

Medicine



What it is like being a doctor and how you might become one

Dr Brian Kelly

Who am I?

- Born and lived in Eastwood all of my life
- Attended OLM
- Missed out on St Ninian's High School
- Medical school Glasgow university 1986-91
- Paediatrician 1994-till present
- Married with 6 children of my own.



How did I get to medical school ?

• Same as you



- No doctors in family
- Always thought I would be a children's doctor
- Grades / UCAS application / personal statement ? referees statement / interview

Career

University of Glasgow Paediatric Training

Glasgow

Aberdeen Edinburgh Middlesborough

Brisbane / Gold Coast

Perth Consultant 1986-91 1994 to 2002

1991- present

1996

1994-5

2000, 2003, 2009 2002 till present







What's it like?

- Stimulating
- Rewarding
- Humbling
- Fun
- Stressful
- Tiring
- Fulfilling





What do I do?

Clinical work

- Out-patient clinics
- Ward rounds
- Child protection
- Sudden Infant Death
- Neonatal care
- Acute assessment





Non-clinical work

- Meetings
- Teaching
- Lecturing
- Supervision
- Examining
- Studying





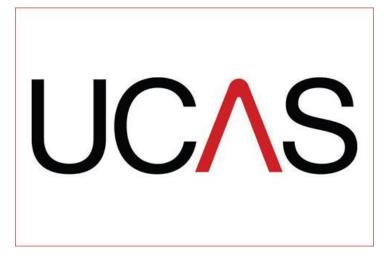
Questions

- Why did you choose paediatrics over other specialities?
- What are the challenges / advantages / rewards?
- Do you find it difficult to treat sick children and deal with parents?
- What extra curricular activities did you do to help get into university?
- What's the difference between the traditional and problem based learning course at university?
- Does it matter which course you do?



Your application

UCAS application



- General points
- Know your deadlines
- Research possible universities
- Start early
- Check and check again



The Medical Schools Council is the representative body for UK medical schools.



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About us

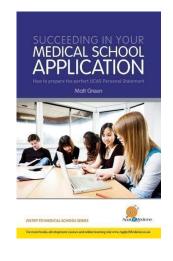
Making an application to study medicine can be daunting. This page aims to make the process easy to understand. It lays out the initial parts of an application in the order that you need to consider them, taking you from qualifications while at school or college to applying for financial support through bodies such as Student Finance. The second part of the application stage will require attending interviews at a medical school for shortlisted candidates. More information can be found on the interviews page.

The application procedures for international students are the same as those described on this page, however, international students will have additional things to consider. To find out more, please see our international applicants page.

Studying medicine	
Studying medicine	
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Medical School application

- Grades
- UKCAT
- Personal statement
- Referee statement
- Interview



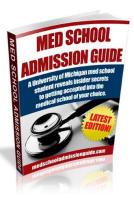






Effective techniques & over 100 example of real successful personal statements

SCMEDICAL Olivier Picard Dominique Pizzingrill



Choice of University

- Maximum of 4 Medical school choices
- Closing date is usually mid-October
- Admissions office will publish Policy and procedures, guidance and entry requirements

www.gla.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/medicine

Medical School applications

Calculated admission Number of Total class University Applicants size Ratio University of Aberdeen - 5 year 2400 175 14:1 course University of Bristol - 5 year course 3200 235 14:1 Cardiff University - 5 year course 3200 250 13:1 Cambridge University - 6 year 6:1 1700 288 course Cardiff University - 6 year course 250 16 16:1 Imperial College London - 6 year 7:1 2000 286 course

Admissions ratio statistics in selected medical schools 2011

University of Glasgow School of Medicine

MB ChB Medicine (A100)

	Home/European Economic Area	International
Number of applicants per interview	3	3
Number of applicants per place	8	16

		Use in selection
Application	Degree qualifications (for graduate applicants)	Minimum of a 2:1 Honours degree in a relevant science degree, obtained within seven years of the entry date.
	Predicted AS/A levels/Scottish Highers	A level grades AAA including Chemistry and one of Maths, Physics or Biology. Each must be gained in one sitting. If Biology is not studied at A2 level, it must have been taken at AS level and a grade A is required. Scottish Higher grades AAAAA or AAAABB by the end of S5 (must include Chemistry and Biology, and either Maths or Physics) and achieve A and B in two Advanced Highers, plus B in Scottish Higher or BBB in three Advanced Highers in S6. All to be gained at the first sitting.
	GCSEs/Scottish Nationals	GCSE pass in English at 6 or above or grade B. Scottish applicants must have English at either Standard Grade (grade 2), Intermediate 2 or National 5 level at grade B or above.
	International Baccalaureate	Total score of 38 to include Chemistry at a score of 6 at Higher level, Biology at a score of 6 at Higher level and either Maths or Physics at Higher level (if it is not possible to sit Maths or Physics at Higher level, then Standard level will be considered at 6 points). A minimum of 6 points in English at Standard Level is also required.
	Personal statement	Reviewed prior to interview but not scored.
	Admissions test	UKCAT

Ň	Interview method	Panel interviews.
Intervie	Work experience	Experience in a medical setting is not necessary but it is expected that candidates will have at least spoken to a doctor about a career in medicine or have found out about a medical career through reading. An awareness of current issues facing the medical profession is also expected. Candidates must show an interest which can be demonstrated through voluntary/paid work in a community setting.

University of Glasgow



- Selects applicants for interview by first screening for those applicants who meet the minimum academic requirements
- Ranking those students based on their UKCAT results.
- The personal statement and reference letter are not taken into consideration in selecting applicants for interview.
- Thus, a student with an excellent extra-curricular and academic profile and a UKCAT score of 2550 would be unlikely to be interviewed, given that the average UKCAT score each year is usually between 2400 and 2500
- 800 out of the 2000 applicants each year to the University of Glasgow are interviewed.
- UKCAT is very important in Glasgow University application process

University of Edinburgh Medical School

MB ChB Medicine (A100)

	Home/European Economic Area	International
Number of applicants per interview	-	-
Number of applicants per place	10	21

		Use in selection
Application	Predicted AS/A levels/Scottish Highers	AAA including Chemistry and one subject from Biology, Maths and Physics (Biology preferred). Only one of Mathematics or Further Mathematics will be considered. Human Biology may replace Biology but General Studies will not be considered.
	GCSEs/Scottish Nationals	Grade B / 6 in Biology, Chemistry, English, Mathematics. Double Award combined sciences or equivalent at Grade BB / 66 may replace GCSE grades in sciences. Additional Applied Science and Applied Science will not be accepted. All examination grades must be obtained at the first attempt of each subject. Those applying with resit qualifications will not be entered into the selection system unless under very exceptional circumstances (for which verified evidence has been provided prior to UCAS application).
	International Baccalaureate	37 points overall to include 6,6,7 at Higher Level. Chemistry and one other science (Biology preferred) at Higher Level. English and Maths (and Biology if not at Higher level) at Standard level grade 5.
	Personal statement	Career exploration, non-academic achievements and personal qualities are assessed and scored.
	Admissions test	UKCAT
-		

view	Interview method	School leavers are not normally interviewed. Graduate and mature applicants, if short-listed, are invited for interview. These are conducted as multiple-mini interviews.	
ntei	Work experience	A description of the candidate's exploration of medicine as a career is sought. Reflection on their experiences with the diseased,	
_		disadvantaged and disabled is assessed. No stipulated requirement for the type and/or duration of experiences.	

University of Dundee School of Medicine

MB ChB Medicine (A100)

	Home/European Economic Area	International
Number of applicants per interview	2.7	3.5
Number of applicants per place	10.2	13.6

		Use in selection
Application	Degree qualifications (for graduate applicants)	First class or upper second class (2:1) Honours degree in a relevant life science subject. This should be the first degree obtained.
	Predicted AS/A levels/Scottish Highers	AAA grades at A level, to include Chemistry and another science, achieved in one sitting. A minimum group of AAABB grades at SQA Higher level including Chemistry and another science subject, all to be obtained at the same sitting. Biology is required to at least Standard grade.
	GCSEs/Scottish Nationals	Minimum of eight subjects, at grade B or higher to include Biology, Maths, English.
	International Baccalaureate	Minimum total of 37 points, to include 6, 6 and 6 at Higher level. Subjects at Higher level should include Chemistry and another science. Plus three subjects at Standard level with average of grade 6.
	Personal statement	Personal statement is reviewed prior to interview but not scored.
	Admissions test	UKCAT

view	Interview method	Multiple mini-interviews.
Inter	Work experience	Up to two weeks of clinically related work experience sought.

University of Aberdeen Medical School

MB ChB Medicine (A100)

	Home/European Economic Area	International (non-EEA)
Number of applicants per interview	2.1	4
Number of applicants per place	10.9	2.6

		Use in selection		
Application	Predicted AS/A levels/Scottish Highers	AAA at A level taken together at first sitting over a maximum of two years of study, including Chemistry and one of either Biology/Human Biology, Maths or Physics. AS levels are not part of the academic requirements. AAAAB in Scottish Highers in first sitting including Chemistry at B or above and one other lab-based science or Maths. Two further Highers in most other subjects. Three full academic courses in S6 will gain a greater objective academic score.		
	GCSEs/Scottish Nationals	A combination of grades A and B especially in science subjects and minimum grade C in English and Maths. A combination of grades A and B at Scottish Higher/National 5 is expected, especially in science subjects.		
	International Baccalaureate	36 points. Three subjects at Higher level at grade 6 or higher including Chemistry and one of either Biology, Physics or Maths. Three appropriate subjects at Standard level with an average of grade 6.		
	Personal statement	Personal statement is reviewed prior to interview but not scored. Review is for evidence of preparation for a medical application.		
	Admissions test	UKCAT		

Interview	Interview method	Seven-station multiple mini-Interview			
	Work experience	Work experience in hospital or primary care; volunteering in nursing homes, hospices etc; talking to medical students/doctors about their studies/job; attending university events about medicine. Work experience form completed and returned at interview.			

University of St Andrews Medical School

MB ChB or MBBS Medicine (A100)

6 years (3 years at St Andrews and 3 years at a partner medical school)

	Home/European Economic Area	International
Number of applicants per interview	-	-
Number of applicants per place	-	-

		Use in selection
Application	Predicted AS/A levels/Scottish Highers	AAA at A level including Chemistry and one other of Biology, Maths or Physics. AAAAB at Higher in S5 including grade A in Chemistry and one other of Biology, Maths or Physics. In addition, grades BBB in Highers or Advanced Highers in S6 are required.
A	GCSEs/Scottish Nationals	If Biology, Mathematics or English are not offered at A2/AS level or Higher/Advanced Higher then each must be offered at GCSE grade B or at Standard grade, Intermediate 2 or National 5. Generally eight A grades or six at A* required to be called for interview.
	International Baccalaureate	38 points. At Higher level, Chemistry and one other of Biology, Mathematics or Physics at grade 7,6,6. Three passes at grade 6 at Standard level, including Mathematics, Biology or English if not offered at Higher level.
	Personal statement	Not scored but health-related work experience required for applicant to be considered for interview.
	Admissions test	UKCAT

Interview	Interview method	Multiple mini-interviews.
	Work experience	Applicants should have gained work or shadowing experience in a caring or health environment. This does not have to be in a hospital or GP surgery but could be in a nursing home or local hospice or through working with people who have ill health or a disability.

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Undergraduate

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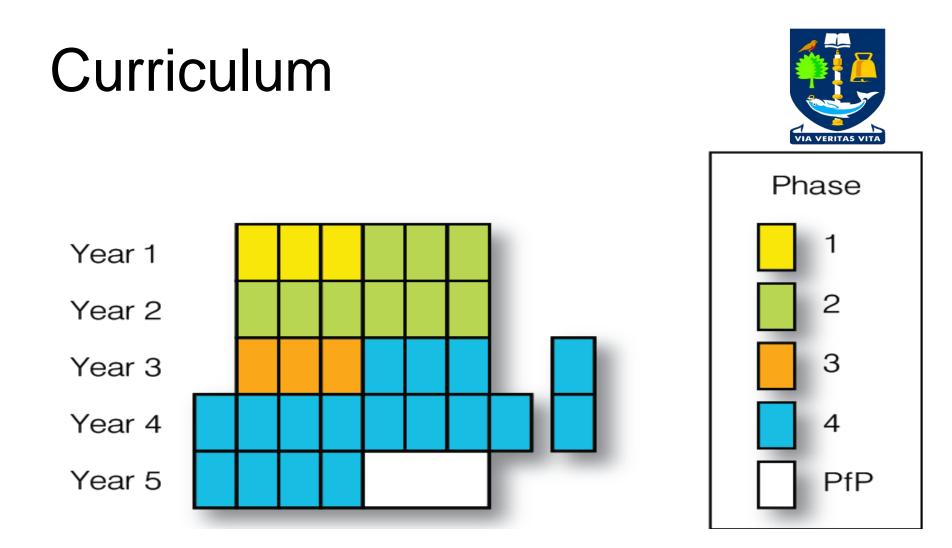




- Utilises range of teaching methods
- Lectures
- Tutorials
- Problem based learning
- Clinical teaching



"I can't read a word of this essay of yours. Excellent work."





- Early exposure to clinical material
- Spiral structure that focuses on individual systems with increasing depth and clinical focus as course progresses.
- Phase 1: Primer of basic biophysical and medical sciences
- Phase 2: Basic and applied biomedical sciences in depth in a systems approach



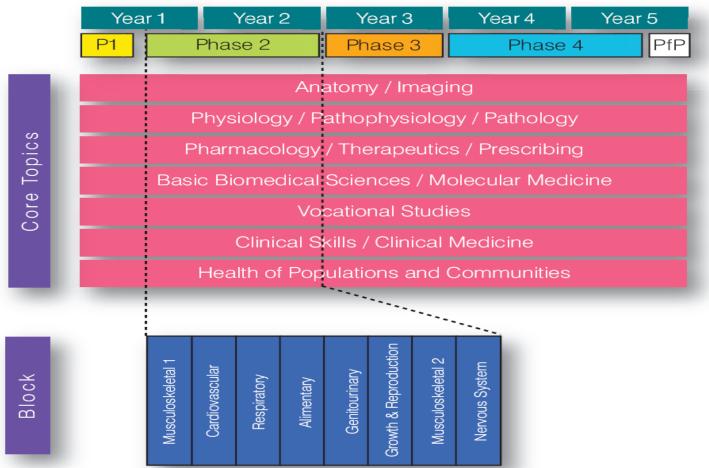
• Phase 3

Intensive systems based study of clinical and laboratory sciences and a Primer in Clinical Medicine

Phase 4
 Series of five week attachments in clinical specialities
 Emergency medicine
 Orthopaedics
 Neurology and neurosurgery
 Cardiology
 plus existing topics

Preparation for practice and summer elective blocks





Curriculum at Glasgow University

All graduates must meet the core outcomes set by the General Medical Council.

Degrees of MBChB follow a prescribed curriculum which consists of three main components:

- · The Integrated Core
- Vocational Studies
- Student Selected Components

All curricula have to encompass a series of themes as follows:

- · Clinical practice
- Communication skills
- Human biology
- Behavioural science
- · Human disease
- · Public health
- · Disability and rehabilitation
- · Finding out, research and experiment
- · Ethics and law
- · Gender and ethnic background
- Therapeutics and management
- · Palliative medicine and the care of the dying.





Core Knowledge (Years 1-3)

This is an integrated programme of clinical and scientific topics. The material covered has been selected to provide a comprehensive overview of medical and scientific principles. The knowledge component of the curriculum uses a mixture of methods including lectures, labs and Problem-Based learning. It is seen as a preparation for a professional career based on lifelong learning. The programme Has been developed by NHS and academic clinical staff working with scientists from the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences at the University.



Vocational Studies

Within the Glasgow programme students have early contact with patients. Training in communication starts in Year 1. The communication skills programme runs from year 1 - 5. The vocational studies component also deals with topics relating to professional standards and behaviour and runs over year 1 and 2.

Clinical Skills (Year 1-5)

Video podcasts available for each year to complement teaching.



Clinical Attachments (Year 4-5)

Years 4 and 5 form the final part of the core and take the form of a series of clinical attachments through Medicine, Surgery, Psychological Medicine, Child Health, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, General Practice and Emergency Medicine, ENT/Ophthalmology, Neurology and Cardiology.

A series of Academic Days during the clinical attachments continues the process of integrating the biological and clinical sciences. Continuing training is given in clinical skills. In Year 5 students undertake a Preparation for Practice Block.



Student Selected Components

Student Selected Components (SSC) constitute approximately 9% of the structured programme time and are designed to allow the selection and in depth study of special interest subjects.

A wide variety of topics for study are available. Increasingly, students are proposing their own SSCs and in addition there is the facility for an SSC to be linked to an elective, allowing for projects to be carried out overseas or a small Research project to be completed.

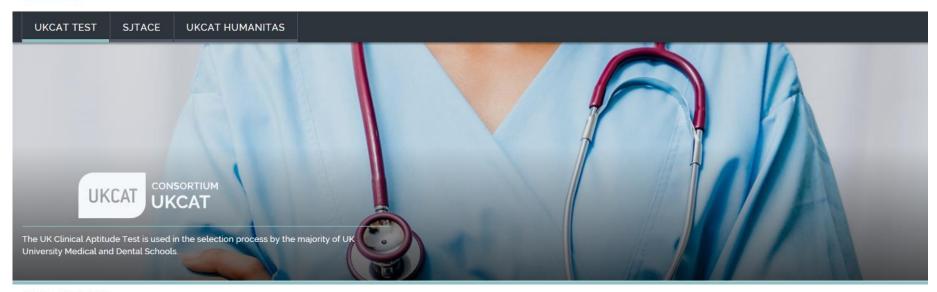


Electives

MBChB students are required to undertake two four-week periods of study of any aspect of the practice of medicine in recognised clinical specialities, including general practice and public health, which has the approvalof the Dean. Electives may also include research in an appropriate setting. These take place after the first diet of examinations in year 3 and between years 4 and 5.



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About the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT)

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

The UKCAT does not contain any curriculum or science content. It 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 UKCAT is a computer-based test delivered in Pearson VUE test centres throughout the UK and internationally.



UKCAT registration opens at 9am on 2 May and closes on 19 September 2017 at 5pm. Booking closes at midday on 2 October 2017. UKCAT testing takes place between 3 July and 3 October 2017.

UKCAT Test Format

The UKCAT is a two-hour computer-based test. It consists of five separately timed subtests which assess a range of mental abilities identified by university medical and dental schools as important. Each subtest contains a number of items in a multiple-choice format.

Candidates either sit the standard UKCAT or the UKCATSEN (Special Educational Needs) if they are entitled to additional time due to a documented medical condition or disability.

UKCAT 2017	Items	UKCAT Timing'	UKCATSEN Timing''
Verbal Reasoning Assesses the ability to critically evaluate information presented in a written form.	44	22 minutes	27.5 minutes
Decision Making Assesses the ability to make sound decisions and judgements using complex information.	29	32 minutes	40 minutes
Quantitative Reasoning Assesses the ability to critically evaluate information presented in a numerical form.	36	25 minutes	31.25 minutes
Abstract Reasoning Assesses the use of convergent and divergent thinking to infer relationships from information.	55	14 minutes	17.5 minutes
Situational Judgement Measures the capacity to understand real world situations and to identify critical factors and appropriate behaviour in dealing with them.	68	27 minutes	33.75 minutes
Total Time		120 minutes	150 minutes

Applying UKCAT

- <u>Verbal reasoning</u> assesses candidates' ability to think logically about written information and to arrive at a reasoned conclusion.
- <u>Quantitative reasoning</u> assesses candidates' ability to solve numerical problems.
- <u>Abstract reasoning</u> assesses candidates' ability to infer relationships from information by convergent and divergent thinking.
- <u>Decision analysis</u> assesses candidates' ability to deal with various forms of information, to infer relationships, to make informed judgements, and to decide on an appropriate response, in situations of complexity and ambiguity.

UKCAT Scoring and Marking

The UKCAT is marked on the number of correct answers a candidate gives. There is no negative marking for incorrect answers. Performance on one question does not influence which other questions are presented.

Cognitive Subtest

Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning and Abstract Reasoning questions are worth 1 mark each.

In the Decision Making subtest questions with one correct answer are worth 1 mark and questions with multiple statements are worth 2 marks. One mark is awarded to partially correct responses on the multiple-statement questions.

As the number of questions varies between these four subtests it is not possible to make a direct comparison of the raw scores between the cognitive subtests. Raw scores are therefore converted to scale scores that share a common range from 300 to 900.

A total scale score is generated by summing the individual scale scores of Verbal Reasoning, Decision Making, Quantitative Reasoning and Abstract Reasoning. In 2017 a total scale score ranges from 1200 to 3600.

Situational Judgement Test

Within the Situational Judgement test, full marks are awarded for a question if the response matches the correct answer and partial marks awarded if the response is close to the correct answer.

Raw scores for the Situational Judgement subtest are expressed in one of four bands, with band 1 being the highest. Alongside their band, candidates will be given an interpretation of this performance:

Band 1	Those in Band 1 demonstrated an excellent level of performance, showing similar judgement in most cases to the panel of experts.
Band 2	Those in Band 2 demonstrated a good, solid level of performance, showing appropriate judgement frequently, with many responses matching model answers.
Band 3	Those in Band 3 demonstrated a modest level of performance, with appropriate judgement shown for some questions and substantial differences from ideal responses for others.
Band 4	The performance of those in Band 4 was low, with judgement tending to differ substantially from ideal responses in many cases.

As the Situational Judgement test is a measure of non-cognitive attributes, it will be considered by universities in a different manner to the cognitive subtests. Please refer to their websites for more details.

Applying



The tests are now integral to the application process

There is no "pass mark"

Each section has a scaled score from 300-900

Average mark is around 2400 - 2500

Each medical school has a different approach

Practice can "make perfect"

Various resources available for this





Fairness Wider participation

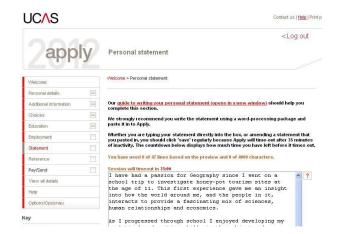
UKCAT Cognitive Test Statistics 2012-2016

Average scaled scores by subtest and total score

	Verbal Reasoning	Quantitative Reasoning	Abstract Reasoning	Decision Analysis	Total Score
2016 Mean	573	690	630	N/A*	1893*
2015 Mean	577	685	640	629	2531
2014 Mean	571	684	636	614	2505
2013 Mean	557	655	661	771	2643
2012 Mean	580	656	633	646	2515

- The personal statement is a significant element in the application process.
- Advice is available at:

www.ucas.com/documents/statement/worksheet.pdf



- Why did you apply for the course?
- Why does this subject interest you?
- Why are you suitable?
- Have you taken part in any activities that demonstrate your interest?
- What are your skills/ attributes/ achievements/ positions of responsibility/
- What are your hobbies or interests
- What work experience do you have?
- What do you intend to do in the future?



This should give you an idea of how important it is to show why you want to study the course and what you can bring to it - especially because it might be compared with other applicants applying for the same course.

- Remember it's a **personal** statement, cut out anything unnecessary!
- Don't repeat yourself.
- Cut out the waffle be concise!
- Get rid of pointless words e.g. the name of the hospital/doctor you worked with, exact dates (just put X months), superfluous adjectives etc.
- Ask your referee to mention the things you are unable to include.
- Structure your statement.
- At the end of the day if you can't get it under the lines/characters you may just have to chop whole sentences.

- Prepare and practice
- Consider the structure
- Be truthful, don't exaggerate
- Avoid jokes!
- Make sure every sentence adds something new
- Keep sentences to around 15-20 words
- Explain your experience
- Stay within the rules
- Do not leave till the last moment
- Ask trusted friends / family to look at your statement
- Check for spelling and grammar.

- Examples of **unsuccessful** applications
- Your personal statement does not strongly support your desire to study your chosen degree.
- Your personal statement did not show sufficient understanding, relevance or knowledge about the course you are applying for.
- You failed to demonstrate sufficient knowledge and interest in the subject in your personal statement.
- There is a lot of competition for places on this course and your personal statement and experience was not as strong as other applicants this year.
- Application form (including personal statement, reference and predicted grades) does not evidence accurate understanding of or motivation for subject.
- Unsuccessful as you have not expressed a strong enough interest in the subject area in your personal statement.

Applying Referee's statement



- Don't be afraid to ask if your tutor knows what to write or prompt them (obviously in a very polite way!). Below is a summary of what medical schools are after:
- Commitment e.g. re-iterate the measures taken to find out about a career in medicine (work experience, conferences) and knowledge of the realities of life as a doctor.
- Staying power e.g. interest, passion, enthusiasm to study and time management.
- Communication skills e.g. interaction with staff and other pupils, listening skills, contribution to class, how they accept criticism.
- Humility e.g. ability to care, involvement in the wider community.

Applying Referees statement

- Team work e.g. sports, committees etc.
- Leadership e.g. positions of responsibility, prefects etc.
- Academic achievements predicted grades, reasons for poor GCSE grades, 'late developers', certificates, prizes.
- Mitigating circumstances e.g. anything that may affect academic performance. If the person writing the referee's statement does not have all the information needed for the application it is important that information is sought from other sources.
- If the person writing the referee's statement does not have all the information needed for the application it is important that information is sought from other sources



Applying Interview

- Lasts about 15-30 minutes
- Interviewers have many interviews every day
- They will try to ask candidates similar questions
- The questions can cover any subject, but often will be structured around key areas:
- Motivation and background
- Knowledge of medical school and curriculum
- Depth of knowledge
- Empathy
- Teamworking
- Personal insight
- Role of medicine
- Ethical issues
- Left field questions



Applying

Interview

- You cannot prepare for every question
- Some themes are common
- Think about



Why me	?
Why medicine	?
What is medicine for	?
What else could I do	?
What do I bring	?
Who do I admire	?
What is happening in the medical world	?
What is happening in the real world	?

Applying Interview tips

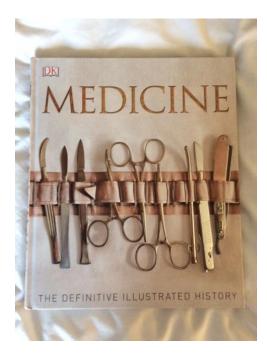
- We aren't used to talking about ourselves
- We hate praise, and are taught not to self-praise

Practice

- Don't recite your personal statement
- Pauses are sensible
- Smile
- Be yourself
- Look like you are happy to be there

This year and beyond

Read as much as you can for pleasure and learning.





What happens next?



Enjoy senior school

Focus on your exam preparation

Don't despair if no offers

99% of happy people are not doctors!

Medicine as a Vocation

