

Access to Medicine - Application information

All Access to HE courses, of which Access to Medicine is one, are open to applicants over the age of 19 years. However, Access to Medicine was set up to provide a possible alternative route into medical school, that is an alternative to either direct graduate entry or to the three high-grade science A level route normally taken by 18 year olds.

Entry criteria are very broad - we are guided by what we believe are the criteria medical schools use for the selection of mature students.

Every applicant is considered individually, but since we are looking for evidence of a deep commitment to the study of medicine, we advise potential candidates that they should have health/medical/social/care experience which will have enabled them to develop a mature understanding of the role of a doctor, and usually this will have been gained by a substantial period of time in paid or voluntary work.

We are also looking for evidence of ability to reach Grade A/B A level standard in selected parts of the Biology, Chemistry, Psychology and Maths syllabuses within a few weeks of starting the course, therefore previous performance at Level 2 and Level 3 and/or any work-based training is considered carefully.

In addition, we try to select highly motivated, active candidates with an excellent standard of interpersonal skills, and again, this is usually most convincingly evidenced by the ability to assume and sustain a position of responsibility in voluntary or paid employment.

For the reasons above, you will appreciate that it is very unlikely that a young applicant who has very recently completed a Level 3 course in full time education will be offered a place on our course.

We have many applicants and normally only offer 20-22 places, so the selection from the shortlisted applicants is made on the basis of tests and interviews held over two days in May, where we take great care to select students whom we believe have an excellent chance of both completing our course and being accepted at a medical school. As medical schools have a requirement regarding Maths and English GCSE 6 (B) grades we also have to check that.

We expect students to live in the area and attend full time Monday – Wednesday throughout the three terms. Attendance is required to be 90% in all subjects, but students normally show higher attendance than this. Students are required to arrange their own accommodation for the year if they do not already live locally. We can offer no help with finding accommodation.

All applicants must ensure that previous grades meet entry criteria for BSMS before completing an application. This can be found on their website including entry under widening participation and contextual data. ****Please note BSMS are no longer offering those under the age of 21 guaranteed offers. from this programme.**

Application Process: Deadline Friday 6th May 2022 by 4pm

Interview Process: Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th May 2022

College Application Form:

https://www.escg.ac.uk/docs/application-forms/application-form-2022-23_digital/

The above college application form to be completed and sent to
lewes.admissions@escg.ac.uk

All of the below documents to be sent to access.enquiries@escg.ac.uk only

A2M Application Form

https://docs.google.com/document/d/17_RNa5MpxP96CjLkr9NZ9r4tz1sw-PvlyamSuFNKZFc/edit?usp=sharing

CV

We ask all applicants to supply a full chronological CV in addition to the completed form. Please give full details of posts held including your main duties and responsibilities together with reasons for leaving. If you have taken career breaks we would like these to be detailed too.

Supporting Letter

You should also write a supporting letter. This will afford you a further opportunity to explain any pertinent circumstances which you feel may strengthen your application, as well as giving us evidence of your written communication skills.

- Research you have undertaken to be certain that Access to Medicine is a suitable path – ie which medical schools you have made enquiries to and the outcome of those enquiries.

References

Examples of information which could be included are:

- Background details explaining your decision to study medicine as a mature student rather than at 18 years
- Reasons for earlier career decisions
- Reasons for leaving full time education when you did
- Explanations for unexpected academic performance previously
- Additional information to show that you do have the required academic potential for medicine.
- Additional information to show that you do have the required life skills for med

We ask you to supply two references to support your application. They should not be simply character references from family members or personal friends. Please include contact details of the referees, as we randomly 'spot check' a number of them.

Overall Advice for the Application

Your application should be neat, legible and carefully presented.

It is essential that you include all details of any higher education, Level 3 and Level 2 examinations you have taken - with dates and grades.

If your qualifications are not from the UK then you may like to first convert your grades with UK ENIC: <https://www.ecctis.com/>

We will need to see your certificates for English and Maths at the interview. Do not send them to us with your application.

Please note we expect all applicants, wherever currently based, to be certain that UK medical schools will consider their application.

The Study Environment

East Sussex College is an FE college. It is not a university. We have a connection with Brighton and Sussex Medical School – the course was developed with their advice, however we have no formal guarantees of offers of places at BSMS and our students have no right to the facilities at Brighton or Sussex Universities other than limited use of the libraries.

East Sussex College provides an extensive range of courses for students of all abilities, ages and levels. All students share the public spaces including the canteens, common rooms, library and computer rooms. Our students are expected to be very tolerant and accepting of the different uses of the college accommodation. The majority of full time students here in Lewes are aged 16 – 18 years and the college environment reflects this bias.

Course Content

The Biology, Psychology and Chemistry units include topics from A - Level syllabuses for these subjects. The level of assessments of the units is a mixture of AS and A2. Students must pass all assessments for all units at the equivalent of grade A/B. Examinations have a minimum pass mark of 70%.

The Mathematics course consists of level 2 and Level 3 topics, again the Level 3 pass standard is A/B.

The Physics unit has been developed to address topics of immediate interest to medics but this is again assessed at equivalence to A - Level grade A/B.

You will be expected to support your studies referring to texts of A - Level standard and beyond.