

# Applying to Medicine

## What is Medicine?

Medicine is the study of human body and human disease. You will learn to diagnose and treat disease using modern medicine, having clinical exposure during your degree to prepare you for your career in Medicine.

Medicine (MBBS) is a 5 year course (sometimes 6 years dependent on university) that qualifies you to work as a Doctor. The path you follow in this career is explained below.



There are many specialisms that you can follow, such as anaesthesia, oncology, emergency medicine, general practise, cardiology, dermatology, genetics, neurology, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, pathology, psychiatry and many more. These are all recognised by the General Medical Council, who accredit university degrees.

Find out more at  
[https://  
www.ncl.ac.uk/  
undergraduate/  
degrees/a100/](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/a100/)

## Teaching methods

An important thing to think about when applying to Medicine is the teaching methods used by universities, and which method would suit you. There are three types:

### Traditional



This involves lectures and seminars for the first 2-3 years of your course (pre-clinical years), then 3 clinical years learning on a ward, as well as lectures.

### Integrated

This is learning the theory of medicine alongside clinical training, allowing you clinical exposure all through your degree. This is recommended by the General Medical Council. This is the approach we use at Newcastle University!



### Problem-based Learning



You would be given a case study to work on in small groups, researching independently and gathering notes as a group before attending lectures to consolidate your knowledge. This type of learning is self-directed.

## The Application Process

To apply to undergraduate Medicine in the United Kingdom, you must apply through UCAS.

### Choices



When applying through UCAS, you can apply to up to 5 courses. These can be different courses at different universities. When applying for Medicine, only 4 of these choices can be Medicine, and the other choice must be something else (or you can choose to not use your 5th choice).

### Personal Statement



As part of your application, you also have to write a 4000 character personal statement, explaining what motivates you to study Medicine, your key skills and achievements, any relevant work experience you have and your hobbies and interests. Highlight how your current studies relate to medicine, what particular parts of the course interest you (and why) and how your hobbies and experiences relate to Medicine (including the skills you've gained from them). Make sure you say why you're including a specific skill.

### Interview



After completing and sending off your application, you may be invited to interview by your university. This will either be a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI)- several different stations (around 7 minutes at each) where you will be asked questions relating to Medicine; Traditional Interviews- 20-40 minutes of questions from an interview panel. Make sure you familiarise yourself with the interview type before going to it!

## Admissions Tests

When applying to undergraduate Medicine in the UK, you must sit an admissions test. There are two types of test. Different universities use different tests, and use the tests differently in their application process.

### UCAT

UCAT is an admissions test that is based on aptitude. This means you can't exactly revise for it, but you can prepare using free resources published by UCAT on their website.

There are 5 sections: verbal reasoning, decision making, quantitative reasoning, situational judgement and abstract reasoning.

To find out more about sitting the UCAT, including locations and dates, visit their website at <https://www.ucat.ac.uk/>



### BMAT

BMAT is an admissions test that is based on your GCSE science knowledge. This means you can revise using textbooks from GCSE to help you prepare, as well as sitting practice tests provided by BMAT on their website.

<https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/>

Both of these tests do cost. If you would like support in this, more information is provided at their websites linked above. Information on access arrangements can also be found on their websites.

## Facilities

**24 Hour Access to Clinical Skills-** we have our own clinical skills lab that our Medicine students are able to access 24 hours, to help aid their learning. Teaching also takes place here so that our students can learn key clinical skills such as taking a patient's history, and how to take a patient's blood. We also have our Dissection Room that aids our students in learning the anatomy of the human body.



**Walton Library-** Our very own Medical Sciences library. Any books that you would need during your degree can be found here, as well as group study rooms, collaborative study areas as well as quiet and silent study areas. One of the best things about the Walton is that you can see out over the whole of Newcastle! Have a look around our library with the following link! <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/contact/library-locations#walton>



**8 week student elective-** A fantastic opportunity for you to explore an area of Medicine that you really enjoy in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of our MBBS programme. This can be anywhere in the world doing any type of medicine (in accordance with FCO advice), from working in plastic surgery at Sunderland Royal Hospital, to working in tropical medicine in Brazil. This is something our students say is the highlight of their degree!



**Student selected components-** With our 5 year MBBS course, you are able to choose your own study topics in the later years of your degree. This is in 2x 4 week blocks, with options such as care of newborn babies, medical law, complementary medicine, tropical disease, or even working with our paramedics and air ambulance crew.



### What our students say

*'I love how the course feels like one big community- older students and lecturers are always willing to help! I also love the case based teaching with integrated clinical skills during the course.'*

-Ananya, 3rd year Medicine Student



### PARTNERS

PARTNERS is a supported entry route that we offer here at Newcastle University. This reduces your entry requirements after you complete a summer school with us. To find out more, including eligibility criteria, have a look on the PARTNERS website (<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/schools/partners/#whatispartners?>).



Chat to our students on Unibuddy!  
<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/study/contact/unibuddy/>

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