

Fifth choice

Did you know?

Universities and medical schools will only see the courses you have applied to at that institution. Admissions staff will not see your application to other medical schools or universities.

Useful stuff

You can choose four medicine courses in your UCAS form and you should use all four choices for medicine. Your fifth choice is to apply for anything except medicine.

A fifth choice will not prejudice your application to medicine in any way.

It is worth checking with the fifth choice course you are interested in applying to if they would prefer a separate personal statement. If required, it will be submitted separately, directly to the university.

A non-medicine course can provide you with an alternative route if you failed to achieve a place. However, make sure it is something you wish to study at university.

What you should do...

Consider the fifth choice carefully and choose something you could imagine yourself doing.

Many students use the fifth choice as a back up in case they do not receive any offers to study medicine. The fifth choice can be at any university. It does not need to be at the same university as your medical school choices. Many students use the fifth choice for a medicine-related degree. Common choices include biomedical sciences, biochemistry, pharmacy, psychology, chemistry, biology or an allied health profession course. Some courses may be useful as a platform for graduate medicine.

Ensure your personal statement is geared towards medicine.

Key dates

Your fifth choice will need to be within your application submitted in October.

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Top facts

- You are likely to get your fifth choice offer before you hear from the medical schools.
- Some courses are more likely to be accepted by graduate medicine than others.

Be aware

Most medical schools will not allow you to transfer from other courses, so only start another degree if you intend to complete it.

What they say...

“I chose to study anatomical sciences because it was an exciting venture with exposure to early dissection which I had never been exposed to before and it would help me move into medicine. I found it significantly aided me in preparation for medicine as I was particularly familiar with the anatomy aspects of the course which can be daunting first time round. I had also acquired skills such as journal reviewing and scientific writing which helped me in particular areas of medicine. Moreover, through my previous degree, I had the confidence and maturity to engage in activities both within the university and on placements, which I believe is invaluable to medicine.”

Sarah Keskes, third year medical student, Keele University School of Medicine.

More help & advice

Unistats is the official site that allows students to search and compare data on courses across the UK:

www.unistats.ac.uk

Test yourself

Think about your fifth choice:

- What other courses are you interested in?
- Can you see yourself studying that subject instead of medicine?
- What universities offer this course?