



Entry requirements

Did you know?

A summary of the entry requirements for all medical schools is listed in one place by the Medical Schools Council.

Useful stuff

WHAT DO MEDICAL SCHOOLS WANT TO SEE?

Medical schools look at all examinations as a measure of potential to succeed at medicine.

Medical schools will specify the grades and subjects required at A level, Highers and/or Advanced Highers. Many medical schools will expect you to have taken your exams in one sitting. Offers will be expressed as a list of grades and subjects required. It is likely that at least two of the A levels will be specified. Chemistry and Biology A levels are the most common requirements. Students studying in Scotland are advised to take Highers and Advanced Highers or the International Baccalaureate. If taking Advanced Highers and Highers you will need to achieve specified grades. You may only be able to meet subject requirements through a combination of S5 and S6 courses. GCSEs and Scottish Nationals are used differently by medical schools and each specify their own minimum requirements. This can vary by subject and grade.

The International Baccalaureate is accepted at all medical schools. The offer will be for total points, points gained for each subject and subjects passed at higher level.

Many medical schools will accept students who have taken an Access to Medicine qualification.

This is not a route if you have simply underachieved in your A levels - medical schools are very unlikely accept these students. When considering applicants from Access to Medicine courses, medical schools are often looking for students who have not previously taken post-16 qualifications and/or have extensive life experience acquired through work or family responsibilities. Before you embark on an access course check your eligibility and the medical schools which accept that particular qualification.

Top facts

- Medicine will have non-academic requirements you have to meet. For example, offers will be conditional on the receipt of a Disclosure and Barring Service or Protection of Vulnerable Groups check deemed satisfactory by the university.
- Academic qualifications and grades form one part of the offer consideration. Medical schools will also consider your aptitude, skills and understanding of a medical career.

Key dates

The deadline for medicine applications through UCAS is 15 October.

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What you should do...

Make sure you meet all the minimum requirements set out by the medical school. This includes your subjects and grades at GCSE or Scottish Nationals. Different medical schools will place a different emphasis on different elements, for example GCSEs, or UCAT score. Consider your strengths and how this applies to the different medical schools you are interested in.

Ensure that the qualification(s) that you have taken post-16 meet the criteria for the medical schools you are interested in, for example:

- Medicine does not accept the Scottish Baccalaureate.
- If you are taking reformed physics, biology or chemistry A level, some medical schools may require you to have a pass in the A level science practical. If required, it will be listed in the offer.

Medical schools are aware that some schools and colleges may not offer AS levels. Some medical schools specify that AS levels will not be considered, even if you have taken them. If your school does not offer AS levels, include confirmation of this policy within the academic reference. You will not be disadvantaged in the admissions process.

The Extended Project Qualification will not be part of the offer. However, it does provide you with a means to demonstrate your ability to learn independently and your research skills. If you have completed a project make sure you talk about the skills and knowledge you have gained within your personal statement and at interview.

Medical schools will set out clearly the requirements on their websites. Do not be tempted to use other unauthenticated sources of information.

Be aware

Medical schools may specify that some A levels are not considered. These can include critical thinking, further mathematics, citizenship studies and general studies.

More help & advice

Entry Requirements for UK Medical Schools: www.medschools.ac.uk/our-work/publications

Test yourself

Choose four medical courses.

Consider the entry requirements and list:

- The requirements at GCSE or Scottish Nationals (subject combination and grades)
- The requirements at A level or equivalent (subject combination and grades)
- Any other requirements that are listed

For each course consider:

- Do you have the required GCSE or Scottish National qualifications?
- Are you doing the A level (or equivalent) courses required for that course?
- Is there anything about the offer that you are unsure of? If so, check now.