
Applying For Medicine

— Organised by Cambridge MedSoc —

Who are we?

- Cambridge MedSoc since 1784
- New Access Programme
- Who am I personally?
- What will this talk cover?

Why not Medicine?

- Long degree course
- Continuous learning and a lot of hard work
- Not compensated for the hours you put in - do NOT do it for money
- Bureaucracy and paperwork
- Dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, biomedical science

Why Medicine?

- Job satisfaction / rewarding profession
- Job security
- Variety within the career
- Interesting content
- Financial support to maintain length of course

A-Levels and GCSEs

- Chemistry necessary, Biology and Physics / Maths
- AAA mostly - with some asking for A*s
- Can compensate for GCSEs - but they are still looked at
- Check grade requirements before applying
- Quality over quantity

Choosing a University

- Integrated vs PBL vs Traditional
- Intercalation
- Application processes / what they're looking for
- Open days - facilities, societies, culture
- Hospitals during clinical years
- All end up as competent doctors regardless / university blind job selection

Work Experience

- Demonstrate empathy and understanding of medical profession
- Does not have to be hospital - but HR department can help
- GP practices
- Volunteering at a care home
- Non-medical work experience e.g. paid jobs
- Not how much - it's what you learnt from it

Personal Statement

- Start early (deadline is 15th October)
- Do not copy
- Cater to all the universities you are applying to
- State, reflect and link it back to medicine
- Do not be afraid to change it a lot between drafts
- Only send it to one person at a time, making the changes you agree with
- Make sure you have done / do everything on it
- Avoid waffling

Entrance Exams

- All medical schools require UKCAT / BMAT for undergraduates
- Use online information
- Guide with all our information and tips on entrance exams is accessible at: **https://issuu.com/clinsocaccess/docs/entrance_exams**

UKCAT

- Length of exam: 2 hours for 5 sections (2.5 hours for SEN)
- Local test facility and booked online
- Can go between questions in same section but not next / previous section
- Practice! Under timed conditions as well
- Online resources e.g. official website
- Computer calculator
- Books e.g. 'Get into Medical School: 1000 UKCAT Practice Questions' and 'The Ultimate UKCAT Guide: 1200 Practice Questions'
- Do it early!

BMAT

- Length of test: 2 hours for 3 sections
- Date: 9th September or 2nd November 2017
- Book test via school or college
- Practice!
- Online resources e.g. official website
- Try writing essays
- Books e.g. 'Preparing for the BMAT'
- No calculator access

Interviews

- Traditional vs MMI
- Practice and get an idea of what questions may be asked
- Know your personal statement
- Keep up to date with current medical topics
- Know how the NHS works
- Know about basic ethics
- Use basic interview technique: eye contact, posture, confidence, smile

Cambridge

- One of the top academic universities in the world
- High level of academic support e.g. supervisions, DoS, libraries
- Offers unparalleled research opportunities
- Familial college system
- Extra-curricular opportunities
- Unique and exciting celebratory aspects e.g. balls, formals, garden parties
- Financial support e.g. Cambridge bursary

If you're interested?

- Definitely apply, regardless of any concerns unrelated to your education e.g. income, ethnicity, religion, sexuality - you will "fit in"!
- Previously focus on UMS at AS levels but now more general
- Newnham College's Admission Tutor:

'Medicine at Cambridge does have a strong scientific focus, so as well as the inter-personal qualities that all Medical schools look for, we also like to see a strong basis across A-level Maths and Science subjects. All applicants must offer A-level Chemistry (or IB Higher Level) and most will also offer Maths and Biology. A very high proportion of successful applicants offer three Maths/Science subjects, and will be predicted A*A*A at a minimum. We do look at BMAT scores, but weigh them up against school record and interview performance as well.'

SAQ

- Supplementary Application Questionnaire
- Only for Cambridge
- Personal Statement well-rounded, SAQ academic
- EPQs, blogs, extra reading etc.
- Can be asked about!

Interviews at Cambridge

- Basic interview tips still apply: be confident and calm
- Mock supervision - want a capable and engaging student
- Work with them and listen to them
- A-level science and some basic further reading e.g. common conditions
- Work logically and speak your thoughts aloud
- Can be asked on ethics, current topics and personal statement even though most are pure science
- Practice interpreting / comparing graphs
- Demonstrate that academics are your priority if questioned

Example questions!

- 1) Describe what atherosclerosis is?
- 2) What is the most important variable in this equation? If I were to say resistance stays constant, radius goes up by a factor of 4, viscosity increases by a factor of 2, what happens to the length of the blood vessel?

R= resistance
n= viscosity of blood
l= length of the blood vessel
r⁴= radius of blood vessel

$$R = \frac{8\eta l}{\pi r^4}$$

Example questions!

- 3) What blood vessel does your blood in your legs flow back to your heart in?
- 4) How does blood flow via veins if pressure is low?
- 5) Think of diseases where this goes wrong?
- 6) Describe the how the clot gets to the heart?
- 7) Or another way?

Thank you! Any questions?

You are welcome to email access@cambridgemedsoc.com with any further queries!