

Guide to Medicine Applications



British Medical Association (BMA):

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/studying-medicine/becoming-a-doctor/applying-to-medical-school>

2021-2022

UK medical schools

Take a look at the BMA map of UK universities with schools or faculties of medicine:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/studying-medicine/becoming-a-doctor/uk-medical-schools>

Contact the BMA medical students committee

The BMA medical students committee also has a representative at each medical school, representing the interests and issues for all medical students.

Contact the committee via email info.students@bma.org.uk or call 020 3058 7416.

Writing your personal statement

The most important part of writing your personal statement is not to rush it. Find out the deadlines, apply as early as possible and give yourself plenty of time to get your application ready.

Medical schools want to know not just about your grades, but about you as a person. Talk about all the things you've achieved in your life: personal interests, hobbies, sports achievements, academic prizes, projects you've work on, social groups you've been a part of.

Your Medicine Personal Statement is your chance to really explain who you are, and why you want to study Medicine. You should think of it as your opportunity to inspire Admission Tutors with your motivation. Get your Personal Statement right, and you'll really stand out from the pool of other Med School applicants.

What is a Medicine Personal Statement?

A Personal Statement supports your [UCAS Application](#). It's designed to help universities choose the best candidates.

More specifically, a Medicine Personal Statement is your chance to highlight any of your skills or qualities that you need to be a Doctor, and [write about your motivation to study Medicine](#).

[Medical Schools use your Personal Statement](#) in different ways. Some won't pay much attention to it, some will use it as a basis to shortlist who to invite to [interview](#), and some will use it to form the basis of some [interview questions](#).

How Long is a Personal Statement?

Your Medicine personal statement will need to be 4,000 characters – roughly 500 words – over 47 lines.

What Should My Personal Statement Include?

Your Medicine Personal Statement should include the following three components:

- Motivation — Why do you want to study Medicine?
- Exploration — What have you done to learn about it?
- Suitability — Why are you a great fit for Medicine?

We cover each of these in our guide about [how to write a Personal Statement for Medical School](#).

How Should I Structure My Personal Statement?

The [structure of your Medicine Personal Statement](#) is a matter of personal preference, but we suggest the best format to follow is to cover the following points:

- Why you want to be a Doctor (motivation)
- [Work experience](#) – and what you learnt from it (exploration)
- [Volunteering](#) (exploration)
- Wider Reading and study (exploration)
- Extracurricular (suitability)
- Conclusion (motivation)

How Can I Get Help With My Personal Statement?

Getting feedback on your Personal Statement for Medical School is incredibly important.

You could ask your family to read your Personal Statement and give you feedback on how it reads, or if you've forgotten any accomplishments that they can remember. Another option is to ask a friend to have a read and see if it makes sense and gives a good impression of yourself.

You may prefer to get professional help with your Medicine Personal Statement since it's such an important piece of writing.

It's important that you write your own Personal Statement, but having it reviewed or being coached through the process of producing it can be incredibly beneficial. Some of the best options include:

- Get a Personal Statement Review by an Admissions Tutor
- Join a [Personal Statement Workshops](#) to get help crafting an excellent statement
- Focus on one-to-one help with [Personal Statement Tutoring](#)
- Find out [what your chances are of getting into each Medical School](#) – find out which universities place a greater emphasis on your Personal Statement

Writing your personal statement seems to be the most complex and stressful part of the university application process. Thinking about all you have done in the last two years of your A level courses and relating that to your university course can seem daunting. Often writing about yourself and a potential under graduate can seem like you are self-publishing yourself and seems to go against all you have learnt to avoid in society.

This is not the case, a personal statement is just that, personal to you. It should reflect you as a person and you as a prospective student. It should highlight your academic strengths that favour you to be selected for a course you want to do. It should show that you have spent the time developing your skills and taking time to research your course.

Ideally by the time you have completed the rounds of drafting and personal statement meetings your university admission team should not be under any illusions that you are the right person for their course.

In this guide we go through the processes of building a personal statement using examples for each section to help you see what is good but also what you should not be doing. There are sections within the guide for you to draft your ideas for each section and that will form the basis of your first meeting.

Expect to have lots of changes to make, this is not a sign you have failed! Your statement will evolve over time and eventually stabilise into a consistent document that reflects you as a student. Embrace the unknown and treat the development of your statement as a learning process. If you consider it to be a chore that you don't really want to do this will come across when it read so avoid getting into this mindset.

Finally consider the following points when embarking on this development.

- Starting is the most difficult part so form a plan of points first.
- Use your society planner to list all the things you have done to support your subject such as your Moocs courses, or the lectures you attend.
- If you have read articles or books use them. Don't quote things you not done you will be found out.
- When receiving feedback only you can decide if it is fair and to follow it you will not be forced to change anything it's your document.
- Take ownership of the process don't think it will be done for you.
- DO NOT COPY someone else's work. Universities run personal statements through plagiarism software and you will get caught.

I would say enjoy the process but it can be stressful and frustrating but it is something that you have to pass through in order to progress to the next stage. Don't get too stressed!

Technical Requirements

Your final draft of your personal statement will be a lot longer than the requirements for submission. Do not be frightened of this but do keep in mind that eventually your draft will have to comply to the requirements of UCAS. These are detailed below;

You cannot exceed 4,000 characters, or 47 lines of text (including blank lines) – whichever is reached first. If you do, universities won't receive your entire statement.

You can check your personal statement using the following website;

<https://www.studential.com/applying/personal-statement-writing/length-checker>

This website checks the length of your statement and compares it to the current UCAS requirements. It will highlight statements that are over length.

Before you submit your statements for checking you should also make sure you have done the following.

- UCAS does not have a required font but make sure that your whole statement is in the same font and the same font size.
- Remove any highlighted or coloured text from the statement.
- Remove any comments. These appear down the right-hand side if your statement has been edited by a member of 6th form team and you should remove links to these comments before you check it on this site.

Versioning

There is nothing more irritating than not knowing what is the most up to date version of a document. It is so easy to send the wrong one or edit the wrong one.

Use proper versioning notation to help, for example PS_draft_2_02_04_2021 this is draft 3 date 02/04/2021

Submitting Versions

Remove previous comments from the draft before you submit to be looked at. This will then be a clean document for staff to look at. There is nothing more confusing than seeing previous comments in a new version.

Documents will be returned with a new name indicating they have been commented on and by who, for example

PS_draft2_02_04_2021_LHH_comments

This indicates I have looked at the personal statement and have added comments.

The basic structure of the document

Introduction.

This is where you introduce your self and the reasons why you are excited about medicine, or the reason or reasons why you have taken particular interest in medicine

Paragraph 1 Academic

Academic content detailing the first aspect that you are interested in and how you have investigated an aspect of your future course. This could be a component of a Moocs course you have done, or a particularly interesting section of a lecture you attended. It should be related to your prospective course but also ideally share a component to one of the A levels you are doing now. You could also refer to work experience here as well.

Paragraph 2 Academic

Considering your other A level courses think how one of these supports a second aspect of your prospective university course, detailing how you have investigated this link using extracurricular study. Giving examples of things that you found exciting and what really made them exciting is a great thing to be doing here.

Paragraph 3 Academic

In your final academic paragraph try to find an aspect of your university course that encompasses a bigger amount of your A levels and show how you have developed the ideas across multiple subjects as well as external sources of study to support your research into this area. You are building a picture of your as a academic student and how you operate as a independent students.

Closing Statement.

This is where you put some information about your interests outside of your academic studies, how these activities show your leadership skills for example or support your interpersonal skills. You should also close your personal statement with s suitable statement hoping you will be considered.

Starting your Personal Statement.

Firstly, don't begin with the overkill opening.

One of the dangers of trying to come up with a great opening sentence is that you can end up overthinking it, and going overboard. As an admission tutor, 'Be succinct and draw the reader in, but not with a gimmick. This isn't the X Factor.

Admissions tutors often mention this. They emphasised the need for candidates to engage the reader with your (relevant) perceptions or ideas, not by something flashy.

Top Tips to help you

- Don't waste time trying to think of a catchy opening; it's often a complete turn-off.
- Your interest in the course is the biggest thing. Start with why you chose it.
- The best personal statements get to the point quickly.
- Start with a short sentence that captures the reason why you are interested in studying the area you are applying for and that communicates your enthusiasm for it.
- Go straight in. Why are you excited about studying this course?
- The opening is your chance to introduce yourself, to explain your motivation for studying the course and to demonstrate your understanding of it.
- It's your enthusiasm for the course we want to know about. Start with that.
- Write what comes naturally.
- What you want to study and why should be in the first two sentences. What excites you about the course and why do you want to learn about it more?
- Be specific from line one.
- Talk about you and your enthusiasm for the subject from the very start.
- In your opening paragraph you need to show that you know what you are applying for. Don't waffle or say you want to study something just because it's interesting. Explain what you find interesting about it.
- It's much better to engage us with something interesting, relevant, specific and current in your opening line, not 'from a young age' or 'I have always wanted to'. Start with what's inspiring you now, not what inspired you when you were six.

Five cliché statement beginnings to avoid

Try to avoid the most obvious opening sentences in your personal statement, so you stand out from the first line. To help, every year UCAS publishes a list of the most common opening lines in personal statements, and urges applicants to avoid using these hackneyed phrases. Previous years' top five included:

- From a young age...

- For as long as I can remember...
- I am applying for this course because...
- I have always been interested in...
- Throughout my life I have always enjoyed...

No opening quotes

- Quotations are top of the list of admissions tutors' pet hates. They particularly dislike it if you put a quotation in right at the start – and it's even worse if you don't actually explain why it's there.
- It's your statement, after all. They don't want to know what Nelson Mandela thought – they want to know what you think!

Examples of Developing an Opening

This is a really good opening. You can see how it interests the reader and draws you into

On the day that Theresa May announced the triggering of Article 50, I remember sitting at home; watching the news with the realisation that, in one moment, millions of lives had been altered. That moment showed me just how vital the Law is. It not only has large effects, but also smaller, individual ones. And it showed me how wide-ranging the effects of our democracy's decisions are.

This is good it interests me and it is very relevant to the current climate

Linking your interest to the primary subject

Linking the scale of the subject to your interest

reading a bit more.

Here is another really good opening statement

Whilst travelling as a child I met people from many walks of life, different cultures, religions, and who behaved in very different ways. From camping with bedouin in the Omani deserts to exploring the history of orthodox christianity in Cyprus, completing my primary education abroad provided rich foundations for my desire to understand the psychology behind human behaviour.

This draws you in it talks about culture and behaviour targeting the principle components of Psychology her chosen subject.

Detailed this sentence further draws you in and again mentions the subject.

This is a not so good opening as it is a bit predictable and does not really interest me as a admission tutor greatly initially.

I am independent and have always sought challenge in life, thriving in areas where I am able to find my own way; absorbing knowledge, and finding creative solutions to problems. But at heart I am a communicator and love working as a team, leading when required and empowering others to be their best. With these complementary skill sets, I know that Computer Science is the perfect area for me to study.

It's a good starting point telling the admission tutor a little about yourself.

A little more about yourself but I'm wondering what you are going on about

Finally got to tell me its computer science.

This is not a good start, it is predictable and not very interesting.

From a young age, I have developed an interest for the financial world, initially from the basic exchange rates and different currencies as a child, to the more complex aspects of taxation and commerce as a young adult.

Oh dear! not a good start. Personally, I was playing with toys and not interested in money.

An interest?. Not very passionate.

A bit more detail but I'm not really

Academic Content

Admissions decisions for Medicine are solely based on academic ability and potential, so you should focus on showcasing your understanding and passion for your chosen subject.

You can show your interest and ability in your subject with examples of books you've read, an EPQ you've written, a prize you've won, lectures you've attended, documentaries you've watched, podcasts you've listened to. Also work experience opportunities. Be careful with the language that you use when writing the academic content section. For example, consider the two statements below.

Instead of: "I am interested in molecular biology"

Try: "My interest in molecular biology led me to read X"

The second statement illustrates a simple principle that you should use when writing your statement which is cause and effect. Then something interests you or excites you it causes you to do something else that you can then talk about.

Oxbridge admissions tutors are looking for thoughtful and perceptive students who are curious about their chosen subject. How much material you have consumed on your subject is not as important as how deeply you have thought about each one. For example, there's no point listing thirteen books that you've read with no comments or thoughts about any of them.

To demonstrate a thoughtful approach to your studies, you can do things like:

- Give an example of something you found particularly interesting in what you learned, and explain why you found it interesting.
- Write about the process that led you to discover a new material or idea.
 - ***For example: "Learning about A at school led me to read X. I was particularly interested by the chapter on B, because This led me to further research B by watching Y."***
- Draw links between topics, books, articles, films or lectures to show that you are not just capable of consuming information, but processing and analysing it.
 - ***For example: Did two different theorists interpret a concept differently? Is there a theme that runs through a set of books you've read? Did you disagree with an opinion presented at a lecture?***

The vast majority of these applicants have really good grades, which can make it difficult to stand out from the crowd. This is where your ability to be perceptive and original comes in. Think about how the subject that you are applying for relates to your other studies, the world around you, and even your personal experiences.

For example, almost every Classics student out there will know the plot of *Medea*, but how many of them will be able to demonstrate that it's since been stolen by the screenwriters of *Eastenders*?

Did campaigning for the most recent election remind you of a piece of propaganda from the First World War?

For example

Remember that the people who will read your application, and interview you, have made a career out of their chosen subject, and it really is their passion. They will genuinely be interested to have a conversation with you if you can bring an interesting or original thought to your Personal Statement and interview.

Don't try to be original for the sake of it. And don't go overboard with the thesaurus - concentrate on being clear rather than trying to be a lexical aficionado.

Examples of Academic Content

Below is a simple example of how you can start linking external course to you current A level

Completing an online course on Linear Algebra by Imperial College London, as well as watching the 'Essence of Linear Algebra' video series by 3Blue1Brown, has deepened my understanding of vectors and matrices beyond the A Level content.

This is a really good example of cause and effect. It indicates strong interest to take an external course

Then discusses the consequence and also mentioned something subject specific.

content.

This is a particularly strong example of how the student has gone out of he or she's way to show a commitment to here subject and show excellent conclusions from the experience

Visiting Thomas Hardy's childhood house and Agatha Christie's house, stimulated my interest in studying English further. I realised I was experiencing the same surroundings they once did that posed for inspiration for their novels and works of literature. Really stood out to me as I then realised that all works of literature are based on society.

Powerful action described by the student

A profound conclusion showing lots of insight

An even better conclusion showing knowledge of the subject

Here is a good use of a reference text. Notice that the author indicates a particular section that he found interesting showing he has actually read it.

I have enjoyed working through K.A. Stroud's 'Engineering Mathematics,' and have since moved onto the advanced edition. These books have helped deepen my understanding of many complex topics and opened my eyes to areas of study. In particular, the Crank-Nicholson method for solving the heat equation was fascinating in its relations to finance and pricing.

Name the text book and also indicate progression onto the more advanced book

This demonstrates curiosity

Naming a particular section of the book indicates that the author has taken something from this exercise.

This statement below is less powerful and does not really show the admission tutor that you have taken your studies further than A level.

A-level Chemistry has shown me the importance of understanding this core science and the way in which it makes up all life forms. Every day I see more and more why this subject is crucial for studying medicine.

This statement is very restrictive and vague in its explanation. It does not show the author has taken the time to review outside of A level.

A few sweeping and unsubstantiated statement indicating the author has not got a particular example to show.

Personal Information and Closing Statements.

When closing your personal statement do not make this section too big. Ideally you should be aiming for two points that highlight an aspect of what you do outside of your studies. Do not go into detail, the admissions tutor does not want to know you work in Asda etc. They will want to know in your role you have responsibility, or you have to demonstrate leadership. Giving an example of what you have got out of this role that enhances your personal qualities can support your academic statements and show you as a rounded individual.

Do not.

Spend lots of time writing about what your duties are in your job or explain in detail things that you have done. If you have worked on a fun raising project mention the name but do not explain it. This wastes characters and gives information that is not relevant to your application.

When you consider the lengths of each section in your personal statement the academic sections should be far larger than personal information. It is very easy to write lots about what you do outside of your studies. Resist the temptation to waffle and restrict yourself.

Examples of Personal information.

This is an excellent section of personal information. It actually links the student's academic side to something they are doing outside of studies and offers a powerful insight into them as a person.

Being the Oxbridge Society university representative, a House Captain and a member of the Student Leadership group at school has helped me build my confidence and leadership skills, from being involved with the school council and presenting open evenings with other students. I was able to share my commitment with prospective students when visiting the Mathematics department when presenting at school open evenings.

Excellent link to a activity outside of studies but it supports their application.

Indicating what they got out of their role.

This is a really good example

of how to use a limited number of words but say a lot about you as a person.

Cheerleading has been a lifelong passion of mine; I hope to pursue it further in the future. It aids my wellbeing, and challenges my mental agility, discipline

This has attracted my attention. It shows commitment.

Strong gains from doing this indicating they will likely cope with undergraduate work.

This example is not so good as there is a lot of information that an admissions tutor is not interested in. A lot of unnecessary information that could be left out.

For two and a half years, I worked from home as a part time payroll administrator processing the monthly payroll for around thirty companies, submitting reports to HMRC, and producing payslips and P60s. This allowed me to develop my independence, resilience, and methodical method of working to a deadline. At this job, I regularly calculate overtime payments.

This information is not relevant and just uses characters.

Good comments about what they got out of it.

Example of a Personal Statement – student was invited to interview for medicine:

Reflecting on my experience as an NHS volunteer, I have witnessed that patients and their families require someone who cares deeply for their wellbeing and will endeavour to combat their illness, allowing them a better quality of life. For me, these are the fundamental objectives of a valuable doctor. My altruistic nature, fascination with science and desire to study human anatomy have fuelled my tenacity to study medicine.

A-level chemistry has challenged me to learn more about the world around me and the manner of interaction between molecular entities. Studying the building blocks of life, every day I see more why chemistry is crucial for understanding the principles of medicine. Through my sixth form's Individual Learning Programme, I find interest in researching and discovering the importance of chemical processes being applied to drug manufacturing, such as the A-level required practical involving the preparation of Aspirin, or how the simple substances we study can be essential in life-changing treatment e.g. chemotherapy.

My commitment to a career in medicine has been strengthened through my work experience in a Paediatric Gastroenterology Department. My insight was expanded to all the possibilities in the healthcare sector. I shadowed Doctors, Nurses and other specialists and interacted with patients whilst experiencing the way in which these professionals have a positive impact on people's lives, whether fighting Crohn's disease or comforting a bed-bound child. I observed two endoscopies which both presented problems (a polyp and intestinal worms). I was impressed by the way the consultants were sympathetic towards the patients and used their experience to tackle the situations revealing problems I will be able to resolve with the right education and training.

I volunteer weekly at a Hospital where I support staff in a stroke ward. I am rewarded with a sense of accomplishment being able to assist and interact with patients. It has taught me that there are many dimensions to being a healthcare worker, no two patients are the same and that you have to be attentive and adaptable in your approach.

In my spare time, I find myself investigating medical procedures, such as the pancreaticoduodenectomy or the heterotopic heart transplantation. Although often I do not understand the technicalities of these procedures, I find interest in seeing the overall process of how certain medical issues are solved, deepening my anatomical knowledge. Reading Adam Kay's *This is Going to Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor*, I have learnt much about the harsh realities of being a doctor, the mental determination required to perform at a high standard and the rewards of being able to treat patients in need.

Since the age of ten, I have been committed to the Sea Cadet Corps. As well as having a plethora of opportunities in which I have partaken, I have developed many personal skills such as teamwork and respect which will benefit me in my future career. In 2017 and 2019, I was awarded my units Leadership Award and Cadet of the Year Award. I have achieved the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This award has taught me the importance of perseverance and self-discipline in achieving my desired goals. I am a National Citizen Service graduate and have achieved the ILM Level 2 Award for Young Leaders and the British Heart Foundation Heartstart Certificate. In 2019, I completed a student exchange to a high school in Cape Town, providing insight into alternative cultures but also giving me an increased appreciation for the free UK education and healthcare systems.

My long-term goal is to specialise in emergency medicine; a field which I believe I can work most effectively in. I can keep level-headed in stressful situations and work well under pressure. I am hardworking and deeply committed to everything I do and together with a university education, I know that I can positively contribute to our world as a doctor.

Getting work experience in a caring role

Whether it be as a volunteer or in paid employment, having experience in a caring role is extremely valuable.

We would advise looking up your local hospital or nursing home to see if you can do a placement. You could get in touch with doctors who have inspired you or your local GP, and ask them if you can do work experience with them.

Getting hands on experience will also give you a great insight into the day-to-day life of being a doctor and show your commitment to becoming a medic.

Work experience in a caring or service role is now an essential step when getting into medical school. Medical schools will be looking for students who have gained a broad range of healthcare experience. Both students and doctors should use the advice and resources below to guide them through the process.

Advice for students

All UK medical schools now require applicants to have experience in a caring or service role, either paid or voluntarily, in health or related field, as well as direct observation healthcare.

You can get a placement in a range of healthcare settings, such as a GP practice, hospital or even internationally.

Keep in mind that it will take some time. You may need to apply to many places before you get a positive response.

How to get a placement

- Get in touch with GP practices. Contact practice managers and GPs to explain who you are and ask for their help. Many will ask you to complete an application form.
- Make the most of any contacts you have, such as relatives, neighbours or friends who work in healthcare or in a hospital.
- If you are still at school or college, speak to a career coordinator or teacher who can help you with arranging placements.
- If you can't shadow a doctor, look at shadowing another healthcare professional like a pharmacist or physiotherapist.

Organisations that can help

There are a number of organisations that can help you to get a voluntary placement in a caring role, some of these include:

- [Global Pre-Meds](#)
- [Volunteering England](#)
- [Kissing it Better](#)
- [St John's Ambulance](#)
- [Royal College of General Practitioners](#)

The BMA does not encourage healthcare professionals to charge students for placements, although there may be instances where you could be asked to cover costs such as administration. Don't be afraid to ask what, if any, costs you may be asked to pay before starting your placement.

Top tips when on a placement

- Dress smartly as you would for a job interview.
- Be aware that some patients may wish to be seen without a student present. Don't take this personally.
- Remember that patient confidentiality is important. You must not, under any circumstances, discuss patient issues outside of the department or practice you are based in. Be aware that you may be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement.
- It would be inappropriate for you to see a patient that is known to you socially, whether it be a family member or friend. If this happens you should tell the person who is supervising you and leave the room.
- Make sure you tell your placement what you expect to get out of it and let them know if there is anything that you would like to do or learn whilst you're there.
- Keep a log/ daily diary of what you did and saw. This can help solidify what you learn, but is also an important reference tool when you are writing a personal statement and preparing for your medical school interviews.
- Try to speak to a diverse range of staff. Time with other healthcare workers can offer a great insight into the multi-disciplinary approach to healthcare.
- Ask questions and show enthusiasm. Ask the doctors about what they think are the qualities of a good doctor, ask them about their work patterns, lifestyle or whether they would choose medicine again as a career.
- Talk to patients - remember to be polite and introduce yourself as a medical school applicant on work experience.
- Be proactive and offer a pair of helping hands at every opportunity.

Formal schemes and outreach programmes

Formal schemes offering work experience and placements to those applying to medicine exist throughout the UK, with medical professionals and medical students playing a key role in volunteering their time and workplaces.

These organised outreach programmes are designed to take students who have the potential to enter medicine, assisting with medical school applications, personal statements and interview preparation, as well as exam and study help.

How to take part in schemes and programmes

Many schemes are set up in conjunction with outreach programmes run by medical schools or co-ordinated by deaneries throughout the country.

What you can do:

- look at the medical school you attended or one located close to where you currently live or work
- check websites, use your contacts and get in touch to find out how you can take part as a medical professional
- try signing up to mentoring schemes like those offered by the [The Social Mobility Foundation \(SMF\)](#)
- GP practices can also work together to set up more formal schemes between them, creating placement opportunities that students can apply for within their workplaces.

Medical school admission tests

Some medical schools use the [UCAS tariff point system to designate entry requirements](#). This point system establishes agreed comparability between different types of qualifications and between applicants with different types and volumes of achievement.

In addition to application through UCAS, medical schools require applicants to take admission tests.

About the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT):

<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/>

The University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) is an admissions test used by a consortium of UK Universities for their medical and dental degree programmes.

The UCAT helps universities to select applicants with the most appropriate mental abilities, attitudes and professional behaviours required for new doctors and dentists to be successful in their clinical careers. It is used in collaboration with other admissions processes such as the UCAS application and academic qualifications.

It is also your opportunity to stand out from other applicants and demonstrate your aptitude for a demanding programme of study.

The UCAT is a computer-based test delivered in Pearson VUE test centres throughout the UK and worldwide. More detailed information can be found on the [About UCAT](#) page.

The BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT)

The BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) gives you the chance to stand out from the crowd and show your potential to succeed on medical and health-related courses. It tests your ability to apply scientific and mathematical knowledge, as well as problem solving, critical thinking and written communication skills that are essential to university-level study.

On this website you'll find everything you need to feel informed, supported and prepared to take the test: <https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/>

GAMSAT:<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/studying-medicine/becoming-a-doctor/applying-to-medical-school>

GAMSAT is developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) in conjunction with the Consortium of Graduate Medical Schools to assist in the selection of students to participate in the graduate-entry programs in Australia, Ireland and the UK. It is designed to assess the capacity to undertake high-level intellectual studies in the medical and health professional programs.

The GAMSAT test is offered twice a year, in March and September.

<https://gamsat.acer.org/>

Attending an interview

Congratulations you've got an interview! One of the first questions you might be asked is 'why do you want to study medicine?', it's important to be 100% honest. You will stand out much more if you give a genuine answer, even if it sounds clichéd.

For some medical schools, attending a face to face interview is an integral part of the application process. The medical school wants to get a sense of who you are not just academically, but who you are as a person.

Prepare as much as possible by practicing answering questions with friends and family, talk to others who have been through an interview to find out what it will be like.

Be prepared for questions about what you talked about in your personal statement, like your voluntary work, interests and background.

Once you've been accepted

Most offers to medical school are a conditional offer and based on scores you are expected to achieve at A-level.

The pressure will be on to make sure you achieve the results that are expected so you can take up your place at medical school.

Keep studying, focus on your exams and ask for help if you feel you need it. There's no harm in asking your teachers, a family member or friends for help if you feel you are struggling with your studies or just need someone to talk to.