

MEDICINE

UCAS: [Medicine & allied subjects](#)

UCAS applications must be submitted before 15th October; you are advised to apply early.

You are only allowed to apply to four of the twenty-nine medical schools and your choice of “insurance” non-medical courses will not prejudice your application. Medical schools have revised their A Level requirements in the light of Curriculum 2000 and are encouraging a breadth of subjects. You should have strong GCSEs (predominantly A*s and A grades) and your predicted A Level grades should be at the very least three As and a B in any free-standing AS. Most Medical Schools require the [UCAT](#) to be taken by the end of September.

There is no prescribed combination of A Levels for Medicine; only Chemistry is virtually compulsory. All of the leading medical schools also, pretty much, require Biology. Some suggest Physics or Maths is useful. N.B. Maths and Further Maths will be counted as only one A Level for offers; an AS or A Level in an academic arts subject is positively encouraged. (Pre-med courses are available but are aimed at exceptional Arts-A Level-only candidates.)

A string of A* grades at GCSE and A Level is no guarantee of a place at medical school. Evidence of your vocation, enthusiasm and suitability must also be apparent in your UCAS form and at interview.

Initial training takes five to six years, with at least three years further training. Specialisation takes even longer. Your timetable will be full and the majority of students greatly underestimate the amount of work they have to do. There will be a large amount of practical work in the laboratory and on the hospital ward. Your holidays will be cut after the first two years and you will have to work some evenings and weekends.

It is hoped that you will have made a definite decision to study Medicine by June of your Year 11. The Biology Department has a variety of resources and contacts that will be useful.

It is compulsory for all medical students to have been vaccinated against hepatitis B before entry to medical school. Anyone who is a carrier of hepatitis B will have to demonstrate that they are not infectious.

Recommended Reading and Viewing

[The Medic Portal](#)

[UK Medical Schools](#)

Medical Ethics (A very short introduction) - Tony Hope

Life at the extremes - Frances Ashcroft

Bad Science - Ben Goldacre

The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat - Oliver Sacks

Genome - Matt Ridley

Nature via nurture - Matt Ridley

A Career in Medicine: Do you have what it takes? 2nd Ed. - Ed. R. Shakur

Learning Medicine - Ed. Peter Richards & Simon Stockhill

Insiders' Guide to Medical Schools Ed. Alex Almoudaris (BMJ Books) 'Doctors To Be' - 8 part BBC television series

Do No Harm - Henry Marsh

Plus the Recommended Reading list in the [Biology section](#).

Medicine ([Cambridge University - Super-curricular](#))

Course film

Books	Oxford Introductory Reading Gawande, <i>Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End</i> Marmot, <i>The Health Gap: The Challenge of an Unequal World</i> Nashef, <i>The Naked Surgeon</i>
Journals/Articles	Science news and science articles from New Scientist The BMJ: leading medical journal. Research. Education. Comment The Lancet The best science for better lives
Authors	Ben Goldacre Atul Gawande Michael Marmot
Websites	My HE Plus - Medicine Medical Schools Council Guidance on gaining relevant experience Basic Science Concepts for Med/VetST Students at Cambridge TeachMeAnatomy - Making Anatomy Simple Preparing for BMAT Admissions Testing British Medical Association Wellcome: Home The Physiological Society: Homepage Home - Institute of Biomedical Science Royal College of General Practitioners - Observe GP
Video	Medicine Mock Interview (1) Peterhouse, Cambridge. Medicine Mock Interview (2) Peterhouse, Cambridge.
Podcasts	BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Science
Other activities	Volunteering Placements Volunteering opportunities
Also see resources	Natural Sciences