Graduate Entry to Medicine: some quick facts

- Fourteen medical schools offer a fast track course for applicants who already have a degree (known as ‘Graduate Entry Medicine, or GEM). These usually take four years (except Imperial, which is five). These courses have an important role to play in widening access routes into medicine - for example, for those who may not have aspired to a medical degree earlier or for people from wider social and ethnic backgrounds.
- Applications are handled by UCAS. The closing date for courses beginning in September 2017 is October 15th, 2016.
- An alternative is to take a five year undergraduate course. Each applicant is allowed to submit up to four Medicine course choices to UCAS, so you could choose a combination of graduate or standard programmes.
- All applicants will be required to demonstrate a high level of English language ability, criminal records clearance and non-academic ability. First-hand patient care experience (usually voluntary) is almost essential to a successful application.
- Some schools only accept students with a science background, others have more broad entry requirements and these will be listed on each medical school's website. The Admissions department at the medical school you hope to attend may be able to offer you more detailed advice.
- Individual institutions are responsible for all aspects of selection and admission. As a result, entry requirements do vary between each medical school. It is advised that you contact your preferred school or UCAS to seek clarification on their particular entry requirements.

(Information from the Medical Schools Council).

Applications checklist

- Decide where you want to apply
- Find out which entrance exams you need to sit (see below) and make a note of key dates
- Sit the exams
- Submit UCAS form and personal statement before 15th October at 18:00
- Prepare for interviews: most schools interview in late autumn/spring terms

Course entry requirements

The information below summarises the requirements for the GEM courses currently offered in the UK, based on the latest information available. However, before making any application you are strongly advised to check the requirements of each institution on their website. Many courses require a science or health-related first degree. Where any degree is accepted, this is noted next to the degree class requirement below. It is important that you check their websites to check which disciplines they will consider.

The medical schools listed below accept applications from candidates with a first degree in any discipline. It is important that you visit each school’s website or prospectus to check their specific requirements before you apply.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Number of places per year</th>
<th>Ratio of applicants to places</th>
<th>Degree Class Required</th>
<th>Degree subjects accepted</th>
<th>A-level (or equivalent) required</th>
<th>Admission Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barts and The London</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>25:1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Science or health-related</td>
<td>Chemistry, Biology</td>
<td>UKCAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>13:1</td>
<td>1st/2.1</td>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10:1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
<td>Chemistry, Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13:1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imperial (5 year course)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>16:1*</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td>BMAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>King’s (KCL)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>54:1*</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td>UKCAT</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2.1</td>
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<td>GAMSAT</td>
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<tr>
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<td>35:1*</td>
<td>2.1</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>9:1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td></td>
<td>GAMSAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>12:1*</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Applied &amp; experimental sciences</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>BMAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southampton</td>
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<td>Chemistry, Biology</td>
<td>UKCAT</td>
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<td>St George’s</td>
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<td>Any</td>
<td></td>
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<td>GAMSAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warwick</td>
<td>177</td>
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<td>2.1</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td></td>
<td>UKCAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data taken from before 2015.**

Preparing for the Entrance Exams

There are currently three admissions tests used by medical schools across the UK: the Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT), the Graduate Medical Schools Admissions Test (GAMSAT) and the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT). Details of these tests, as well as sample questions and practice papers, can be found on their respective websites.

Each of the three tests has provision for candidates with disabilities. If you think that you will require any form of adjustment to enable you to take the test then look at the test websites for further details. It is advisable to contact the test administrators as early as possible to notify them of your requirements so that suitable adjustments can be made. There may be an earlier deadline for submission of requests for adjustments. Find out more about the entrance exams at www.medschools.ac.uk/STUDENTS/HOWTOAPPLY/Pages/BMAT-and-UKCAT.aspx

BMAT (2hrs)
www.bmat.org.uk  Helpline: 01223 553366

GAMSAT (5hrs30)
www.gamsatuk.org

UKCAT (2hrs)
www.ukcat.ac.uk  Helpline: 0161 855 7409
Alternatives to GEM

Another option is to study abroad. British citizens who study medicine in the EEA can practice in the UK. For more information and a list of some medical schools where English is the language of teaching, see www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/studying-medicine-abroad/

Further reading

BMA Guide to Applying to Medical School
www.bma.org.uk/developing-your-career/medical-student/how-to-become-a-doctor/applying-to-medical-school

The British Medical Association (BMA) is the Trade Union and Professional Body for doctors. Their website has very useful information and advice for anyone thinking of a career in medicine.

Medical Schools Council
www.medschools.ac.uk/STUDENTS/Pages/default.aspx

Official site with information, FAQs and links to all universities who offer Undergrad and Graduate entry courses.

The Medic Portal
www.themedicportal.com

Very detailed, lots of useful information and advice about studying medicine. Partnered with the Royal Society of Medicine (and so authoritative)

Contact details

Bart’s and the London
www.smd.qmul.ac.uk  smdadmissions@qmul.ac.uk  020 7882 2240

University of Birmingham
www.medicine.bham.ac.uk  medicineadmissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk

University of Bristol
www.medici.bris.ac.uk  med-admissions@bristol.ac.uk  0117 928 7679

University of Cambridge
www.medschl.cam.ac.uk  admissions@cam.ac.uk

Imperial College London
www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine  medicine.ug.admissions@imperial.ac.uk

King's College London
www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/medicine  ug-healthadmissions@kcl.ac.uk  0207 848 6501 / 6502

University of Liverpool
www.liv.ac.uk/medicine  mbchb@liv.ac.uk

University of Nottingham
www.nottingham.ac.uk/mhs/GEM  gem@nottingham.ac.uk  01332 724622

Newcastle University
www.ncl.ac.uk/biomedicine

University of Oxford
www.medsci.ox.ac.uk

St George’s, University of London
www.sgul.ac.uk

University of Southampton
www.som.soton.ac.uk  ugapply.fm@southampton.ac.uk  0238 059 4408

University of Wales, Swansea
www.swansea.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/medicine/mbbchgraduateentrymedicine

medicine@swansea.ac.uk

University of Warwick
www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/a101/