



Applying to graduate courses in medicine

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LJMU Careers
Team
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application reviews
(with employability
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Today we will find out about:

- The journey of a medical student
- The academic entry requirements for graduate level medicine courses
- How to best prepare yourself for making applications to these courses
- The UCAS application process
- How to write a successful Personal Statement
- The importance of a 'Plan B'

Please also refer to the handouts provided



Please note:

- All information is correct as of today but can be subject to change
- Please also consult the websites supplied to you today to keep updated of any changes (eg affecting course entry requirements or funding).
- Further information will be emailed on to you after this workshop – **please make sure you sign the register**



Graduate Medicine Courses: What is available?

- These are four year courses (though further training is necessary after this course)
- You can apply to these courses if you are about to complete (or have completed) a degree course
- Obtain a list of courses by looking on www.UCAS.com (look for courses with 'graduate entry' after them)



bergen.com

Always check the [UCAS website](http://www.UCAS.com) for the most up-to-date list of courses

Training to become a doctor

Four year graduate medicine course
followed by:

Foundation programme (two years)
followed by:

Training towards a medical speciality or GP
Training

It can take many years to train towards some medical specialities

Can you still apply for the five year courses in medicine?

- Yes! But there is a difference in the funding available for the five year course (for graduates)
- More funding is available for graduates for the four year course



Important note about academic requirements for medicine degrees

- The academic requirements **vary considerably** between universities
- It is very important to do your research and **check what is required by each medical school**
- Failure to meet the academic requirements is a reason why many candidates are instantly rejected!
- Do not waste one of your UCAS choices on a university whose requirements you do not meet
- Check university websites and **ring admissions staff directly** if you have any queries

Research, research, research!

Competition

- High number of applicants per place for both dentistry and medicine courses
- Produce the strongest application possible
- Make sure that you also have a back up plan!



BMAT, UKCAT and GAMSAT Tests

- Aptitude tests which measure intelligence and reasoning ability
- Different Medical Schools use different tests
- A science background is required for the BMAT and GAMSAT tests
- Check out with individual medical schools **when** you need to sit these tests and make sure that you book your place for the test early on
- You may need to sit some of these tests the **Summer** before you apply for courses
- Find out more and access further information on the websites supplied today.

Achieving the necessary results in these tests is crucial for entry to many Medical Schools

- Entry requirements tables will be emailed to you after this workshop
- Please also check entry requirements directly with each university as they are subject to change



Examples of where past LJMU graduates have gone to study medicine:

Biomedical science graduate
(Exeter University, medicine)

Quantity Surveying graduate
(Nottingham University,
medicine)

Biomedical science
graduate, Trakia Medical
University*

Sports science graduate,
Southampton University,
medicine

Check with [BMA](#) if overseas medicine courses allow you to work in the UK afterwards

What else do Medical Schools require?

A realistic
understanding of the
profession

A commitment to
undertaking a very
intensive course of
study

Clear reasons for
wishing to go into
medicine

An understanding of
different types of
dentistry and
medicine courses

Awareness of issues
facing the NHS

Relevant work
experience is essential

Skills and qualities needed

- It is also important to reflect upon your suitability for these professions



Examples of skills and qualities which Medical Schools may look for:

Communication
and interpersonal
skills

Ability to work
independently and
as part of a team

Problem-solving
and analytical
ability

Ability to work
under pressure

Resilience

Work Experience

- Why is it important to do work experience?
- What type of work experience is useful for medicine?



Types of valuable work experience (paid or voluntary)

In a hospital

- Healthcare Assistant
- Porter
- Phlebotomist
- Patient Liaison Role
- Ward Volunteer



Other Setting

- Work-shadowing in a doctor's surgery
- Hospice
- Care home for the elderly
- School i.e working with children with special needs
- St John's Ambulance
- Other voluntary work in the community

The key thing is to gain exposure to a health care setting and to show that you have **reflected** on what you have learnt from it

How do you find relevant **voluntary** experience?

- Apply to the **Volunteer Coordinator** for the individual hospital for voluntary work
- Remember to apply **well in advance** for voluntary work
- Some hospitals have 'volunteer recruitment days'.
- Hospitals usually ask for volunteers to commit to at least half a day a week for six months
- Search for local care homes and hospices and contact them directly



How do you find relevant paid experience?

- Paid work in hospitals is advertised via NHS Jobs
- There are bank work opportunities in the NHS
- It can be easier to gain paid work in the NHS if you have already been a volunteer



Please consult the
Careers Team [Mini
Guide](#) about
volunteering, found in
the resources section of
our website



Financial Support

- Please consult the [handout](#) supplied to you



Application process for Medicine Courses – how to apply:

- Apply via UCAS by 15th October of the year before you wish to start the course
- Make **four** choices of universities to apply to (*make sure that you meet their academic requirements!*)
- Check if you need to sit additional tests (BMAT, GAMSAT or UKCAT) and arrange these early
- Work hard on your Personal Statement





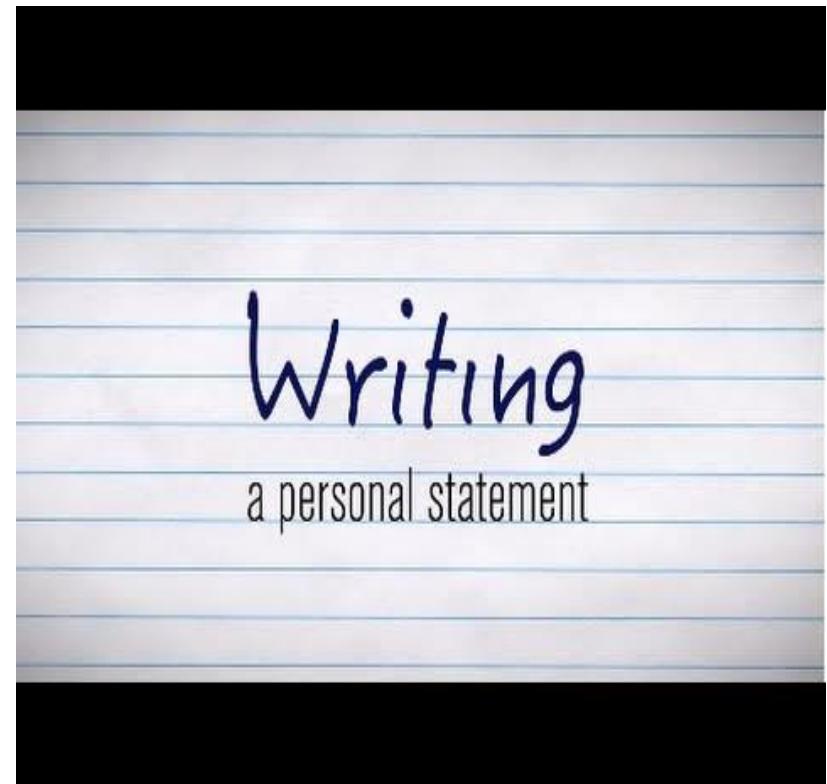
- Check the dates of when you need to sit the BMAT, GAMSAT or UKCAT tests
- You often need to sit these the Summer before you apply via UCAS
- Don't leave it too late to sit the tests!



Writing your Personal Statement

- As per UCAS guidelines, no more than 47 lines long
- Very important to produce a strong statement as admissions tutors look closely at this
- You need to demonstrate that you have the relevant attributes to be a dentist or doctor
- You should also show that you understand what it is like to work in a healthcare setting

Now look at the sample Personal Statements and consider the good/bad points of each



Top tips for writing your personal statement

Allow plenty of time

Give evidence of skills

Show what you have learnt from work experience – be reflective

Highlight relevance of previous study

Mention extra-curricular activities & achievements

Check carefully for language errors

Possible features of graduate medicine interviews

Multiple mini interviews

NHS Values
based
questions

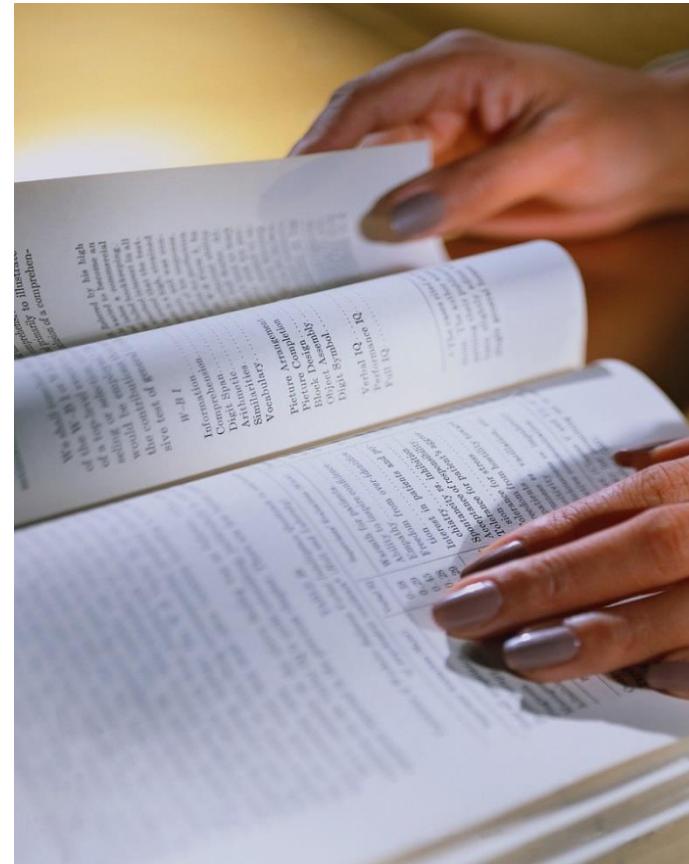
Ethical
questions

Role plays

OSCE style
questions

Useful resources to prepare for interview

- Mock Interview Service offered via The Careers Team
- Prospects website: www.prospects.ac.uk
- Several books available to help you prepare for entrance tests or interview:
e.g. Medical School Interviews by George Lee and Oliver Picard (published by ISC Medical)



Other options in the health and medical field for example:

- **Nursing**

There are post-graduate diploma courses available in adult, children's and mental health nursing

- **Other roles**

Operating Department Practitioner
Trainee Anatomical Pathology Technician
Trainee Clinical Cardiac
Physiologist

- **Graduate Entry Programmes**

Scientist Training Programme
Management Training Scheme

Allied Health Professions

Two year Masters

Courses available in:

Dietetics
Occupational Therapy,
Physiotherapy,
Radiography and Speech
Therapy

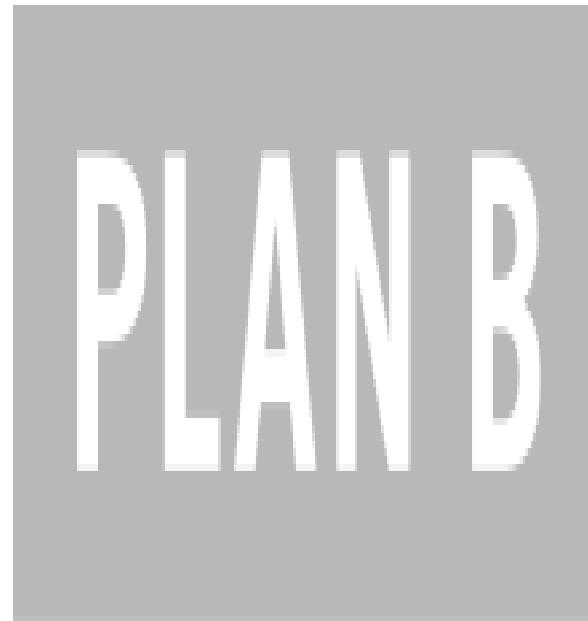
Other Options: Physician Associate Role

- Support doctors in the diagnosis and management of patients
- Work under the direct supervision of a doctor
- You'll be trained to perform a number of day-to-day tasks
- Need a science degree
- A number of universities run two year courses in physician associate studies



In Conclusion

- Do your **research** into courses and their entry requirements
- Be aware that a lot of preparation is needed before applying to a medicine degree
- Thoroughly research the role of a doctor
- Don't miss deadlines!
- Arrange relevant work experience
- Be aware of the high level of competition for places
- Have a back-up plan



Please double check entry requirements directly with individual universities before applying

Useful Websites

- www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/
- www.bma.org.uk/
- www.england.nhs.uk/
- www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/



Further help

- All careers appointments should be booked at the Careers Zone
- Please make sure that you book your appointment for a personal statement check, well in advance

