the statement of 'Guiding Principles for the Admission of Medical Students'.
- Prospective students need to develop an understanding of what a career in Medicine involves and their suitability for their intended profession, it is strongly advised (though not required) to undertake some relevant work experience (either paid or voluntary) in a health or related area. The Clinical School not prescriptive about how this is obtained, and recognises the widely differing opportunities available.

Interview

- All Colleges' interview processes involve at least one current practitioner and all Colleges will conduct at least two interviews per medical applicant.
- The key issues to be evaluated at interview and through other aspects of the selection process fall into three areas:
- **Scientific and related competencies:**
 - A sound basis of knowledge and skills derived from sixth-form (or equivalent) learning, i.e. a solid knowledge of sixth-form Chemistry and, as appropriate, Biology, Maths and Physics.
 - The application of that knowledge to new scenarios and problems, whether at a micro level (e.g. molecular models) or on a larger scale (e.g. whole body problems and systems).
 - An interest in the science behind medicine.
 - Observational skills.
 - Lateral thinking and conceptual flexibility in approaching problems.
 - The ability to hypothesise and to think through scientific problems.
 - The ability also to avoid jumping too hastily to conclusions or to become too rigidly committed to single arguments or interpretations of scientific problems.
- **Personal qualities and communications skills appropriate to a would-be doctor:**
 - Emotional maturity and motivation to pursue a career in medicine.
 - Listening and empathy skills and an ability to interact with others, both professional and lay.
 - Skills in clear communication of scientific and personal matters both to peers and to lay audiences.
 - Team-working skills.
 - An ability to see ambiguous and contradictory scenarios for what they are rather than viewing them as simple 'either/or' choices.
 - An ability to relate experience (and especially observation or experience of medical matters) to medical issues and to show how their understanding of both the experience and the issues has progressed as a result.
 - A capacity for focused hard work and ability to cope with stressful situations.
- **Understanding of the professional and career requirement:**
 - A strong motivation for a medical career and ability to explain and substantiate it.
 - A realistic understanding of what a career in medicine entails.
 - An understanding of what studying for a medical degree entails.
 - An understanding of the 'real world' dilemmas and practical considerations that face doctors, including clinical dilemmas.
 - A capacity to understand ethical issues facing practitioners.
 - Fitness to practice.
 - Social and cultural awareness.
 - Self-awareness.
 - Awareness of the major current issues facing the NHS (or equivalent national healthcare systems).

Deferred Entry

- About one in ten students going to Cambridge take a gap year before starting their studies.
- Applicants should state on their UCAS application if they wish to defer entry. Applicants are likely to be asked about their plans for their year out at the interview.

Resits and Reapplications

- Applications are unlikely to be adversely affected by resitting one or two modules. However, there would be concern about an applicant's potential to be successful at Cambridge if they needed to resit numerous exams, particularly if only a marginal improvement could be achieved. Any intentions to resit any exams should be stated in the Supplementary Application Questionnaire. Where there are particular reasons for underperformance it is useful if these can be outlined in the school/college reference. In some cases, it may be appropriate for the school/college referee to complete an Extenuating Circumstances Form.
- It is possible for students to reapply to the University, either the following year or in a future year. If an application is unsuccessful and an applicant wishes to reapply, they are strongly advised to request feedback on their original application as soon as possible after they have been notified of the University's decision.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- Previously, applicants required AS or A-level passes in Chemistry and two of Biology/Human Biology, Physics or Mathematics. Following A-level reform, AS level is no longer a requirement and applicants must now offer Chemistry at A-level and one (as opposed to two previously) of Biology/Human Biology, Physics or Mathematics at A-level.
- In line with A-level changes, Chemistry plus one of Biology/Human Biology, Physics or Mathematics are now required at the highest level for IB (i.e. at Higher level) and for Scottish qualifications (i.e. at Advanced Higher). Previously Chemistry and two of Biology/Human Biology, Physics or Mathematics were required at Standard or Higher level at IB, or Higher or Advanced Higher for Scottish qualifications.
- The overall IB points required has increased from 40-41 previously to 40-42.
- GCSEs are no longer a requirement; previously, applicants needed grade C or above in Double Award Science and Mathematics. In line with this, the requirements for IB Middle Years Programme have not been specified for 2018 entry; for previous cycles, grade 4 or above would satisfy the GCSE requirements.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Cambridge acknowledged receipt of this report but did not comment.

Cardiff University

Medicine MBBCh (A100) - duration 5 years

Please note that at time of writing this report, the entry requirements on the course website shows information for 2017 entry and had not yet been updated; however the general Prospectus and the School of Medicine's Prospectus for 2018 entry were available for download, albeit with limited admissions information. Therefore we have listed 2018 entry information where possible and included some 2017 entry information as a guideline only; information obtained from the website referring to 2017 entry is indicated in italics. We have written to the Medical School and asked for clarification.

- 309 places (284 Home/EU and 25 international).
- Approximately 3500 applications in 2015 (approximately 10 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Chemistry and Biology.
- Applicants undertaking Science A-levels where a separate practical endorsement is reported will require a pass in this element.
- General Studies, Critical Thinking and Further Mathematics are not acceptable at A2 Level.
- *For applicants offering Mathematics and/or Statistics at AS and/or A2 level only one will count towards meeting the conditions of an offer.*
- *A fourth A2 Level subject will not enhance an application.*
- Welsh Baccalaureate qualification in lieu of a third A-level is accepted.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** Overall 36 points (excluding Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay). A minimum of 19 points must be achieved in the Higher level subjects made up of a score of 7, 6, 6 points. Two sciences (from Chemistry, Biology, Physics and either Mathematics or Statistics, but not Mathematical Studies) must be offered at Higher level with the score of 6 points being achieved in either Chemistry or Biology. Chemistry or Biology must be offered at Standard Level with a score of 7 points, if not at Higher Level. Physics must be offered at GCSE level if not at Higher or Subsidiary level.
- **Pre-U:** *The full Pre-University Diploma is required with three D3 grades in the three Principal Subjects, which must include Chemistry and Biology.*
- **Scottish Highers:** *AAAAA including Chemistry, Physics, and Biology in Scottish Highers and AA in Advanced Highers including Chemistry. Applicants should normally achieve the qualifications (Highers or Advanced Highers) at the first attempt of the examinations. Mathematics and English Language must be passed to at least Standard Level with Grade 2 or Grade B.*
- **Welsh Baccalaureate:** Grade A in the Core of the Advanced Diploma, plus Grades AA in Chemistry and Biology A-levels.

GCSE Requirements

- Cardiff University equates alphabetical grades with numerical grades as follows: A*=9, A=8/7, B=6, C=5/4.
- B in English Language/Welsh First Language and B in Mathematics.
- Either, AA in Science and Additional Science (formerly Double Award Science) or equivalent or AAB in Chemistry, Physics and Biology in any order, or AAB in Core Science, Additional Science, and further Additional Science as a triple science combination, in any order.
- *Other subjects not stated above (not including short courses), to make a total of nine, at a minimum of grade B. Applicants who were unable to take 9 GCSEs, i.e. due to school policy, must contact the Medical School to discuss this before making an application.*
- *GCSE Human Biology will be considered but not in conjunction with standard GCSE Biology.*
- *Level 2 certificates such as the Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA), Applied Business, ICT (examining board) and the Diploma in Digital Applications (DiDA) will be considered as contributing one additional, separate subject in lieu of a GCSE during academic scoring.*

- *Subjects not considered: Short course GCSE subjects, Additional Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Additional Applied Sciences or Applied Science, Level 2 BTECs, NVQs, Welsh Baccaalaureate level 2.*
- *English IGCSE 0500 accepted as a First Language, only if all four components have been undertaken and this must be made clear on the UCAS form at the time of application.*
- *Certified GCSE resit results will be considered only if completed within 12 months of the first sitting.*
- *GCSE Dual Award subjects, other than GCSE dual award Science will only be counted as one subject during the overall assessment.*
- *The School of Medicine will score the applicants top 9 GCSEs. 3 points are awarded for A*, 2 points for an A and 1 point for a B. Points are not awarded for short courses. Applications will be ranked according to their score and a cut-off point is decided. The cut-off score can change from year to year as it depends on the overall standard of applications in any one year. Over the last 5 years the cut-off score has ranged between 24 to 26 points. Applicants who have completed A-level qualifications that fulfil or exceed our typical A-level offer (AAA) will have their A-levels scored (3 points for A* and 2 points for A).*

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants are required to take the UKCAT from July-October in the same year as application.
- Test results obtained in previous years are not accepted.
- There is no minimum threshold score; however it may be used as part of the assessment process.

Personal Qualities

- Applicants who meet the minimum academic requirements and are sufficiently highly ranked academically are assessed on non-academic criteria according to the information contained in their Personal Statement and the Referee's Report given on the UCAS Application Form. The following are assessed and scored:
 - Medical motivation and awareness of the career.
 - Caring ethos and a sense of social awareness.
 - Sense of responsibility.
 - Evidence of a balanced approach to life.
 - Evidence of self-directed learning and extracurricular activities.
 - Referee's report.
- *All applicants are expected to have an appreciation of the length of the training programme and the career structure, and how this relates to their own situation and circumstances.*
- *The University recognises that opportunities for certain types of work experience and participation in some non-academic activities will vary according to individual circumstances, including an applicant's cultural or socioeconomic background, or the activities available in their local area. Selectors therefore are not prescriptive about the ways in which the non-academic selection criteria may be demonstrated.*

Interview

- *Interviews are offered to applicants who achieve the highest positions according to their academic and non-academic rankings.*
- *The interviews will take place over a three week period during December/January.*
- *Applicants will rotate around approximately 10 Multiple Mini Interview stations in turn where each station will last 6 minutes.*
- *The interviews focus on exploring the personal qualities and attributes important in developing good doctors.*

Deferred Entry

- *Deferred entry is considered. Applicants are advised to make this clear on their application form. The Personal Statement should include an indication of the reasons for wanting to defer entry. Deferment of entry for a period longer than 12 months is not permitted.*
- *The School of Medicine welcomes a constructive gap year as it gives candidates an opportunity to travel, gain work experience or carry out charity work etc., and recognises that a gap year can broaden skills and experience.*

- The School of medicine cannot guarantee to accept later decisions to defer once an offer has been made. *Deferment requests post-application will not normally be considered unless there are significant changes in an applicant's situation and are at the sole discretion of the Admissions Group.*

Resits and Reapplications

- Certified GCSE resit results will be considered only if completed within 12 months of the first sitting. Resits for those whose A-levels have been completed, and the grades awarded, will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. All extenuating circumstances are viewed on a case by case basis by the Admissions Group.
- *Cardiff University will consider applications where modules have been re-sat in either AS levels or A-level qualifications on the understanding that they are completed within the standard two year A-level period.*
- *Those whose under-achievement was due to exceptional extenuating circumstances, and have previously applied to study Medicine at Cardiff University, must provide appropriate supporting evidence. Applicants in this position should contact the Admissions Office at the Medical School for further advice.*
- Candidates can reapply as long as they meet the minimum entry requirements for the year of applying and will need a current UKCAT score. Previous applications will not influence the decision on the current application.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- Both Biology *and* Chemistry became a compulsory A-level requirement for 2017 entry. Prior to this, A-levels had to include one of Biology or Chemistry. In line with this, candidates taking the Welsh Baccalaureate must now achieve AA in both A-level Biology *and* Chemistry for 2018 entry. Previously, AA was required in Chemistry *or* Biology, plus another science, and if Chemistry or Biology was not offered, it must be offered at AS level at grade A.
- IB: The overall points required have been reduced from 37 points to 36 points for 2018 entry.

Other Undergraduate Medicine Courses Provided

- Medicine with a Preliminary Year MBChB (A104) - duration 6 years.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- No response.

University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)

Medicine MBBS (A100) - duration 5 years

At the time of publication, the entry requirements stated on UCLan's course website are for 2017 entry. The entry requirements for UCLan in this report therefore apply only to 2017 entry and not for 2018 entry. However, UCLan confirmed that, for international applications to the MBBS course, there is no change to the academic requirements or the admissions process for 2018 entry.

- Primarily for international (non-UK/EU) students.
- 2 full scholarships are available for UK students (conditions apply, visit website for more details).
- 13 applications per place for 2016 entry.

A-level Requirements

- AAB including Chemistry, another science subject and a third academic subject.
- English Language Grade B can be used to demonstrate proficiency in English.
- Normally it is expected that grades will be achieved at first sitting.

AS Requirements

- No information.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** Higher level 36 points overall including Chemistry, an additional science subject and one other subject at Higher level. Three subjects at Standard level, at a minimum of 5 points each.
- Standard Level English Language and Literature (Grade 6) and Higher Level (Grade 6 in English B) can be used to demonstrate proficiency in English.
- UCLan accepts a variety of international qualifications. Applicants should see the course website for alternative qualifications by country or contact the International Admissions Team at ia@uclan.ac.uk for advice. For applicants with international qualifications, UCLan expect these to include the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Sciences (to include Chemistry and at least one other science subject).

GCSE Requirements

- None specified. However, students must be able to provide evidence of sustained academic achievement with a broad study of sciences and mathematics up to the age of 15-16.
- English Language Grade A can be used to demonstrate proficiency in English.

Proficiency in English

- International applicants will be required to demonstrate proficiency in English through IELTS with an overall score of 7.5 and a minimum of 7.0 in all of the component scores (listening, reading, writing and speaking) or equivalent including:
 - A-level English Language - Grade B.
 - GCSE or IGCSE English Language - Grade A.
 - IB - Grade 6 in English Language and Literature at Standard Level and grade 6 in English B at in Higher level.
 - Cambridge English: First (FCE), Advanced (CAE) or Proficiency (CPE) - score of 185.
 - Pearson Test of English - 70 with no component score below 70.

Aptitude Test

- No requirement.

Personal Qualities

- A personal reflective statement is required as part of the application. It should be used to provide evidence that an applicant possessed the qualities required by a trainee doctor. It should give examples of things the applicant had done that demonstrate what they are good at. Please note that applications are assessed on the principle that observation does not constitute experience. Students should therefore avoid giving a great deal of detail about time spent shadowing doctors. The medical School are interested in what an applicant has done and what qualities they have demonstrated. The Personal Statement should explain what an applicant has learned from their work experience or how they have reflected upon their work experience rather than the detail of

what they saw. The Personal Statement should contain specifics that enable the Medical School to determine whether it was a relevant or useful experience. It should cover the following:

- Reasons for applying to study MBBS.
 - Understanding of the role of a doctor.
 - Any health-related and/or caring work/work, shadowing or volunteering roles.
 - Depth of experience in a role involving personal interaction.
 - Reflection on what was learnt from these experiences.
 - Initiative/enterprise.
 - Work/life balance.
 - Working in teams.
 - Communication (particularly outside your peer group).
 - Quality of written application.
 - Exceptional circumstances.
- Additionally, a Transferable Skills Statement (TSS) must be sent to the University directly (emailed to: ia@uclan.ac.uk), detailing non-academic achievements and aptitude for a career in medicine including:
 - Work experience/shadowing/voluntary work or experience in a caring role.
 - The impact and value of the work undertaken.
 - The level of responsibility taken within this experience.
 - An example of doing something that had a significant outcome for the person being cared for.
 - Any achievements that the applicant may want to highlight from the above.

Interview

- During the 2016 admissions cycle approximately 30% of applicants were interviewed and approximately 75% of interviewed candidates received an offer.
- No applicant will be made an offer without interview.
- Interviews are normally held at the UCLan Preston campus between December and March.
- Applicants who are successful in being invited for interview will be asked to participate in Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs).
- The MMIs involve 8 individual activities, each lasting 7 minutes during which there are 2 minutes to read about the activity and 5 minutes of interaction with an MMI assessor to do the activity. The assessor might be a scientist or clinical teacher; they could also be a patient volunteer or actor.
- The MMI activities will see if you can “think on your feet” rather than provide rehearsed answers.
- There is one station to discuss the candidate’s Transferable Skills Statement.
- Performance is assessed at each station. The stations are all worth the same amount of marks and an overall total will be calculated and compared to that of other applicants. Failure at 3 or more stations will mean an overall fail.
- Once all interviews are completed applicants are ranked according to performance. Applicants who have passed at least 6 out of 8 MMI stations will be ranked according to score and offers made to the top ranking applicants until the required number of places has been filled. A small number of applicants who perform exceptionally well at MMI may be made an early offer.

Deferred Entry

- Applicants may take a gap year; the University encourages students with different interests who have a range of experiences they can bring to their course.
- Any applicants wishing to discuss a deferred entry should contact the UCLan MBBS admissions team on MBBSAdmissions@uclan.ac.uk.

Resits and Reapplications

- No information regarding resits; however, it is normally expected that grades will be achieved at first sitting.
- If an applicant fails to achieve a place on the MBBS programme they may only make one further consecutive application to the programme.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- The above information was based on UCLan’s website which stated 2017 entry requirements at the time of writing the report. UCLan, however, confirmed that for international applications to

the MBBS course there is no change to the academic requirements or the admissions process for 2018 entry.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- UCLan responded but did not comment on the report. However, they did confirm that there are no changes to academic requirements for 2018 entry for international applications.

University of Dundee

Medicine MBChB (A100) - duration 5 years

At the time of writing this report, the course webpage stated that the entry requirements listed on the webpage were for 2017 entry. Some of these entry requirements differ to the requirements that we recorded in last year's report and it is unclear whether some of this information has been updated for 2018 entry. The University's Undergraduate Prospectus 2018 was available to view and some minor differences exist between the Prospectus and the webpage. For the purpose of this report we have assumed that the correct requirements are those contained in the 2018 Prospectus. As we would for all medical schools, we advise prospective applicants to fully research the entry criteria for Dundee before applying.

- 157 places in 2017: 144 Home/EU and 13 international.

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Chemistry and another science subject (from Biology, Physics or Mathematics).
- Results should be obtained in one sitting at the first attempt, two years after GCSE.
- General Studies is not accepted.
- Human Biology or Social Biology is accepted as an alternative to Biology at A-Level.

AS Requirements

- No requirement but AS level will be taken into account.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 37 points (minimum) at grades 6, 6 and 6 at Higher level, to include Chemistry and another science at Higher level, plus three subjects at Standard level with an average of grade 6.
- **Pre-U:** Applicants with the Cambridge International Pre-U Diploma will be made offers in terms of achievement of the Diploma plus specified subjects and grades in the Principal Subjects. The Principal Subjects have to include Chemistry and Biology and the grades required in the three Principal Subjects will be D3.
- **Scottish Highers:** AAAAB (minimum) at the same sitting of Highers, to include Chemistry and another science subject (from Biology, Physics or Mathematics). The other three Highers can be of any choice of subjects, and this will not influence the assessment. Biology at least to grade 1 Standard Grade or Intermediate2/National 5 at grade A. Chemistry, Mathematics and English at least to grade 2 Standard Grade or Intermediate2/National 5 at grade B. Achievement at Standard Grade/National 5 will also be taken into account. Offers will be conditional, based on three Advanced Highers/'crash' Highers taken in 6th year, at BBB grades.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** Three Higher Level subjects at grade H1 including Chemistry and Biology and three Higher level subjects at Grade H2 including English and either Mathematics or Physics. Grade B or better is required in English, Mathematics and Science in the Irish Junior Certificate (Higher Level).

GCSE Requirements

- At least grade A in Biology and grade B/6 in Chemistry, Mathematics and English.
- A good pass in Combined or Dual Science at GCSE may be accepted instead of a single GCSE pass in Biology.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language is not accepted.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants must sit the UKCAT test in their year of application unless certified exempt because there is no testing centre in their country.
- The UKCAT score will be factored into the pre-interview rank. There is no specific cut-off applied but obviously a high score is advantageous. For guidance, for 2016 entry, applicants with a score of:
 - >2850 were in the 90th percentile.
 - >2530 were in the 50th percentile.
 - <2220 were in the 10th percentile.
- The UKCAT decile is weighted at approximately 40% and the academic component at 60%.
- For the 2018 entry cycle, the Situational Judgement Test will not be used as part of the selection process.

Personal Qualities

- The Personal Statement is expected to demonstrate:
 - A range of suitable personal attributes such as motivation, commitment, social contribution, teamwork/leadership and excellent communication skills.
 - Some knowledge of, and commitment to, medicine.
 - An awareness of the course and University to which they are applying.
- The selectors will look for evidence of non-academic achievement in areas below (this list is not exclusive or exhaustive) and prefer evidence in more than one area; these will be discussed at interview:
 - Competitive achievement - e.g. chess or sport at national level or above.
 - Talent - music, drama, public speaking, leadership qualities.
 - Social responsibility - voluntary work, teamwork, youth organisations.
 - Employment - entrepreneurial, sustained engagement, achievement.
- Work experience is not regarded as a qualification but rather as evidence of willingness to work with people and also a commitment to medicine as a career. It also allows the applicant to gain some insight and experience of working in a health situation, with people who may be ill, disabled, elderly or by shadowing a doctor at work. The selectors recognise that not all applicants will have the same opportunities to gain such experience, but in general terms they look for work experience lasting two weeks (or equivalent). This will be discussed at interview but is not scored. The volume of work experience is not credited and applicants are discouraged from seeking to acquire experience in excess of that required to inform career choice.

Interview

- Applications are ranked on academic achievement and UKCAT score. The top 550 will be invited to interview plus another 50 applicants who had adverse circumstances that affected their education.
- Interviews are held in December and January. It is essential for doctors to have excellent interpersonal communication skills and therefore no offers are made without interview.
- Interviews are a series of Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI). This reduces the risk of the whole interview getting off on the wrong foot, which occasionally happens with traditional formats. The same topics are covered but within bite size sections rather than a single discussion, offering the applicant a number of separate opportunities to sell themselves.
- Candidates can expect to be asked about their understanding of a medical career, of the curriculum at Dundee and current medical issues in the press, including ethical topics. Selectors will also use information provided in the Personal Statement. In addition selectors will be looking to assess communication skills and approach towards teamwork.
- Following interview, provided the process has run smoothly, candidates are ranked on the interviews score alone, i.e. there is a 'clean slate' with no carryover of the pre-interview rank.

Deferred Entry

- Deferred entry will be considered, provided the candidate intends to spend a gap year in a manner which will benefit them educationally and/or socially. Information about intentions should be provided on the UCAS application. All the necessary academic requirements have to be obtained before the 'year out' starts.

Resits and Reapplications

- Resits are not accepted, qualifications have to be obtained at the first sitting. The selectors do not consider applications based on retaken examinations.
- No details regarding reapplications.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- For 2018 entry, the grade required for Biology at GCSE/National 5/Intermediate 2 has increased from B to A and from 2 to 1 at Standard Grade.
- In addition to English and Mathematics, Chemistry is now a requirement at GCSE/National 5/Intermediate 2 at grade B or Standard Grade at grade 2. Previously there was no requirement for Chemistry at this level.
- Students offering the Irish Leaving Certificate are required to obtain three Higher Level subjects at grade H1 including Chemistry and Biology and three Higher level subjects at Grade H2 including

English and either Mathematics or Physics. This has changed from the requirement of AAAAAA at Higher level including Chemistry and another science, plus Biology to at least Ordinary Level grade B.

Other Undergraduate Medicine Courses Provided

- Gateway to Medicine (Pre-Medical Year) MBChB (A104) - duration 6 years.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- No response.

University of East Anglia (UEA)

Medicine MBBS (A100) - duration 5 years

- 167 places for 2017 entry: 154 Home/EU and 13 international.
- Approximately 1400 applications for 2016 entry (approximately 8 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Biology/Human Biology, either Chemistry or Physics, and any other subject.
- Science A-levels must include a pass in the practical element.
- Critical Thinking, Citizenship Studies, Leisure Studies, Applied Science, General Studies, BTEC qualifications are not accepted.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 36 points with 666 at Higher level including Biology and one other science from Chemistry or Physics. Middle Years is accepted in lieu of GCSEs with a minimum of 6 passes at 6 including English, Mathematics and two science subjects. If no GCSE equivalent is held, offer will include Mathematics and English requirements.
- **Pre-U:** D3, D3, D3 including Biology and either Chemistry or Physics in the first sitting. GCSE requirements must also be achieved. A combination of Cambridge Pre-U and A levels is accepted. D3 will be required in all circumstances where a combination is taken.
- **Scottish Highers:** AA in S6 Advanced Highers in Biology and either Chemistry or Physics, plus an additional Higher Level grade A taken in S6. Also AAAAB in S5 at Higher level including Biology and either Chemistry or Physics in the first sitting. National 5s are accepted in lieu of GCSEs with a minimum of 6 subjects at grade A including English, Mathematics and two science subjects (Lifeskills Mathematics is not accepted). Individuals who have bypassed National 5 qualifications going straight to Higher courses will be assessed on an individual basis. This should be confirmed by the academic referee in the application. Where taken, Standard Grades are accepted in lieu of GCSEs with a minimum of 6 Intermediate 2 Level subjects at 1 or 2 including English, Mathematics and two science subjects.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** H2 in 6 subjects to include Biology and either Chemistry or Physics. For the old grading system (pre 2017) achieved Higher Level AAAAAA (3 at A1 and 3 at A2) including Biology and either Chemistry or Physics. Junior Certificates are accepted in lieu of GCSEs with a minimum of 6 O1 or O2 grades (6 A grades 2016 or before) including English, Mathematics and two science subjects.

GCSE Requirements

- Minimum of six GCSE (or EU/international equivalent) passes at grade 7/A or above to include English Language, Mathematics and two Science subjects (Biology, Chemistry or Physics) or Double Science. Alternatively Science, Additional Science and Further Science GCSEs are accepted.
- If grade 6/B in English Language is achieved, grade 7/A in English Literature is required.
- If Methods of Mathematics & Application of Mathematics are taken, grade 7/A is required in both. They will be considered as a single grade 7/A for screening purposes as together they are equivalent of the full Mathematics GCSE.
- UEA will only accept one of the following: Learning for Life & Work, Expressive Arts, Catering, Child Development, Business & Communication Systems (ICAA), Health & Social Care and Leisure & Tourism.
- General Studies, Critical Thinking, Citizenship Studies, GCSE short courses, BTEC Level 2, OCR Level 2, Functional Skills are not accepted.
- Other EU and International equivalents to GCSEs will be considered on an individual basis.
- When considering an application, selectors will usually review the best 9 results (to include English Language, Mathematics and two sciences). This will include only one Mathematics, up to two English and up to three single science subjects or a double science award.
- GCSE resits are accepted.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants are required to take the UKCAT in the summer prior to submitting their application, i.e. in June-October 2017.
- There is no cut-off score. However, from experience, it is unusual for an applicant with a UKCAT score lower than the 3rd decile to be invited to interview. In previous years this was a score in the region of 2400.
- The Situational Judgement Test banding is not used in the selection process.

Personal Qualities

- Successful applicants will have demonstrated, amongst other things, an understanding of healthcare, of the skills, values and responsibilities expected of a doctor, evidence of personal suitability to join the profession and good communication and organisational skills.
- Work experience is not a specific requirement. However, it is important that, prior to committing to 5 years intensive study, that a prospective student finds out as much as they can about being a doctor.
- Work experience, therefore is preferable where possible but this is not a specific requirement. Any experience that gives an applicant an insight into their suitability to the profession is valuable. Such experience may include work experience in a health care organisation (e.g. a hospital, hospice, or primary care setting), a regular commitment as a volunteer in a care-related setting, or paid employment as a health care assistant or similar. This list is not exhaustive, but at interview, candidates will be expected to draw on your personal experiences to demonstrate suitability to be a doctor. If invited to interview, the Medical School's work experience form should be brought along.

Interview

- Interviews are normally held between December and March.
- For 2016 entry, approximately 600 applicants (out of 1400) were invited to interview.
- Each interview lasts approximately 50 minutes. Selected applicants are invited to take part in an OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) style interview, also known as a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI).
- During the interview, each applicant rotates through a series of rooms, known as 'stations', spending 5 minutes at each of the 7 stations, with a 1 and a half minute changeover/preparation time between each. Interview questions are not disclosed.
- Typically applicants would need to demonstrate at interview:
 - An acceptable approach to decision making when given incomplete or conflicting information.
 - The ability to learn and work effectively in partnership.
 - A caring and supportive attitude.
 - An empathetic and caring approach.
 - Insight in to Medicine as a career and personal suitability for the profession.
- Honesty, integrity, and personal effectiveness.
- If invited to interview, candidates are required to bring with them a completed work experience form from the University.
- For 2016 entry, approximately 600 were invited to interview and approximately 300 were made offers.

Deferred Entry

- The Medical School welcomes applications from students who have already taken or intend to take a gap year, believing that a year between school and university can be of substantial benefit. Applicants are advised to indicate their reason for wishing to defer entry and may wish to contact the appropriate Admissions Office directly to discuss this further.

Resits and Reapplications

- A level resits will be considered if a minimum of ABB was obtained, or equivalent with no less than a grade C, at the first sitting.
- Applicants who are repeating their AS year, or all or part of any - level (thus taking their A-levels over more than 2 years) are expected to achieve A* in at least one of the subjects as follows:

- Applicants who are resitting one subject will be required to have a predicted grade of A*.
- Applicants resitting two A-level subjects are required to have predicted grades of A*A.
- Applicants resitting three A-level subjects are required to have predicted grades of A*AA.
- For any subject repeated, the result should be at least one grade higher than that originally achieved.
- AS module resits are accepted providing the full A-level (AS and A-level) is completed within two years. This may include resitting modules. Any additional study outside this period will be subject to the resit policy as above.
- International Baccalaureate resits are only considered if 34 points overall with Higher Level 655 including Biology and either Chemistry or Physics is achieved in the first sitting. Applicants who are resitting should be predicted 37 points overall with Higher Level 666 including Biology and either Chemistry or Physics.
- If an application was unsuccessful, the candidate may reapply. Applicants to Medicine at UEA will only be considered for two consecutive years. They should however check entry requirements as these may have changed. They also need to resit the UKCAT.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- For 2018 entry, the course website provides access to downloadable entry requirements in greater detail for A-levels and alternative qualifications which was not provided for the previous cycle. Therefore information on the entry requirements is more extensive for this cycle. The following requirements are specified for 2018 cycle but were not specified previously:
 - A-level: Critical Thinking, Citizenship Studies, Leisure Studies, Applied Science, General Studies, BTEC qualifications are not accepted.
 - IB: Information regarding Middle Years Programme and GCSEs.
 - Scottish Highers: Information regarding National 5s and Standard Grades.
 - Irish Leaving Certificate: Information regarding Junior Certificates.
- Additionally, the requirement for Scottish Highers in this cycle is AAAAB in S5 at Higher level including Biology and either Chemistry or Physics in the first sitting; previously, a minimum of grade B in a fourth standard Highers subject was required in addition to three Advanced Highers.
- The Irish Leaving Certificate requirement for 2018 entry includes H2 in 6 subjects to include Biology and either Chemistry or Physics. This has changed from AAAAAA at Higher level including Biology and either Chemistry or Physics (though AAAAAA (3 at A1 and 3 at A2) is accepted under the old grading system).
- Pre-U entry requirements have been specified for 2018 but were not specified previously.
- In accordance with the information on the Medical School's website last year, we reported that the best 8 GCSEs were considered for 2017 entry. This year UEA have informed us that this is incorrect and the best 9 was considered in the last cycle, the same as for this admissions cycle. Last year's outdated webpage might have led to confusion amongst prospective students.

Other Undergraduate Medicine Courses Provided

- Medicine with a Foundation Year MBBS (A104) - duration 6 years.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- UEA responded with comments and this report was subsequently amended as appropriate.

The University of Edinburgh

Medicine MBChB (A100) - duration 6 years

- 207 places: 190 Home/EU, 17 international.
- 2500 applications in 2016 (approximately 12 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Chemistry and one subject from Biology, Mathematics and Physics (Biology preferred).
- Only one of Mathematics or Further Mathematics will be considered.
- Human Biology may replace Biology.
- General Studies will not be considered.
- A-level subjects taken early will not be considered.
- Although this will not form part of the entry requirements or offer, the presence of at least one A* at A-level may be used as part of the selection process.

AS Requirements

- AS level is no longer a requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** Overall score of 37 points (including Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay) including 667 at Higher level in Chemistry and at least one other science subject (Biology preferred). Biology should be taken to at least Standard level. The candidate must also provide evidence of a qualification at minimum National 5 grade B or GCSE B or equivalent in Mathematics and English Language if these subjects do not form part of the IB diploma. If using English/English Language at Standard level as part of the English language requirement, the candidate must obtain Grade 5. Maths Studies can also be considered in lieu of Maths at Standard level.
- **Pre-U:** D3, D3, D3 and M2 (or combination of D3 and A-level grade A). Global Perspectives and Research at M2 or a further AS level at grade B can be accepted in lieu of the fourth subject M2. Subject requirements are the same as GCE A-levels (see above).
- **Scottish Highers:** AAAAB by the end of S5, to include Chemistry and two of Biology, Mathematics or Physics. For some applicants this subject combination at S5 Higher is neither possible nor appropriate. Students who meet the grade requirements in S5 but are missing one or more sciences may take the missing subject(s) in S6. Human Biology may replace Biology. National 5s: B grades in Biology, Chemistry, English and Mathematics. Advanced Highers: The Medical School encourage the study of at least two subjects at Advanced Higher level in S6 and one further subject at Higher or above. The subjects of greatest relevance to a medical programme are Chemistry and Biology; not studying these in S6 may impact on how competitive a candidate is. Offers are usually conditional on S6 performance. A typical offer is likely to be BB at Advanced Higher plus a B at Higher in S6, to include Chemistry and Biology.

GCSE Requirements

- Grade B/6 in Biology, Chemistry, English, Mathematics. Double Award combined sciences or equivalent at Grade BB/66 may replace GCSE grades in sciences.
- Additional Applied Science and Applied Science will not be accepted.
- GCSE short courses are not accepted.
- For reference, the average A-level applicant is offering 6 A* at GCSE and the top one third (around 350) between 8 and 11 A*.
- Edinburgh equates alphabetical grades with numerical grades as follows: A*=8, A=7, B=6, C=4.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language accepted (grade B minimum).

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants need to sit the UKCAT during the summer prior to application.
- There is no minimum score requirement. All scores are considered and no applicant will be excluded from selection based on the score achieved in their UKCAT test (although applicants will be excluded if they have failed to take the test and not gained an exemption).

- As a guideline, in 2016, the average score of applicants that had been given an offer was 2850 and the minimum was 2370.
- The Situational Judgement section of the test is assessed as part of the non-academic requirements and not alongside your overall UKCAT score.
- Once all the scores are received they are ranked, the cohort is divided into octiles and allocated a score. A score is also allocated to the applicant's situational judgement banding. The points are then added to the applicant's total score to contribute towards the final ranking (weighting: 50% academic, 30% non-academic [15% Personal Statement/reference and 15% Situational Judgement section] and 20% UKCAT).
- The score an applicant achieved may be looked at again when final decisions are being made and there are a number of applicants with the same ranked score and limited places left to offer.

Personal Qualities

- **Personal qualities and skills:**
 - Empathy.
 - Interpersonal relationships.
 - Ability to communicate.
- **Evidence of career exploration prior to application:**
 - Understanding of medicine.
 - Work experience and shadowing (diseased, disadvantaged and disabled).
- **Breadth and level of non-academic achievements and interests:**
 - Social involvement.
 - School responsibilities.
 - Leadership.
 - Organisational abilities.
 - Cultural, sporting, vocational and voluntary achievements.
 - Interests and hobbies.
- **Prior experience-**
 Demonstration of a clear understanding of the nature of a career of medicine will be expected. This can be achieved by:
 - Appropriate work experience or work shadowing, as evidence of an informed decision to apply for a medical programme.
 - Talking with medical doctors and medical students.
 - Attending a University Open Day and medical conferences/lectures.
 - Reading medical literature.
- The Admissions Committee recognises that not all applicants have equal opportunities to gain such experience. If it is not possible to get any work experience in a hospital then other alternatives include working in a nursing home, riding for the disabled or volunteer work.

Interview

- Edinburgh does not interview school leavers. Although their website warns that they are currently considering changes to selection, which may include the introduction of interviews, they have confirmed that this is unchanged for 2018 entry.

Deferred Entry

- Applicants must declare plans, in the UCAS statement, for spending this time in a manner which will extend their education appropriately.
- Applicants for deferred places will not be subject to any special selection procedure. There is no quota of places for deferred applicants.
- Scottish Higher applicants wishing to take a gap year are strongly encouraged to do this after S6.
- Deferred applications will not usually be accepted from overseas applicants.

Resits and Reapplications

- All examination grades must be obtained at the first attempt of each subject. Those applying with resit qualifications (other than two GCE AS level modules) will not be entered into the selection system unless under very exceptional circumstances (for which verified evidence has been provided prior to UCAS application).

- Resits are not considered as part of the IB or any other qualification. Please check with the Admissions Office if you are unsure.
- Unsuccessful applicants can request feedback on their application. This must be done by the applicant in writing to medug@ed.ac.uk.
- Unsuccessful applicants can reapply in the following admissions cycle and will be considered as a brand new applicant; they must resit the UKCAT.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- Following A-level reforms, AS level is no longer a requirement for 2018 entry. For 2017 entry, a fourth subject at grade B was required and those who were unable to take AS levels would usually have been expected to achieve four A-levels with grades AAAB.
- As a consequence, AS level is no longer the minimum requirement for Biology; Biology at GCSE (or Double Award combined sciences or equivalent) is the required minimum for 2018 entry. However, Edinburgh has specified a preference for Biology out of Biology, Mathematics and Physics as a mandatory subject in addition to Chemistry at A-level/IB Higher level/Scottish Advanced Highers for 2018.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Edinburgh responded with comments and this report was subsequently amended as appropriate. Edinburgh has since confirmed that the above information is correct.

University of Exeter

Medicine BMBS (A100) - duration 5 years

- 130 places: 120 Home/EU and 10 international.
- 1643 applications for 2016 entry (approximately 13 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- A*AA-AAA including Chemistry and Biology at grade A plus one further subject.
- Additional A-levels do not confer any additional advantage.
- General Studies not included.
- Applicants will be tiered based on their academic achievement. The UKCAT score will be used to determine who, within a particular tier, will be invited to attend an interview. Those applicants who have already achieved their grades will receive a one rank advantage within the tier.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 38-36 including Chemistry and Biology at Higher level 6. General Studies not included.

GCSE Requirements

- English Language with a minimum pass of Grade C (4 with the new GCSE grading structure).
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language accepted at grade A or above.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** Predicted or achieved A-level (or equivalent) results are used in conjunction with the total UKCAT score to determine the number of students called for interview.
- UKCAT scores are valid for one year.
- Applicants will be tiered according to their predicted or achieved A-level or equivalent qualifications. The UKCAT score will be used to determine who, within a particular tier, will be invited to attend an interview.

Personal Qualities

- University of Exeter Medical School looks for students who are both academically capable and who demonstrate the personal skills and qualities that are required to make a successful doctor. It is this combination that helps to create successful multidisciplinary healthcare teams who deliver excellent patient care. The qualities and values looked for in students align with those within the NHS Constitution.
- Through the recruitment process and our degree programme, the Medical School aims to produce doctors that demonstrate the following values:
 - Working together for patients.
 - Respect and dignity.
 - Commitment to quality of care.
 - Compassion.
 - Improving lives.
 - Everyone counts.
- Work experience is not part of the school's standard entry requirements and therefore all students are very welcome to apply whether they have work experience or not.

Interview

- Successful candidates at the initial application stage will be invited to an interview which is designed to determine whether applicants have the non-academic qualities such as the communication skills, reflectiveness and empathy required to become a successful doctor.
- The interview will be in the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) format. This will consist of seven or eight stations and will include face-to-face interviews.
- Each station will last 3 minutes and students will then have 3 minutes in which to move to their next station. Applicants will not be required to undergo any group work or written test. Candidates may be required to go through one role play station; all other stations are question

and answer. Further information is provided to candidates at the Interview Briefing Session on the interview day.

- The University of Exeter Medical School is committed to recruit using the values based on the NHS Constitution and the qualities outlining the personal and professional attributes of doctors in the General Medical Council's document 'Good Medical Practice'.
- Each candidate is awarded a Yes/No judgement at each station based on the assessor's judgement of whether the candidate has the necessary personal qualities and attributes to be a medical student at Exeter. Under some circumstances, for example if all other attributes are the same, then it is possible that the UKCAT could be applied as a 'tie breaker'.

Deferred Entry

- The University considers applicants who intend to take a gap year between school/college and university and applicants applying for deferred entry will be considered in the same way as applicants applying for entry without a gap year.

Resits and Reapplications

- Exeter Medical School does not discriminate against applicants who have re-taken part or all of a qualification and will treat an achieved or predicted qualification grade in the same way irrespective of whether or not re-takes are involved.
- The University welcomes applications from resit candidates and those who have applied in previous years.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- None.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Exeter confirmed that the above information is correct.

University of Glasgow

Medicine MBChB (A100) - duration 5 years

- 240 places.
- 2199 applications for 2016 entry (approximately 9 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Chemistry and one of Mathematics, Physics or Biology, all in one sitting.
- If Biology is not studied at A2 level, it must have been taken at AS level and a grade A is required.
- General Studies, Critical Thinking and Global Perspectives and Research are not accepted.
- Biology and Human Biology are not considered as separate subjects.
- Mathematics and Further Mathematics are not considered as separate subjects at A-level.

AS Requirements

- Grade A in Biology at AS level is required if not studied at A2 level.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 38 points (not including bonus points) including 6 in Chemistry and Biology at Higher level and either Mathematics or Physics at Higher level (if it is not possible to sit Mathematics or Physics at Higher level, then Standard level will be considered at 6 points). A minimum of 6 in English at Standard level is also required.
- **Pre-U:** Pre-U Diploma grades of D3, D3, D3 including Principal Subjects Chemistry and one of Maths, Physics or Biology, achieved in one sitting. If Biology is not studied at Pre-U diploma level, it should be taken to at least AS level (a minimum of grade A is required). Biology and Human Biology are considered as equal subjects. Mathematics and Further Mathematics are not considered as two separate subjects. A GCSE pass in English at a minimum of Grade B is also required. Combinations of individual Pre-U subjects and A-level subjects are acceptable if three subjects are offered overall at grades D3 or A.
- **Scottish Highers:** AAAAA or AAAABB by the end of S5 and either grades A and B in two Advanced Highers and one additional Higher at grade B or grades BBB in three Advanced Highers in S6. All to be taken at the first sitting. Applicants are not considered for from S5. Higher grades must include Chemistry and Biology, and either Maths or Physics. It is acceptable to take Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics as Highers in S6, provided grades AAAAA-AAAABB are achieved by S5. A minimum grade B would be required in any required Higher subject studied in S6. There are no subject requirements for Advanced Highers in S6. Biology and Human Biology are not considered as separate subjects at Higher. Applicants must have English at National 5 level at grade B or above.

GCSE Requirements

- GCSE English at grade B or above.
- IGCSE English 0500 as a First Language is accepted provided all four components have been covered at minimum grade B. Applicants whose first language is not English must complete a secure English language test with IELTS of 7.0 (with no subtest less than 7.0).

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants must complete the UKCAT in the same year as application.
- The UKCAT is taken into consideration along with all other aspects of the application. The range of scores considered changes each year as the performance of each admissions cohort varies. As a guideline, for 2016 entry, the lowest total score of an applicant considered for interview was 2680.
- The 'Situational Judgement' section will not be taken into consideration.

Personal Qualities

- Candidates receiving offers are those who not only achieve the academic standards required but who also show they have seriously considered the implications of a medical career and who display the characteristics desirable in a future doctor, as well as demonstrating a commitment, motivation and enthusiasm for a medical career. Although specific work experience in a hospital or general practice is not essential, it is important for all applicants to find out about the realities of a career in medicine.

- Obtaining work experience in a medical setting is not necessary to study or obtain entry to medicine but it is expected that candidates will have a realistic understanding of what a career in medicine entails and be aware of current issues facing the medical profession. A commitment to caring for others is also expected, which can be demonstrated through voluntary or paid work in a community setting. Any commitment to work experience or similar is expected to last beyond the offer-making stage of the admissions process.

Interview

- Approximately 700 applicants are interviewed.
- Interviews normally take place in December with offers normally being made by late March each year.
- As a guide, candidates can expect the following:
 - The interview session will last around 30 minutes. Candidates will be divided into two groups, interviewed by two panels with two interviewers, swapping mid-point. Multiple candidates will be interviewed within rooms.
 - Prior to interview, one of the groups will use the waiting time to read and select one from two scenarios to discuss. The other group will sit and wait. Candidate will go into their respective rooms for interview. Those who have just selected one scenario will be expected to discuss this with their interviewers at some point during this interview panel.
 - After the first panel has finished, the two groups swap so that the group who have already discussed their chosen scenario will sit and wait and the other group will use the waiting time to select one from two scenarios to discuss. Candidates will then be interviewed by their second panel and those who have just selected a scenario will be expected to discuss this with their interviewers at some point during this interview.

Deferred Entry

- Applications for deferred entry submitted by the 15th October will be considered. The Medical School may refuse requests for deferral made after application. Application criteria for deferred entry are considered in the same way as applications for entry in the current year.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to spend the majority of a year out in a manner which will be of educational benefit. Gaining work experience or becoming involved in a voluntary project relating to care or community work may be useful in developing skills.

Resits and Reapplications

- The medical school does not normally accept resits or additional time to sit qualifications. The required grades and subjects must be obtained at one sitting and at the first attempt. Resits would only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Applicants with exceptional circumstances should contact the Admissions Administrator prior to submitting an application. Please note the Medical School will uphold the institutions decision of appeal.
- Unsuccessful applicants can apply for the course in future years. All applicants must meet the minimum academic entry requirements for the current admissions cycle (with qualifications obtained within seven years of the proposed entry date). The school will consider a re-application as a “fresh application”. If the applicant reapplies for admission, they must resit the UKCAT test.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- Previously, unless a candidate taking Scottish qualifications offers BBB in three Advanced Highers, they required AB in two Advanced Highers. For 2018 entry, these candidates must also offer one additional Higher at grade B in S6.
- Pre-U entry requirements have been specified for 2018 entry but were not specified previously.
- We did not record Irish Leaving Certificate requirements last year and therefore it is not possible to comments on this qualification.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Glasgow responded with comments and this report was subsequently amended as appropriate.

Hull York Medical School

Medicine MBBS (A100) - duration 5 years

- 141 places (130 Home/EU and 11 international).
- Approximately 1300 applications each year (approximately 9 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Biology and Chemistry (with a pass in practical experiments for reformed A-levels completed in 2017 or later), achieved in a single sitting.
- Applications from students who are studying arts or humanities subjects are strongly encouraged.
- General Studies, Applied Science, Citizenship and Critical Thinking are not accepted.
- Mathematics and Further Mathematics, or Biology and Human Biology, are not accepted as distinct subjects.
- Expected to be completed within a two-year period; however applications are welcome from students who have achieved AAB at first sitting and are taking one additional year to achieve AAA.
- Any A-Levels taken in Year 11 or earlier will not be accepted.
- Candidates can offer a single vocational A-level in Health and Social Care or IT, or a distinction in a single level 3 BTEC award or certificate, in combination with Biology and Chemistry A-levels.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.
- Undertaking the Extended Project Qualification will not be a condition of an offer, but the Medical School recognise that it will provide the candidate with the opportunity to develop research and academic skills that are relevant for the course.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** Overall total of 36 points for the Diploma. Candidates must have 6,6,5 in three Higher level subjects including Biology and Chemistry. Please note that the school will not accept English Language B as proof of English language ability to GCSE grade B standard, nor is Maths Studies accepted as proof of maths ability to GCSE grade B standard. These may be included as part of a candidate's IB course, but if they are, qualifications to GCSE grade B standard will also be requested.
- **Pre-U:** A pass with D3/D3 in Chemistry and Biology as Principal subjects, and a D3 in a third Principal subject or Global Perspectives.
- **Scottish Highers:** AAAAB at Higher level including Biology and Chemistry at grade A, taken in a single attempt in S5. AA in Advanced Higher level Biology and Chemistry, plus either an additional Higher at grade A taken in S6, or an additional Advanced Higher at grade B taken in S6.
- **Welsh Baccalaureate:** Typically grade B in the Core of the Advanced Diploma. Candidates will also need AA grades in A-level Biology and Chemistry and any third A-level subject at grade B (but not General Studies or Critical Thinking).

GCSE Requirements

- 8 GCSEs at grade A*-C or equivalent, or grades 4-9 in the reformed GCSEs.
- English Language and Maths at grade B or above, or reformed GCSE grade 6 or above (with a Pass in Spoken English), or equivalent.
- Applications will be given an academic score based upon the best 8 achieved grades at GCSE or equivalent as part of the interview selection procedure.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language accepted at grade B with the certified speaking and listening component and a score of at least 2.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** Applicants must take the UKCAT in the year of application. Applicants with a Situational Judgement Test band of 4 (i.e. the lowest band) will not be considered.
- An applicant's total UKCAT score, UKCAT Situational Judgement Test band and top 8 GCSE results will be assigned points and ranked as part of the interview selection procedure.

Personal Qualities

- There is no prescribed pre-application experience for applicants, but applicants should try to obtain a realistic understanding of the demands of medical training and practice. It would be useful to get some experience in a range of caring situations, observing or working alongside healthcare staff, in either a voluntary or paid capacity.
- It is advisable to explore both the positive and negative aspects of a medical career through talking to doctors and other healthcare professionals. It is expected that candidates demonstrate they understand, and are committed to, teamwork and the social context of healthcare.
- Although the Personal Statement is not formally scored, the Medical School may use the information as part of their selection decisions. Important points to address in the Personal Statement are:
 - Motivation for Medicine.
 - Realistic understanding of Medicine, including hands-on experience of caring and observing healthcare in a hospital and community settings.
 - Self-motivation and responsibility.
 - Written communication skills.
 - Interests, activities and achievements in addition to academic interests/strengths.
- Reflections on what a candidate has learned about themselves or the medical profession from their experiences are of particular interest.

Interview

- All applicants are ranked according to total UKCAT score (40 points), UKCAT Situational Judgement Test band (15 points), top 8 GCSE results (30 points) and contextual data (15 points). Around the top 600 candidates are invited to interview (out of approximately 1300 applications).
- Interviews will take place during December 2017 and January 2018.
- The Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) process is a carefully structured sequence of stations, which can take place in any order. In total, candidates will be assessed by seven different people during the interview process and will be assessed for a total of 45 minutes.
 - **A semi-structured interview:** (2 interviewers, 10 minutes). Up to three key questions and candidates may be asked to expand on responses. Each interviewer will score responses separately using a prescribed set of grade descriptors.
 - **A second, semi-structured personal interview:** (2 interviewers, 10 minutes). No more than three key questions, but candidates will be asked to expand their responses. Each interviewer will score responses separately using a prescribed set of grade descriptors.
 - **A 'Scenario Station':** (an actor and 2 assessor, 5 minutes). An actor will be present playing a character and the candidate will need to interact with that person as they would in real life. Selectors are looking for candidates to be themselves, and do and say what they would in real life. No medical or special knowledge will be tested.
 - **A group interview:** (20 minutes). The aim of this group activity is to allow a 'live' assessment of a candidate's ability to work effectively with peers. Scoring is based on a candidate's contribution using a prescribed set of grade descriptors, by an experienced problem-based learning tutor and one other trained assessor.
- During the whole MMI, observations and scoring will be focused in the following areas:
 - Ability to work collaboratively in a group.
 - How a candidate contributes relevant information to the group discussion.
 - How effectively and clearly they have articulated their own thoughts in a group setting.
 - Insight into a medical career.
 - An understanding of the values in the NHS Constitution.
 - Motivation for a medical career.
 - Awareness and understanding of current medical issues.
 - Communication skills.
 - Their understanding of and motivation for the course.
 - Personal qualities such as empathy, tolerance of ambiguity and resilience.
 - Ability to think critically.

Deferred Entry

- Applicants who have taken a gap year are welcome, because so many students find the extra experience beneficial. Applications can be made either before the gap year (for deferred entry), or during the gap year. Either way, applicants must still be able to attend an interview on one of the fixed dates between December and February.
- If a candidate decides to take a gap year, this should be mentioned in the UCAS Personal Statement, and include a very brief summary of what they hope to do or what they did during the year.

Resits and Reapplications

- Resits of GCSEs are accepted.
- Results obtained by resitting modules within the initial two year programme of post-16 education in order to achieve our typical grades are accepted.
- A-level exams should normally be completed within a two-year period of study, however applications are welcome from students who have achieved AAB at first sitting and are taking one additional year to achieve AAA.
- The Medical School does not normally consider applications from those who achieved lower than AAB and are re-sitting, unless there were extenuating circumstances at first sitting. The Medical School will consider documentary evidence of mitigating circumstances that occurred around the time of A-level exams and were reported to the school or exam board at the time. This must be submitted to us by 1 October in the year of application.
- If a candidate is unsuccessful first time around, the Medical School will accept a second application in a subsequent year. Reapplications are considered on an individual basis, and information from the first application may be used when the second is assessed. A third or subsequent application will not normally be considered.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- For candidates offering IB this admissions cycle, the Medical School does not accept English Language B as proof of English language ability to GCSE grade B standard, nor accept Maths Studies as proof of maths ability to GCSE grade B standard; previously, both these subjects were not accepted to GCSE grade A standard, which was required from IB candidates.
- Last year, the School's website stated that for 2018 entry, they are considering reintroducing the requirement for a fourth distinct subject post-16; if so, it is likely that an AS level, an EPQ or a Core Maths qualification would be accepted. However, this requirement does not appear to be reintroduced for this admissions cycle.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Hull York Medical School responded with comments and this report was subsequently updated as appropriate. They stated that their website www.hyms.ac.uk/undergraduate/before-you-apply/entry-requirements contains details of their entry requirements and they endeavour to make sure this is clear, transparent and up-to-date.

Imperial College London

Medicine MBBS and BSc (A100) - duration 6 years

- 322 places.
- Over 2400 applications each year (approximately 7 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- A*AA in Chemistry and Biology (one of which must be A*) and A in a third subject, expected to be achieved in a single sitting.
- General Studies and Critical Thinking are not accepted.
- Applicants are required to achieve a pass in the practical endorsement in all science subjects.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 38 points including 6 in Biology and 6 in Chemistry at Higher level. The minimum level of English language proficiency can be demonstrated by:
 - English A: Language and Literature at grade 4 at Higher or Standard level.
 - English A: Literature at grade 4 at Higher or Standard level.
 - English B at grade 5 at Higher level or 6 at Standard level.
- Imperial accepts a wide range of international qualifications. If an applicant offers academic qualifications other than those listed above, applicants must supply full details direct to the Admissions Team at medicine.ug.admissions@imperial.ac.uk.

GCSE Requirements

- No requirement.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language accepted (grade B or above).

Aptitude Test

- **BMAT:** All candidates applying must take the BMAT in the year of application. BMAT cut-off scores are calculated each year. As a guide, the minimum scores required for 2017 entry were:
 - A score of 4.5 in section 1.
 - A score of 4.6 in section 2.
 - A score of 2.5 and grade B in section 3.
- Invitations to an interview will be based on performance in all three sections of BMAT in addition to the content of the UCAS application.

Personal Qualities

- In addition to A-level or equivalent predicted (or achieved) grades and BMAT scores, the selection panel look at the following criteria when assessing applications:
 - Evidence of commitment to the values of the NHS constitution.
 - Motivation and understanding of medicine as a career.
 - Community activities.
 - Leadership and teamwork.
 - Extracurricular interests.
 - Referee's report.

Interview

- The medical school interview about 850 candidates; approximately 505 offers are made.
- The interview will last 15 minutes and will take place at the South Kensington Campus between November and March. Interviews for overseas candidates take place between January and April.
- Normally interview panels consist of a chairperson, two other members of the selection panel, a senior medical student and frequently a lay observer. Before your interview you will have a chance to take a tour of the South Kensington Campus organised by medical students.
- The interview is not intended to be an intimidating experience and staff will try to put candidates at ease while evaluating the following:
 - Motivation and realistic approach to medicine as a career.

- Capacity to deal with stressful situations.
- Evidence of commitment of the values of the NHS constitution.
- Evidence of working as both a leader and team member.
- Ability to multitask.
- Likely contribution to University life.
- Communication skills and maturity of character.

Deferred Entry

- Applications for deferred entry are welcome from school leavers who wish to take a gap year. Applicants must state in their UCAS Personal Statement how they propose to spend their time.
- Deferred entry applications from overseas applicants are not normally accepted.

Resits and Reapplications

- Resit examinations are not normally accepted as candidates are expected to achieve their qualifications in a single sitting. However, if a candidate plans to undertake resit examinations, please contact the Admissions Team by 20 September to determine whether the Medical School would accept their application.
- Candidates who are rejected cannot be reconsidered for entry within the same cycle but may reapply the following year (if they obtain the relevant qualifications at the first attempt) without prejudice to the new application.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- Last year (i.e. 2017 entry), both Biology and Chemistry became a compulsory requirement for A-level/IB whereas either was required in previous cycles.
- For 2018 entry, Imperial has specified that the A* in the typical A*AA A-level offer must be in Chemistry or Biology; this was not specified previously.
- For 2017 entry, A-level vocational subjects were not accepted; this has not been specified for 2018 entry.
- For candidates that offered IB for 2017 entry, grade 5 in English at Standard Level was required, but this is no longer specified.
- Pre-U and Scottish Highers entry requirements are no longer specified on their website and it is therefore not possible to monitor whether there are any changes to these requirements. Imperial advises applicants to contact the Admissions Team for entry requirements for these qualifications. For 2017 entry, these were:
 - Pre-U: Three Principal Subjects with grades D2, D3, D3 or higher including Biology and Chemistry (one of which must be D2); the third subject may have been an additional science or Mathematics. Those taking a combination of Pre-U and A-level subjects were advised to contact the Medicine Admissions Team for advice on grades to be achieved.
 - Scottish Highers: Applicants must have offered AAA in Advanced Highers or A-levels, including Chemistry and Biology and one science or mathematics subject and one additional subject at Scottish Higher or AS level.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Imperial responded with comments and this report was subsequently updated as appropriate.

Keele University

Medicine MBChB (A100) - duration 5 years

- 134 places for Home/EU students; international places available.
- Over 1,100 applications for 2017 entry (approximately 8 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- A*AA-AAA from three A-levels taken in a single sitting within a two year period, to include Chemistry or Biology and a second science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths/Statistics/Further Mathematics).
- If only two sciences are offered, the science subjects not offered at A-level are required at GCSE grade B (or 6) or above.
- General Studies, Critical Thinking and Applied A-levels are not accepted.
- Mathematics/Further Mathematics/Statistics are not accepted in combination.
- Any science A-level practical endorsement must be passed; without this endorsement the qualification will be judged to have been failed, regardless of the headline grade.
- Applications are accepted from students who have already achieved grades of A*AA including Chemistry or Biology and a second science. Students may apply with achieved grades of A*AA with only one science if they are currently taking a second science A-level; any offer will be conditional on achieving a minimum of A in the additional A-level.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** Diploma with at least 35 points from six academic subjects: 666 at Higher Level and 665 at Standard Level. Higher level subjects to include Chemistry or Biology, plus one from Chemistry, Biology, Physics or Mathematics and a third rigorous subject. Any science not taken at the Higher Level must be offered at Standard level grade 5 or GCSE grade B (or equivalent). Points awarded for the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge are not taken into account but these components must have been completed. English Language (Language A) at grade 6 is acceptable in lieu of GCSE English Language.
- **Pre-U:** In the Diploma, a minimum of P1 standard in all components, including Global Perspectives and Independent Research. Principal Subjects should be offered at grades of D3 M1 M1 or D2 M1 M2, with Chemistry required at a minimum of M2. A second science (Biology, Mathematics or Physics) and a third subject should also be offered, with no grades below M2. Scores for Pre-U short courses in modern languages will not be taken into consideration. Up to two A-levels may be substituted for Pre-U Principal Subjects. A-levels must be achieved at a minimum of grade A and the overall Principal grades should be equivalent to D2 A A or D3 A* A. The usual subject and combination exclusions apply to A-level components. The following combinations of subjects are not accepted: Biology and Sports Science; Mathematics and Further Mathematics.
- **Scottish Highers:** AB in Advanced Higher from two sciences sat in S6; any additional subject sat at Higher level in S6 must be achieved at grade B or higher. Minimum of AAAAB at Higher including Chemistry/Biology plus a second science both at A, to be achieved by the end of S5 (i.e. before applying). Minimum of five subjects at National 5 at grade A with minimum of B in Mathematics, English, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Any science subject not being offered at Higher or Advanced Higher level must have been passed at Standard/National 5 grade B/2.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** Students should offer six A1 or A2 grades at Higher Level, to include Biology or Chemistry plus two more of the following subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Agricultural Science, and Mathematics/Applied Mathematics. A minimum of five Grade As are required at Junior Certificate with English, Mathematics and all sciences offered at junior certificate level grade B as a minimum.
- **Welsh Baccalaureate:** An A grade pass is required in the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma and two full science A-levels at grade A*A taken at a single sitting. Chemistry or Biology is essential plus one subject from Chemistry, Biology, Physics or Mathematics/Further Mathematics/Statistics. GCSE requirements must also be met (see below).

GCSE Requirements

- Minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade A/7 with a minimum of grade B/6 in English Language, Mathematics and Biology, Chemistry and Physics or dual/triple-award science.
- Science/Core Science plus Additional Science is acceptable as an alternative to Biology, Chemistry and Physics. If Further Additional Science has been taken, this must also be passed at grade B. IGCSE double-award Science is also acceptable. Applied Science is not an acceptable GCSE.
- Short-course GCSEs are not accepted.
- Please note that Physics, as well as Biology and Chemistry, must have been passed at the required level, either as a standalone GCSE or as part of double/triple-award science.
- IB English Language (Language A) at grade 6 is acceptable in lieu of GCSE English Language.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language is accepted at grade B with a minimum of grade 2 in Paper 5 (optional speaking & listening component).

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants must take the UKCAT in the year of application.
- Applicants with total UKCAT scores in the lowest two deciles or with a Situational Judgement Test score in Band 4 will not be considered.
- As a guideline, the cut-off score for candidates taking the test for 2017 entry was 1,730 excluding the Decision Making subtest^{8a} and for 2016 entry was 2,330 including four subsets.
- UKCAT results are used in borderline cases.
- **BMAT:** All overseas applicants will be required to take BMAT in the year of application instead of the UKCAT. BMAT will be used instead of the Roles and Responsibilities form when ranking for interview.

Personal Qualities

- All UK/EU applicants will be required to submit the Roles and Responsibilities form before the deadline of 1st November 2017. This is the main means of initial assessment of non-academic achievements and aptitude for a career in medicine. Admissions tutors will assess the form using the following criteria:
 - Commitment to work experience, voluntary work or exposure to a caring role.
 - The value of the work you undertook.
 - The level of responsibility taken in any of the above roles.
 - An example of a situation where the applicant did something that had an important outcome for another person.
 - Any exceptional achievements or circumstances.
- There is space on the form for credit to be given for up to four roles and responsibilities. These can be paid or voluntary and do not have to be in the health sector. Credit may be given for caring for family members or friends if there is both a time commitment and depth of caring that goes above and beyond that which would be expected in normal family life. Although shadowing and observation may be useful in understanding the roles of a doctor, credit will not be given for it. Applicants also need to provide specific details of responsibility taken, give an example of something they have done which has been a real practical help to someone else and highlight any exceptional difficulties or circumstances they have had to overcome.
- The Personal Statement is important in the application and should address the following points:
 - Understanding of the role of a doctor.
 - Examples of regular hands-on caring work experience.
 - Depth of experience in a role involving personal interaction.
 - Reflection on what was learnt from these experiences.
 - Initiative/enterprise.
 - Ability to balance work and personal priorities.
 - Working in teams.
 - Communication (particularly outside your peer group).

Interview

- Approximately 500 applicants will be invited for an interview.
- Interviews are likely to take place during December-March.

- Interviews take the form of Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI), where candidates undertake a series of short interview stations. Each station lasts 5 minutes and the total time takes approximately an hour and a quarter.
- The stations will examine a range of skills and aptitudes. The format of stations may vary from a 1:1 traditional interview through to a role-play. The MMI assesses a range of attributes of applicants including:
 - Motivation/experiences informing your decision to pursue a medical career.
 - Empathy and insight.
 - Responsibilities and challenges of being a doctor.
 - Awareness of ethical issues in health and society.
 - Resilience.
 - Comprehension.
 - Effective communication.
- One of the stations will involve discussion of relevant experiences. The interviewer will ask questions on aspects of the Personal Statement.
- There is also a half hour numeracy skills assessment which will assess candidates' ability to perform clinically relevant calculations. Candidates will be expected to achieve a minimum score of 5/20 in this test to be considered for an offer.

Deferred Entry

- The School of Medicine is happy to consider applications from those who want to defer their entry. If applying for deferred entry, applicants would be expected to show on their UCAS form how they intend to spend the year. If applicants decide that they wish to defer entry after they have already submitted their UCAS form, they must write to the Medical School to indicate their change of intention, and at that stage they can outline their plans for the year. Requests to defer entry once examination results have been published would not usually be considered.

Resits and Reapplications

- Applications from applicants who are currently in the third or later year of study for A-levels, AS levels or other level-3 qualifications required for entry, will not normally be considered. If a candidate is resitting their A-levels, or has taken more than two years to complete them, they must apply after completion of these qualifications with the required achieved grades, i.e. they are not eligible to apply before the 2019 entry round. The Medical School will, however, consider a candidate who has already achieved the required grades but is taking additional subjects. For example, an applicant with achieved grades of A*AA but with only one science would be considered if currently taking an additional science A-level.
- Re-marks: When the A-level results are published in August 2018 the University will make a decision based on those grades. If students do not meet the academic terms of their offer and subsequently decide to appeal to the Examination Board for a re-mark, they must immediately advise the University of this in writing. The Admissions Policy states that the University may defer entry to 2019 for applicants who do not initially meet the terms of their offer, but who do so after a re-mark.
- If a candidate was unsuccessful at interview an application in the following year would not normally be considered. However, those applicants who did not reach the interview threshold may submit a further application. It is suggested that those reapplying review the content of their Roles and Responsibilities form before reapplying.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- For 2018 entry, typical A-level offers range from A*AA to AAA. For 2017 entry, the typical offer was A*AA.
- Candidates who offered Scottish Highers for 2017 entry required four subjects at Higher/Advanced Higher at AAAA including two science Advanced Highers. For 2018 entry, candidates must now offer five subjects at Higher at AAAAB in S5 plus AB in two science subjects at Advanced Higher in S6. In addition, candidates for this cycle are no longer required to offer Biology or Chemistry at Advanced Higher at grade A, which was specified for 2017 entry. Candidates can now offer Biology or Chemistry up to Higher at grade A.
- Overseas applicants are required to sit the BMAT but they no longer need to take the UKCAT for the 2018 cycle. For 2017 entry, overseas applicants were required to sit both aptitude tests.

Other Undergraduate Medicine Courses Provided

- Health Foundation Year for Medicine MBChB (A104) - duration 6 years.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Keele acknowledged receipt of this report but did not comment.

King's College London

Medicine MBBS (A100) - duration 6 years

- 410 places.
- Approximately 4500 applications each year (approximately 11 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- A*AA including Biology and Chemistry.
- Applicants taking linear A-levels are required to pass the practical endorsement in all science subjects.
- General Studies, Critical Thinking, Thinking Skills and Global Perspectives are not accepted. However, if offered the grade achieved may be taken into account when considering whether or not to accept a candidate who has just fallen short of the conditions of their offer.

AS Requirements

- No longer a requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** Pass the IB Diploma with a total of at least 35 points, with three Higher level subjects at 766 including Chemistry and Biology. The total point score of 35 includes Theory of Knowledge/Extended Essay. GCSE Grade B in both English and Mathematics are also required (if no GCSE is offered, passes are required at Standard level in English and Mathematics if not offered at Higher level).
- **Pre-U:** Three Principal Subjects at D2 D3 D3 including Chemistry and Biology. Grade B in both English and Mathematics also required. Combinations of Pre-U Principal Subjects and other qualifications (such as A-levels) are considered.
- **Scottish Highers:** AAA at Higher in one sitting and AA at Advanced Higher, including grade A in Chemistry and Biology (the Higher and Advanced Higher in the same subject are not counted). If only one of Chemistry or Biology is offered at Advanced Higher, the other must be taken at Higher grade A. English and Mathematics are required at National 5/Standard Credit grade 1 or 2/ Intermediate 2, with grade B if not offered at Higher.

GCSE Requirements

- Grade B in both English and Mathematics.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language is accepted at grade B with grade B (or equivalent) in all four components of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants are required to sit the UKCAT prior to applying.
- King's does not have a threshold UKCAT score. The overall UKCAT score averaged across the four subtests is given more consideration than the individual subtest scores. The Situational Judgement Test is also taken into account when shortlisting.
- The College considers examination performance and the UKCAT score are to be the most important factors for selection to interview.

Personal Qualities

- The following are very desirable:
 - **Scholastic activities:** Any scholastic activity would be considered, e.g. general reading, debating, theological interests etc.
 - **Community activities:** Applicants who have participated as fully as possible in school, college or community life, making the most of the opportunities available to them and also demonstrated some experience of society beyond their immediate environment. An applicant's interests, achievements and contribution to community are taken into account e.g. clubs, theatrical, religious etc.
 - **General:** Applicants who not only have interests but may have also achieved in these areas e.g. music, sport, first aid, etc.
 - **Work shadowing/observation:** The College would normally expect that applicants will have undertaken some voluntary work experience in a caring/health environment and/or

observation in a medical clinical setting. It is important for applicants to have a realistic appreciation of what a career as a health professional involves.

- **Paid or voluntary work:** Any voluntary contribution to community is taken into account, e.g. volunteer in a care home. The school looks for evidence that candidates have worked in a setting where you they interact with the general public.
- In the Personal Statement, the College are looking particularly for evidence of appropriate commitment to, and realistic appreciation of, the academic, physical and emotional demands of a medicine degree programme and career. The College would normally expect that prospective students will have undertaken some work experience in a caring environment and/or observation in a medical clinical setting. If this is not possible, there should be evidence that applicants have worked in a setting where you they interact with the general public, e.g. in a pharmacy, check-out or restaurant.
- Communication skills and the ability to work successfully in a team are of great importance. Selectors look for applicants who have participated as fully as possible in school or college life, making the most of the opportunities available to them and also demonstrated some experience of society beyond their immediate environment.
- The candidate's interests, achievements and contribution to their community are taken into account in addition to academic ability. The College aims to ensure that all students can cope with the heavy academic workload of the programme and display those professional qualities, skills and attitudes that help to make competent and caring medical professionals.
- It is expected that an application is strongly supported by the referee both in terms of academic achievements/potential and in terms of a student's character and suitability for medicine.

Interview

- No offers are made without an interview. Interviews are held between January and March.
- Around 1200-1400 applicants are selected for interview.
- The College uses Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) for selection. During MMIs candidates are asked to respond to questions relating to a scenario at a 'station' and then move onto the next station in a timed circuit.
- One of these station scenarios is designed to assess values and personality based attributes for example: kindness, compassion and empathy, respect for the individual, privacy and dignity, advocacy, decision-making, team working and integrity. Some scenarios are scientifically based and designed to assess information handling and evaluation skills, whilst others will assess knowledge on topical medical issues. Another station will assess the candidates' ability to deal with an ethical dilemma. Communication skills will be assessed at each station.
- A standardised interviewer assessment score sheet accompanies each station. Interviewers have no prior knowledge of candidates before they meet them at each station.
- The College are seeking to identify a prospective student's suitability for a clinical environment, so expect interviewees to adopt the dress code required of clinical medical students at King's.

Deferred Entry

- King's is happy to consider applicants who wish to take a year out to gain some specific experience, earn funds in preparation for your studies or generally broaden their interests. It is suggested that candidates apply in the final year of secondary or further education, indicating in their UCAS application that they will be deferring entry and outlining general plans in their Personal Statement. Candidates are also welcome to apply to King's towards the beginning of a gap year after completing qualifications.

Resits and Reapplications

- The Medical School will only accept resits where there have been significant mitigating circumstances affecting a first 'sitting'.
- If candidates have not met the terms of their offer, but are requesting a re-mark of one or more of their qualifications, they should inform the Medical School to confirm this as soon as possible. Wherever the College can, they will hold the place until 31 August, and candidates will be entitled to enrol on the programme if re-marks mean the offer conditions at met by this date. However, the Medical School may not be able to offer a place for direct entry even if a re-mark is received by 31 August - in which case they will generally offer a place for deferred entry in the next academic year. If candidates do not receive their re-marks until after 31 August, they should

contact the Medical School as soon as they can to discuss their options - the Medical School will still try to accommodate the candidate's offer if possible, and would normally offer a place for deferred entry if they are unable to enrol them this year.

- No information regarding reapplications.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- Applicants now need to offer both Biology *and* Chemistry at A-level, whereas previously only Biology *or* Chemistry was required and if only one is offered, the other must be taken at AS grade A. This might unfairly affect some applicants for the current cycle. However, last year the College informed us that this was very likely to change in the future and advised candidates to take both Chemistry and Biology to full A-level.
- In line with this, the IB and Scottish Highers requirements also have changed so that both Biology *and* Chemistry are required at the highest level:
 - IB: changed from three Higher level subjects including Chemistry *or* Biology (if only one is offered, the other must be taken at Standard level with 7), to include both Biology *and* Chemistry at Higher level.
 - Scottish Highers: changed from AA in Advanced Highers in Chemistry *or* Biology (if only one is offered at Advanced Higher, the other must be taken at Higher grade A), to include both Biology *and* Chemistry at Advanced Higher.
- King's College London has increased the grades required for 2018 entry:
 - A-level: from AAA to A*AA.
 - IB: from 666 to 766 at Higher level.
 - Pre-U: from D3 D3 D3 to D2 D3 D3.
 - Scottish Highers: from AA in Advanced Highers and AAAAB in 5 Highers to AA in Advanced Highers and AAA at Higher (the Higher and Advanced Higher in the same subject are not counted).
- A-level Thinking Skills and Global Perspectives are not accepted for 2018 entry; this was not specified previously.
- In response to A-level reforms, AS is no longer a requirement. The medical school previously asked for a fourth AS at grade B and if one of Chemistry or Biology is offered at A-level, the other must be taken at AS at grade A.
- For 2018 entry, GCSE grade B in English and Mathematics are required. This differs slightly compared to the previous cycle when it was specified that this was required *only if* these subjects were not offered at A/AS level.
- Scottish Highers: It is now specified that AAA at Higher must be obtained in one sitting, whereas the one sitting requirement was not specified previously.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language is accepted at grade B for 2018 entry and this was the case for previous cycles; however, the previous year's report incorrectly stated grade A was required for 2017 entry. There has been no change to the minimum acceptable grade.

Other Undergraduate Medicine Courses Provided

- Extended Medical Degree Programme MBBS (A101) - duration 6 years.
Open for students who are studying A-levels or Access to Medicine at a non-selective state school in Greater London, or who are participants of Realising Opportunities across England.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- No response.

Lancaster University

Medicine and Surgery MBChB (A100) - duration 5 years

- 69 places in 2018: 65 Home/EU and 4 international.
- 603 applicants for 2017 entry (approximately 11 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- Offers will take into consideration the mix of reformed and unreformed A-levels taken and whether or not applicants have had the opportunity to take a 4th AS subject or EPQ:
 - A*AA-AAA including Chemistry and Biology taken at one sitting.
 - AAA including Chemistry and Biology taken at one sitting after 2 years of study, plus a 4th subject at grade B at AS level.
- General Studies, Critical Thinking and native language A-levels are only considered as the 4th AS.
- Only one of Mathematics or Further Mathematics will be considered.

AS Requirements

- Grade B if a fourth AS is taken.
- An EPQ is accepted in place of a fourth AS level.
- General Studies, Critical Thinking and native languages A-Levels are only considered as the 4th AS.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 36 points overall with a minimum of 6 points in three Higher level subjects including Biology and Chemistry, plus a minimum of 5 points in three Standard level subjects.
- **Scottish Highers:** AAAAB minimum in Highers including Biology and Chemistry, both at grade A, plus three other subjects, taken at one sitting after one year of study. AA in Advanced Highers including Biology and Chemistry. Standard Grade (Credit), Intermediate 2 or National 5: at least 7 subjects attained in S4 including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Language, Mathematics, plus two other subjects; required grades are 1 or 2 for Standard grade Credit, A or B for Intermediate 2, A or B for National 5.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** Not considered. Applicants must supplement this with appropriate advanced secondary education. For further information, please contact the Admissions Office.

GCSE Requirements

- Minimum score of 15 points from 9 subjects attained by Year 11 (A or A* = 2 points; B = 1 point).
- At least grade B in Biology, Chemistry and Physics (or Core & Additional Science), English Language, and Mathematics. All other subjects must be at least grade C.
- Two points is the maximum score awarded in each subject area: E.g. only one of Mathematics and Further Mathematics considered; Dual Award GCSEs (with the exception of Dual Award Science) are awarded a maximum of 2 points. Short courses will be awarded, at most, half the points of a full GCSE.
- Applicants with 12-14 points at GCSE may be considered if, at the time of application, they have already achieved AAA in Biology, Chemistry and a third subject at A2 level at a single sitting (plus a 4th subject to at least AS level, grade B or above) or A*AA with no 4th subject.
- For non-UK applicants offering English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language, this is accepted at grade B but applicants must also demonstrate proficiency in English through either IELTS or the Pearson PTE Academic qualification to be eligible.

Aptitude Test

- **BMAT:** All applicants must sit the BMAT in either September or November; but applicants are only permitted to take BMAT once per admissions cycle.
- Applicants will be ranked according to their BMAT score and the top-scoring applicants' Personal Statement will be checked to ensure they meet the non-academic requirements. Therefore, to be invited for interview, applicants must have a competitive BMAT score.
- As a guideline, for 2017 entry, applicants invited to interview scored between 10.5-17.6 and averaged 12.0 (scores were combined for Sections 1, 2 and 3 and the quality of English score was not used).

Personal Qualities

- Lancaster want to recruit students who are:
 - Thoughtful, caring and compassionate.
 - Motivated and conscientious.
 - Insightful and reflective.
 - Respectful and understanding towards others.
 - Committed to making a difference to the health and wellbeing of their patients.
 - Able to work effectively with their peers.
 - Academically able.
- In the Personal Statement, students should demonstrate suitable evidence of the following:
 - Relevant work experience: what has an applicant done to establish that medicine is the right career path? This does not necessarily mean shadowing a doctor but any experience within a healthcare setting where applicants can gain an insight into the realities of modern healthcare and their own ability to work with and care for vulnerable people.
 - Insight into a medical career and the applicant's own suitability, drawn from their work (and voluntary) experience: what has an applicant learned about being a doctor and about you're their suitability for a medical career from your work and voluntary experiences?
 - Insight into a medical career: what has an applicant learned about being a doctor and about their own suitability for a medical career from their work and voluntary experiences?
 - An understanding of the NHS constitution and core values: what does the applicant know about the values that should underpin everything the NHS does? What have they learned from your work and voluntary experiences that could illustrate why these values are important? What experiences could they discuss to demonstrate that they share these values?
 - A commitment to society: when have students given up your time for the benefit of others? This might include examples of voluntary work or significant caring roles. Candidates should provide details of the level of commitment demanded by these roles, the skills developed and their relevance to a medical career.
 - Effective written communication skills: a coherent, well-structured Personal Statement that conveys a real impression of the prospective student.

Interview

- Applicants who meet the academic entry requirements, have a competitive BMAT score and demonstrate that they fulfil our non-academic entry requirements in their Personal Statement are called for interview.
- No applicant will be offered a place without being interviewed in person.
- The interview will usually be held in January and February. The aim is to give two weeks' notice and shortlisted applicants will be sent detailed information prior to their interview.
- Interviews will be in the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) format: The MMI consists of 12-14 different 'stations', most of which will be 5 minutes long. Some stations will consist of a short interview, where candidates may be asked questions about their career choice, work experience or suitability for a medical career. At others, candidates may be asked to read a short paragraph or watch a short video clip, take some notes and then discuss at a subsequent station. An additional 20 minute station will involve group work and will assess candidates' suitability for Lancaster's problem-based learning curriculum.
- The applicant's performance at each station is assessed by trained interviewers, against clearly defined criteria. Interviewers include members of University staff, NHS clinicians, local GPs, patients and public representative, and current medical students. Applicants are given a score for their performance at that station. Applicants are ranked according to their overall MMI score and those with the highest score will be made an offer.

Deferred Entry

- Applications for deferred entry are welcome.

Resits and Reapplications

- Lancaster will consider applications from applicants who have taken 3 years to achieve the required grades at A-level, if the applicant otherwise meets the GCSE criteria and the non-

academic entry requirements. This includes those who have retaken Year 12, resat their A-levels or taken additional subjects at A-level after year 13. In the absence of mitigating circumstances, candidates must have achieved AAB or ABB in your A-levels at the first attempt. Otherwise, all AS and A2-level qualifications must be grade C or above, regardless of mitigating circumstances.

- Applicants who do not acknowledge and reflect on their individual circumstances (need to re-take year 12, need to resit A-levels etc.) in their Personal Statement will not be considered.
- Similar criteria apply to applicants who have failed to achieve the required grades in the International Baccalaureate or Scottish qualifications at the first attempt. Such applicants may apply if they are resitting (or resitting components of) these qualifications.
- Applicants who have taken longer than 3 years to achieve the required grades will not be considered.
- In general, reapplications from applicants who applied in a previous admissions cycle and were unsuccessful after interview are not considered. Applicants who were rejected prior to interview in a previous admissions cycle can reapply if they can demonstrate additional evidence of their potential. For instance, an applicant who has sought additional relevant work experience in the intervening period and reflected well on these experiences in an updated Personal Statement.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- None.

Other Undergraduate Medicine Courses Provided

- Foundation Year for Medicine and Surgery Cert HE (A900) - duration 1 year

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Lancaster responded with comments and this report was subsequently updated as appropriate.

University of Leeds

Medicine and Surgery MBChB (A100) - duration 5 years

- 237 places: 218 Home/EU and 19 international.
- 2137 applications for 2017 entry (approximately 9 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Chemistry.
- General Studies and Critical Thinking are welcome, but do not typically form part of the offer.
- Chemistry with Biology and Human Biology is not an acceptable combination.
- Chemistry with Mathematics and Further Mathematics is not an acceptable combination.
- Those taking a fourth A2 subject will not be at an advantage to those taking three. A* is not considered to be higher than A, e.g. A*A*B is not an acceptable alternative to AAA.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.
- Leeds strongly encourage applicants to declare any cashed in AS results as they take a broad view of the information available in the UCAS application form and use all the information provided as part of the decision making process. A-level students who no longer sit AS level will not be disadvantaged in the decision-making process.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 35 points overall, including 6 in 3 subjects at Higher level, one of which must be Chemistry. Two subjects from Biology, Mathematics and Physics must also be offered at Higher or Standard level if not offered at GCSE. English must be offered with a mark of at least 5 at Standard level if not offered at GCSE.
- **Pre-U:** Distinction (D3) in three Principal Subjects, one of which must be Chemistry.
- **Scottish Highers:** AAAAB at Higher, including Biology, and AB at Advanced Higher, including A in Chemistry.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** 6 subjects at H1, including Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics.

GCSE Requirements

- Minimum of 6 A*-B or (9-6) including English Language, Mathematics and Dual/Double Science or Science and Additional Science or Chemistry and Biology.
- The University has agreed the following GCSE grade equivalencies using the numerical grading scale: A* = 8 or 9, A = 7, B = 6, C = 4.
- Applicants offering English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language must indicate they are taking this syllabus; they will be required to provide further evidence of ability in speaking and listening in English by taking the International Language Test (IELTS). Applicants who offer syllabus 0500 with no additional proof of speaking and listening in English will not be considered.

Aptitude Test

- **BMAT:** All applicants must sit the BMAT in either September or November in the year they are applying. The result from first sitting only will be accepted
- There is no pre-determined cut-off threshold. The total score will be compared with those of other applicants. Those in the top 20% will receive the full mark available for this part of their application and those in the bottom 20% will receive the lowest mark available.
- The BMAT score will be initially weighted in the same proportion of the weight given to academic scoring (roughly 15%) and half that given to the Personal Statement.

Personal Qualities

- **Insight into a Career in Medicine:** Applicants should demonstrate that they have considered the reasons for choosing medicine and have taken steps to investigate a medical degree and career. They should ideally be able to report some experience of hospital or community-based medical practice and what they have gained from this experience. If attempts to gain work experience have been unsuccessful, there should be some reference to this contained within the application. Experiences could include working in a care home, pharmacy etc. Other sources of information

that have helped inform the applicant about their decision to study medicine should also be discussed e.g. journals, courses. Additional academic achievements such as the Extended Project Qualification will also be taken into account.

- **Social and Cultural Awareness:** It is useful for applicants to have some experience (not necessarily medical) of society beyond their immediate environment, preferably over a period of several months. This can be gained through work experience, voluntary work, part-time employment and organised community schemes.
- **Responsibility:** Candidates should demonstrate through paid employment, within school, and through family or leisure activities is desirable.
- **Interests, Activities, and Achievements:** Applicants should pursue non-academic interests whilst still meeting the necessary academic requirements. Successful applicants should have verifiable evidence of such achievements in more than one area, for example through sports, performing arts or community service.

Interview

- After assessment of academic performance, BMAT score and non-academic criteria, the top-ranked applicants are invited to interview.
- Approximately 550 candidates are expected to be invited to interview.
- Each applicant will participate in a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) process which consists of 8 different stations. Each station will last 7 minutes with 1 minute to move between stations and read the next task.
- The format of the stations varies. Some stations will ask you to discuss information on the UCAS form. Most stations involve discussion with the examiner or may require you to write down some information or to interact with an actor who will be playing a role. The skills that will be assessed will include ethical reasoning, self-evaluation, communication skills and problem solving. At one station applicants are asked to take part in a discussion based around their BMAT Section 3 essay.
- At the end of each station the examiners award marks according to a predetermined standardised scale. After the completion of all 8 stations a ranked score will be calculated.

Deferred Entry

- The School of Medicine will accept applications for deferred entry and welcome applications from applicants who are intending to undertake a gap year. Applicants are encouraged to make use of the Personal Statement section of the UCAS application form to explain their reasons for taking a gap year. Applicants who wish to defer following the submission of their application may be required to do so prior to the confirmation of a place.
- Applicants may normally apply for deferred entry for one academic year only. If an applicant wishes to defer again, they must reapply and contact the Academic School.

Resits and Reapplications

- Applications from applicants resitting exams are only likely to be successful in exceptional circumstances. Well supported contemporaneous documentary evidence of any extenuating circumstances is required.
- Applications will not normally be considered from those undertaking a third attempt at an academic entry qualification.
- Reapplications from those that have achieved the required grades at first attempt will be assessed in competition with all the other applications.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- None.
- However, for 2018 entry, the Medical school now specifies that applicants offering English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language must indicate this and they will be required to provide further evidence of ability in speaking and listening by taking the International Language Test (IELTS). Applicants who offer this syllabus with no additional proof of speaking and listening in English will not be considered.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Leeds responded to the draft report and confirmed that the above information is correct.

University of Leicester

Medicine MBChB (A100) - duration 5 years

- 259 places: 242 Home/EU and 17 international.
- 2125 graduate applications for 2017 entry (approximately 9 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Chemistry and Biology (or Human Biology) to at least AS (fourth AS not required if Biology taken at A-level).
- Mathematics and Further Mathematics count as one subject.
- General Studies and Critical Thinking are not accepted.
- Foreign language A-levels or equivalent only accepted if the candidate is not a native or home speaker of that language. Candidates with foreign language A-levels or equivalent will be asked to declare whether or not they are a native speaker.

AS Requirements

- If Biology is not offered at A-level, Biology (or Human Biology) is required at AS. At the time of writing this report no grade is specified on the website; for 2017 entry, Leicester informed us last year that a grade B is expected.
- Leicester does not currently insist on a fourth AS or EPQ, although in some situations e.g. a tie-break pre- or post-interview, or a “near miss” on results day, this may act in a candidate’s favour.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** Pass Diploma with 36 points overall (not including core or bonus points), including three Higher level subjects (including Chemistry and Biology) and three Standard level subjects. Each subject must be passed with a minimum of 6 points. Bonus points are not considered.
- **Pre-U:** D3, D3, D3 in Principal Subjects including Chemistry and Biology.
- **Scottish Highers:** Advanced Highers considered either alone or in a combination with A-levels. AAA to include Chemistry and Biology. Scottish Highers are not considered.
- **Welsh Baccalaureate:** Grade A in lieu of a third A-level accepted, though Chemistry and Biology A-levels at AA are still required.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** Four subjects at H1 including Chemistry and Biology with a further two subjects at H2 or, under the old grading, AAAAAB at Higher level, including A1A1 in Chemistry and Biology, achieved in a single sitting.
- **BTEC:** A single Level 3 BTEC Subsidiary Diploma or National Award will be considered, in combination with Biology and Chemistry A-levels (AA).

GCSE Requirements

- At least grade B in English Language, Mathematics, and two sciences (Biology and Chemistry or Double Science), achieved at first sitting.
- For most applicants, the top 8 GCSE qualifications are scored out of 32 and combined with the UKCAT score. The GCSE scoring is as follows: A* = 4, A = 3, B = 1 and C = 0.
- There is no minimum number of A* grades at GCSE. However, GCSE performance is taken into consideration when selecting applicants for interview, as competition for places is so intense.
- Leicester equates alphabetical grades with numerical grades as follows: A*=8, A=7, B=5, C=4.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants are required to take the UKCAT in the year of application.
- There is no cut-off score, but the total UKCAT score is used in selection for interview. However, applications with band 4 in the Situational Judgement Test will automatically be rejected pre-interview.
- Points will be awarded out of 32 for the total UKCAT score and combined with the applicant’s academic score out of 32 (i.e. academic and UKCAT scores are weighted equally), giving a maximum possible score of 64 points overall. Combined scores are ranked and will determine whether an applicant is invited for interview.

Personal Qualities

- Although not routinely read, the Personal Statement may be assessed in some situations and so should be clear and concise outlining ambitions and experiences, and how they have shaped personal development.
- In borderline candidates or tie-break situations these sections may also be used to generate a combined score out of 10, giving a total score for Personal Qualities. Where appropriate, the Personal Qualities score will be added to the academic and UKCAT score in order to determine the final ranking and selection for interview. Attributes considered will be:
 - Motivation.
 - Commitment.
 - Appreciation of challenges of a medical career.
 - Work experience.
 - Extracurricular activities.
 - Contribution to school/college life.
 - Contribution to wider community.
 - Written communication skills.
 - Support from teachers/staff.
 - Confirmation of some aspects of Personal Statement in reference.
- Medical work experience is not essential but candidates should be able to demonstrate that they have undertaken some kind of work where they were able to communicate with the public. Work experience in an appropriate environment (e.g. in a hospital, with a GP, in a residential home etc.) is desirable but the difficulty in obtaining this type of work experience is acknowledged and other work experience involving working with people is acceptable.

Interview

- All applications will be ranked using the combined score for academic achievement and UKCAT. The highest ranked applicants will be invited for interview. The lowest ranked applicants will not be considered further.
- Approximately 900 UK/EU applicants and 40 international applicants will be interviewed and approximately 550 offered made.
- Interviews are scheduled to take place between December and February.
- Interviews will be held in a Multiple Mini-Interview (MMI) style and comprise 8-9 stations (manned and unmanned) which will assess:
 - Verbal communication.
 - Written communication.
 - Listening.
 - Compassion, respect and dignity.
 - Emotional intelligence.
 - Problem solving.
 - Motivation.
 - Ethical Judgement.
- The UKCAT Situational Judgement Test score may be used as a virtual interview station.
- Each station will be scored and each candidate will be ranked on the basis of those scores. Where two or more applicants are equally ranked, their UCAS form score may be used as a tie-breaker.

Deferred Entry

- Deferred entries are considered.

Resits and Reapplications

- AS module re-sits within the two years are acceptable.
- Resitting the whole of AS level year or A2 levels will not be considered, unless these applicants have already contacted the Medical School about significant mitigating circumstances and been given permission to apply.
- If an applicant has previously held a conditional firm offer and is now repeating A-levels because of major mitigating circumstances a reapplication may be considered, although the recommendation in this case will often be to take an Honours Degree and then apply as a graduate.

- Applicants who have applied to Leicester once before may be considered and scored as usual on their second application providing they have achieved or predicted A-levels, IB or equivalent, and have not been interviewed. Subsequent applications will not be considered without further qualification at degree level.
- Applicants who have been rejected following interview will only be considered in a subsequent application if their interview score was no more than 10% below the level required for an offer in the year that they applied.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- The minimum GCSE grades required in English Language, Mathematics, and two sciences (Biology and Chemistry or Double Science) have increased from grade C to grade B for this admissions cycle.
- Applications with band 4 in the Situational Judgement Test are now automatically rejected pre-interview; previously applicants with band 4 were considered but fully scrutinised prior to and, if appropriate, following interview.

Other Undergraduate Medicine Courses Provided

- Medicine with Foundation Year MBChB (A199) - duration 6 years.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Leicester responded to the draft report and confirmed that the above information is correct.

University of Liverpool

Medicine and Surgery MBChB (A100) - duration 5 years

- 303 places.
- Typically in excess of 3000 applicants (approximately 8 applicants per place).

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Biology and Chemistry and a third academic subject, taken in one sitting after two years of study.
- For applicants from England: where a science has been taken at A-level (Chemistry, Biology or Physics), a pass in the Science practical of each subject will be required.
- General Studies and Critical Thinking not considered.
- BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma is not acceptable in lieu of A-levels.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 36 points overall including at least 6 a in Biology, Chemistry and one other subject at Higher level, plus 3 further subjects at Standard level, minimum of 5 points each.
- **Pre-U:** D3, D3, M1 acceptable in Principal Subjects with D3 in both Biology and Chemistry. M2 usually acceptable for Global Perspectives and Independent Research report. Up to two A-levels at A grade may be substituted for Principal Subjects.
- **Scottish Highers:** Minimum of AAAAB in Highers taken at one sitting after 1 year of study comprising Biology (A) and Chemistry (A), and Advanced Highers in Biology (A) and Chemistry (A). Minimum of National 5 (Intermediate 2) in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Language, Mathematics, and at least two others attained by the end of S4.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** Six Higher level subjects must be offered at a single sitting (HI in all six subjects) including English Language, Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Mathematics. If an applicant can offer GCSEs at a minimum of B grade in English Language, Mathematics and Physics (or their equivalent) these subjects may not be required at Higher level. However, six higher level subjects to include Biology and Chemistry will be required.
- **Welsh Baccalaureate:** Not acceptable as third A-level.

GCSE Requirements

- 9 GCSEs attained by the end of Year 11 and at least a score of 15 points or better (where A*/A = 2; B = 1) from the nine. Must include Core and Additional Science (or Biology, Chemistry, and Physics), English Language, and Mathematics (all at least grade B).
- For GCSEs awarded a score; 6 is equivalent to a B grade and 7 to an A grade.
- Two points is the maximum score awarded in each subject area (e.g. only one of Maths and Further Maths will be considered and 2 points at most will be available for Dual Award GCSEs except for Dual Science for which up to 4 points may be awarded). Short course GCSEs will at most receive half the points of a full GCSE but two short courses can be offered in place of a full GCSE.
- Preference may be given to applicants with a higher GCSE score if borderline decisions need to be made.
- English IGCSE 0500 is considered.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All non-graduate applicants are required to take the UKCAT.
- It is expected that applicants who achieve Band 4 in the Situational Judgement Test will not reach the next stage and of the remainder only those applicants who meet /exceed the minimum academic criteria and who offer the most competitive overall UKCAT scores will have their applications proceed to the next stage.
- Liverpool used the UKCAT for the first time in the 2016 entry; a competitive score was considered to be 2500 or greater for Home/EU applicants. The UKCAT threshold is determined each year on a competitive basis and thus the range of UKCAT scores suggested can only be

considered as indicative. The Medical School has written to us warning that this score of 2500 is misleading to applicants given the additional student numbers that are to be recruited in the next admissions cycle and that this year's UKCAT test is based on different subsets to the 2016 test^{8a}.

Personal Qualities

- Applicants demonstrating the most academic potential are then assessed against the non-academic criteria. Candidates must demonstrate they meet the criteria and provide suitable evidence of:
 - Healthcare career awareness and insight.
 - Caring for the community.
 - A critical, coherent, and informative approach to written communication.
 - The values that embody and underpin good healthcare practice.
- No formal work experience is specified but applicants will need to address the non-academic criteria and include the demonstration of healthcare career awareness/insight, a caring contribution to the community, a critical, coherent and informative approach to communication and the values that embody and underpin good healthcare practice.

Interview

- Candidates who are considered competitive on both the academic and non-academic criteria will be invited to interview between January-February. No candidate will be made an offer without interview.
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to take part in a fully structured interview in the format of a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI).
- Awaiting approval for 2018, the structure of the interview and the assessment criteria used are likely to be knowledge of modern medical practise, medical ethics, and teamwork, together with the non-academic criteria as previously stated. The numeracy of the applicants will be assessed together with written communication skills.
- The overall interview scores are ranked, and the top-scoring applicants are made an offer.

Deferred Entry

- Deferred entry can be requested for Home/EU applicants. Applications for deferred entry for international places will not be considered.

Resits and Reapplications

- Applications from candidates resitting advance level examinations may be considered if the applicant otherwise meets the GCSE criteria. They usually must have achieved a minimum of CCC at first sitting. Resit applicants are usually expected to complete their A2 studies within three years.
- Applicants must acknowledge and reflect on their need to resit in the Personal Statement. Any mitigating circumstances should be noted in the Personal Statement and as appropriate in the academic reference.
- If an offer is made, resit applicants might expect it to be higher than the typical offer (e.g. minimum of A*AA at A-level).
- Applicants who have spread their A-levels over a three year period (e.g. by retaking an AS year) are required to reflect on their decision/need to do this. Such applicants will usually be considered to be resit applicants.
- If an applicant fails to achieve a place they may only make one further consecutive application. The applicant will be expected to demonstrate that additional evidence of potential has been gained in the intervening period. It is therefore expected that any individual in this situation will not submit an identical Personal Statement to that submitted previously.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- None.

Other Undergraduate Medicine Courses Provided

- Foundation to Health and Veterinary Studies (Year 0) (Medicine Pathway) (789S) - duration 1 year.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Liverpool responded with comments and this report was subsequently amended as appropriate.

The University of Manchester

Medicine MBChB (A106) - duration 5 years

- 372 places: 344 Home/EU and 28 international.
- 2000 applications (approximately 5 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- AAA in Chemistry or Biology/Human Biology, a second science (one from Chemistry; Biology or Human Biology; Physics; Mathematics or Further Mathematics) and one further subject.
- Although welcome, Critical Thinking, Citizenship, EPQ, Key Skills or General Studies will not form part of an offer (they will however be considered in lieu of a fourth AS level).
- Combinations of very similar subjects, for example, Biology and Human Biology or Mathematics and Further Mathematics together, are not acceptable.
- Two AS levels in place of one A2-level will not be accepted.
- Where the science offered includes a practical element, the practical element must also be passed.
- A-level exams should be taken at the same sitting, after no more than two years of study. If following an advanced curriculum when there examinations are taken over three years, consideration for an offer will be at the discretion of the admissions tutor.

AS Requirements

- Manchester would normally expect at least four subjects to be offered at AS level where these are available at an applicant's school or college.
- For applicants whose school/college will only allow three AS subjects to be taken, their school/college should confirm this policy in their referee's statement.
- Applicants who are unable to offer a fourth subject at AS level should contact the Medical School for further information. Applicants are normally be expected to offer evidence of another qualification or, with our prior agreement, may offer further study or an extracurricular activity for the purpose of showing a commitment to a balanced programme of study.
- Any of the following qualifications would be considered in lieu of a fourth AS level (although they will not form part of the formal A-level offer): General Studies, Citizenship, Critical Thinking, EPQ, Key Skills (e.g. ASDN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness), Level 3 BTEC, music examinations (grade 6 and above), Vocational Certificate of Education (AVCE), National Citizen Service (NCS), Duke of Edinburgh Award and any other qualifications listed in the UCAS tariff tables.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 37 points overall to include core points with at least 766 at Higher level including Chemistry or Biology, plus another science (one from Chemistry, Biology, Physics or Mathematics) and one further rigorous academic subject at Higher level. If Mathematics and English Language are not offered as part of the Diploma, they should be offered at GCSE or IGCSE at grade B or above.
- **Pre-U:** Principal Subjects are accepted in place of A-levels. D3 equates to grade A at A-level. The same subject specifications as A-level apply.
- **Scottish Highers:** 4 Highers at grades AAAA by the end of S5 achieved in the same sitting at first attempt. English Language and any science subject (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry or Biology) not taken at Higher/Advanced Higher must have been achieved at National 5, Intermediate 2 or Standard Grade Credit level grade 2 or above. In addition, AA in Advanced Highers by the end of S6 in one of the following combinations:
 - Three Advanced Highers including Chemistry or Biology; a second science (from Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology, or Physics); plus one other rigorous academic subject.
 - Two Advanced Highers including Chemistry or Biology plus one other science, and one new Higher at grade A in a rigorous academic subject.
 - Two Advanced Highers, plus one A2 level subject at grade A (subjects as above).
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** Three Higher Level subjects at grade H1 (to include Chemistry or Biology and second science) and three Higher Level subjects at grade H2. Subjects must also include Mathematics and English Language.
- **Welsh Baccalaureate:** Pass in the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate with two A-levels or equivalent including one of Chemistry/Biology/Human Biology and another science (Chemistry, Biology, Human Biology, Physics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics) at grade AA.

GCSE Requirements

- At least five GCSEs at grade A or A* including English Language, Mathematics and at least two science subjects at grade B. If Dual Award Science or Core and Additional Science are offered, the minimum required is BB.
- Due to the phased introduction of GCSE reform in England, the Medical School will accept a mixture of GCSE grading scales: A* = 8, A = 7, B = 6, C = 4.
- GCSE short courses not accepted; however, Level 2 BTEC qualifications are acceptable (at distinction grade or above) in lieu of one GCSE.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language at grade B is accepted from UK/EU candidates.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants must take the UKCAT in the year of application.
- It is not possible to calculate the UKCAT threshold until all applications have been received and processed. As a guide, applicants invited for interview scored ≥ 2660 (70th percentile) in the 2015/16 admissions cycle and ≥ 1960 (64th percentile) which excludes the Decision Making subset^{8a} in the 2016/17 admissions cycle.

Personal Qualities

- Manchester requires voluntary caring work experience that does not need to be in a clinical setting. Shadowing doctors in a hospital/GP setting is not essential or considered to be a substitute for voluntary caring work experience.
- Manchester do not usually read the UCAS Personal Statement but ask applicants to complete their online Non-Academic Information Form. The form will request brief details about the following areas:
 - **Experience in a caring role:** Hands-on caring experience that may or may not be medically-related. The applicant should explain how they got involved in such work, how much time spent doing it and what has been gained from it.
 - **Hobbies and interests:** Applicants should elaborate on why they have pursued them and how much time they devote to them.
 - **Team working:** Applicants should demonstrate that they have this experience and are knowledgeable about the advantages of a team approach to work and other activities.
 - **Motivation for medicine:** Reasons for choosing to study medicine should be well explained including personal experiences that have influenced this decision.
- Under some circumstances, Personal Statements are read where it is deemed necessary. Applicants should be aware that information provided in the non-academic information form and/or the Personal Statement may be used as the basis for further discussion during any subsequent interview.
- From the UCAS form, Manchester look for information on the following areas:
 - Reasons for choosing/changing to medicine.
 - Amount of work experience in a caring role.
 - Knowledge/experience of the UK healthcare system.
 - Interests/hobbies.
 - Examples of when you have worked in a team.
 - Communication skills.
 - Determination.
 - Conscientiousness.
 - Intellectual potential.

Interview

- Interviews will be held in early 2018.
- The aim of the interview is to explore the non-academic criteria, as well as to encourage applicants to talk naturally about themselves, their studies and experiences, and demonstrate interpersonal skills to be able to communicate effectively and show that they are a well-rounded individual.
- The interview will adopt a seven-station multiple mini interview (MMI) format, with each station having an interviewer. Each station will be seven minutes long and there will be a two-minute gap between stations. In the two-minute gap, candidates will be provided with some information about the next station so that they can begin to prepare their thoughts.

- The following areas are assessed in the interview:
 - **Ability to communicate:** Candidates are expected to be able to express their ideas clearly and coherently and follow a reasoned argument. Candidates who give spontaneous yet well-thought-out answers to questions are more likely to impress the interviewers than those who give obviously rehearsed and 'coached' responses.
 - **Why do you want to be a doctor?** Specific evidence of the experiences that have influenced a candidate's decision will be requested.
 - **Previous caring experience:** Candidates have the opportunity to relate not only the facts and details of their experiences, but also their emotional responses and what they have gained from them.
 - **Matters of a medical interest:** Interviewers will expect candidates to have an intelligent layperson's view on contemporary aspects of medicine, particularly those of current media interest.
 - **Ethical and other issues:** Interviewers are interested in how coherently applicants can express ethical dilemmas facing medical practitioners.

Deferred Entry

- The Medical School considers applicants who are either on a gap year or wish to take one before they join the course and expect the time in the gap year to be used constructively to gain more work experience, either paid or unpaid. Gap year applicants are considered in the same way as applicants applying straight from sixth form.
- Applicants applying with achieved qualifications must explain in their Personal Statement what they are doing during the gap year.

Resits and Reapplications

- **Resits:** GCSE resits are accepted; resit applicants must explain the circumstances that prompted this.
- Manchester will only consider A-level resit applications for applicants with very serious mitigating circumstances). To be considered, applicants would have had to achieve AAB in their previous A2 examinations, with exams taken at the same sitting after no more than two years of study. The A2 subjects previously achieved at AAB should include Chemistry or Biology and a second science.
- Resit applicants are required to submit evidence of their mitigation to be considered in advance of submitting an application. They must acknowledge and reflect on the need to resit in their Personal Statement, as this forms a key part of the assessment process. Information on any mitigating circumstances with supporting evidence from school/college must be provided.
- Such applicants will also be required to re-take UKCAT and shortlisted candidates will be required to attend an interview.
- Manchester would normally require resit applicants to achieve A*AA in their final aggregated results with A* achieved in the subject retaken.
- **Reapplications:** If an applicant has applied to Manchester before, any subsequent application should provide updated information on their suitability for the course. If they were rejected before interview, a reapplication may be considered, however they must contact the Admissions Office before completing the UCAS form.
- Manchester would normally reconsider applicants who were rejected by them after interview the previous year. Re-applicants are required to continue with their work experience and the School would also expect to see a material difference in their application from the previous year.
- If a place was offered and the candidate either declined the offer or was unable to meet any of the non-academic conditions for the specified year of entry, then entry to a subsequent year will not be considered.
- All re-applicants must retake UKCAT and provide updated information that refers to the initial application and chronicles subsequent events.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- Chemistry is no longer required at the highest level and Biology can now be offered at the highest level instead. Previously, Chemistry and another science were required at full A-level, IB Higher Level, Scottish Advanced Higher or full A-level in the Welsh Baccalaureate. For 2018 entry, candidates must now offer Chemistry or Biology/Human Biology, plus another science at the highest level.

- For 2017 entry, Applied A-levels were not accepted but this has not been specified for 2018 entry.
- For 2018 entry, EPQ is considered in lieu of a fourth AS level but was not considered for 2017 entry.
- Requirements for Pre-U have now been specified, whereas these were not specified previously.
- Previously, candidates offering the Irish Leaving Certificate could only apply for to the Medicine 6 year Foundation MBChB course (A104). For this admissions cycle, candidates offering this qualification are free to apply to the main Medicine course (A106).
- In addition to Advanced Highers, Candidates offering Scottish qualifications must offer 4 Highers at grades AAAA; previously AAAAB at Higher was required.
- For 2018 entry, IB Standard level requirements have not been specified. Previously, the requirement was a minimum of 555 and any science not offered at Higher level must be taken at Standard level or at GCSE.
- Previously, candidates required at least seven subjects at grade C or above, but this requirement is no longer specified for this admissions cycle (at least five GCSEs at A or A* is still required).
- At GCSE, at least two science subjects are mandatory at GCSE grade B. Previously, if Dual Award Science or Core and Additional Science were offered, the minimum required was BB but Physics and Biology were required at minimum grade C (or at AS).
- Previously, Applied GCSE Maths courses, Applied ICT and Applied Business were not accepted; for 2018 entry, this has not been specified. GCSE short courses are still not accepted, whereas Level 2 BTEC qualifications are acceptable (at distinction grade or above) in lieu of one GCSE.

Other Undergraduate Medicine Courses Provided

- Medicine including Foundation Year MBChB (A104) - duration 6 years.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- No response.

Newcastle University

Medicine and Surgery MBBS (A100) - duration 5 years

- 318 places.
- 2584 applications for 2016 entry (approximately 8 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Chemistry and/or Biology at A or AS level.
- For Biology, Chemistry and Physics, pass is required in the practical element.
- If only one of Biology and/or Chemistry is offered at A or AS level, the other should be offered at GCSE grade A or 7 (or Dual Award Science grade A or 7).
- Excludes General Studies and Critical Thinking.
- Once the academic criteria has been met, academic achievement is not considered further in subsequent parts of the application process, e.g. additional A-levels or A* results or additional GCSE results are not considered.
- Applicants are normally expected to have achieved their A-levels on their first attempt.

AS Requirements

- See A-level requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** Minimum of 38 points including grade 5 in all subjects with Higher level grade 6 in Chemistry or Biology. Combinations including two Sciences, Mathematics and English are desirable.
- **Pre-U:** D3, D3, D3 in Principal Subjects. Subjects should include Chemistry and/or Biology. If only one of Biology and/or Chemistry is offered, the other should be offered at GCSE grade A or 7 (or Dual Award Science grade A or 7).
- **Scottish Highers:** AAAAA at Higher Grade including Chemistry and/or Biology. If only one of Chemistry or Biology is offered at Higher level, then the other should be offered at National 5, minimum grade A (or grade 1 Standard grade or Intermediate 2 equivalent). Scottish qualifications can be taken in more than one sitting.
- **Irish leaving Certificate:** H1 H1 H1 H2 H2 H2 at Higher Level, including Chemistry and Biology. Physics and English Language required at Ordinary Level, if not offered at Higher Level.

GCSE Requirements

- Biology and/or Chemistry (or Dual Award) at grade A or 7 if not offered at A/AS level.
- Additional GCSE results are not considered.
- Newcastle University equates alphabetical grades with numerical grades as follows: A*=8, A=7, B=6, C=4.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language is accepted at grade C.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants are required to take the UKCAT in their year of application.
- A threshold score will be used to identify those invited to interview. The threshold may differ in each admissions cycle as it is dependent on the scores achieved by those applicants who apply to the Medical School in the current cycle. For reference, the UKCAT threshold for interview was 2730 for 2016 entry (national average 2570).
- The Situational Judgement Test information will not be used in the admission process.

Personal Qualities

- In addition to meeting the entry requirements all applications must show sustained academic endeavour within the 3 years prior to registering on the programme. (Continuous professional development (CPD) courses are not normally considered as academic endeavour).
- At Newcastle, emphasis is on applicants being able to show a commitment to caring which can be accomplished in a number of ways. For example, volunteering in an elderly care home, volunteering in a hospice, volunteering in a nursery, helping someone less fortunate.

- The Medical School advise that applicants should not be put off from applying if they do not have this work experience as there are many ways to demonstrate commitment and being a caring individual.

Interview

- Approximately 850 prospective students will be invited for interview.
- Interviews will take place between December and February.
- The purpose of the interview is to confirm whether the candidate has the aptitude, motivation and personal qualities to succeed as a medical student and as a potential doctor of the future.
- All interviews will take the form of Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI) where applicants will have the opportunity to demonstrate in a series of short interviews or practical tasks, each with a different selector, that they have the personal qualities to succeed as a medical student and future doctor.
- Grades will be awarded based on the following areas:
 - Integrity (honesty and probity)
 - Communication
 - Empathy and self-awareness
 - Motivation and commitment to be a doctor
 - Compatibility with MBBS programme
 - Teamwork (including leadership)
 - Personal organisation
 - Persistence and resilience
- These categories will be assessed with role play, interview questions or task driven exercises.
- Performance in the MMI will be the sole basis on which the selectors will make their judgement. These grades will be used as the basis for the decision making process for offers. Prior to and during an interview our selectors will not have access to the applicant Personal Statement or reference.

Deferred Entry

- Newcastle will consider applications from candidates who wish to defer entry by one year provided that they can demonstrate plans to use their time constructively. Any further additional deferral requests will require evidence of extenuating circumstances. Once offers have been made, deferrals will not normally be granted.

Resits and Reapplications

- All applicants are expected to have achieved their A-levels on their first attempt. Those who wish resits to be considered must complete an Extenuating Circumstances form and sufficient supporting evidence must be provided from the applicant's school or GP.
- Re-marks: Applicants who hold an offer and are appealing an A-level grade must inform the University as soon as possible. If an applicant requests a re-mark and achieves the offer grades before 31st August, the University will endeavour to admit them to the programme for the academic year they applied. If the programme is full a place will be guaranteed for deferred entry one year later. If results of re-marks are received after 31st August, a place for deferred entry may be offered but there is no guarantee. Applicants who receive a re-mark after the 31st August and are not offered a deferred place would be welcome to reapply in the following admissions cycle.
- Applicants reapplying will need to sit the UKCAT again.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- For candidates taking Scottish Highers, if only one of Chemistry or Biology is offered at Higher level, then the other should be offered at National 5, minimum grade A (or grade 1 Standard grade or Intermediate 2 equivalent). Last year this requirement was not specified.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Newcastle responded to the draft report and is satisfied with the above information.

University of Nottingham

Medicine BMBS and BMedSci (A100) - duration 5 years

- 231 places: 206 Home/EU and 25 international.
- Approximately 2500 applications (approximately 11 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Biology (or Human Biology) and Chemistry.
- A pass in practical assessments where assessed separately.
- General Studies, Critical Thinking, Citizenship Studies, and Global Perspectives are not accepted.
- A-levels must be taken within a two year period.
- A fourth A-level will not benefit an application.

AS Requirements

- AS level grades are not taken into consideration when assessing applications.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 36 points with 666 at Higher level including Biology and Chemistry, excluding core component.
- **Scottish Highers:** AA in Biology and Chemistry at Advanced Highers plus AAABB achieved at Highers. The Medical would also ask to see National 5 results.
- The Medical School also accepts a broad range of qualifications including Pre-U, Irish Leaving Certificate and Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma. This list is not exhaustive; applicants with other qualifications are considered on an individual basis. Please contact the school to discuss the suitability of the qualification.

GCSE Requirements

- At least six GCSEs at grade A or 7 including Chemistry, Physics and Biology or Double Science (Applied Science is not accepted). Grade B or 5 in English Language and Mathematics.
- Nottingham treats GCSEs graded numerically as GCSE grade A=7, B=5, C=4.
- Applied science is not an acceptable GCSE.
- GCSE/IGCSE applicants will have their highest 8 subjects scored (first sit results only) where A* = 2 points, A (7) = 1 point and B (5) = 0 points. The academic and UKCAT scores are totalled and the top percentage of applicants will progress to having their Personal Statement and reference read.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** Candidates must take the UKCAT during the same year as the application is made.
- The five components to the UKCAT will be scored; the scoring system is yet to be updated for 2018/19. Applicants who achieve a Band 4 in the Situational Judgement Test component are not considered further.

Personal Qualities

- The academic and UKCAT scores are totalled and the top percentage of applicants will have their Personal Statement read. A maximum of 16 points are awarded for the Personal Statement. This score will be added to previous assessment scores and applicants with the highest overall scores will be invited for interview.
- From the Personal Statement, assessors want to understand:
 - Motivation to want a career in medicine using voluntary/work experience to explain this.
 - Any work or voluntary experience and what has been learnt, particularly in terms of the patients/residents, and how the experiences made the applicant feel.
 - Any paid employment.
 - Any experiencing speaking to doctors and their opinion of the profession.
 - Non-academic achievements - for example music/drama, or other achievements.
 - Hobbies away from school.
 - Skills that are being developed - leadership/team working/time-management/communication etc.

- Nottingham expects candidates to have undergone some form of medical work or voluntary experience to enable them to understand the profession they are entering. Work experience should include:
 - At least speaking to your GP to understand the positives and negatives of a career in medicine, if you are unable to obtain work experience
 - Experience in a more caring setting such as a hospice, care home, club, society or similar. This will allow you to observe more long-term interactions between people and the skills required in the roles. If you are working in a care home or hospice, consider the patient's position and their requirements and needs and how these may be met by carers.
- It is highly unlikely that students without the appropriate experience will be offered a place.

Interview

- Interviews are expected to take place from December through March.
- Around 1,000 of 2,500 applicants are shortlisted for interview.
- Interviews take the format of Multiple Mini-Interviews (MMIs) and comprise of eight stations. Candidates will move around the stations, having two minutes to read the instructions outside the stations and five minutes in each station. The MMI interview will last approximately one hour.
- Two of the eight stations will involve role play and the other six stations will involve answering questions based on the instructions or scenarios that are provided outside the station.
- The interview is designed to assess the personal qualities essential for the practice of medicine. Candidates are expected to have good communication and listening skills, an understanding of professional issues such as teamwork and respect for the contribution of those working in professions allied to medicine.

Deferred Entry

- Applicants who are either on a gap year or wish to take one before they join the course are considered and will not be at a disadvantage. During gap years, the medical School would expect time to be used constructively to gain more work experience, to spend some time travelling or working. Applicants should detail their plans for their gap year in their UCAS Personal Statement.
- An applicant wishing to defer application, after an application has been submitted, should inform the Admissions Manager by June at the latest.

Resits and Reapplications

- If studying modular A-levels, one module resit is accepted in each subject during the two year period.
- An application where one or more subjects took three years to complete is not considered.
- For those who have previously applied but were not offered an interview, the Medical School will consider a further application and treat the new application as if it was the first and score it in the same way.
- Those previously interviewed but did not receive an offer are not able to reapply.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- There is no requirement for AS levels. Previously, if candidates were taking a fourth AS, an A or B pass was required and a grade A at AS level Physics could compensate for achieving grade B at GCSE.
- A-level General Studies, Critical Thinking, Citizenship Studies, and Global Perspectives are not accepted; the latter two subjects were not specified as unacceptable in the previous admissions cycle.
- Candidates offering Scottish Highers are required to achieve AAABB at Highers as opposed to AAAAB previously. For the previous admissions cycle, Highers were to include the sciences, Maths and English Language, with A grade passes in Biology and Chemistry; for 2018 entry, compulsory Higher subjects were not stated on their course webpages.
- It is not possible to comment on changes to Pre-U, Irish Leaving Certificate or Welsh Baccalaureate as entry requirements for these qualifications no longer feature on the course webpages. The Medical School states that they accept these qualifications and applicants are considered on an individual basis; they advise such applicants to contact them to discuss the suitability of the qualification. For reference, the entry requirements for 2017 entry were:
 - Pre-U: Offers were made on the basis of D3 being achieved in Biology and Chemistry.

- Irish Leaving Certificate: AAAAB passes were required including Biology and Chemistry at grade A.
- Welsh Baccalaureate: AAA was required including Biology and Chemistry. If the Welsh Baccalaureate Core was taken this could make up the third A grade. Otherwise the third A grade is accepted in any subject excluding General Studies or Critical Thinking.

Other Undergraduate Medicine Courses Provided

- Medicine with a Foundation Year BMBS and BMedSci (A108) - duration 6 years.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- No response.

University of Oxford

Medicine BMCh (A100) - duration 6 years

- 156 places for 2018 entry.
- 1547 applications in 2016 (approximately 11 applications per place).
- 3-year average (2014-16): 29% interviewed, 10% successful, 150 intake.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age by 1st November in the year they start the course.

A-level Requirements

- A*AA including Chemistry and at least one of Biology, Physics or Mathematics, taken in one academic year.
- Applicants are expected to have taken and passed any practical component if it forms any part of the A-level taken.
- General Studies and Critical Thinking are not accepted.
- No distinction is made between Biology and Human Biology. Maths and Further Maths are considered as two separate A-levels.
- The subject in which the A* is to be achieved is not specified in a standard offer
- For an applicant offering four subjects, the third subject is not specified and 4 A grade offers are not made in a standard offer.
- If the applicant has already achieved grade A at A-level in one or more subjects, the offer will be revised accordingly, but the candidate should still be required to achieve Grades A*AA in one academic year.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 39 (including core points) with 766 at Higher level in Chemistry and at least one from Biology, Physics or Mathematics.
- **Pre-U:** D2 D3 D3 in three Principal Subjects taken in one academic year. Chemistry (compulsory) and at least one from Biology, Physics and Mathematics. One Principal Subject may take the place of an A-level with D2 equating to A* grade and D3 equating to A grade.
- **Scottish Highers:** AA in Advanced Highers taken in one academic year, including Chemistry and at least one from Biology, Physics or Mathematics. AAAAA in Highers taken in one academic year.
- **Welsh Baccalaureate:** Applicants taking the Advanced Diploma are expected to have studied three subjects at A-level as part of their qualification. Offers are conditional on achievement in the A-levels within the qualification rather than the overall Baccalaureate award.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** Minimum of H1H1H2H2H2H2 (or AAAAB1B1 obtained prior to 2017) at Higher level; a strong academic track record would be expected in Chemistry (compulsory), plus at least one of Biology, Physics or Mathematics.
- **European Baccalaureate:** Average of 85% or more, with marks of 8 to 9 required in Chemistry and at least one from Biology, Physics or Mathematics. Applicants are recommended take one of the practical science courses (Physics, Chemistry or Biology) as a complementary subject.

GCSE Requirements

- There is no cut-off. Applicants should have a broad range in both science and art subjects and should have top results, that is mostly A*s for the application to be competitive. On average, applicants hold around 80% of GCSEs grades at A* and have 8.5 A* grades.
- Shortlisting is based on GCSE performance and BMAT result (which carry the same weight). A slightly weaker performance at GCSE may be compensated for by a very good BMAT score, and vice-versa.
- The GCSE parameter used is a combination of number of A* grades and proportion of A* grades (in equal weighting) of all GCSEs achieved (not including short courses). GCSE performance will be considered within the context of the school at which the GCSEs have been sat (using government data on the percentage of pupils obtaining 5 or more GCSEs at grade A*-C).
- GCSE numerical grading will be converted into relevant alphabetical equivalents as provided by Ofqual, enabling the existing shortlisting algorithm to be applied.

- English IGCSE 0500 is not accepted as a First Language.

Aptitude Test

- **BMAT:** All applicants are required to sit the BMAT in the year of application in the November sitting only; BMAT results from the September sitting will not be accepted.
- Shortlisting is based on GCSE performance and BMAT result (which carry the same weight).
- There is no official cut-off. As rough guide, the typical average applicant should be working towards a 6 (a 7 is still fairly rare) in sections 1 or 2; do note that sections 1 and 2 receive greater weighting (40% each) than section 3 (20%). In calculating the section 3 score, double weight was ascribed to the 'Quality of content' score and single weight given to the 'Quality of English' score (with A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2, E=1, and X=0).

Personal Qualities

- All colleges use a common set of selection criteria that relate to academic potential and suitability for medicine. When writing the Personal Statement, applicants should bear in mind that tutors select students using these criteria.
- **Suitability for medicine:**
 - Empathy: ability and willingness to imagine the feelings of others and understand the reasons for the views of others.
 - Motivation: a reasonably well-informed and strong desire to practise medicine.
 - Communication: ability to make knowledge and ideas clear using language appropriate to the audience.
 - Honesty and integrity.
 - Ethical awareness.
 - Ability to work with others.
 - Capacity for sustained and intense work.
 - Alignment of individual values and behaviours with the values of the NHS Constitution.
- **Academic Potential:**
 - Problem-solving: critical thinking, analytical approach.
 - Intellectual curiosity: keenness to understand the reason for observations; depth; tendency to look for meaning; enthusiasm and curiosity in science.
 - Communication skills: willingness and ability to express clearly and effectively; ability to listen; compatibility with tutorial format.
- Applicants are free to make reference to skills or experience acquired in any context to illustrate how they might fulfil the selection criteria; sometimes candidates refer to voluntary work and other extracurricular activities, but many forms of evidence can help demonstrate to tutors that a candidate has made an informed decision regarding their own suitability to study Medicine.
- Although the Personal Statement is not formally scored, it is likely to provide a focus for the questions that are asked at interview.

Interview

- Interviews take place in December.
- Around 425 applicants are invited for interview each year (about 30% of the cohort applying to the course, although this varies according to the size of the field in any given year).
- The initial shortlist is based on a numerical ranking on the basis of GCSE performance and BMAT results (both quantitative and objective measures and equally weighted). If applicants have not taken GCSEs or IGCSEs the ranking is based on BMAT score alone.
- All applicants who do not make the initial shortlist are then reviewed in detail, taking into account any individual circumstances that might indicate that GCSE and BMAT performance is likely to underestimate their potential. As a result of this process around 40 additional applicants are added to the shortlist.
- Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed at two colleges: where possible, one will be the applicant's college of choice (or allocation, if an open application was made), the second will be allocated randomly.
- Candidates will be asked to be in Oxford for approximately 26 hours. The first afternoon and the night will be spent at one college, and then candidates will move to the other college for the next morning.

- The number and format of interviews at each college may vary but the selection criteria (suitability for medicine and academic potential, see above) are common to all colleges. The interviews will be conducted by at least two academics at each college and by at least one practising clinician.

Deferred Entry

- All colleges will consider applications for deferred entry for Medicine. Applicants should be aware that successful applications for deferred entry will generally be among the strongest of the cohort for their subject. It is also possible that deferred entry applicants may be offered a non-deferred place instead. Tutors will naturally wish to satisfy themselves that a gap year will be used wisely and constructively before making an offer of a deferred place. Candidates may of course also apply post A-level (during the gap year). This has the advantage that colleges will know that applicants have already achieved A*AA at A-level.

Resits and Reapplications

- Oxford require students to demonstrate that they can cope with the workload of taking three full A-levels (or equivalent) in one academic year and achieve good grades. Nevertheless, it is recognised that students sometimes fail to achieve their potential on first attempt at school because of extreme circumstances beyond their control. Examples would include disruption caused by change of school or system, severe discontinuity of teachers, bereavement and one-off debilitating illness. Under these sorts of extenuating circumstances an applicant resitting A-levels might be considered. Each application is treated individually and tutors would always take such mitigating circumstances into account, if they are brought to their attention: a clear note should be made of these circumstances in the school reference.
- If a student is unsuccessful, they are welcome to reapply. A second attempt will be considered as an entirely separate application.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- None for 2018 entry, except candidates must be at least 18 years of age by 1st November in the year they start the course; no age restriction was specified previously.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Oxford responded with comments and this report was subsequently amended as appropriate. Oxford has since confirmed that the information above is accurate.

Plymouth University

Medicine BMBS (A100) - duration 5 years

- 101 places: 95 Home/EU and 6 international.
- 867 applications in 2016 (approximately 10 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- Typical offer of A*AA-AAA including Chemistry and Biology.
- General Studies is not included within any offer.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** Typically 38-36 points overall including 6 in Higher level Biology and Chemistry.
- **Pre-U:** Typically D3, D3, M1 including Chemistry and Biology at D3. Applicants will be required to pass the Global Perspectives and Independent Research element at a minimum of M3.
- **Scottish Highers:** Typically AAA Advanced Highers including Chemistry and Biology.
- **Welsh Baccalaureate:** Typically a pass in the Advanced Diploma, plus grades A*A-AA in Chemistry and Biology. General Studies at A/AS level is not included within any offer.

GCSE Requirements

- Seven GCSE passes at grades A-C/9-4 which must include English Language, Mathematics and Single and Additional Science or Double Award Science or two sciences including Biology, Chemistry or Physics.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language accepted at grade A (a supplementary statement confirming inclusion of the Speaking and Listening components will be required).

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All UK and EU applicants must take the UKCAT; the UKCAT score is valid for one year only. International applicants that meet the equivalent admissions criteria for home students do not need to sit the UKCAT.
- Test results will be used, alongside the academic information contained on the UCAS form to select direct school leavers for interview.
- Applicants will be required to meet a minimum overall target score which is set and reviewed annually. As a guideline, thresholds for the last few years have been between 2560 and 2671; the threshold for 2016 entry was 2610. For 2017 entry, the threshold was 1870 due to the exclusion of the Decision Making section subset score^{8a}.

Personal Qualities

- Plymouth place great value on the following qualities and look for applicants to demonstrate these at interview:
 - Integrity.
 - Veracity and honesty.
 - Flexibility.
 - Motivation and commitment.
 - Pro-social attitudes: empathy and being non-judgmental.
 - Communication skills, including listening.
 - Potential for leadership.
 - Insight into what it is to be a doctor.
 - Ability to be a team player.
 - Ability to deal with stress appropriately.
 - Problem solving skills.
 - Students who know their limitations, their strengths and weaknesses.
 - Reflectiveness.
 - Students who demonstrate a suitable approach to life and people.

Interview

- The interviews follow a structured and formal process in order to ensure that every student is asked the same questions and receives the same prompts. It is not a test of medical or scientific knowledge, but aims to explore your attitudes, outlook and way of thinking.
- On the day of interview, candidates will be given three alternative scenarios to consider, each of which centres upon a contemporary ethical issue. One of these should be selected as the basis for the interview.
- The interview should take approximately 20 minutes. The interview panel is made up of clinicians, the public and patients. The interview process is patient and public inclusive.

Deferred Entry

- Students who wish to defer their entry are welcomed. However, applicants must indicate this when applying.

Resits and Reapplications

- Applications from resit applicants are welcome providing a minimum attainment has been achieved at the first attempt. A-level candidates need to have achieved AAB for medicine.
- Unsuccessful applicants are welcome to reapply and would not be disadvantaged.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- Last year we reported that in addition to requiring Chemistry, Biology became a compulsory requirement at A-level for 2017 entry. In accordance with the information on the Medical School's website last year, we also reported that, for Scottish qualifications, if Biology was not offered at Advanced Highers then it was required at Higher level; for Welsh Baccalaureate, if Biology was not studied at A-level, then it was required at AS. This year Plymouth have informed us that this is incorrect and the requirement for both Biology and Chemistry at the highest level was actually introduced for *all* qualification combinations for 2017, (i.e. both Biology *and* Chemistry at Advanced Highers for Scottish qualifications and at A-level for the Welsh Baccalaureate were introduced for 2017 admission cycle, not this cycle). Last year's outdated webpage might have also led to confusion amongst prospective students.
- Pre-U: Previously, D3 D3 M1 including Chemistry at D3 and Biology at M1 was required; for 2018 entry, the grade required for Biology has increased to D3.
- Although not a change, it might be worth noting that Plymouth have confirmed that GCSE Double Award Science is and has been previously accepted but was not published on their website, Prospectus and Selection and Admissions Technical Manual. However, Plymouth states that this is likely to be updated in their 2017/18 Technical Manual and website shortly.
- Previously, if neither GCSE Single and Additional science nor Double Award Science was offered, then candidates should offer both GCSE Biology and Chemistry; however, for 2018 entry, candidates can now offer two sciences from Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Plymouth responded with comments and this report was subsequently amended as appropriate. Plymouth has since confirmed that they agree the information above.

Queen Mary, University of London

Medicine MBBS (A100) - duration 5 years

- Up to 306 places: 276 Home/EU and up to 30 international.
- 2564 applications for 2017 entry (approximately 9 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Chemistry or Biology and another Science or Mathematics (Chemistry, Biology, Physics, or Maths).
- Must be achieved in one sitting over no longer than a 2 year period.
- A pass in the practical element of science A-levels is also required.
- Critical Thinking and General Studies are not accepted.
- If A-level Maths and Further Maths are offered in the same sitting, Further Maths is acceptable at AS level only.
- For candidates offering four A-levels, two science and two non-science subjects, our normal offer is AAAC (A grades required in two science subjects, one of which must be Biology or Chemistry) if all four subjects are pursued to A2 level and no AS levels have been cashed in.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 38 points in total with 6 points at Higher level from three subjects including Chemistry or Biology and one other science or mathematical subject. Three subjects required at Standard Level including Chemistry or Biology if not offered at Higher level. If English is not offered as part of the diploma, it must be offered at GCSE, at grade B or above or acceptable equivalent.
- **Pre-U:** Full Diploma with grades of D3 or higher in three subjects including Biology and/or Chemistry. If either Chemistry or Biology is offered alone, a second science subject is required. An additional Short Course in any subject is required at grade M2. If taking a combination of Pre-U and A-level subjects, candidates should contact the Medicine Admissions Team for advice on the grades they will be required to achieve.
- **Scottish Highers:** Three Scottish Highers at AAA including Biology and Chemistry and Advanced Highers at AA in two of the subjects offered at Scottish Highers, including Chemistry and/or Biology. English Language at Standard Grade 2 or higher is required.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** A1 A1 A1 A2 B1 B1 or H1 H1 H1 H2 H2 H2 at Higher level including A1 or H1 in Chemistry and Biology.

GCSE Requirements

- Grades AAABBB (777666 for GCSEs taken from 2015) or above (in any order) to include Biology (or Human Biology), Chemistry, English Language and Mathematics (or Additional Mathematics or Statistics). The Science Double Award may substitute all sciences at GCSE.
- Queen Mary equates alphabetical grades with numerical grades as follows: A*=9/8, A=7, B=6/5, C=4.
- English IGCSE 0500 accepted as a First Language at grade B.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All candidates must undertake the UKCAT in the year of application. The overall score will be used in selection for interview in conjunction with academic performance. Applicants will be ranked according to a 50:50 weighting applied to the UKCAT score and UCAS tariff points.
- Applicants who obtained a total UKCAT score below the third decile will not be offered an interview. As a guide, the third decile in 2016 was 1731 with 3 subtests (excluding the Decision Making subset^{8a}), and 2331 in 2015 with 4 subtests.
- Indicative UKCAT scores (excluding the Decision Making subset^{8a} and in combination with UCAS tariff scores) of candidates who were successful at gaining an interview in the 2017 admissions cycle are:
 - Low tariff supported by a high UKCAT score of 2290.
 - Mid-range tariff supported by UKCAT score of 1870-2240.

- High tariff supported by a low UKCAT score of 1760.
- The top and bottom UKCAT scores, for school leavers that received offers for interview for 2017 entry were 2,620 and 1,760 excluding the Decision Making subset^{8a}.
- The Situational Judgement Test section score may form part of the assessment at the interview.

Personal Qualities

- Personal statements and references are not weighted or scored but provide the Admissions Team with evidence that applicants satisfy the main entry requirements.
- Personal statements should provide evidence of commitment to, and realistic appreciation of, the academic, physical and emotional demands of a medical or dental course and career. It is expected that applicants will not merely be applying because they are 'good at science', or under family or peer pressure. Exceptional academic achievement does not guarantee success in the application process. Applicants may be closely questioned at interview on their Personal Statement and must ensure that it is an honest reflection of their strengths and interests.
- In addition to academic ability, selectors will consider interests and talents and the contribution applicants could make to their School. They will also bear in mind the applicant's suitability as a future member of the medical profession. Good communication skills and the ability to work as a part of a team are essential strengths for a doctor.
- Selectors strongly recommend that candidates have explored what a career in Medicine entails and this includes some work experience. The interview may explore candidates' understanding of the realities of a career in Medicine. The Medical School recognises the challenges of obtaining work experience and a period of volunteering in a caring role can be equally as valuable.

Interview

- Queen Mary aims to interview approximately 800 on the basis of UKCAT (50% weighting) and predicted UCAS tariff (50% weighting). Candidates will be expected to have achieved or be predicted a UCAS tariff of 144 or more from the main scoring academic acceptable criteria.
- Interviews will take place between January and March and last for 15 to 20 minutes.
- The interview panel usually consists of two members of senior clinical or non-clinical staff and a current student. Some panels may also have a lay observer.
- The interview is used to assess the applicant's determination, communication skills, team work skills and personality, and gives applicants a chance to meet the people involved with the course. To assess awareness of the realities of medicine, candidates are usually asked about their personal experiences gained through work experience or voluntary work.
- The interview is not intended to be an intimidating experience and staff will try to put candidates at ease while evaluating the following:
 - Motivation and realistic approach to medicine as a career.
 - Show initiative, resilience and maturity.
 - Work well as part of a team.
 - Be well organised and demonstrate problem solving abilities.
 - Likely contribution to University life.
 - Communicate effectively in a wide range of situation.
- Candidates will be asked to be prepared to discuss a case scenario or topical issue, which will be sent to them in advance. There are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers.
- The Personal Statement does not form part of the assessment to reach interview and is there to support the candidate during the interview process. The Personal Statement does not form part of the scoring at interview, however, in addition to academic ability, interviewers will consider an applicant's interests, talents, and contribution they make to the Medical School. They will also bear in mind an applicant's suitability as a future member of the medical profession and look for applicants who have participated as fully as possible in school or college life, and who have also contributed in some way to the outside community - and so will take into account all achievements in both academic and other activities.

Deferred Entry

- Applications for deferred entry requested through UCAS by the 15 October deadline will be accepted and applicants assessed in the cycle in which they apply. Applicants who apply by the UCAS deadline but do not request deferred entry until after application will be considered on a case by case basis.

Resits and Reapplications

- Applicants are expected to achieve the required A/AS level results over the normal two year period (for example, year 12 and 13). Within this period, students can resit modules within qualifications without prejudice to their application.
- Applicants who retake the AS and A-level year will only be considered if they have serious extenuating circumstances protected under the Equality Act 2010 (Disability, gender reassignment, or pregnancy/maternity). Applicants must apply in writing with all the evidence to the Head of Admissions (Medicine and Dentistry) by 1 September for a decision to be reached prior to the 15 October application deadline. Late applications may be considered but a decision may not be reached by the 15 October. Other serious extenuating circumstances will not be considered.
- Unsuccessful candidates can reapply the following year provided they obtain the relevant qualifications at the first attempt) without prejudice to the new application.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- None.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- No response.

Queen's University Belfast

Medicine MBBCh BAO (A100) - duration 5 years

In addition, to the entrance requirements stated on their website, the Medical School advise that applicants read their guidance notes 'How we choose our students' prior to submitting their application; the information relates to 2017 entry but will be updated for 2018 entry as soon as possible. Some information provided here is based on these guidance notes and therefore is not confirmed for 2018; this has been indicated in italics.

- 262 places in 2016. 26 international places for 2018 entry.

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Chemistry plus at least one from Biology/Human Biology, Mathematics or Physics.
- A in a fourth AS level/EPQ is also required. Where a school does not offer these, a lower grade in a fourth A-level will be acceptable.
- A pass in the practical element of the reformed Science A-levels.
- A maximum of either one Applied A-level or one Applied AS will be counted.
- Only one Mathematics subject will be counted at A-level (the other would be acceptable as the fourth AS level).
- A-level Critical Thinking and General Studies at both A-level and AS are not acceptable.

AS Requirements

- Grade A in a fourth subject.
- If not offered at A-level then Biology/Human Biology grade A as a 4th AS or grade B as a 5th AS.
- Grade A in the EPQ or Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate or a grade B in a 4th A-level will be acceptable in lieu of the 4th AS.
- Where a school does not offer AS-levels or the EPQ, a lower grade in a fourth A-level is accepted.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** *Unconfirmed for 2018 entry, 36 points overall with 6,6,6 to include Chemistry and Biology at Higher level.*
- **Scottish Highers:** A minimum of AAABB in Highers at the first attempt is required. Three Advanced Highers are necessary except where applicants achieved AAAAA in Scottish Highers. In such cases, two Advanced Highers would be acceptable. *Unconfirmed for 2018 entry: In all cases, Chemistry (grade A) plus at least one from Physics, Biology and Mathematics are required. If not taken as an Advanced Higher, Biology Higher is required and Standard Grade Intermediate 2 or National 5 Physics and Mathematics are also necessary.*
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** H1H1H1H2H2 including Higher level grade H1 in Biology and Chemistry. If not offered at Higher Level, then Ordinary Level grade O3 in Mathematics. Students not offering Physics as part of their Leaving Certificate must have an A grade in Junior Certificate Science.

GCSE Requirements

- Minimum of grade C in English Language, Mathematics and either C in Physics or CC in Double Award Science if not offered at AS or A-level.
- In terms of the new 9-1 grading scale, the University will equate A* to grades 8 and 9, A to grade 7, B to grade 6 and C to grade 4. These mappings will be kept under review.
- In considering applications, GCSE performance in the best 9 subjects will be scored with 4 points awarded for an A* (grades 8 and 9 on the new 9-1 grading scale) and 3 for an A (grade 7). UKCAT will be scored and used in conjunction with the GCSE score to rank for interview.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants are required to sit the UKCAT in advance of the UCAS deadline and the results achieved will be used as part of the selection process prior to interview.
- The Medical School's scoring system for UKCAT is under review for 2018 entry.
- *As a guide, for 2017 entry, UKCAT performance was scored using the overall results from three subsets (excluding the Decision Making subset⁸⁰). Candidates could obtain up to a maximum of 6 points towards their application in addition to the GCSE score: $\geq 2200 = 6$ points, $2040-2190 = 5$ points, $1880-2030 = 4$*

points, 1720-1870 = 3 points, 1560-1710 = 2 points, 1400-1550 = 1 point and <1390 = 0 points. The Situational Judgement Test was not used except in borderline cases.

Personal Qualities

- *Personal Statements are not scored as part of the selection process. However the following is general guidance on what is expected: candidates are expected to state explicitly that Medicine is their career choice. There should be evidence of commitment and motivation in the Personal Statement. This should include evidence of what the candidate has done to find out about Medicine as a career. This can be demonstrated in a number of ways including: opportunities for observational experience in a clinical setting, attending medical careers conferences, or undertaking voluntary work in a care setting. Participation in activities within or outside School demonstrating transferable skills such as leadership, empathy, teamwork and communication skills is also considered.*
- *It is accepted that it can be difficult for candidates to have equal access to clinical work experience and therefore it is not specified as a requirement for admission. Applicants are encouraged to obtain caring experience whether through volunteering or in paid employment as this is valuable in making informed decisions on career options.*

Interview

- All applicants will be ranked on cognitive performance, and a proportion selected for interview. Approximately the top 700 applicants will be invited to interview.
- Interviews will take place between January and March.
- The interviews take the form of Multi Mini Interviews which are designed to test key non-cognitive competencies for Medicine:
 - Empathy.
 - Problem-solving.
 - Ethical Reasoning.
 - Communication Skills.
- The scores at interview are used to create a rank order. Offers are made to the applicants who rank highest after interview.

Deferred Entry

- No info.

Resits and Reapplications

- *Module repeats within the normal two year period between GCSE and A-level do not place applicants at any disadvantage.*
- *Normally only those who had applied to study Medicine at Queen's at the first attempt and held an offer (if made) as their conditional firm choice are considered. In addition they must have achieved AABa at first attempt. The offer for repeat candidates is currently AAA at A-level plus A in a fourth AS level. It is necessary for candidates repeating to retake all written examination components of AS and A2 modules associated with the subject being repeated and the marks in these will be counted in determining if the applicant has fulfilled the conditions of their offer (if made). The applicant can decide whether or not also to repeat modules with practical/coursework components and the highest of the marks achieved will be counted (irrespective of when taken). Only two attempts at A-levels are allowed.*
- *Applications from candidates who have already achieved the normal academic requirements in their second level examinations, for example AAA at A-level plus A in a fourth AS and are applying for Medicine for a second time, will only be considered if they included Queen's as one of their Medical choices first time round, i.e. evidence of commitment to the University is important from the outset.*
- *UKCAT must be retaken as it is only valid for one application cycle.*
- *It is the policy of the Medical School to restrict the number of attempts a candidate can make to gain admission to Medicine. A maximum of three attempts (i.e. applications in three different UCAS admissions cycles) overall are permitted (including applications made to other Medical Schools) with not more than two at either A-level (or equivalent) or at graduate level.*

Changes to Entry Requirements

- For candidates offering the Irish Leaving Certificate, if not offered at Higher Level, Ordinary Level grade O3 in Mathematics is required; previously, grade 4 in English and Mathematics at Ordinary Level were required if not offered at Higher Level.

- At the time of writing this report, the 2018 entry requirements for IB and Scottish qualifications have not yet been clearly defined on the course webpage or the Medical School's guidance notes 'How we choose our students'. It is therefore not possible to comment on any change to these qualifications.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Queen's University Belfast expressed an intention to review the report but did provide further comment.

The University of Sheffield

Medicine MBChB (A100) - duration 5 years

- 255 places (237 Home/EU and 18 International).
- Over 1700 applications for 2017 entry (approximately 7 applications per place).

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Chemistry and another science (Biology/Human Biology, Physics, Mathematics or Psychology).
- A pass is required in any separate practical components.
- Should be studied for no longer than two years, must be passed on the first attempt and in one sitting. Early and resit examinations are not accepted.
- General Studies, Critical Thinking and Further Mathematics are not accepted.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- Other science subject includes Biology/Human Biology, Physics, Mathematics or Psychology for the following qualifications.
- **IB:** 36 points overall with 6 in three Higher Level subjects including Chemistry and another science subject. No less than 4 in all Standard level subjects.
- **Pre-U:** D3, D3, D3 in Chemistry and another science subject.
- **Scottish Highers:** AAAAB plus Advanced Highers grades AA in Chemistry and another science.
- **Welsh Baccalaureate:** A in the Advanced Diploma, plus AA in two A-levels, subjects must include Chemistry and another science subject.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** HI,HI,HI,HI with HI in Chemistry and another science subject.

GCSE Requirements

- At least eight 9-4 / A*-C including six 7 / A grades taken in one sitting. Mathematics, English and the Sciences (which may be dual awards) must be at grade 4 / C or above.
- Acceptable science GCSEs include: Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology, Sciences (dual awards).
- The GCSE requirements should have been met by the point of application.
- The relevant GCSEs should be studied for no longer than two years. Resits are not accepted.
- The six A grades must all be obtained in the same sitting. The other two GCSEs needed to meet the requirement of at least eight GCSEs in total do not have to be taken at the same time as the six A grades. The required C grades in Mathematics, English and the Sciences do not need to be obtained in the same year as the six A grades.
- Non-GCSE qualifications (such as Level 2 OCR qualifications) taken alongside GCSEs are not considered as equivalent and do not count towards meeting the GCSE requirement.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language accepted at grade B or above.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants must be taken prior to application in the year of application.
- Candidates must meet a threshold of 2460/3600 or above to be given further consideration. This threshold has been determined by taking the mean of the 40th centile scores between 2012 and 2015, excluding for 2013, which was considerably higher, and in 2016, which excludes the new Decision Making subset^{8a}.
- The Situational Judgement Test component is considered for those applicants who are invited to attend a Multiple Mini Interview.

Personal Qualities

- UCAS Personal Statements are not scored as part of the selection process but the information about work and other experience is likely to be discussed as part of the Multiple Mini Interviews.
- Applicants are normally expected to have undergone a period of work experience. Medical Schools expect applicants to have a range of work experience as this demonstrates that the

prospective students have a realistic insight to the profession and an understanding of the complex nature of a doctor's role. It also enables candidates to develop and demonstrate the relevant skills and qualities that are essential to becoming a good doctor:

- Ability to overcome setbacks.
 - Ability to work independently.
 - A sense of responsibility.
 - A sense of service to the community.
 - Communication skills.
 - Enthusiasm.
 - Experience of working with diverse groups.
 - Perseverance.
 - Self-insight.
- The Medical School recognises that it is not always possible for students to obtain work placements in a medical environment. However, in addition to shadowing a GP or other medical practitioner, there are many other areas related to medicine in which you can gain experience. Some examples of these are listed below:
 - Paid or voluntary work experience in a residential care home, hospice or similar.
 - Working in a youth centre or working with young children.
 - Participating in community volunteering schemes.
 - Working with a diverse range of people (whether on a paid or voluntary basis).
 - Participatory work experience (not simply observing, but a 'hands on' role) is extremely valuable. It is important to reflect effectively on it if invited to attend an interview. The Medical School looks for what a candidate has gained from their work experience: that they are able to communicate with people, have a caring nature and are able to work as part of a team.
 - It is recommended that applicants keep a journal when undertaking work experience, recording what they found interesting, what insights they gained and what they were inspired to find out more about. The Medical School will not ask to see such a journal, but it may help candidates to prepare for the application process.

Interview

- Applicants who meet or exceed both the academic requirements and the UKCAT threshold are ranked according to their UKCAT score. Those applicants with the highest UKCAT scores are progressed to the interview stage.
- The Medical School will interview approximately 900 candidates.
- The Medical School uses Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) which are normally held in December and January.
- The MMIs comprise a series of eight-minute stations. Each station typically lasts 8 minutes. The focus of these stations may be centred around the following criteria:
 - Communication skills.
 - Depth and breadth of interests (achievements in specific fields).
 - Evidence of commitment for caring.
 - Knowledge of and interest in study in Sheffield.
 - Medical work experience/Extended Project Qualification (as appropriate).
 - Motivation for medicine.
 - Numeracy.
 - Understanding the nature of Medicine (including Ethics and Good Medical Practice).
 - Values and attitudes (including those set out in the NHS Constitution).
- The MMI stations may consider elements of the UCAS Personal Statement.
- The UKCAT Situational Judgement Test component will be considered as a ninth virtual station.
- Interviewers are drawn from medical educationalists, medically qualified senior members of staff, biomedical scientists, junior hospital doctors, senior hospital doctors, general practitioners, senior nurses, senior medical students and lay people.
- Candidates are encouraged to prepare by reading the NHS Constitution, the General Medical Council's publication 'Good Medical Practice', and by keeping up to date with recent medical breakthroughs, topical controversies, ethical issues and NHS politics.

Deferred Entry

- Sheffield Medical School welcomes deferred entry applications. Applicants need to state this on their UCAS form. Students applying for deferred entry may be asked to summarise (briefly) their plans for the year ahead during the Multiple Mini Interview. Not only does this show that they have given considerable thought and effort into planning their gap year, but will also give them an opportunity to demonstrate relevant work experience that will enable them to become a good doctor in the future. This does not necessarily mean that candidates have to do something that is medically related, for example, travelling the world to develop awareness of cultural diversity or earning money for studies demonstrating social responsibility.
- If an applicant wishes to defer entry mid-way through the application cycle, the Medical School may still be able to accommodate their gap-year plans. A request needs to be put in writing by the applicant (either via email or post) to the Medical Admissions Team, explaining reasons for requesting deferment. In the majority of cases the Medical School can amend the year of entry accordingly.

Resits and Reapplications

- A-level and GCSE resits or exams taken early are not accepted.
- If a qualification has been taken twice, applicants should include the results of both the first attempt and any subsequent attempts in their UCAS application.
- Applicants who are unsuccessful are welcome to apply again next year if they wish. They should take steps to address any issues that resulted in their application being rejected. These applicants would need to sit the UKCAT again.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- The overall IB points required for 2018 entry has decreased from 37 previously to 36. Sheffield remark that (subsequent to the publication of the MBChB Course Brochure - the University of Sheffield now recognises 36 points equivalent to AAA at A-level).
- Irish Leaving Certificate entry requirements have changed from AAAAAB with A in Chemistry and another science subject to HI,HI,HI,HI with HI in Chemistry and another science subject.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Sheffield acknowledged receipt of the report and replied in response to a specific query but did not directly comment on the report.

University of Southampton

Medicine BMBS, BMedSc (A100) - duration 5 years

- 213 places.
- Approximately 7 applications per place.

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Chemistry and Biology.
- The science practical must be passed.
- Citizenship Studies, Applied Science, General Studies and Critical Thinking are not accepted.
- Subjects where there may be considerable overlap (e.g. Zoology/Biology, Human Biology/Sports Studies/Physical Education) may not be accepted in combination at A-level.
- All subjects expected to be taken at one sitting.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 36 points, 18 at Higher level in three subjects including 6 in Chemistry and 6 in Biology at Higher level.
- EU and international applicants are expected to fulfil the same academic and non-academic criteria as home applicants, and can be done so through a wide range of qualifications.

GCSE Requirements

- At least six GCSEs at grade A or above, including Mathematics and, either, Biology and Chemistry, or, Science and Additional Science. English Language is required at a minimum of grade B.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language accepted at grade C (plus Grade 2 in each of speaking and listening), or above.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All applicants are required to take the UKCAT between July and October 2017. Applicants are ranked by UKCAT score to determine who should be invited to a Selection Day, provided they meet the academic criteria.
- The UKCAT score of applicants attending a Selection Day varies year on year and, as such, it is not possible to give an indication of the score that is required to attend a Selection Day.
- The University of Southampton does not currently use the Situational Judgement Test.

Personal Qualities

- Applicants must be able to show they:
 - Are self-motivated and resilient.
 - Have reflected on and learnt from life experiences (this may include, work experience, paid employment and personal experiences both in and outside health and social care settings).
 - Can communicate effectively.
 - Are able to interact successfully with others.
 - Can demonstrate an understanding of the values of the NHS constitution.
- Candidates need to show that they have learnt from experiences of interacting with people in health or social care settings - this could be helping to look after an ill family member or friend or could be voluntary/paid work or work shadowing. It can be difficult to obtain experience in a hospital setting so prospective students could work/volunteer in a nursing home, homeless shelter, local hospice, work with people with special needs or a youth group.

Interview

- After UKCAT score are ranked and applications are pre-screened against academic criteria, candidates are invited to Selection Day.
- Selection Days take place between January-March 2018.
- Applicants attending a Selection Day will be expected to complete an interview and group task.
- Performance at Selection Days is reviewed alongside UKCAT score before offers are made.

Deferred Entry

- Applicants who wish to apply for deferred entry (for no more than one year) should do so at the time of application. Requests to alter the year of entry later during the selection cycle must be made in writing before confirmation in August and may not always be permitted. The conditions of any offer would have to be met in the admissions cycle in which the offer is made and by any deadlines associated with that cycle.

Resits and Reapplications

- Applicants who are retaking their A-levels (A2)/GCSEs/or equivalent qualifications are not normally eligible for consideration.
- A-levels should be taken at one sitting for all programmes and within the standard two years, years 12 and 13. Southampton is unable to consider A-levels which have been taken early.
- Applicants who did not originally study Biology and/or Chemistry A-level in Years 12 and 13 may apply if they are sitting Biology and/or Chemistry after completion of their original 3 A-levels, which must be at AAA. Biology and Chemistry will still be expected to meet the required grades in order to be eligible.
- If an application to Medical School is not successful, candidates can reapply the following year and they will be required to resit the UKCAT.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- GCSE requirements for 2018 entry have changed; candidates must now offer 6 GCSEs at grade A, as opposed to 7 GCSEs at grade B previously. The GCSE science requirement has also changed slightly from “Double Award science (or an equivalent standard in other qualifications approved by the University)” to Biology and Chemistry or Science and Additional Science.
- In addition to A-level General Studies and Critical Thinking, A-level Citizenship Studies and Applied Science are not accepted as a third A-level subject as specified the Faculty of Medicine’s Selection Procedure and Policy document. These two subjects were not previously specified as unacceptable.

Other Undergraduate Medicine Courses Provided

- Medicine Widening Access BMBS, BMedSc (A102) - duration 6 years.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Southampton did not comment on the report but they wish to add that potential applicants should visit their website in the first instance: www.southampton.ac.uk/medicine to ensure that they are accessing the most up to date information.

University of St Andrews

Medicine MBChB or MBBS and BSc (Hons) (A100) - duration 6 years

- 122 Home/EU places.
- 773 Home/EU applications for 2017 entry (approximately 6 applicants per place).
- BSc (Hons) Medicine (3 years) at St Andrews leading to MBChB/MBBS (3 years) at Partner Medical School (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester or Barts).

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Chemistry and one of Biology, Mathematics or Physics.
- If Biology, Mathematics and English are not offered at A-level or AS, each must normally have been passed at GCSE grade B (grade 5) or better. Dual award Science is not acceptable in lieu of GCSE Biology.
- Human Biology may replace Biology.
- General Studies, Critical Thinking and Global Perspectives & Research are not considered.
- Must be studied over a two year period and completed in Year 13.
- Only one of Mathematics or Further Mathematics will be considered for the 3 subjects required at A-level.
- Four A-levels or a fourth subject at AS are not required.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** Minimum of 38 points to include: 3 passes at 6,6,6 at Higher level and 3 passes at Grade 6,6,6 at Standard level. Chemistry and one of Biology, Mathematics or Physics must be offered at Higher level. Biology, Mathematics and English must be offered at Standard level if not offered at Higher level. Biology, Mathematics and English at GCSE grade B (grade 5) or better might be considered in lieu of Standard level. Standard level Mathematics Studies is not acceptable.
- **Pre-U:** D3 in three subjects including Chemistry and one other of Biology, Mathematics or Physics. A mix of A-levels at A grade and Pre-U subjects (at D3 level) will be considered. If Biology, Mathematics and English are not offered at Pre-U, A-level or AS, each must normally have been passed at GCSE grade B or better. Dual award Science is not acceptable in lieu of GCSE Biology. Human Biology may replace Biology. General Studies, Critical Thinking and Global Perspectives & Research are not considered. Pre-U and/or Advanced Levels must be studied over a two year period and completed in Year 13. Only one of Mathematics or Further Mathematics will be considered for the 3 subjects required at Pre-U/A-Level. Four Pre-U/Advanced Levels or a fourth subject at AS are not required.
- **Scottish Highers:** AAAAB (Highers in S5) including Chemistry (A grade) and one other of Biology, Mathematics or Physics. BBB (Highers/Advanced Highers in S6). The Higher qualifications should normally be obtained at the same sitting in S5. Exceptions may be made for candidates who attend schools which are unable to present pupils for five Highers at one sitting. Applicants who obtain a B grade in Chemistry in S5 may be considered if they are sitting Advanced Higher Chemistry in S6. If Biology, Mathematics and English have not been passed at Higher grade, each must normally have been passed at Intermediate 2 (grade A or B) or National 5 (grade A or B). A Higher in Intensive English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) is not acceptable as one of 5 Highers required at one sitting. Human Biology may replace Biology. Students unable to take missing sciences in S5 may take the missing subject(s) in S6. Two science subjects must be sat in the same year - either S5 or S6. Offers made will be conditional and based on S6 programmes of study. Advanced Highers or a mix of Highers and Advanced Highers are acceptable.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** Applicants to exceed 580 points to include H1 in Chemistry, English, Mathematics and Biology. Mathematics at Ordinary level would be considered if Physics were offered at H1. These points will be calculated using the 6 highest graded subjects and also include the 25 bonus points for Higher Level Mathematics. If appropriate subjects were not sat at the first sitting of the Leaving Certificate, applicants may be considered if the missing subjects are sat the following year.

GCSE Requirements

- To be considered for interview, applicants are expected to offer a minimum of 5 A grades (or grade 7) at GCSE (or equivalent) to be taken at one sitting and to be predicted to achieve at least the minimum grades required in the relevant school leaving qualification.
- If Biology, Mathematics and English are not offered at A-level or AS, each must normally have been passed at GCSE grade B (grade 5) or better. Dual award Science is not acceptable in lieu of GCSE Biology.
- St Andrew's GCSE numerical grading: B=5, A=7.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language is accepted at grade B as meeting English requirement. In addition, non-native speakers must offer 7 in all four areas of the IELTS to be taken at one sitting.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** All candidates are required to sit the UKCAT in the year before the year of entry.
- For 2018 entry, the Medical School will not know the likely UKCAT scores for those to be called to interview until they have assessed all applications. As a guide, for 2017 entry the lowest UKCAT score for applicants called to interview was 1800 (excluding the Decision Analysis subtest^{8a}) which equated to around 2400 in previous tests when all 4 subtests were included.
- The Medical School intend to use the Situational Judgement Test element in the interview process, with the score being incorporated into the interview score.

Personal Qualities

- Applicants will need to be able to demonstrate that they fully understand what a medical career involves and are aware of current developments. Candidates are expected to have an insight into medicine and healthcare gained from general reading or from attending medical careers conferences, talking to doctors or medical students.
- Applicants should have gained work or shadowing experience in a caring or health environment. This does not have to be in a hospital or GP's surgery but could be in a nursing home or local hospice or through working with people who have ill-health or a disability.
- Successful applicants will be able to show evidence of the following:
 - Personal qualities such as empathy, good communication and listening skills, leadership skills and the ability to work in a team.
 - A well-informed understanding of what a career in Medicine involves.
 - Commitment to medicine by organising work experience or shadowing. Experience of working with ill or disabled people, preferably in health care setting.
 - Commitment to academic study, staying power, perseverance and intellectual potential.
- It is important that the choice to enter medicine is made with insight into where it might lead, the expectations of others, the role of life-long learning, and with awareness that the course is training for professional practice.

Interview

- There will be around 400 interviews. To be considered, applicants must have a strong academic record, a positive reference and relevant, medically related work experience. Applicants meeting these requirements will be ranked on the basis of their UKCAT global score. Those ranked in the top 400 or so will be given an interview. Decisions to make offers will be based on the interview score; the global UKCAT score will be used to differentiate between applicants with the same interview score.
- Interviews take place from December until March.
- The interviews are in the format of Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) lasting around 6 minutes each.
- At interview applicants will be expected to demonstrate that they have an understanding of medicine as a career and that they appreciate the realities of working in a caring profession. Communication and interpersonal skills will be assessed at each station and at least one station will involve role-play and interaction with an actor. Applicants will also be assessed on their ability to discuss ethical issues.
- The Situational Judgement Test component of the UKCAT will be incorporated into the interview score.

Deferred Entry

- Deferred entry is not considered.

Resits and Reapplications

- Candidates who take more than the normal number of years to obtain their qualifications will only be considered if there have been extenuating circumstances that are fully documented.
- The retaking of AS modules would be allowed as long as the A2 qualifications were achieved within 2 years of study.
- Applicants who are unsuccessful in obtaining a place at St Andrews can submit a new application the following year if they meet the entry requirements but beyond that, further applications will not be considered.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- None. Although Pre-U entry requirements are now specified for 2018 entry; these were not specified previously.

Other Undergraduate Medicine Courses Provided

- Scottish - Canadian Medical Programme MBChB (A990) - duration 6 years (Canadian applicants only).

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- St Andrew's responded with comments and this report was subsequently amended as appropriate

St George's, University of London

Medicine MBBS (A100) - duration 5 years

At the time of writing this report, the course webpage states that the listed entry requirements are applicable to 2017 entry with the exception of IB requirements where 2018 entry was clearly indicated. St George's do not anticipate that there will be any changes to this for 2018 entry and the 2018 requirements should be confirmed in due course. As we would for all medical schools, we advise prospective applicants to fully research the entry criteria for St. George's before applying.

A-level Requirements

- AAA including Chemistry and Biology or Human Biology.
- General Studies and Key Skills are not accepted.
- A-levels must be completed within two years.
- Adjusted criteria for 2017 entry: if a student's predicted/actual grades are between AAB and ABB, their application will be considered if the applicant's school/college's average performance at A-level is in the bottom 20% nationally.

AS Requirements

- No requirement.
- However, Pre-U candidates must offer either an AS at grade B or a Pre-U short course at grade M2.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** Full award Diploma and overall score of 36 points. 18 points at Higher level with a minimum score of 6 in Biology and Chemistry. At Standard level, a minimum score of 5 must be attained in Mathematics (or Maths Studies) and English, if at least a B grade has not previously been attained in GCSE/IGCSE/O level Mathematics and English.
- **Pre-U:** D3, D3, D3 in three Principal Subjects including Biology and Chemistry. Plus either an additional AS level at grade B or a Pre-U short course at grade M2 or above.
- **Scottish Highers:** Highers at AAA including Chemistry and/or Biology. Advanced Highers at AA including Chemistry and/or Biology. English Language at Standard Grade 2 or higher is required.

GCSE Requirements

- 416 points from the top eight subjects (equivalent to an average of grade A), where A*=58, A=52, B=46, C=40, D=34, E=28.
- Subject must include English Language (minimum grade B), Mathematics and Dual Award or the three separate sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).
- Only a complete set of scores must be from one sitting is accepted.
- If an applicant studied under an educational system that did not include GCSEs, their academic record at the equivalent stage will be considered.

Aptitude Test

- **UKCAT:** Results are used to select students for interview and rank post-interview waiting list.
- Both the section scores and overall cut-off score must be met. 500 points or above is required in each section. The minimum overall UKCAT score will be determined after the results have been published in November. However, for reference, historically this has been 2600 for 2016 entry, 2550 for 2015, 2590 for 2014 and 2530 for 2013.
- The Situational Judgement Test section was not used for 2017 entry.

Personal Qualities

- Undertaking relevant work experience and gaining insight from such activities students to decide whether Medicine is the right choice. St. George's expects applicants to have a combination of experience in both healthcare and non-healthcare settings and they should be able to demonstrate why these experiences are relevant to an application for Medicine. Such experience could include, but is not limited to, participation in the following:
 - Paid/unpaid voluntary placements.
 - School, college or university societies.
 - Full or part-time employment.

- The Guides, Scouts, Red Cross or similar organisations.
- Shadowing a healthcare professional.
- Gap year experience.
- Caring for a sick relative or first-hand experience of illness.
- It is good to have a broad range of experiences in a variety of settings, including hands-on healthcare experience where possible, in order to gain insight into different aspects of skills and qualities needed by a medical student. As a result, prospective students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of their own abilities and limitations and explain what they have learned and what they have contributed.
- The Medical School would expect candidates to demonstrate insight into transferable skills such as: communication, patience, accuracy, team work, leadership and perseverance. Candidates will also need to be able to relate those to their application for Medicine. Evidence that an applicant has made a consistent effort to participate in such experience as a regular commitment is preferred

Interview

- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI), held between December and April.
- An MMI combines traditional-style questions with task-based activities. The interview consists of up to eight activities each lasting five minutes (40 minutes in total). The interview format provides a high level of interaction between the candidate and the interviewer. It gives candidates a chance to demonstrate more than just a taught knowledge of their chosen field of science.
- The key competencies assessed will be:
 - Academic ability and intellect.
 - Empathy.
 - Initiative and resilience.
 - Communication skills.
 - Organisation and problem solving.
 - Team work.
 - Insight and integrity.
 - Effective learning style.
- Applicants will be required to demonstrate insight into Medicine through relevant work/voluntary experience at interview. They will need to provide references for any formal work experience carried out within the last 2 years. This is not a character reference and should only state dates, hours worked and duties undertaken.

Deferred Entry

- Deferred entry is considered.

Resits and Reapplications

- A-levels must be completed within two years.
- Resits are not accepted except for GCSE English Language.
- No information regarding reapplications.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- In line with changes to A-level requirements last admissions cycle, both Biology *and* Chemistry are now required at IB Higher level. For the previous admissions cycle, *either* could be offered at Higher level and, if one is not offered, the other was required at Standard level at grade 6.
- Last year the Medical School stated that the 36 points overall required at IB does not include Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay. They have not specified this for 2018 entry.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- No response.

University College London (UCL)

Medicine MBBS BSc (A100) - duration 6 years

- 322 places: 298 Home/EU and 24 international.
- Approximately 2500 applications each year (approximately 7 applications per place for 2016 entry).

A-level Requirements

- A*AA including Biology and Chemistry completed within two years.
- General Studies and Critical Thinking are not accepted.
- Science A-levels to include a pass in the practical component.

AS Requirements

- No requirement; however any “extra” qualifications that an applicant has undertaken are expected to be completed and passed.
- UCL recognises that the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) can provide useful preparation for undergraduate study in terms of undertaking research, writing up a project and making a presentation. The Medical School would encourage students to consider taking the EPQ if it is offered at their school. If students are not able to undertake an EPQ then they are encouraged to try to develop the relevant research skills through independent learning.

Alternative Qualifications

- **IB:** 39 points in the Diploma. Three subjects at Standard Level and a total of 19 points in three Higher level subjects including Biology and Chemistry, each with minimum score 6 (no score below 5). If Mathematics and English Language are not offered as part of the diploma, they should be offered as GCSE or IGCSE at grade B/6.
- **Pre-U:** D2,D3,D3 in three Principal Subjects. Chemistry and Biology required.
- **Scottish Highers:** A1,A,A at Advanced Highers (or A1,A at Advanced Higher and A,A,A at Higher), to include Chemistry and Biology at Advanced Higher.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** Six subjects of grade H6 or above at Higher Level, to include four subjects at H1, H1, H1, H1. Please see A-levels for subject requirements. Where A* is required at A-level, H1 will be required in the individual ILC subject; for A, H1 will be required; and for B, H2 will be required.
- **Welsh Baccalaureate:** Successful completion of the WBQ Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate plus Chemistry and Biology A-levels at grades A*AA.

GCSE Requirements

- English Language and Mathematics at grade B or 6.
- UCL expects all UK applicants to offer a modern foreign language (not including Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) at GCSE grade C or 5 or equivalent. This requirement does not apply to international students. Candidates can be admitted if they do not offer a foreign language GCSE (and their application will not be disadvantaged), but they would be obliged to take a language course during their first year.
- For numerical grading, UCL will consider 8 to be equivalent to A*, 7 to A, 6 to B and 5 to C.
- English IGCSE 0500 as a First Language accepted at grade B. All components (reading, writing, speaking and listening) are required.

Aptitude Test

- **BMAT:** Candidates must also take the BMAT in the year of application (either September or November sitting).
- High scores in each section will strengthen an application. Candidates with scores that are below the average for their cohort are less likely to be successful. The average scores for the cohort are posted on the Medical School website in November/December.

Personal Qualities

- In addition to predicted and actual grades and BMAT scores, the following factors are taken into account when deciding which candidates to interview:
 - Evidence of independent learning skill. This could be demonstrated with qualifications such as the EPQ or other forms of study, extra-curricular reading and research etc.

- Previous experience (both personal and through work experience or volunteering), particularly if it has involved contact with the healthcare profession or laboratory work, or if the candidate has been involved with the sick, disabled, very young or elderly, and, importantly, is able to reflect on their experiences.
 - Demonstration of motivation to study Medicine and an appropriate attitude.
 - Other interests, for example music, travel, sports, or any activities that are considered to broaden the general education of the candidate.
 - Evidence of teamwork, leadership and communication skills.
 - The referee's assessment of academic ability, study skills, motivation for medicine and personal qualities.
- Work experience: The Medical School seeks to verify work experience placements of a sample of applicants. It would therefore be advisable for applicants to obtain references or letters confirming completion of a work placement and to keep these ready to submit if requested, as well as for their own records. A table/list summarising any work experience or volunteering undertaken is often requested. Candidates should not, however, submit these before they are requested. Work experience placements should be named where possible, rather than making very generic references (for example "a local hospital" or "a charity").

Interview

- No offers are made without interview.
- Up to 700 applicants are selected for interview.
- The interview season begins in December and runs through March (usually January for overseas students and those on a gap year, and February and March for school-leavers). Candidates are normally given two weeks' notice.
- Interviews usually last approximately 15-20 minutes and are conducted by a panel of 2-3 interviewers, including clinical and basic medical science staff, a senior medical student or 'lay' interviewer (e.g. Head of Sixth Form or GP). Interviewees will be given a copy of their BMAT essay prior to the interview, as discussion of their essay may form part of the assessment.
- Interviewers score the candidate for the following qualities:
 - Intellectual potential (intellectual curiosity and robustness).
 - Motivation for (and understanding of) a career in medicine.
 - Awareness of scientific and medical issues.
 - Ability to express and defend opinions, which may include discussion of BMAT essay topic.
 - Attitude, including factors such as flexibility, integrity, conscientiousness.
 - Individual strengths (e.g. social, musical, sporting interests or activities).
 - Communication skills (verbal and listening skills).
- Following the interview the recommendations of the interviewers will be reviewed by the Admissions Tutor. The outcome of the interview is usually sent to the candidate within two weeks.

Deferred Entry

- Students are welcome to apply for deferred entry if they would like to take a gap year. Making an application on this basis does not affect the chance of being selected. However requests to defer made after an offer has been made will be considered on an individual basis but are not always granted.
- The Medical School is not prescriptive about the way in which a candidate spends their gap year. It is up to them to decide how to spend the time. However it is important that the prospective student uses the time productively and, while the Medical School appreciate that they may not have finalised plans by the time of application, it is expected that some planning has been undertaken. Certainly it is expected that candidates are able to talk about ideas at interview and to provide further information if requested.

Resits and Reapplications

- A-levels must be completed within two years. UCL remark that those with low grades or those who need to resit examinations are more likely to have academic problems with the programme.
- It is the policy of the Medical School to not reconsider or re-interview an applicant who has previously been unsuccessful following interview in a previous application cycle.

- If a previously unsuccessful applicant was not selected for interview, then they may apply again. The UCAS application should be updated and the BMAT taken again. It may be inadvisable to reapply if a candidate does not feel that they can strengthen or enhance their application.
- Taking more than one gap year would be disadvantageous, as would declining an offer to study Medicine elsewhere in order to apply to UCL.

Changes to Entry Requirements

- Previously, UCL specified that Biology or Chemistry should be achieved at the highest grade in a standard offer, i.e. Biology or Chemistry needed to be achieved at grade A* as part of the standard A*AA A-level/Welsh Baccalaureate offer, 7 at Higher level out of 19 points for IB, D2 as part of the D2,D3,D3 Pre-U offer and A1 at Advanced Higher as part of the A1,A,A for Scottish qualifications. Although the grades required for these qualifications have not changed, the requirement for Biology or Chemistry at the highest grade is no longer specified for 2018 entry.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- UCL responded with comments and this report was subsequently amended as appropriate. UCL confirmed that the above information is correct.

Detailed Information - International

CEU Cardenal Herrera University, Valencia

Grado en Medicina (Degree in Medicine) - duration 6 years

Based on 2017 entry criteria; 2018 entry criteria was not yet available at the time of writing this report¹⁴.

- 50 places.
- The degree is approved by the GMC so students can practice as doctors in the UK and in any other European country.
- Taught in English until the second semester of the third year and then taught in Spanish.
- Students receive Spanish training for free.

Academic Requirements

- According to their recruiting partner, GEC London:
 - **A-level:** AAB at A-level including two science subjects and 5 GCSEs.
 - **IB:** 32 points overall.
 - If alternative qualifications are offered; candidates must achieve at least 70% of the maximum grade at secondary/high school.

Application Process

- Applicants can apply through the University's official UK recruitment partner, GEC London. Applicants need to provide a transcript of grades achieved over the last 2-3 years, predicted grades (if applicable) a copy of their passport and a personal statement (maximum of 500 words).
- If the academic requirements are met, applicants must then sit an entrance exam which takes place in London. Successful applicants are then interviewed with a professor on the same day as the exam. Acceptance will be based on a combination of academic requirements, entrance exam and personal interview.
- Non-native English speakers may be required to either provide the University with an official language certificate, or take the language level test on their intranet. Knowledge of Spanish is not mandatory.
- If successful, candidates must formalise their registration on the University's intranet by filling out the corresponding form and settle the place reservation fee (€2,000), the enrolment fee (€2,000) as well as the 'Hospitality Package' fee (€600) before the deadline due date, otherwise their application will be dismissed.
- The services included in the Hospitality Package are offered to international students and are intended to help them get settled upon their arrival and include, amongst others: Spanish lessons, help and guidance with accommodation, accommodation for the first night, and a transport pick-up service for the first night.

Entrance Exam and Interview

- Applicants take an entrance exam in London. Applicants that are successful in the exam are then interviewed with a professor on the same day as the exam.
- Candidates will be notified whether they have a place on the course within one week following the interview.

Other Information

- The annual fee for 2017 entry was €21,000.
- The University's recruiting partner in the UK is GEC London: email admission_uk@gec-group.org. See www.geclondon.org for further information.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- CEU Cardenal Herrera University did not respond to the report but their UK recruiting partner, GEC London, responded with comments and this report was subsequently amended as appropriate.

Charles University, First Faculty of Medicine, Prague

General Medicine Master Degree MUDr. - "Medicinae Universae Doctor" (M.D.) = Doctor of General Medicine - duration 6 years

- Charles University has five Faculties of Medicine, three of which are in Prague, one is located in Pilsen and one in Hradec Kralove. All five faculties offer degree programmes in English, but have different entry requirements and admission procedures.
- The First Faculty of Medicine in Prague is larger and the most popular (10 applications per place)¹⁵. Therefore, for this report, the entry requirements are for the First Faculty and applicants would need to carry out their own research for entry requirements for the other faculties.
- One of the UK Representatives, Medical Doorway, typically receives 80-100 applications a year for the First Faculty (approximately 80% from UK students, 15% UK-based, non-British students and 5% that travel to the UK to sit the entrance exam)¹⁵.
- 150 places.

International Recognition

- The degree is fully recognized in the EU and most countries for at least limited registration. The student should ask the authorities or professional bodies in the respective country for information about the conditions for full registration and recognition of the degree required to practice medicine.

Academic Requirements

- **A-levels:** Completion of at least 3 subjects in the same academic year, including Biology and Chemistry, both at grade C or better, and any other subject. Two AS subjects are not deemed to be equivalent to one A-level subject. AS level subjects - one of them should be Mathematics or Physics, the other one is not set (could be any).

Admissions Process

- Important dates for entry in 2018 are:
 - Admission process start: 1st January 2018.
 - Open Day: 6th April 2018.
 - Admission process end: 31st May 2018.
 - Entrance exam (Prague only): 15th June 2018 (date differs if taken with UK representative).
 - Start of academic year: 1st October 2018.
- Applications can be submitted directly to First Faculty of Medicine by filling in the online application form or by contacting one of their representatives (see below), who will help with completing the electronic application. Applicants must pay 600 CZK for application registration. Without payment the applicant will not be allowed to attend the entrance exam.
- Successfully pass the entrance exam.
- Provide evidence of completed secondary education legalised and translated into the Czech language.

Entrance Exam and Interview

- The exam can either be taken in Prague or with an official representative in the UK.
- Students are offered a place based on their result in First Faculty's entrance examination, which is compulsory for all applicants. The exam consists of written multiple-choice tests in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and an interview for those who successfully pass the written part. Successful candidates must achieve at least 244 points out of 300. Both test and interview are in English and supervised by the Faculty's examiners. Both parts are taken the same day, so candidates will know if they been admitted immediately.
- Sample questions are available online on the First Faculty of medicine's website.
- Preparation courses are offered Abbey College, Malvern, UK, including a one year foundation course and a two week residential crash course to prepare for the three examination papers.

Other Information

- Annual tuition fee is 360,000 CZK (over £12,000). The tuition fee is same for EU and non-EU students. Tuition fee can be paid only in Czech crowns and most be paid in one instalment.
- UK representatives:
 - Medical Doorway, Newcastle Under Lyme. Contact Mr Ben Ambrose - phone: +44(0)-1782-898151, email: hello@medicaldoorway.com See www.medicaldoorway.com for further information.
 - Abbey College, Malvern. Contact Ms Debbie Hughes - phone: (0044)-1684-892300, e-mail: debbie@abbeycollege.co.uk. See www.emucas.com for further information.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- The First Faculty responded with comments and this report was subsequently amended as appropriate. They have since confirmed that the above information is correct.

Humanitas University, Milan

Degree in Medicine and Surgery - duration 6 years

Based on 2017 entry criteria; 2018 entry criteria was not yet available at the time of writing this report¹⁴.

- 130 places (80 EU and 50 non-EU).
- Course is taught entirely in English.
- However basic Italian is required during clinical practice that starts in the third year.

International Recognition

- Humanitas University medical degrees are recognised across all Europe for accessing the medical profession.
- Every country's Medical Council establishes its specific access procedure and can request further exams to obtain the license to practice as a medical doctor or physician.

Academic Requirements

- **A-levels:** At least three A-levels in medicine and science-related subjects. No minimum A-level grades have been specified for EU candidates; non-EU students must achieve these at a minimum grade of B.
- **IB:** No minimum IB grades have been specified for EU candidates. Non-EU candidates must achieve 36 points overall; in the last year of high school, grades should be 6 or above in at least two subjects among Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.
- In order to enrol, a secondary school diploma is considered valid if obtained after at least 12 years of education, accompanied by the Declaration of Value issued by the Italian diplomatic authorities.

Application Process

- As a guide for EU applicants only, the deadline for 2017 entry are:
 - 10th May 2017 - Admissions test application opens.
 - 20th Aug 2017- Admissions test application closes (outside of Italy).
 - 27th Aug 2017- Admissions test application closes (Milan Test Centre only).
 - 04th Sep 2017 - Admissions test.
 - 20th Sep 2017 - Publication of results.
 - 26th Sep 2017 - Deadline for enrolment and payment of first instalment.
 - 27th Sep 2017 - Enrolment from the reserve list.
- Applicants need to register for the admissions test on the Humanitas University MyPORTAL and pay a test fee of €160. Candidates can sit the examination at a number of selected locations in Italy and test centres abroad (including London and Manchester). The location can be selected during the online application procedure.
- Scores are ranked and published on the website (maintaining anonymity). Candidates will have to log in to see their score. The top-ranking candidates are entitled to enrol. If offered, students need to pay the first instalment fee (€4156) online before the deadline in September in order to enrol.
- The admissions process differs for non-EU applicants. These applicants need to sit the UKCAT Humanitas online instead of the admissions test. Between February and April, candidates must register on the University's website and register for the UKCAT Humanitas through the UKCAT website for a fee of £100. Scores are ranked and published in early May and admitted candidates must enrol and pay the first instalment fee (€4156) online before the deadline online shortly after. Candidates that already sat the standard UKCAT in the year prior to application can use the achieved scores and pay a fee of €50.

Admissions Test

- EU candidates must sit the admissions test which takes place in Milan and other cities across Europe including London and Manchester. The number of seats available at each test centre is limited and seats are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Students are required to answer 60 multiple-choice questions with five response options in 100 minutes. The questions are divided as follows:
 - Logical reasoning (20 questions).
 - General culture (2 questions).
 - Biology (18 questions).

- Chemistry (12 questions).
- Physics and Mathematics (8 questions).
- 1.5 points are awarded for each correct answer, 0 points for each non-given answer and -0.4 points for each incorrect answer. The highest achievable score is 90 points.
- Applicants are admitted according to the ranking of the test score in descending order provided that they obtained a minimum score of 20 points.
- In case of a draw, the points scored by the candidates respectively in the logical reasoning, general culture, biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics sections respectively will prevail in descending order. In case of further draw, the youngest student will prevail.
- Humanitas University periodically offers an intensive one-week course to help students prepare for the medical admissions test and the following University route. The course is specifically focused on logical and critical reasoning. Past papers are available on their website.
- Non-EU applicants must sit the UKCAT Humanitas. The Situational Judgement Test subset will not be taken into account for the generation of the ranking. If a non-EU applicant has already sat the standard UKCAT the year prior to application, they can be included in the ranking on the basis of UKCAT score already achieved.

Other Information

- Based on 2017 entry, annual fees for EU citizens is between €10,000 and €20,000 a year depending on family income. For non-EU citizens the fee will be €20,000 a year.
- In order to attract the most talented and motivated candidates, Humanitas University has established a merit-income based scholarship programme for EU and non-EU students. See website for details.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- No response.

Medical University, Sofia

Master's Degree in Medicine - duration 6 years

Based on 2017 entry criteria; 2018 entry criteria was not yet available at the time of writing this report¹⁴.

- Course available in English or Bulgarian.

International Recognition

- The students graduated from the Medical University-Sofia receive a European diploma supplement, which makes certain that the diplomas are recognized in the European Union and the European Economic Area.

Academic Requirements

- Completion of secondary education with grades in Biology and Chemistry in their secondary education diploma or equivalent. Average marks cannot be lower than 62% of the maximum mark.

Admissions Process

- Required documents for admission of foreign students:
 1. Application form including a brief biography.
 2. A copy of secondary education document with an academic transcript outlining the subjects studied and grades.
 3. A document issued by a relevant authority certifying the applicant's right to continue education at higher education institutions in the country where the secondary education was acquired.
 4. A medical certificate issued within one month prior to the date of application.
 5. A copy of citizenship documents, e.g. passport/identity card.
 6. Four passport-sized photos.
- The documents under items 2, 3, and 4 must be translated into Bulgarian, legalised and certified by the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in the country from which the person applies.
- These official application documents are to be submitted in person or via an authorised representative.
- The processed documents are subsequently sent to the Ministry of Education and Science, who issues a certificate for the right to study at MU-Sofia and informs the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Having received the Certificate the applicant pays for half of the academic year tuition fee.
- As a guide, for 2017 entry, the academic year starts on 16th October 2017.

Admissions Test

- After the documents are approved, candidates are required to take a combined entrance exam in English, in Biology and Chemistry lasting 2 hours. Tests are available in London.
- The combined entrance exam is passed successfully only if the three subjects: English language, Biology and Chemistry are passed successfully. In all other cases the exam is not considered as successfully passed.
- As a guide, 2017 entry candidates either take the entrance exam on 26th August 2017 or second exam on 9th September 2017; results are announced a few days the test after and the general list and rating of the candidates are announced on 12th September 2017.
- The Centre for Language Training, Physical Training and Sports at the University offers a prep-course in Biology and Chemistry in English for 5 day (21st-25th August 2017), 4 hours per day for foreign students. Candidates on the course can then take the exam in the first exam session a day later.

Other Information

- The tuition fee for 2017/18 is €8,000.

Response from Medical School on Draft Report

- Medical University Sofia did not wish to comment.

Reference Notes

1 In addition to writing this report, copies of the relevant webpages, documents and email exchanges have been saved. These will form a resource that can be used in subsequent years in order to demonstrate when changes to entry requirements have been brought in by a medical school. The intention is to be able to highlight those instances when candidates might be disadvantaged by changes to the entry requirements that take place after potential applicants have already made the decisions that the changes relate to. For example, if a University previously only required Biology A-level and changes this to both Biology and Chemistry, we would expect this change to be phased in over two years; if it is brought in immediately, we would view this as a change that might disadvantage candidates. Where changes to entry requirements for 2018 entry compared to the previous admissions cycle have been identified, these have been indicated in the “At a Glance” summary (“recent/planned” changes column) and further details are contained in the detailed section of each University. It is important to note that it will not be possible to identify all changes. Medical Schools are not consistent in how and when they update entry requirements. This report therefore captures all that is possible for a certain point in time. As per footnote 2, we encourage readers to perform their own checks in this regard. If any changes are identified that are not flagged in this report, we would be grateful if you could contact us at research@isc.co.uk.

2 Whilst this will act as a useful reference document for schools and candidates it is important for schools and candidates to recognise the need to do their own research to fully understand a particular Medical School. Further, admissions information is rarely black and white and often spans multiple documents / web pages (e.g. course brochures, admissions policies, supporting documents on detailed aspects of admissions and videos advising applicants etc.). ISC has distilled this information as best as is possible but candidates should visit websites directly for more detailed insights.

3 www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/the-big-nhs-question-why-are-there-so-few-new-gps-when-so-many-of-our-keenest-brains-want-to-study-medicine-10290324.html

4 Unless otherwise stated, all information populated in the “At a Glance” summary as well as the detailed summaries has been obtained via the ISC Medical School Survey. Some information was obtained directly from the University website; other information was obtained by contacting University admissions teams.

5 For the purpose of this survey, we have only populated information for the “main” medical course at that particular University. Many Universities offer alternative courses. For example, in addition to the A100 course, Cardiff University offers a six year foundation course (A104) as well as a four year accelerated course (A101).

6 At the time of writing this report, most Medical Schools had not yet announced or confirmed their fees for 2018 entry; the fees quoted are the most up to date information available. Fees that are in italics refer to fees for 2017/18. Students should expect tuition fees to increase in subsequent years in line with inflation and with UK Government policy. Total course fees are based on the most up to date annual fee.

6a For courses that are primarily for international students, fees for international students have been stated.

6b Medical students at the University of St Andrews progress to one of the Medical School’s partner schools (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester or Barts) after the first three years of the course. The course fees that a student pays, therefore, depend on to which partner school they progress.

7 Some medical schools require all applicants to take an aptitude test whereas some require only Home/UK/EU applicants to take a test but have different requirements for international applicants:

7a Brighton and Sussex Medical School requires all UK/EU applicants to sit the BMAT, whereas non-UK/EU applicants do not.

7b Keele University requires all UK/EU applicants to take the UKCAT; overseas applicants do not need to take the UKCAT but are required to take the BMAT.

7c Plymouth University requires all UK/EU applicants to take the UKCAT, whereas international applicants are not required to do so.

7d Humanitas University Milan requires all EU applicants to take the university admissions test, whereas non-EU applicants must sit the UKCAT Humanitas.

8 Medical Schools typically do not have a cut-off score for aptitude tests as results vary year to year and is dependent on competition and the scores achieved by those applicants who apply to Medicine in a given admissions cycle. Unless stated in the detailed sectioned, most medical schools do not provide a threshold score, and in these cases we report the lowest score for an applicant invited to interview or receiving an offer in the previous year as a guide. Some also report a guideline score for particular sections of an aptitude test or a score previously reached to achieve a particular percentile. Therefore the aptitude scores stated in the “At a Glance” summary are estimates. We recommend readers to refer to the detailed section of the report for more information regarding the figures quoted.

8a In 2016, UKCAT piloted a new Decision Making subtest but performance in this component did not contribute to the final score and was not communicated to medical schools to be used for shortlisting. Following the pilot, Decision Making will be introduced as a scored subtest in the 2017 UKCAT; for more details see www.ukcat.ac.uk. With an additional scored component, scores achieved by this year’s cohort will be higher than those achieved by the 2016 cohort. Guideline scores based on 2016 performance do not take into account the new Decision Making subtest and therefore can only be used as a guide excluding this component. (However, University of Birmingham have scaled UKCAT scores of their 2016 cohort as a guideline for 2017 scores). As a guideline for 2017, some Medical Schools use scores based on the 2015 cohort, which included the old Decision Analysis subtest, the component that the Decision Making component replaced; further information can be found in the detailed section of this report.

8b Brighton and Sussex Medical School’s BMAT guideline score is higher than scores for other Medical Schools because they count each element of Section 3, including the quality of English score. The quality of English is scaled A-E in the BMAT and therefore other medical schools do not use this in their guideline scores.

8c As a guideline, University of Oxford suggest that applicants taking the BMAT should be working towards an average of 6 in Sections 1 or 2 and do not suggest a score for the remaining section of the BMAT; therefore the guideline score reported here for Oxford is for Sections 1 and 2 only.

9 Source: Which? University. These figures have been provided by UCAS. This is the percentage of applicants who were offered a place on the course last year. Note that not all applicants receiving offers will take up the place, so this figure is likely to differ from “Applicants per entry” statistics included in our “At a Glance” summary. For more details see <http://university.which.co.uk/advice/choosing-a-course/what-does-the-numbers-of-applicants-receiving-course-offers-tell-me>

10 Indication only; applications per entry have been obtained from Medical School’s webpages or prospectuses that quote the expected/previous/typical applicants per place, intake numbers and/or applications per year.

11 Source: UNISTATS. For more details see <https://unistats.direct.gov.uk/>. Note, on occasion some of these “dropout” pupils will continue their studies at a later date (i.e. they have dropped out temporarily). UNISTATS is unable to provide the dropout rates for some courses either due to a small course size or because a course is new; The University of Buckingham Medical School, however, has provided dropout rate for this report.

12 Source: UNISTATS. Based on the National Student Survey 2016. For more details see <https://unistats.direct.gov.uk/>. The satisfaction rate for Lancaster was not available from UNISTATS but was supplied by Lancaster University Medical School directly; this is also based on the National Student Survey 2016.

13 Based on a survey carried by ISC on behalf of HMC and GSA schools. Popularity ranked by number of applications from GSA and HMC schools.

14 Information for some international Medical Schools included in this report is based on 2017 entry. Application deadlines are typically much later in Europe and as such we do not expect entry criteria for 2018 to be available until at least October 2017. The information obtained for these Medical Schools in this report is partial due to language differences and limited information available on the Medical Schools’ web pages.

15 Data kindly provided by Medical Doorway: www.medicaldoorway.com.