



msc Medical
Schools
Council
Selection Alliance

A journey to medicine: **Results day and beyond**

May 2018

Start



A journey to medicine: Results day and beyond

How to use this booklet

This is the fifth of five booklets developed for teachers and advisers in secondary schools and colleges. It provides guidance on how to support your students on results day and with any subsequent decisions they need to make.

Medical schools recognise this can be a challenging time for staff and students, particularly when results are not as expected. This booklet outlines the options available to your students.

This booklet is particularly aimed at those schools and colleges which have limited experience of supporting students in their application to medicine. It has been produced by the Medical Schools Council and is endorsed by all member undergraduate medical schools in the UK.

The information relates to UK medical schools only. It is correct and accurate at the time of publication (May 2018). It will be updated annually but we advise you to check individual medical school websites.

The Medical Schools Council's resources for students and teachers or advisers is available online. Visit www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/applications/resources-for-students-and-teachers for more information.



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When students have met their offer

If your student has met the terms of their firm or insurance offer then congratulations!

Make sure your students now prepare for medical school and, possibly, moving away from home. Further information is included later in the booklet.

Encourage your students to return to your school or college in the future to help others through the application process and to let aspiring medics know what studying medicine is like.

If a student has exceeded their conditional offer, they can consider Adjustment. Adjustment allows a student to reconsider where (and what) they wish to study. They can potentially swap their place for another one. However, the course to which the student wishes to move needs to have a place available. If a student is considering Adjustment, encourage them to discuss it first with the course they wish to move to and see if they have any places.



When students have not met their offer

This can be a difficult time for students.

If your student's examination paper is being re-marked then do let the first and insurance choice medical school(s) know as soon as possible.

Encourage your students to take their time to consider their future options. There are three options available to students:

- **Resits**

Not all medical schools will accept resits, and some will only accept them if there have been particular extenuating circumstances. Encourage your students to check the individual websites before embarking on this option.

The reason that medical schools do not generally accept resits is that if a student requires resits to achieve the necessary results they may not be able to pass in first sitting the medical schools examinations. It is important for medical schools to see that students can handle the workload associated with three A levels, or equivalent, in one sitting. Resits may require higher grades.

- **Graduate Entry Medicine**

Students may wish to consider taking a different undergraduate degree and then apply for Graduate Entry Medicine. It is important to note that competition for graduate entry places is as high, if not more so, as it is for standard entry courses.

For graduate entry, many courses require a science or life science undergraduate degree. However, some do not specify a degree subject. A minimum degree classification is often required.

If graduate entry is a possibility for your students then encourage them to consider their undergraduate degree with care.

- **Other healthcare courses**

Your student may wish to consider other healthcare courses. There is a significant range of options of available. These can provide direct patient contact, and diagnostic and treatment opportunities. Places on these courses may even be available through Clearing so if your student was very sure they would enjoy another health career then they may be able to start at university that year.

“Although at first your students may be hugely disappointed they should take the time to think through their options very carefully. This is not a moment for them to make a rushed choice, they will still be a very strong academic candidate for all non-medical courses. Encourage your students to research other courses and universities that they may wish to attend after their exams have been completed, just in case. When results day comes it may be that the university your student has applied to can offer you an alternate programme or your student may wish to apply to a different course and university through Clearing. If your student is undecided taking a gap year may help them pick the right course.”

Professor Kim Piper, Head of Admissions and Widening Participation for the School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary's, University of London

For more information

Entry Requirements for UK Medical Schools:
www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/applications/resources-for-students-and-teachers.

Students who did not apply to medicine

You may have some students who did not apply to medicine, but who had better grades than expected and now wish to consider it.

Entry to medicine requires more than Level 3 qualifications. For example, medical schools will often wish to interview the applicant and consider results of aptitude tests. Therefore, students who have got the appropriate Level 3 grades to study medicine will not be considered for that year of entry. Your students will need to consider entry for the following year. In the intervening time, encourage them to learn more about medicine and their aptitude for the subject.

“Training to be a doctor is difficult and demanding, but rewarding. Perhaps the most important thing to do is to find out about oneself – to challenge yourself by working with people who are different from you in age, background, ethnicity, and find out how well you can communicate, understand their experiences and perspective, and how good you really are at coping.”

Dr Paul Garrud, Honorary Associate Professor,
School of Medicine, University of Nottingham



For more information

Entry Requirements for UK Medical Schools:
www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/applications/resources-for-students-and-teachers.

To see the breadth of health careers visit:
www.healthcareers.nhs.uk.

Preparing for medical school

When your students have a confirmed place at medical school, it can feel as if the hard work is over.

Encourage your students to do some preparation before they go in order to ensure that their transition is as smooth as possible.

Sorting out their finances

Encourage your students to finalise their student finance forms (if they have not already). They should also open a student bank account, taking time to consider which bank has the best deal. They may wish to use a bank that has a branch on or near to campus.

Encourage your students to develop a weekly budget to help their money last.

Health requirements

All medical schools require their new students to undertake health screening. For some medical schools this may start with a health questionnaire that is completed online before their course starts.

Medical schools will have specific vaccination requirements. The health requirements differ so encourage your students to check with their medical school. Your students may need to acquire their vaccination record from their general practice surgery and submit this to the medical school, if requested. Typically, medical schools ask for vaccinations in measles, mumps, rubella, tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, polio, meningitis and Haemophilus influenza B. At medical school it is likely that they will be given the Hepatitis B vaccine.

Students will also be required to have tests for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and tuberculosis before they can take part in specific activities. If a student tests positive, they will still be able to train as a doctor but some activities may be limited.

Getting ready for the course

Encourage your students to read the enrolment instructions so they know what they will need to do in the first week. They will be sent information from the medical school about this, and this information may include recommended reading. Students will be able to pick up textbooks at the university or at the medical school.

For more information

On how students can manage their finances:
www.moneysavingexpert.com/students.

Health clearance for medical and dental students:
www.medschools.ac.uk/news/new-health-clearance-guidance-for-medical-and-dental-students-released.



Life at medical school

Everyone's experience of medical school is different. It is hard work, but also enjoyable, interesting and highly rewarding.

Being organised is key. Encourage your students to think about how they will ensure that they have time to study, see friends and engage in other interests. They will not have their teachers or their parents helping them to organise.

Our top tips would be:

- Encourage your students to learn how to cook. They will need to keep themselves healthy.
- Extracurricular activities and student societies help integration in the medical school and wider university.
- Encourage your students to ask for help at university, if they need it. There is plenty of support available which they will be informed about when they start. Support might include study skills classes, counselling services or peer support.
- Listen to a few medical students tell you about their experiences at medical school.





The Medical Schools Council represents the
interests and ambitions of UK medical schools

www.medschools.ac.uk

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