Applying to Medical School

Most applicants find applying to any Medical School quite daunting. We have offered information here which will help you through the process.

Before you apply

• Think clearly about why you want to do medicine and write a list of your reasons – it would be good to get these across in your application.
• Whichever university you apply to, make sure you visit it, talk to the students and have a good look around the campus and city – five years is a long time!
• Try and get some experience in a hospital, GP surgery or hospice – it’s good to see what being a doctor is really about. If you’ve tried applying for work experience and just cannot get any, then don’t worry, think about doing some voluntary work or some community related work.

The application process:

• Don’t worry about applying to other universities and being discriminated against your other choices – selectors no longer see which other universities you’ve applied to.
• It doesn’t matter if you also apply for a non-medical degree, as long as you can show a case for applying to medicine.
• If you want to take a gap year - then do so, universities encourage students with different interests who have a range of experiences they can bring to their course.
• University selectors are not influenced by whether your parents are doctors, or what type of school you come from. It is you they are interested in.

Finally

• Be positive about what you have to offer and make sure you tell us.
• If you get an interview, then be confident and relax, it’s your opportunity to sell yourself, if you have any questions then don’t be shy and ask them!
Applying to UCLan MBBS

Applications for the MBBS programme can be made direct via our online application form or through UCAS. The diagram below offers a step-by-step overview:

Please note that the UCLan MBBS programme is exclusively for international (non UK/EU) students.

There are several stages to the admissions process:

- **Submission of application**
  - Assessment of initial application against both academic and non-academic set criteria, so please make sure your application form is as comprehensive as possible (see entry requirements below)
  - A personal reflective statement is required as part of your application. The personal statement is a key element of the admissions process and guidance from the admissions team on how to write this in line with our set criteria is detailed in the Guidance for Personal Statement
  - Additionally, you will be required to complete a transferable skills statement (see notes below). Your Transferable Skills Statement (TSS) must be sent directly to UCLan. If you are applying via UCAS please email a copy of your TSS to: ia@uclan.ac.uk. In your email please make sure to include your UCAS application reference. If you are applying directly to UCLan please add your TSS to your application documents.
  - You should also ensure that you include all supporting information for your
application including copies of your IELTS qualification (or equivalent) and academic qualifications (where available), a minimum of one reference which must include an academic reference and a letter confirming any work experience, job shadowing or volunteering you have undertaken.

- **Selection Panel**
  - All applications are first read by our Admissions Team to ensure that you meet the minimum academic requirements. If you meet the academic requirements, your application will be given an academic score and passed to our Selection Panel. If you do not meet these your application will be rejected at this initial stage.
  - The selection panel makes a decision on those applicants who will be invited for interview based on: personal statement, reference and transferable skills statement.
  - The Selection Panel will pay particular attention to your personal statement and to the reference from your school/college. Please don't send in extra information or portfolios of work unless we contact you directly to request it. In the interests of fairness to all candidates, we will only assess what is included in your direct or UCAS application form.
  - If you produce a strong personal statement, using the guidance below, you are more likely to be invited to interview.
  - If you have a very low evaluation for any aspect of your application, you are unlikely to be called for interview.
  - You should ensure that the person who will complete your reference is given a copy of the criteria by which it will be scored. Both you and your referee should address each aspect outlined above. Referees should be aware that we expect to see more than a record of academic achievement. References indicating your strengths in the areas listed above are much more valuable than simple "schoolreport" style references.

- **Interview**
  - Applicants who are successful in being invited for interview will be asked to participate in Multiple Mini Interviews.
  - No applicant will be made an offer without interview which is normally held at the UCLan Preston campus between December and March and at UCLan in Mauritius in February.
  - All applicants invited to interview must provide a satisfactory enhanced DBS check or international equivalent.
  - Once all interviews are completed applicants are ranked according to performance. Applicants who have passed at least 7 out of 10 MMI stations will be ranked according to score and offers made to the top ranking applicants until the required number of
places has been filled. A small number of applicants who perform exceptionally well at MMI may be made an early offer.

- All applicants successful at interview will need to undergo occupational health screening (including tuberculosis, hepatitis B and C and HIV) as part of the enrolment process. Any student who fails the health screening will not be prevented from studying the MBBS but will limit the manner in which they can study and their ability to practice as a doctor. Further details are available on the Medical Schools Council website.

The UCLan School of Medicine values the positive impacts of disabilities and diversity on our MBBS programme. We welcome and encourage applications from all students and provide guidance on diversity and disability to which students should refer before completing their application.

**Further information:**

- If an applicant fails to achieve a place on the MBBS programme they may only make one further consecutive application to the programme.
- We reserve the right to reject applications that are incomplete. Any application submitted without a completed reference will be automatically rejected.
- Applicants are reminded that they are required to declare all qualifications that have been completed and certificated, including those that were failed, in their application. Candidates with uncertificated A-levels should make sure this is stated in their personal statement or reference. If you are found to have deliberately withheld information on qualifications we will cancel your application and inform UCAS.
- It may be necessary for us to request additional information if there are gaps in your education and/or employment record. You will be given a deadline for responding to such a request. Failure to reply by the deadline will result in the rejection of your application.
- Your application will be assessed only on the information provided in the direct or UCAS application. This will be used to select candidates for interview. Offers of places will be made solely on the basis of performance at interview.
MBBS 2016 Entry Requirements

The academic qualifications required for entry to the programme are set out in Section 1. All applicants must also meet the General Requirements set out in Section 2. The qualifications below are the *minimum* required for consideration for the MBBS programme and as such do not guarantee your entry to the programme. Normally it is expected that grades will be achieved at first sitting.

1. Academic qualifications

1.1 A level

A-levels: Minimum grades AAB (At least two science subjects to include Chemistry and a third academic subject).

Students must be able to provide evidence of sustained academic achievement with a broad study of sciences and mathematics up to the age of 15-16.

1.2 Foundation programme

Academic achievement at the level recognised for each individual foundation provider currently recognised by the School of Medicine:

- Cambridge Education Group (CEG) Medicine Foundation Programme
  - 70% overall and IELTS 7.0 in each component
- Dublin International Foundation College (DIFC) – International Foundation Year in Health and Science (Medical Programme)
  - Grades of AAB inclusive of A in chemistry; B in EAP
- INTO St George’s Foundation Programme
  - 75% overall with no module score below 60%; plus EAP Grade 68 in each component
- Abbey College Manchester Medicine Foundation Programme*
  - 70% overall and IELTS 7.0 in each component
- International Foundation for Medicine Programme University of St Andrews
  - Grade of ‘High Merit’ and IELTS 7.0 in each component
- INTO Newcastle International Foundation in Biological and Biomedical Sciences
  - 80% in Biology 1 and Biology 2, 75% in Chemistry with an overall academic average of 75% and IELTS 7.0 in each component (or equivalent)
- Education First (EF) Medical Foundation Year*
  - Grade of ‘Distinction’ and IELTS 7.0 in each component
- CATS Canterbury - Medics Programme
  - Grades of AAB inclusive of A in chemistry and IELTS 7.0 in each component
- CATS Cambridge - Medics Programme
  - Grades of AAB inclusive of A in chemistry and IELTS 7.0 in each component
- Kaplan International Foundation Programme
- 70% including English language from Life Sciences pathway within the Science & Engineering Foundation programme

Students at Foundation schools other than those listed above currently recognised must ask their Foundation school to apply for programme approval formal recognition before applying and may only apply if/when the programme school is formally recognised is accepted as an entry requirement.

*Foundation course that will be available for 2017 MBBS entry

1.3 Graduate

A recognised honours degree in any science subject at 2:1 or above or equivalent or, a recognised degree in a health care profession at 2:1 or above or equivalent with at least one year’s professional work experience.

(A masters qualification or higher degree does not compensate for these degree requirements).

1.4 International qualifications

If your country is not currently listed below please contact the International Admissions Team at ia@uclan.ac.uk for advice.

For those applicants with international qualifications, we would expect these to include the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Sciences (to include Chemistry and at least one other science subject).

**International Baccalaureate (IB):** Higher level 36 points overall (to include Chemistry, an additional science subject and one other subject at Higher Level [HL]) and 3 at Standard level, at a minimum of 5 points each.

**Canada:** High school diploma (minimum 85%, to include Chemistry, one other science and a third subject). Graduates offering a degree would usually require a GPA in the region of 3.5.

**Hong Kong:** HKDSE at 5, 5, 5 in three elective subjects (which must include Chemistry). Integrated or combined sciences are not accepted. Plus at least 5,5,4,4 in the four core subjects including English Language at grade 5.
India: Usually at least 85% in CBSE/Cisce. Percentage based on best of 4 core subjects to include English* and Chemistry and two additional science subjects (for example: two from Biology, Physics or Psychology) with a minimum of 85% in the science subjects.

*Please note this does not take the place of the MBBS English language requirements

Malaysia: SPMs may be considered in lieu of GCSEs on a subject basis (1A, 2A grades required). STPM grade AAAB including Biology A and Chemistry A, taken in a single sitting. UEC grades of AAAAAA at Senior Middle Level (to include Chemistry and Biology and excluding Chinese, Bahasa Malay and Book Keeping and Commerce).

Mauritius: A Levels and IB qualifications accepted.
French Baccalaureate 15 to include Chemistry and one other science subject.

Pakistan: HSSC 95% percentage based on best of 4 core subjects to include English, Mathematics (or Physics), Chemistry and at least one other science subject with a minimum of 95% in Chemistry and a science.

Singapore: A levels and IB accepted. Applications from students following the Integrated Programme will be considered.

Sri Lanka: A levels and IB qualifications accepted.

USA: Excellence demonstrated in high school transcript, GPA minimum of 3.5 required. SATR of at least 700 in each component and Advanced Placement Tests in three group A subjects at grade 5 (to include Chemistry and one other science subject) or 3 SATIIs of minimum score 700 (including Chemistry and one other science subject). Alternatively ACT scores of a minimum of 34 in each of five components (including Chemistry and one other science subject) may be considered with the high school transcript.

South Africa: Senior certificate at Higher Grade considered if offering English Language, Mathematics, Chemistry and at least one other science subject at A grade.

Potential applicants who hold Senior High School Certificates/Diplomas from the following countries would need to complete a foundation programme recognised by UCLan (see list
above) before applying to the MBBS programme:
Bahrain, China, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Zambia.

2. General Requirements:

All applicants are required to have the following:

**English language requirements**

International applicants will be required to demonstrate proficiency in English through the following:

- IELTS with a minimum of 7.0 in all of the component scores (listening, reading, writing and speaking) or equivalent (please refer to table below):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A Level English</th>
<th>Grade B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge English: First Online verification must be undertaken</td>
<td>Grade A or 185 on new scoring system effective from January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge English: Advanced (also known as CAE) Online verification must be undertaken</td>
<td>Grade C with minimum grade of 67 or 185 on new scoring system effective from January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge English: Proficiency Online verification must be undertaken</td>
<td>Grade C (or level C1 and weak component scores) or 185 on new scoring system effective from January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCSE or IGCSE English</td>
<td>Grade A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IELTS</td>
<td>7.0 in all components</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearson Test of English Online verification must be undertaken</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Baccalaureate</td>
<td>Standard Level (Grade 6 in English Language and Literature) Higher Level (Grade 6 in English B)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*English as medium of instruction will NOT be accepted for any student.*

**Personal statement**

*Guidance* is available on writing the personal statement. It should cover the following:

- Your reasons for applying to study MBBS
- Your understanding of the role of a doctor
- Your health-related and/or caring work/work shadowing or volunteering
- Roles you have had
- Depth of experience in a role involving personal interaction
- Reflection on what was learnt from these experiences
- Initiative/enterprise
- Work/life balance
- Working in teams
- Communication (particularly outside your peer group)
- Quality of written application
- Exceptional circumstances
Transferable skills statement

Using the form, detail your non-academic achievements and aptitude for a career in medicine including:

- Work experience/shadowing/voluntary work or experience in a caring role
- The impact and value of the work you undertook
- The level of responsibility taken within this experience
- An example where you did something that had a significant outcome for the person being cared for
- Any achievements you may want to highlight from the above

Your Transferable Skills Statement (TSS) must be sent directly to UCLan.

If you are applying via UCAS please email a copy of your TSS to: ia@uclan.ac.uk. In your email please make sure to include your UCAS application reference.

If you are applying directly to UCLan please add your TSS to your application documents. The TSS will be the focus for one of the stations in the Multiple Mini Interviews if you are invited for interview.

Further information

Students who do not meet the standard entry criteria for the MBBS programme could have the options of:

- Applying to a foundation programme accepted by the School of Medicine such as:
  - Cambridge Education Group (CEG) Medicine Foundation Programme
  - Dublin International Foundation College (DIFC) – International Foundation Year in Health and Science (Medical Programme)
  - INTO St. George’s SGUL Foundation for Medicine
  - Abbey College Manchester Medicine Foundation Programme
  - Kaplan International Foundation Programme
  - CATS Cambridge – Medics Programme
  - Other Foundation Programmes may be considered for entry to the MBBS please contact: international@uclan.ac.uk or MBBSAdmissions@uclan.ac.uk
- If the applicant does not already have a degree, undertake a recognised honours degree in a
If a student is in the first year of their degree and has the appropriate A Levels for consideration at UCLan, they may submit an application, but consideration of their application will be made on their grades prior to entry to university and their first year transcript may not be considered. Any offer made in these circumstances will be conditional on successful completion of the first year of study. Anyone who has completed more than one year of a three year degree programme should complete the degree before applying to UCLan.