



### Gateway to Medicine (G2M)

As part of the Scottish Government's strategic drive to widen access to higher education, a pre-medical entry programme will be delivered in Aberdeen for 20 students, starting in September 2017. A similar programme is also starting at the University of Glasgow.

We are aware that many pupils from deprived backgrounds think that application to medical school is too ambitious, unrealistic and out of their reach and so we have developed an innovative, accessible and supportive route into medicine for these pupils.

The new G2M course uses existing modules from the University's Year 1 science programme and units from the North East Scotland College's (NESCOL) applied sciences course. It also includes a work experience module which will be the first of its kind and allows for paid work with NHS Grampian. Programme recruitment, course delivery and student support will be shared by both institutions.

The **first** half-session (September to January) will be based in NESCOL and include units from the existing HND, such as Cell Biology, Maths for Science and Chemistry as well as activities at the Foresterhill Health Campus for structured learning (including communication skills training and First Aid) and student-led social/support activities. Units will be selected to enhance each student's individual skills and experience.

The **second** half-session (February to June) will be based at the University and comprises Chemistry for the Life Sciences; The Cell; Fitness, Performance and Survival and Introduction to Health and Health Services in the UK.

**This new route to medicine will only be open to those who satisfy the admissions/eligibility criteria, which are designed to support the delivery of the target set by the Commission for Widening Access which is that by 2030, students from the 20% most deprived backgrounds should represent 20% of entrants to higher education.**

#### The academic criteria are:

- A minimum of 4 Highers at AABB over one **or two** sittings (over S4-S6). This must include any two sciences from Chemistry, Maths, Biology/Human Biology and Physics.
- National Certificate Level 6 Applied Sciences Group award, to be achieved with 18 credits **plus** a science Higher at grade A achieved over one academic session.

#### The non-academic criteria: a minimum of three from the following:

- Applicant lives in an area with a postcode which falls within the lowest 20% of the Scottish index of multiple deprivation (SIMD).
- Applicant comes from one of Scotland's REACH schools.
- First generation applicant to higher education.
- Applicant is a young person who is care experienced.
- Applicant is a young person who is formally classed as a carer.
- Applicant eligible for free school meals at any point in secondary education.

- Applicant lives in an area that is considered to be remote, very remote or rural as classified by the Urban Rural Classification (URC).
- Applicant is estranged from their family.
- Applicant is eligible for the Educational Maintenance Award.
- Applicant can provide verifiable independent evidence (e.g. from School Head Teacher) of severe sustained hardship that is not reflected in current SIMD categorization.
- Applicant has entered secondary education with English as a second language.

Application will be via UCAS and applicants will be invited to interview. Full details can be found at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/smmsn/undergraduate/g2m/>

All those who pass the programme and meet UKCAT and interview standards will be granted a place on the University of Aberdeen medical programme.

If students do not meet the required standards or do not wish to proceed, they will be supported into alternative further or higher education courses. Tailored career advice and near peer mentorship will be offered to all students during the G2M programme to maximise their successful transition to the medicine programme, or an alternative programme, which may include entry into Year 2 of the Medical Science degrees at the university.

Students will be offered a funding package of up to £2000 that may be used, for example, for travel and subsistence, provision of a laptop computer or other educational technology and if desired a contribution towards University Halls accommodation. The University will guarantee student hall accommodation for the G2M year and for Year 1 MBChB for those who wish to live in halls.

In addition, NHS Grampian has committed to support this programme by issuing all students with a “bank” employment contract to carry out Healthcare Support Worker-level work. This provides flexibility to students to work as and when they can, and provide an income. We recognise that some students may already undertake work of this nature.

Applications are now open, via UCAS, and the course code is A1A1.

Interviews will be held at the end of June and during July.

Should you have any queries, please contact Miss Sarah Miller, Admissions Administrator, at email: [g2m@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:g2m@abdn.ac.uk) or by telephone at 01224-437927