

MEDICINE

Queen's is an exciting place to study medicine. Key features of our programme include participation in clinical skills in Year 1, integrated case-based learning to facilitate your application of knowledge and skills to clinical practice, whole body dissection and clinical learning in a wide range of primary and secondary care settings.

There is a strong emphasis on inter-professional team working and in final year you will work alongside a junior doctor as you prepare for transition to the workplace.

Four 'Double-Helical Themes' weave their way into every module and year of the course. These themes - the DNA of the curriculum - are Global and Population Health, Clinical Science and Practice, Achieving Good Medical Practice and Teamwork for Safe Care.



COURSE CONTENT

Queen's medical degree is a five-year course with an initial systems-based approach. It is one of the few medical schools in the UK to teach students anatomy through cadaveric dissection and does so in an exciting new Dissection Suite.

Students are introduced to clinical work from the onset and by third year almost all teaching is in the clinical setting. Good communication and examination skills training is undertaken in the Clinical Skills Education Centre with our 'Patients as Partners' before students move to actual patient contact in the healthcare environment.

Students are supported to undertake an additional year of study should they wish to undertake an intercalated degree.

During the second semester of final year all students undertake an Assistantship module which aims to ensure that graduates have a smooth transition into their first Foundation post.

• Years 1 and 2

During the first two years of the degree you learn about the scientific basis of medical practice. You gain knowledge about each body system, focusing on the mechanisms

of cellular structure and function. You also study pathology, microbiology, therapeutics and genetics. Teaching of basic science subjects is integrated with clinical skills training which you acquire through clinical simulation and practice with patients.

• Year 3

The third year begins to take greater clinical focus. Classroom-based and clinical teaching takes place in each of the medical and surgical disciplines, which is integrated with therapeutic, pathological and microbiological principles relevant to clinical medical practice.

• Intercalated Degrees

At the end of second or third year, students may apply to take a year out of their medical degree to study for an intercalated degree. This extra research-focused year will lead to either a qualification at Bachelor or Master's level.

• Years 4 and 5

During the fourth and fifth years you gain further experience in a range of surgical and medical disciplines in primary and secondary care. Training in a range of specialities offers an opportunity for you to consolidate and advance your clinical skills and enhance your clinical and related knowledge, and participate more fully in delivery of care to patients in



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

MB BCH BAO

Medicine (Bachelor of) 5 yrs (A100)

Entrance Requirements

Interview:

All applicants will be ranked on cognitive performance, and a proportion selected for interview (Multi-mini interview). Interviews will take place between January and March in Belfast for home and EU applicants. Staff from the Medical School visit South East Asia in late January/February to interview and international applicants from other countries are encouraged to travel to Belfast for interview, as they will benefit from a tour of the University.

UCAT:

All applicants are required to sit the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) and the results achieved will be used as part of the selection process prior to interview. Further information on UCAT is available at: ucat.ac.uk.

A level requirements:

AAA at A-level + A in a fourth AS-level subject including A-level Chemistry plus at least one other A-level from Biology/Human Biology, Mathematics or Physics. If not offered at A-level then Biology/Human Biology grade A as a 4th AS-level or grade B as a 5th AS-level. Grade A in the EPQ or Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate or a grade B in a 4th A-level will be acceptable in lieu of the 4th AS-level.

OR

A*AA at A-level including Chemistry and Biology/Human Biology.

OR

A*AA at A-level including Chemistry and either Mathematics or Physics + AS-level Biology grade B.

All Applicants:

GCSE Mathematics minimum grade C and either GCSE Physics minimum grade C or GCSE Double Award Science minimum grades CC are required if these subjects are not offered at AS-level or A-level.

A maximum of either one Applied A-level or one Applied AS-level will be counted. Please also note that only one Mathematics subject will be counted at A-level (the other would be acceptable as the fourth AS-level). A-level Critical Thinking and both AS-level and A-level General Studies are not acceptable.

In considering applications, GCSE performance in the best 9 subjects will be scored with 4 points awarded for an A* (grades 8 and 9 on the new 9-1 grading scale), 3 points for an A (grade 7), 2 points for a B (grade 6) and 1 point for a C (grades 4 and 5). From 2021 entry, in view of the re-alignment of the A* with a Grade 9, scoring will change to 4 points for a Grade 9 and 3 points for Grades 7 and 8.

For those who have not undertaken GCSE or equivalent level qualifications, then an academic score will be calculated on the basis of school reports.

UCAT will be scored and used in conjunction with the GCSE score to rank for interview. AS-level performance, additional GCSE A grades and other factors may also be taken into account in borderline cases.

Evidence of commitment to medicine, motivation, communication skills and initiative are important.

Graduates:

Applications from graduates or those in the final year of their degree are considered and the full academic background is taken into account. The minimum A-level threshold (or equivalent in other qualifications) is either ABB at first attempt, ie prior to commencing degree studies for those with an Upper Second Class Honours degree, or BBB at first attempt for those with a First Class Honours degree or PhD and an Upper Second Class Honours degree. Averaging out to these grades is not permitted. Applicants must have an appropriate science background at GCSE and AS-level/A-level or equivalent (see below) and at least a 2.1 Honours classification in their primary (first) degree, which can be from a wide range of different subjects. A-level Chemistry and at least one from A-level Biology/Human Biology, Mathematics or Physics, plus, if not offered at A-level, then Biology/ Human Biology to at least AS-level (or equivalent) are required. In addition, GCSE Mathematics minimum grade C and either GCSE Physics minimum grade C or GCSE Double Award Science minimum grades CC are required if not offered at AS-level or A-level. Graduate applicants who fulfil these criteria are then scored with their UCAT.

Graduate applicants from a non-science background but who fulfil the conditions in terms of grades achieved at the first attempt (ie in their original choice of A-level subjects) and degree performance will be considered if they undertake the appropriate Science qualifications on completion of their degree.

Transfers from other Medical Schools:

Applications will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and entry will be to first year only. All normal entry requirements must be satisfied.

For students whose first language is not English

An IELTS score of 7.5 overall, with a minimum of 7.0 in Speaking and Listening and 6.5 in Reading and Writing, or an equivalent acceptable qualification, details of which are available at: go.qub.ac.uk/EnglishLanguageReqs.

All Applicants:

All students admitted to this degree will be required to complete a Hepatitis B vaccination programme at the Occupational Health Service of the University.

- Medicine welcomes applications from people with disabilities. All applications will be treated on an individual case basis to ensure that the applicant has the potential to fulfil the demands of professional fitness to practise. Disability will not be considered as part of the selection process, however, it is strongly advised that applicants disclose their disability on their UCAS form and contact the School to obtain further advice. Applicants may also be required to provide relevant information which will be treated in the strictest of confidence. It is important that the University has an understanding of your support requirements to implement reasonable adjustments.
- As a result of current legislative requirements any offer made will be conditional on a satisfactory criminal history check (Access NI Enhanced Disclosure Check). To enable the University to request this check you will be required to provide some personal information which will be treated in the strictest of confidence and in line with Data Protection Principles. The current cost of an Enhanced Disclosure Check is £33. At the time of printing changes are due to be implemented and relevant procedures and/or costs may change. Applicants will be advised of the relevant requirements at the appropriate time. For international students, a Certificate of Good Conduct or equivalent will be required in lieu of an Access NI check. Additional checks may be required depending on the applicants address history.
- The degree is subject to the University's regulations on Fitness to Practise.
- Applicants will be required to give permission for a check against the Excluded Student Database prior to offers being

made. This is a national database which records those who have previously been excluded from professional programmes because of fitness to practise concerns.

- Selection criteria for Medicine are reviewed annually and therefore you should read the 'How we choose our student' PDF which is available from the link below under Selection Criteria.

More detailed information on applying to Medicine at Queen's is also available from the School website at www.qub.ac.uk/schools/mdbs/

Please note for 2021 entry the deadline for applications to this degree is 6.00 pm on 15 October 2020 and arrangements should be made to undertake UCAT in advance of this.

supervised practice. In fifth year you have the opportunity to undertake an assistantship, during which you complete the range of tasks undertaken by a Foundation Doctor. Teaching and learning in ethics, communication, teamwork, and related behavioural science is embedded throughout the curriculum.

WHY QUEEN'S?

• Professional Accreditation

The award of the MB BCH BAO degree means that you are eligible to apply for provisional registration with the General Medical Council.

• Assessment

Progress tests are used to assess knowledge. Progress Testing allows students to track their development as a learner and provide opportunities for feedback. The General Medical Council (GMC) is currently developing proposals for the introduction of a Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA), designed to create a common threshold for entry on to the UK medical register.

• Global Opportunities

Students undertake an Elective module at the start of Year 5. Many students take this opportunity to travel abroad to work in a different medical environment. Students often choose destinations in Australia, India, Canada, and several countries in Africa. In addition, opportunities in Year 4 to study in Sweden, Italy, Spain and other European countries are available through the Erasmus programme.

• Additional Opportunities – Intercalation

Currently about 25 per cent of medical students decide to undertake an intercalated

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degree during their undergraduate training. Whilst some work towards a BSc (taking a year out of the medical programme between years 2 and 3), others, after completion of Year 3 of the medical course, enrol on a taught Master's course. Those presently available within the School include the Master of Public Health (MPH), MPH in Global Health, MSc(Res) in Cancer Medicine, MSc (Res) in Oncology Drug Discovery, MSc in Experimental Medicine, MSc in Bioinformatics and Computational Genomics, MSc in Clinical Anatomy and the MSc in Molecular Pathology of Cancer.

• World-Class Facilities

Medical students at Queen's have access to excellent teaching facilities and a dedicated medical library. Two of the city's teaching hospitals and several University Research Centres are located close to the University's Health Sciences Campus.

• Internationally Renowned Experts

Many of our former graduates have risen to the top of their fields and include many famous figures – one particularly notable graduate of Queen's medical school was Professor Frank Pantridge, dubbed the 'father of emergency medicine' and inventor of the portable defibrillator.

• Student Experience

Queen's Medicine student satisfaction rate is 93 per cent, ranked joint 7th in the UK (National Student Survey, 2017). Many

students are involved in the several medical-based societies at Queen's, including BMSA, Scrubs, Medsin and SWOT. In addition, the University has over 200 clubs and societies run by students, offering the opportunity to medical students to develop their interests and explore new activities.

CAREERS/FURTHER STUDY

At the end of the undergraduate course you will receive your MB BCh BAO degree, which is a primary medical qualification (PMQ). Holding a PMQ entitles you to apply for provisional registration with the General Medical Council. Provisionally registered doctors can only practise in approved Foundation Year 1 posts: the law does not allow provisionally registered doctors to undertake any other type of work.

On successful completion of the first year of this training period you become a fully registered doctor; however, whichever branch of medicine you intend to pursue, you will be required to undertake further training. For example, to enter General Practice you will require a further three years' training. To become a hospital consultant you may require a further seven years of specialty training. Further information about postgraduate training is available from the General Medical Council website: gmc-uk.org

Career outcomes include:

- Consultant working in a hospital (eg Surgery, General Medicine, Pathology,

Biochemistry, Dermatology, Microbiology, ENT, Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Anaesthetics and Oncology)

- General Practitioner
- Academic Clinician
- Consultant in Public Health Medicine

The NI Medical and Dental Training Agency has close links with the School and provides guidance on careers and the Foundation Programme Application System.

“Queen's is an incredible university to pursue medicine. The innovative teaching style by the excellent staff along with state-of-the-art facilities truly sculpts students to become safe and good doctors. I am proud to be a student of Queen's which gives medical students world-class simulation-based teaching allowing us to apply learned knowledge. I particularly enjoy my clinical attachments which provide opportunities to engage with patients and make me feel part of the healthcare team. I believe the school of medicine instils patient-centred values such as treating patients with utmost respect and integrity at all times. Thank you Queen's.”

Shivani Rajkumar,
4th Year Medical Student



Entrance requirements

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Course information

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School of Medicine, Dentistry and
Biomedical Sciences
Queen's University Belfast

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T: +44 (0)28 9097 2450
w: qub.ac.uk/medicine

Queen's is the only medical school in Northern Ireland and students are welcomed in all of the hospitals within the region and in approximately 150 general practices. Students benefit from the ease of access to high quality clinical teaching.

