

Supporting IB students with medical admissions

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HYMS

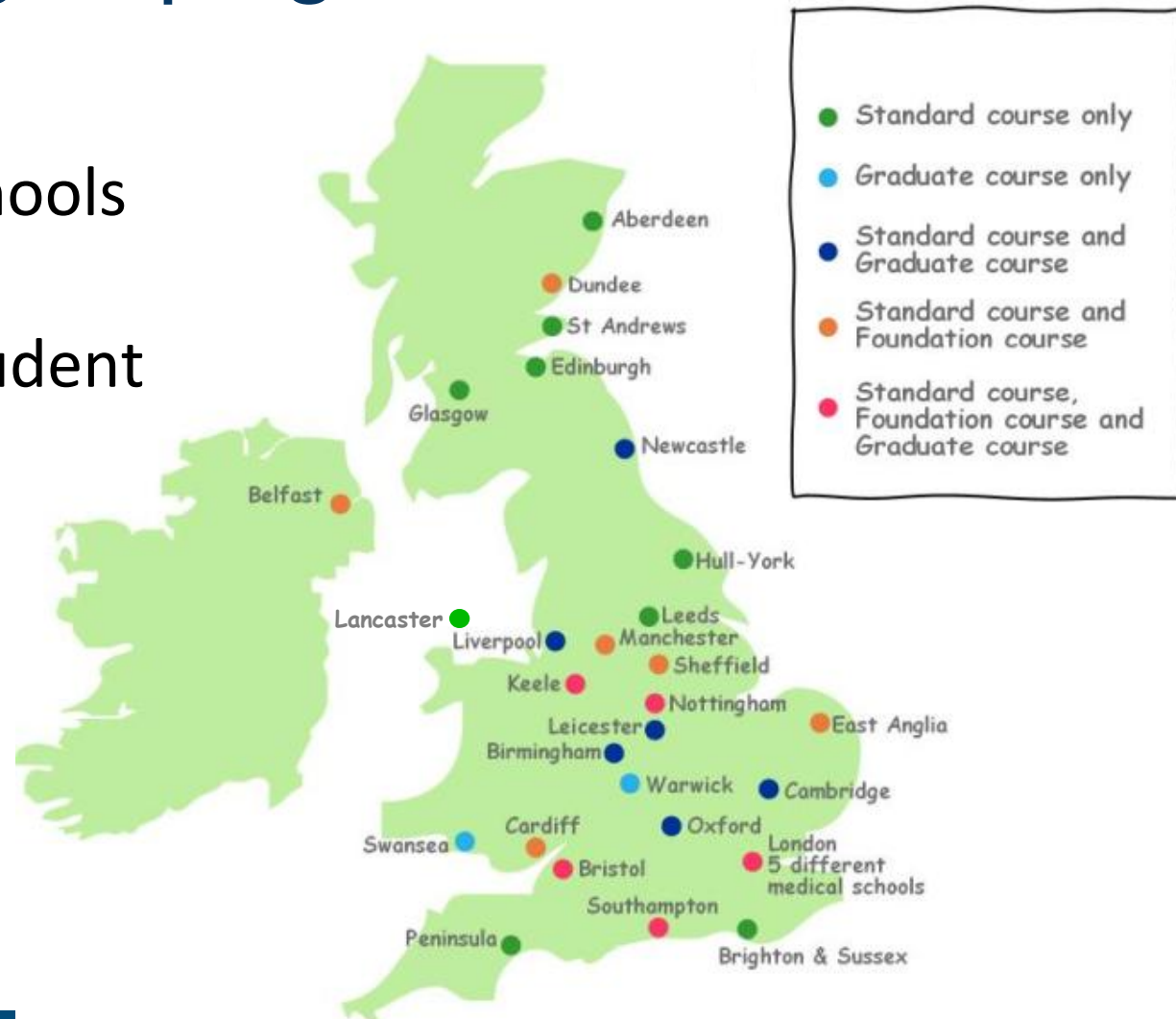
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Medical degree programmes in the UK

33 UK medical schools

~8000 medical student places

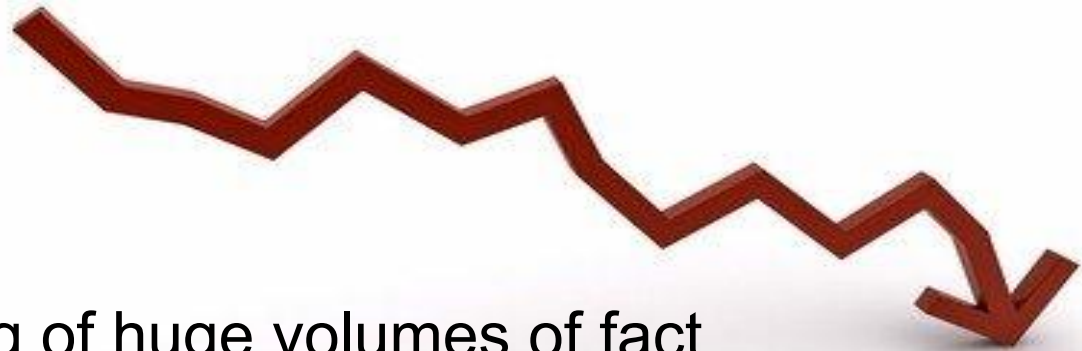


Trends in medical education



- Improved integration between scientific disciplines and themes
- Contextualised learning
- Development of teamwork skills
- Personal and professional development
- Life-long learning skills
- Critical thinking and appraisal
- Early clinical experience

Trends in medical education



- Surface learning of huge volumes of fact
- Artificial separation of subject areas into discrete “-ologies”
- Separation of courses into pre-clinical/clinical sciences

Sigurd Decroos

33 UK medical schools

- 5 year university-based course (6 with intercalated degree)
- Degrees MB BS, MB ChB, BM BCh, all equal, meaning

Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery

- Apply via UCAS to 4 medical schools
- Closing date 15th October
- Usually need admissions test eg UKCAT/BMAT
- Usually only offer places after interview

Choosing medical schools

- Problem-based learning or traditional teaching?

What kind of teaching and learning approach will suit your students?

- Are the early years purely theory or patient related too?

Is the learning integrated and presented in context with patients at the core of the curriculum throughout?

- Early or late clinical experience?

Will your students enjoy developing their clinical skills right from the start of the course?

Entry requirements for Medicine

Usually a combination of ACADEMIC and NON-ACADEMIC entry requirements

- Academic - HIGH but different at each medical school
- Non-academic – lots of overlap but different emphasis at each medical school
- Work experience
- Researching medical schools: Vitally important!

Not only do courses vary but so do entry requirements

Academic requirements

- GCSE requirements... variable
- GCSE English and Maths.... variable
- A level/IB requirements (subjects and grades)
- UKCAT...variable
- IELTSs (or equivalent)

GCSE requirements...

Institution	GCSE Requirement
Durham	5 A*-C inc. Maths and Eng Lang
Keele	4 at grade A, Eng Lang and Maths at B
Birmingham	Website states A* in English/Maths/All sciences
Lancaster & Liverpool	9 A*-C, Eng Lang and Maths at B
Leeds	6 grade B's inc. Eng and Maths
Leicester	Not specified, C in Eng Lang and Maths
HYMS	GCSE Maths and English Grade A , 6 other subjects at A to C
Manchester	7 A*-C inc. 5 A/A*, Eng and Maths at B
Nottingham	6 at A, Eng and Maths at B
Sheffield	6 at A, Eng and Maths at C
East Anglia	6 at A inc. Eng and Maths

GCSE main points

- May be used as a screen eg number of A/A*
- May be used to award points eg “the more A* you have the better”
- May be used as a baseline measure only (minimum entry requirement accepted then considered no further)
- Particularly huge variation in requirements for English and Maths from C grades to A* grades (Birmingham/
- Some schools require one modern foreign language eg UCL

IB requirements at different schools

IB requirement	Medical School
Less than 36	UEA (34) Keele (35)
36 points minimum	Aberdeen, Birmingham, BSMS, Cardiff, Exeter, Hull-York, Glasgow, Lancaster, Leicester, Leeds, Liverpool, Nottingham, Plymouth, Southampton, QUB.
37 points minimum	Bristol, Dundee, Edinburgh, Manchester, Sheffield.
38 points minimum	Barts & The London, Durham, Imperial, King's, Newcastle, St. Andrew's, UCL
39 points minimum	Oxford
40 points minimum	Cambridge

IB Variations....

- Including/excluding TOK and EE/bonus points
- Standards for HL subject ranging from 7,7,7 (Cambridge), 6,6,6 (many schools including Barts and the London, UEA, Dundee) to 6,6,5 (HYMS,UCL, Newcastle)
- Subjects accepted. Vast majority require Chemistry and Biology at HL but some will accept another science in place of Biology/Chemistry

A levels and IB

- HYMS` typical offer is AAA at A2, achieved in a single sitting, including Biology and Chemistry plus a fourth subject at AS level minimum grade B
- For the third A2 subject, we consider all subjects of equal merit except General Studies, Applied Science or Critical Thinking
- For IB we require 6,6,5 in three Higher-level subjects, including Biology and Chemistry with a total of 36 points for the diploma, including bonus points for Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and Extended Essay (EE).



for medicine and dentistry degrees

Introduced in 2006

Taken by over 20,000 medical & dental applicants

Required by 33 UK medical & dental schools

- 5 components:**
- Verbal reasoning
 - Numerical reasoning
 - Abstract reasoning
 - Decision making
 - Non-cognitive qualities



UKCAT

Used variably by different medical schools

1. Not at all eg Birmingham, Oxbridge, UCL, Imperial
2. As a factor eg HYMS
3. “Cut –off” score below which applications are rejected eg Sheffield
4. As a deciding factor in selecting borderline students eg Keele

BMAT (Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Imperial, Leeds 2013)

■ Section 1 - Aptitude and Skills

- generic skills in problem solving, understanding argument and
- Data analysis and inference

■ Section 2 - Scientific Knowledge and Applications

-application of scientific knowledge normally encountered in non-specialist school science and maths (KS 4)

■ Section 3 - Writing Task

-ability to select, develop and organise ideas and communicate them in writing in a concise and effective way

- www.bmat.org.uk

Academic entry myths.....

- Students must have all A* grades at GCSE
- Students must take all three sciences at A level
- Students must have Maths at A level
- Humanities, languages and arts will not be viewed favourably at A level/IB

Personal qualities and abilities

- What makes a perfect doctor?

What are we looking for?

We want:

- Well-rounded individuals
- Thoughtful, caring and compassionate
- Insightful
- Motivated and conscientious
- Academically able

How do we assess these “qualities” in applicants?

		<i>Key</i>
X	Aptitude	
X	Academic requirement	X = UKCAT
X	Conscientiousness	X = UCAS
X X	Motivation and interest	X = Interview
X X	Interpersonal skills (ref)	
X X	Communication skills	
X	Appropriate maturity and confidence	
X	Understanding of healthcare	
X	Curiosity, initiative, flexibility	
X	Copes with uncertainty	

Personal Statements

- What is the purpose of a personal statement?
- What should it contain?
- What should the medical school do with that information?
- How do we “rate” a personal statement?

In Manchester, UCAS forms rated for:

- Insight and reflection on a medical career
- Work experience in a caring role
- Interests/hobbies and linking these with ability to cope with stress
- Evidence of teamwork, leadership skills, and communication skills

In HYMS, UCAS forms rated for:

- academic ability
- motivation for medicine
- a realistic understanding of medicine, including hands-on experience of caring and observing healthcare in hospital and community settings
- self-motivation and responsibility
- communication skills
- ability to work with others

One example.....

UCAS form rating in HYMS

- Rated on each of the components indicated
- Overall score out of 15
- This score is added to the points awarded for UKCAT score (out of 25)
- Around top 450 scoring candidates invited to interview
- Interview scored out of 60 (independently) and this scored added to the combined UKCAT/UCAS statement score
- Top ~300 students made an offer for 141 places

Medical Admissions Interview

- Assess motivation, understanding of career choice, personal attitudes, communication skills
- Is medicine the right career for the applicant?
- Are they suited to this degree programme?/Screen for serious unsuitability
- “Courtship” function; lets the candidate gain their own impression of the school
- Discriminate between candidates who are similar on paper
- Verify/validate experience and insight

Approaches to interview

- No interview (Edinburgh)
- Traditional Panel Interview (Barts and the London, BSMS, Bristol, Newcastle)
- Multiple Mini Interviews (Birmingham, Lancaster, UEA, Dundee)
- Group interviews/tasks (Manchester, Lancaster)

Approaches to interview

Traditional panel interview:

- Applicants interviewed by 2-4 interviewers
- For set amount of time (15-45 mins)
- Semi-structured/open questioning
- Scoring scheme → ranking of interviewees

Approaches to interview

Multiple Mini Interviews

- Candidates asked to perform a range of different tasks
- Cycle through a variable number of “stations”
- Assessed against clearly defined criteria
- Multiple interviewers/assessors

eg Short interview to probe your understanding of your career choice

Role play – with an actor to assess your interpersonal skills

Read a short statement about an ethical issue in medicine and discuss.

Short group work

The prospective medical student's journey.....

- Decide early that medical school is for them and choose appropriate subjects at GCSE and A level (Biology and Chemistry particularly)
- Work hard and get good grades!
- Develop their social skills, teamwork and non-academic interests..we want “well-rounded” applicants
- In Lower sixth, long term work experience should be undertaken



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The prospective medical student`s journey.....ctd

- In Lower sixth students should really think about the kind of medical education they will choose
- They **MUST** research the available medical courses
- They should narrow down to the schools they are interested in and carefully research the admission requirements for those schools
- They should visit, and attend open days for the schools they have selected
- They must make sure that their academic qualifications map onto their preferred schools



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The prospective medical student`s journey.....ctd

- They should take the UKCAT early in the cycle
- They must be realistic and be aware which courses are more competitive
- They should draft their personal statement in good time, referring to the websites of the schools they have chosen and making sure they have covered all of the criteria
- They must think about the interview process, practise this and think about how they present themselves

For further information....

- Visit the Admissions Homepage on the HYMS website@

www.hyms.ac.uk

- For specific admissions queries contact us on:

internationaladmissions@hyms.ac.uk