

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

ADMISSION POLICY STATEMENT FOR MEDICINE FOR 2021 ENTRY

1. Introduction

It is the policy of the University that all candidates for admission are treated on a fair and equitable basis irrespective of religious belief, political opinion, race, sex, age, marital status, colour, ethnic origin or sexual orientation. However, potential applicants should be aware that under the Medical Act, the minimum age for inclusion on the GMC Medical Register on graduation is 21. This means that it is not possible to admit students on to the five-year programme under the age of 16.

The detail on entry requirements and selection criteria is complex but we hope it is useful and a summary is provided in Appendix 1.

2. Administration of Undergraduate Admissions

All applications must be submitted through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) by 6.00pm on 15 October prior to the year of entry.

Applications are handled by the academic selector for medicine in the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences in conjunction with the Admissions and Access Service and the School Office. The academic selector has final responsibility for decisions on Medical applications. These can only be made on the basis of the information given and applicants must show due care and diligence when completing their applications. In particular, full details must be included about qualifications completed or still to be completed.

Applications are received from UCAS by the Admissions and Access Service and assessed for the selector. Any additional information required is obtained and recommendations are made regarding decisions (reject or interview), where possible. After the interviews are completed and following approval by the academic selector all decisions are transmitted to UCAS by the Admissions and Access Service. Requests for feedback are also handled by the Service. In August, the processing of results and the transmission of final decisions to UCAS are again undertaken by Admissions. The Admissions and Access Service, along with the University's Recruitment Officers are largely responsible for recruitment activities, and is the first point of contact for most schools and candidates. There is very close working relationship between these Offices and the School Office.

3. Admission Criteria

3.1 The Selection Process

In "Outcomes for Graduates" the General Medical Council requires Medical Schools to:

- Publish information about the admission system, including guidance about the selection process and the basis on which places at the school will be offered.

- Use Selection criteria which will take account of the personal and academic qualities needed in a doctor as set out in *Achieving Good medical practice* and capacity to achieve the outcomes set out in *Outcomes for Graduates*.
- Use selection processes which are valid, reliable and objective.

The selection process for Medicine involves two stages:

Stage 1: Cognitive Ability

Consideration of previous academic performance, including school, college and university grades as appropriate.

Aptitude testing using the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT), see 3.3 below.

Stage 2: Non-Cognitive Ability

This will comprise multi-mini interviews carefully designed to objectively evaluate non-cognitive skills.

All applicants will be scored at Stage 1 of the selection process and ranked. From this, candidates will be selected for interview (Stage 2) and a final decision about whether or not to make a conditional or unconditional offer will be based solely on interview performance.

Further information is available at:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/mdbs/Study/Medicine/HowtoApply/MMIs/>

3.2 Interviews

The interviews take the form of Multi Mini Interviews which are designed to test key non-cognitive competencies for Medicine:

- Empathy
- Problem-solving
- Moral Reasoning
- Communication Skills

It is anticipated that interviews for 2021 entry will be held on 13th, 14th, 15th January and 10th February 2021. We will monitor the situation in relation to COVID19 and it may be necessary to introduce changes to follow government advice – both in the way the interviews are delivered (normal format or an online format) and the dates on which they occur.

Entry to Medicine is highly competitive and the scores at interview are used to create a rank order. Offers are made to the applicants who rank highest after interview. While some offers may be made following the first round of interviews, the final ranking cannot be done until all interviews are complete and in view of the work involved after this, it is anticipated that the majority of decisions will be released at the end of March with final decisions due by early May.

Should places be available in August, this rank order will also be the primary factor in considering candidates who have satisfied the minimum academic criteria being accepted for admissions in August and who are not holding an offer with any other Medical School through UCAS.

Please note that it is assumed that if an applicant presents for interview that they are fit to undertake the assessment. If unwell on the day, a request should be made for an alternative appointment and this will be accommodated, if at all possible.

Retrospective adjustment for a weak performance will not be made. Any extenuating circumstances that may affect an applicant's performance at interview must be stated when booking the interview. Any aspects of the interviews that an applicant feels may have not been fairly or properly applied must be brought to the attention of the Admissions Group on the day of interviews and not retrospectively.

3.3 UCAT

The University Clinical Aptitude Test is required for admission to Medicine and must be taken during the summer prior to completion of the UCAS application. Full details of how to apply are provided on their website: www.ucat.ac.uk and please note that a bursary scheme is available. The website also includes information on arrangements for those with disabilities or medical conditions and guidance for applicants on what to do if they are ill on the day of their scheduled test.

For all candidates UCAT will be scored using the overall results from four of the papers. Candidates can obtain up to a maximum of 6 additional points.

Banding of UCAT Scores	Points
1200 – 1899	0
1900 – 2099	1
2100 – 2299	2
2300 – 2499	3
2500 – 2699	4
2700 – 2899	5
2900 – 3600	6

For all candidates UCAT is therefore taken into account at stage 1 of the selection process.

UCAT has introduced an additional paper called a Situational Judgement Test, but it has been agreed that the results of this will not be used for 2021 entry except, if necessary, to inform decisions on borderline applicants who have achieved a similar score at interview. Consideration is being given to its use for 2022 entry.

UCAT is compulsory for all applicants to Medicine at QUB. The University will only grant exemptions in very exceptional circumstances and where appropriate supporting evidence is provided. Applicants who believe they qualify for an exemption should contact: UCAT-exemption@qub.ac.uk

Guidance on exemptions and reasonable adjustments:

Illness or Personal Circumstances	<p>Candidates are advised to seek an early test date which can then be rescheduled if they are unable to attend because of illness or personal emergency.</p> <p>Candidates who are unable to sit UCAT throughout the test cycle are required to provide supporting medical evidence in requesting an exemption.</p>
Geographical Circumstances	<p>No exemptions will normally be granted because of geographical circumstances. It is accepted that some candidates may have to travel in order to take UCAT.</p> <p>Candidates unable to take UCAT because of civil war/unrest or natural disaster where travel would be unsafe will be asked to provide supporting evidence in requesting an exemption.</p>
Candidates Requiring Adjustments to the Test	<p>UCAT will also consider requests for reasonable adjustments:</p> <p>https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/access-arrangements/</p> <p>If UCAT have confirmed that they cannot make a reasonable adjustment candidates are advised to provide supporting evidence in requesting an exemption. Applicants who are entitled to additional time for public examinations based on a medical diagnosis or report from a specialist teacher may book a Special Educational Needs Version of the test which provides extra time. The University may ask applicants who have taken UCATSEN to provide evidence of this entitlement when considering their UCAS application.</p>

3.4 **Personal Statement and References:**

Personal Statements are not scored as part of the selection process. The following is general guidance on what is expected:

(i) candidates are expected to state explicitly that Medicine is their career choice. (Please note that an applicant cannot normally be considered for both Medicine and Dentistry). There should be evidence of commitment and motivation in the personal statement. This should include evidence of what the candidate has done to find out about Medicine as a career. This can be demonstrated in a number of ways including: opportunities for observational experience in a clinical setting, attending medical careers conferences, or undertaking voluntary work in a care setting. Participation in activities within or outside School demonstrating transferable skills such as leadership, empathy, teamwork and communication skills is also important information for you to include.

(ii) satisfactory support from the academic referee, particularly relating to the applicant's character, suitability for the course, communication skills and initiative.

3.5 **Work Experience**

It is accepted that it can be difficult for candidates to have equal access to clinical work experience and therefore it is not specified as a requirement for admission. Obtaining work experience has been particularly difficult during the COVID19 period. Applicants are encouraged to read the guidance given by the Medical Schools Council (MSC) on possible options:

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/media/2636/guidance-on-gaining-relevant-experience-for-studying-medicine-in-the-time-of-covid-19.pdf>

3.6 **Subject Requirements:**

A-levels and AS-level Subject Requirements

Three A-levels are required to include A-Level Chemistry + at least one other A-Level from Biology/Human Biology, Physics and Maths. A maximum of one Applied subject at either A-level or AS-level (not both) will be counted. If Biology/Human Biology is not offered at A-level, it is required at AS-level. Mathematics and Further Mathematics cannot be counted together at A-level but one may be counted at A-level and the other at AS-level. General Studies is not acceptable at either AS or A-level and Critical Thinking will only be taken into account at AS-level.

GCSE Subject Requirements

A minimum of a grade C/4 in GCSE Mathematics, English and Physics (or grades CC/44 in GCSE Double Award Science) are required if not offered at AS-Level or A-level.

Alternative qualifications, deemed equivalent by the Medical School, will be acceptable in fulfilment of the subject requirements. Please contact the Admissions and Access Service for advice on acceptable alternatives (admissions.med@qub.ac.uk).

3.7 School leavers Completing A-Levels for the First Time in 2021

- When decisions are being made both GCSE and UCAT performance (see 3.3 above) will be taken into account. GCSEs will be scored using a points system as shown below. The total points score will be based on results in the best 9 subjects, at first attempt unless the GCSE was taken a year early and then repeated at the normal stage. Only GCSEs taken in Years 11 and 12 will be counted (Years 10 and 11 in England and Wales).

Scoring of Full GCSEs

Alphabetic Grading	Numeric Grading	Points
A*	9	4
A	7 and 8	3
B	6	2
C and C*	4 and 5	1

Scoring of GCSE Short Courses

Alphabetic Grading	Numeric Grading	Points
A*	9	2
A	7 and 8	1.5
B	6	1
C and C*	4 and 5	0.5

A maximum of one BTEC/OCR Level 2 qualification will be considered equivalent to one or two GCSEs as appropriate, and taken into account. A decision as to how many points to award will be dependent on performance in individual units, as well as the overall result(s).

The UCAT score will then be added to the GCSE score to give an overall points total.

If necessary, the SJT score may be used to distinguish between applicants on the same points score.

The number of points required to be shortlisted for interview varies every year depending on competition and number of interview places available and cannot be predicted in advance. The numbers interviewed were increased after 2015 to ensure the threshold for interview did not continue to increase.

Year	Points Threshold for interview
2013	37 points
2014	38 points (plus some students with 37 point)
2015	38 points (plus some students with 37 points)
2016	37 points (or 36 points plus ABBB at AS-level)
2017	34 points and above
2018	30 points and above
2019*	32 points and above
2020*	30 points and above

Please note from 2019 grades B and C were scored for the first time and the threshold is not therefore directly comparable with previous years.

For 2021 entry the normal target grades will be:

AAA at A-level + A in a 4th 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/Human Biology grade B.

Module repeats within the normal two year period between GCSE and A-level do not place applicants at any disadvantage. An A-level taken a year early would also be counted, but not those taken prior to this ie only those taken in Years 13 and 14 (Years 12 and 13 in England and Wales) will contribute towards the normal entrance requirements.

- **Widening Participation Initiatives**

The Medical School has two programmes in place to widen participation in medicine for candidates from N Ireland. (Home address with a BT postcode)

- (i) **For those who completed their GCSEs in a Northern Ireland Secondary School**

It is recognised that the Stage 1 shortlisting process for Medicine, based on GCSE profile and UCAT, disadvantages applicants from Secondary Schools in Northern Ireland who may not perform as well at GCSE, or have not had the opportunity to take nine subjects. In the past, a number of these pupils have demonstrated that they have the potential to perform extremely well at A-level.

A Scheme has been approved, which is reviewed annually. Applicants who have been educated at a Secondary School in Northern Ireland to at least Year 12 will be shortlisted on the basis of AS-level grades (rather than GCSE performance) plus UCAT results and predicted A-level performance. This results in more students from this academic background progressing through to the interview stage.

- (ii) **Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences: Pathway Opportunity Programme**

The School is participating in the University's Pathway Opportunity Programme. Throughout Years 13 and 14, students accepted onto the pathway will benefit from a structured series of events designed to

prepare them for the transition to undergraduate study at Queen's, including insight into academic and extracurricular aspects of student life, admissions guidance and support and a one-week residential summer school. Students will complete assessed work and those who are successful will receive a guaranteed interview and a possible offer of one A Level grade below the normal target. Specific details of the eligibility criteria used for selection for this pathway are on the Pathway opportunity programme website. This programme is only open to applicants with a BT postcode and attending a school within N Ireland.

Full details are on the website:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/sgc/wpu/PathwayOpportunityProgramme/>

The GMC requires the School to monitor the performance of students admitted through a Widening Participation stream.

3.8 Repeat Candidates (Please also refer to 3.18 below)

Due to the competition for places the number of offers made to students resitting A-levels has to be restricted. Normally only those who had applied to study Medicine at Queen's at the first attempt and held an offer (if made) as their Conditional Firm (CF) choice are considered. In addition they must have achieved A*AB/AAA at A-level or AAB at A-level plus A in a fourth AS-level at first attempt. The offer for repeat candidates is currently either A*AA or AAA at A-level plus A in a fourth AS-level. Only two attempts at A-levels are allowed.

For repeat candidates at Stage One, 36 points will be allocated for meeting the A/AS-level grades required to qualify for consideration and points then awarded according to performance in UCAT (as indicated above in Section 3.3) to give an overall score for short listing purposes. UCAT must be retaken as it is only valid for one application cycle.

3.9 Applicants who have already Satisfied Academic Requirements (Please also refer to 3.18 below)

Applications from candidates who have already achieved the normal academic requirements in their second level examinations, for example AAA at A-level plus A in a fourth AS and are applying for Medicine for a second time, will only be considered if they included Queen's as one of their Medical choices first time round ie evidence of commitment to the University is important from the outset. Such candidates who have satisfied the subject requirements, will be awarded 36 points at Stage One. Points will then be awarded according to performance in UCAT to give an overall score for shortlisting purposes. UCAT must be retaken as it is only valid for one application cycle.

Applications from candidates who have already achieved the normal academic requirements in their second level examinations (as above) will also be considered if they have never applied through UCAS for medicine before and are therefore applying to this subject for the first time because of a change in career plans.

3.10 **Starting an Alternative Degree Course**

Applicants who had initially applied for Medicine and who are either repeating A-levels or who have already achieved the relevant A and AS-level qualifications, are strongly advised not to commence an alternative degree course. If they have done so, all examinations taken must have been passed.

3.11 **Mature Non-Graduate Entry**

Applications from candidates who have had a significant break in study or did not have the opportunity to enter higher education at the normal time are welcomed. Applications from such candidates are considered individually on their merits taking into account academic background, work experience and UCAT scores in shortlisting for interview. Where offers are made, the normal A and AS-level requirements apply and applicants must also have the appropriate background in the relevant subjects at GCSE, AS and A-level to fulfil the course requirements. Access Course qualifications are not acceptable.

3.12 **Graduate Applicants (Please also refer to 3.18 below)**

Graduates and those applying in the final year of their degree, are considered for the normal five-year programme. In making decisions on graduate applications, the full academic background is taken into account. Applicants must have achieved, or have the potential to achieve, at least an Upper Second Class Honours classification in their primary degree and ABB at A-level/A2 B2 B2 B2 B2 B2 at Higher Level in the Leaving Certificate/ABBBB in Scottish Highers at the first attempt (candidates who have taken Advanced Highers must also have a minimum grade B at first attempt in any subject taken).

In the case of candidates with a First Class Honours degree or a PhD (plus an Upper Second Class Honours degree), a minimum of BBB at A-level or equivalent in other qualifications at first attempt will be acceptable.

Grades may be averaged but the minimum grades that can be accepted is a grade C with grade B the lowest grade acceptable for Chemistry.

Applicants applying for a second time for entry as a graduate will only be considered if they included Queen's as one of their Medical choices when making their first application as a graduate. This includes any attempt made during the final year of their primary degree programme.

Candidates must also have a relevant science background at GCSE, AS and A-level or acceptable equivalent. This must include A-Level Chemistry and at least one other A-level from Biology, Mathematics and Physics. If not offered at A-Level then AS-level Biology Grade B (or acceptable equivalent) and GCSE Physics Grade C/4 or GCSE Double Award Science Grades CC/44 and GCSE Mathematics Grade C/4 are required.

For graduates (and those applying in the final year of their degree), at Stage One, 36 points are currently allocated for meeting the criteria required to qualify for consideration and points then awarded according to performance in UCAT (as indicated above in Section 3.3) to give an overall score for short listing purposes.

Applicants from a non-science background but who fulfil the conditions in terms of grades at A-level at the first attempt and degree performance will be considered if they undertake the appropriate Science qualifications on completion of their primary degree. Such applicants are advised to contact the Admissions and Access Service for guidance.

Criteria for admission of graduates are currently under review for 2022 entry. This is likely to relate to points awarded for academic and/or UCAT performance and will not include changes to A-Level grade or subject requirements where a longer period of notice would be required.

3.13 Irish Leaving Certificate Applicants

When considering applicants Junior Certificate and UCAT performance (see 3.3 above) are important and these are scored.

Junior Certificate Grade	New Grading System	Points Awarded
A	Distinction	4
B	Higher Merit	3
C	Merit	2

Where offers are made these are conditional on obtaining H1 H1(Biology and Chemistry) H1 H1 H2 H2 at Higher Level in the Leaving Certificate. Grades 03 in English and Mathematics at Ordinary Level are required if not offered at Higher Level.

A suitable background in Physics is also necessary and if not taken in the Leaving Certificate, a Grade A/Higher Merit in Junior Certificate Science is acceptable in lieu.

3.14 Scottish Applicants

When short listing applicants for interview, previous academic performance and UCAT are important and will be scored. Applicants with a minimum of ABBBB in Scottish Highers are given serious consideration.

Scottish Highers (Grades achieved at first attempt)	Points
ABBBB	28
AABBB	30
AAABB	32
AAAAB	34
AAAAA	36

Where conditional offers are made, the standard specified in Advanced Highers is also dependent on performance in Scottish Highers and are AA (for those with AAAAA in Highers); AAB (for those with AAAAB in Highers) and AAA (for those with ABBBB-AAABB in Highers). In all cases, Chemistry (Grade A) plus a grade A in at least one from Biology, Mathematics and Physics are required. Three Advanced Highers are necessary unless applicants achieved five A grades in their Highers.

If not taken as an Advanced Higher then Higher Biology minimum grade B is required. In addition, Standard Grade, Intermediate 2 or National 5 English,

Mathematics and Physics are also necessary if not offered at Higher/Advanced Higher.

3.15 **International Applicants**

The University has a quota of 26 Medical places for students from outside the European Union. Where offers are made, the requirements are currently AAA (including Chemistry and Biology) at A-level or A (Chemistry) AB + A in a fourth AS-level or equivalent in terms of other qualifications. The normal subject requirements apply. In the case of the International Baccalaureate Diploma, an overall score of 36 points is required with 6,6,6 to include Chemistry and Biology at Higher Level. A range of other qualifications including Canadian or Australian High School Diplomas and the HKDSE are also accepted. Please see Appendix 2: Qualifications Table - International for further information. Candidates should consult the University's website for further information or contact the Admissions & Access Service (international.medicine@qub.ac.uk) for advice as required or refer to the following information provide on our website:

www.qub.ac.uk/international/International-students/Your-Country/

International applications are not scored, as outlined above for United Kingdom and EU applicants, since a number of factors are taken into account when shortlisting for interview. Previous academic background and UCAT scores are still important as are predicted grades (if applicable) and appropriate evidence of proficiency in English Language (see appendix 1). Where applicants have not previously taken any formal examinations (eg either GCSEs or O-levels) they will be considered on the basis of High School reports and this information will also be used to assess whether or not they are able to fulfil subject requirements eg GCSE Physics or equivalent.

The University may choose to interview international applicants either overseas or at Queen's University Belfast.

3.16 **Transfer from other Medical Schools**

Because of the intense competition for places to study Medicine and the integrated nature of the course structure, transfers from other universities are not usually considered. However, candidates who commence a course of study may in extremely exceptional circumstances be considered where these require a return to Northern Ireland. All candidates must have the same entry requirements as those applying direct from A-level and must have passed any exams taken at University prior to transfer. Homesickness and financial reasons will not normally be considered as a reason for considering an application to transfer.

Applications should be made by the normal closing date of 6.00 pm on 15 October in the year prior to the year of entry and UCAT should be retaken. For applicants who are eligible for consideration the standard interview selection process will apply.

3.17 Applicants who have previously withdrawn from Medicine

Applicants who previously commenced a Medical Degree at any University and have chosen to withdraw or have failed exams or been asked to withdraw from the course for any reason will not normally be considered.

In the interests of patient and public safety, the University may check information provided in your application form with the database maintained by the Medical Schools Council in relation to medical students who have been excluded through Fitness to Practise procedures. The database is accessible only to other medical schools in the UK and the General Medical Council.

3.18 Number of Attempts (Applications) Permitted

In view of the competition for places, it is the policy of the Medical School to restrict the number of attempts a candidate can make to gain admission to Medicine. A maximum of four attempts (ie applications in four different UCAS admissions cycles) overall are permitted (including applications made to other Medical Schools) with not more than two at either A-level (or equivalent) or at graduate level. Please also see 3.8, 3.9 and 3.12 above regarding the need to demonstrate commitment to Queen's.

4. Professional Nature of the Course

Selection for medicine implies selection for the profession. A degree in medicine confirms academic achievement and in normal circumstances entitles the new graduate to apply to the General Medical Council for provisional registration and to start practising. Fitness to practise issues must therefore be considered when selecting students. The medical course is subject to the University's Fitness to Practise regulations and the GMC's guidelines. In the event of a student being deemed unfit to practise by the Medical School certain information will be shared with the GMC, the medical Schools Council and other Medical Schools in the interests of patient and public safety.

4.1 Conduct

The practice of medicine requires the highest standards of professional and personal conduct. Candidates are therefore required to declare criminal offences and other related matters including cautions (where these are not deemed "protected" see guidance on Access NI website, link below). Entry to medicine will be conditional on the receipt of satisfactory criminal records check(s). International applicants are also required to produce appropriate evidence eg a Certificate of Good Conduct before admission to the degree.

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/information-disclosed-in-a-criminal-record-check#toc-3>

Students entering the medical course will also be expected to sign a Student Agreement and Self Declaration Form every year which places an emphasis on the continuing need for professional behaviour and standards to be maintained. If a positive police check is received or declared during the admission process the School will decide whether there are fitness to practise concerns and if necessary

refer the case to the University's Admissions Review Panel (see appendix 2). Entry to the course may be refused. During the course the University's Fitness to Practise regulations will apply.

5. Health Issues

Disability

Issues relating to health are dealt with separately from the formal admissions process and decision making bodies such as interview panels will not be aware that the applicant has declared a health condition.¹

A disability or mental health condition need not bar a candidate from becoming a doctor provided that they are able to meet the outcomes set out in *Outcomes for Graduates*. Candidates should contact the School in advance of completing their UCAS application to obtain advice.

Applicants should declare any condition that they have at the point of application because:

- a. Medical schools have a duty to support their students but students themselves have to help the school to do this by being open and honest about their health.
- b. Being open and trustworthy is an important part of being a doctor. Patients and the GMC will expect this of practising doctors. Failure by a doctor on the medical register to disclose a health matter is a breach of this duty.²
- c. A student's insight into the impact that their health may have on their ability to study is very important. Where a student has insight, and shows this by seeking appropriate help and support, their health condition rarely prevents them from completing the course. One way to demonstrate insight right from the start is to declare at the point of entry whether you will require additional support.

The Occupational Health Service of the University will be able to advise the medical school whether the student is able to meet the outcomes set out in *Outcomes for Graduates* and what adjustments the student might require.

If the candidate meets the normal academic criteria for admission to the course but there are concerns over issues relating to health, a special advisory committee separate from the normal admission procedures will be convened. This Committee will take advice from the University's Occupational Health Service before reaching a decision.

Both the GMC Welcome and Valued (<https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/guidance/welcome-and-valued>) and the Medical School Council (<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/applications/applicants-with-disabilities>) are helpful sources of information

² *Good Medical Practice*, Paragraph 79

Health Assessment

The Department of Health has issued guidance on Health Clearance for Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV for healthcare workers including students and the University must ensure that students comply with the guidance given in order to protect patients.

Medical students will have the following testing offered to them when they enrol. If they refuse testing or test positive at that time or at any time during the course they will be restricted in their clinical activities but should still be able to complete their undergraduate training.

Disease	Test
TB	Evidence of satisfactory BCG vaccination or Mantoux test result
Hepatitis B	HBsAg negative
Hepatitis C	Hep C negative
HIV	HIV 1 & 2 negative

6. Registration with the General Medical Council and Beyond

At the end of the undergraduate programme you'll receive your degree. The General Medical Council (GMC) approves your university's degree as a Primary Medical Qualification (PMQ). This is important because, provided there are no concerns about your fitness to practise, a PMQ entitles you to provisional registration with the GMC for a licence to practise medicine in the UK.

The GMC is introducing a Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA). The MLA will create a demonstration that anyone obtaining registration with a licence to practise medicine in the UK has met a common threshold for safe practice. To obtain a PMQ, graduates from 2024 onwards will need to have a degree that includes a pass in both parts of the MLA. One part will be a test of applied knowledge (the AKT), set in conjunction with GMC and held at your medical school. The other will be an assessment of your clinical and professional skills delivered by your medical school (the CPSA). Each school's CPSA must meet GMC-set quality assurance requirements. The MLA will test what doctors are likely to encounter in early practice and what's essential for safe practice.

It intentionally will not cover the whole of a medical school curriculum. So, you will also need to meet your university's degree requirements. You can find out more about the MLA for UK students at www.gmc-uk.org/mla.

Provisional registration is time limited to a maximum of three years and 30 days (1125 days in total). After this time period your provisional registration will normally expire. Provisionally registered doctors can only practise in approved Foundation Year One posts: the law does not allow provisionally registered doctors to undertake any other type of work. To obtain a Foundation Year One post you will need to apply during the final year of your undergraduate programme through the UK Foundation Programme Office selection scheme, which allocates these posts to

graduates on a competitive basis. All suitably qualified UK graduates have found a place on the Foundation Year One programme, but this cannot be guaranteed, for instance if there were to be an increased number of competitive applications from non-UK graduates.

Successful completion of the Foundation Year One programme is normally achieved within 12 months and is marked by the award of a Certificate of Experience. You will then be eligible to apply for full registration with the General Medical Council. You need full registration with a licence to practise for unsupervised medical practice in the NHS or private practice in the UK.

There is some discussion about whether to remove provisional registration for newly qualified doctors.

If this happens then UK graduates will receive full registration as soon as they have successfully completed an MBBCH (or equivalent) degree. It should be noted that it is very likely that UK graduates will still need to apply for a training programme similar to the current Foundation Programme and that places on this programme may not be guaranteed for every UK graduate.

Although this information is currently correct, students need to be aware that regulations in this area may change from time to time.

Qualifications Table – Home and EU Candidates – School qualifications

Qualification	Scoring for Academic Ranking (Stage One)	A ranked list will be created after interview. Offers where made, will be on the following basis:	Any additional information or subject requirements
<p>A and AS-levels For those completing A-levels for the first time in 2021</p>	<p>GCSEs will be scored over the best nine subjects:</p> <p>Alphabetic grading: A* grade = 4 points A grade = 3 points B grade = 2 points C and C* grades = 1 point</p> <p>Numeric grading: 9 grade = 4 points 7 and 8 grades = 3 points 6 grade = 2 points 4 and 5 grades = 1 point</p> <p>GCSE Short courses = half of the points indicated above.</p> <p>A maximum of one BTEC/OCR Level 2 qualification will be considered equivalent to one or two GCSEs as appropriate. Points awarded will be dependent on performance in individual units as well as overall result.</p>	<p>AAA at A-level + A in a 4th 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.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A*AA at A-level including Chemistry and Biology/Human Biology.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A*AA at A-level including Chemistry and either Mathematics or Physics + AS-level Biology/Human Biology grade B.</p>	<p>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 required.</p> <p>GCSE grade C/4 in Mathematics, English and Physics (or grades CC/44 in Double Award Science) will be required if not offered at a higher level.</p> <p>Only GCSEs taken in Years 11 or 12 will be counted (Years 10 and 11 in England and Wales).</p> <p>Only A-levels taken in Years 13 or 14 will be counted (Years 12 and 13 in England and Wales).</p> <p>Only two attempts at application for entry to Medicine through UCAS will be accepted on the basis of A/AS-level qualifications. Please note that certain conditions apply if it is a second application (see below).</p>

Qualification	Scoring for Academic Ranking (Stage One)	A ranked list will be created after interview. Offers where made, will be on the following basis:	Any additional information or subject requirements
Post A-level – those who have already satisfied our normal requirements	<p>Those who have already completed their A-levels in appropriate subjects and achieved the normal A-level target grades for admission at first attempt (see above).</p> <p>36 points will be awarded.</p>	Unconditional if all subjects and grades achieved.	<p>If applied for medicine through UCAS previously must have included Medicine at Queen’s as one of the choices first time round.</p> <p>Only two attempts permitted on the basis of A/AS-level qualifications. This includes applications to other Medical Schools.</p>
Post A-level who are undertaking additional qualifications to satisfy subject requirements	<p>Those who have achieved the appropriate grades at first attempt but are taking an additional A/AS-level(s) or GCSE(s) in order to meet the subject requirements.</p> <p>Please seek advice from Admissions and Access Service since performance in the other subjects at the first attempt is important.</p> <p>36 points will be awarded.</p>	<p>Conditional on achieving at least a grade A in relevant subject if an additional A-level is required to meet the subject requirements.</p> <p>Conditional on achieving at least a grade C in relevant subject if a GCSE is required to meet the subject requirements.</p>	Only two attempts permitted on the basis of A/AS-level qualifications. This includes applications to other Medical Schools.
Resitting A-levels	<p>AAB at A-level + A at AS-level achieved at first attempt.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A*AB/AAA at A-level AS-level achieved at first attempt.</p> <p>36 points will be awarded.</p>	A*/A grade in whichever A-level or AS-level is required.	Must have applied to QUB for medicine at first attempt and if made an offer must have accepted as Conditional Firm (CF) choice.

Qualification	Scoring for Academic Ranking (Stage One)	A ranked list will be created after interview. Offers where made, will be on the following basis:	Any additional information or subject requirements
<p>Irish Leaving Certificate (being completed for the first time in 2021)</p>	<p>Junior Certificate – best 9 subjects:</p> <p>Alphabetic grading: A grade = 4 points B grade = 3 points C grade = 2 points</p> <p>Or for the new grading system: Distinction = 4 points Higher Merit = 3 points Merit = 2 points</p>	<p>H1 H1 (Biology and Chemistry) H1 H1 H2 H2 at higher level in Leaving Certificate.</p>	<p>Grades 03 in English and Mathematics at ordinary level are required if not offered at higher level.</p> <p>Must have Physics background – Junior Certificate Science grade A/Higher Merit if Physics if not taken as part of Leaving Certificate.</p> <p>Only two attempts at application for entry to Medicine through UCAS will be accepted on the basis of Leaving Certificate qualifications. Please note that certain conditions apply if it is a second attempt.</p>
<p>Scottish qualifications (for those completing Scottish Advanced Highers for the first time in 2021)</p>	<p>A minimum of ABBBB in Scottish Highers at the first attempt is required.</p> <p>Applicants will be scored as follows</p> <p>ABBBB = 28 points AABBB = 30 points AAABB = 32 points AAAAB = 34 points AAAAA = 36 points</p>	<p>Advanced Highers:</p> <p>AA (for those with AAAAA at Highers)</p> <p>All other candidates need three Advanced Highers:</p> <p>AAB (for those with AAAAB in Highers)</p> <p>AAA (for those with ABBBB-AAABB in Highers)</p>	<p>Advanced Highers must include A grades in Chemistry and at least one from Biology/Human Biology, Physics or Maths.</p> <p>If not taken as an Advanced Higher, Biology/Human Biology Higher (minimum Grade B) is required. In addition, Standard Grade, Intermediate 2 or National 5 English, Physics and Mathematics.</p> <p>Only two attempts at application for entry to Medicine through UCAS will be accepted. Please note that certain conditions apply if it is a second attempt.</p>

Graduates:

General: A 2.2 Honours degree will not be considered. Only two attempts at admission will be permitted as a graduate (includes applications submitted in the final year of degree course) to this or any other Medical School and only those who applied to QUB for medicine on their first application as a graduate/expected graduate will be considered.			
Qualifications Prior to Degree	Degree outcome	Points awarded	Subject requirements
<p>Minimum of ABB at first attempt at A-levels (or equivalent)</p> <p>Grades AAC will be accepted as equivalent provided the C grade is not in Chemistry (see below)</p>	<p>2.1 Honours degree or potential to achieve on graduation on completion of programme prior to admission</p>	36	<p>A-levels must include Chemistry and at least one other science subject chosen from Physics, Mathematics and Biology/Human Biology.</p> <p>The minimum grade accepted for Chemistry is a grade B.</p> <p>Biology/Human Biology must be taken to at least AS-level – minimum Grade B</p> <p>GCSE grade C/4 in Mathematics, English and Physics (or Double Award Science grade CC/44) will be required if not offered at a higher level.</p> <p>Graduate applicants from a non-Science A-level background should contact the Admissions and Access Service for advice about additional qualifications required, provided they have the grades specified in their other subjects at the first attempt.</p> <p>No specific degree subject required.</p>
<p>Candidates with BBB, or ABC at first attempt at A-levels (or equivalent)</p>	<p>First Class Honours degree or potential to achieve on graduation on completion of programme prior to admission</p> <p>OR</p> <p>2.1 plus PhD</p>	36	<p>Same A/AS-level /GCSE subject requirements as above.</p> <p>Grades may be averaged but the minimum grades that can be accepted are a grade B in Chemistry and C in any other subject.</p>

Qualifications Prior to Degree	Degree outcome	Points awarded	Subject requirements
Irish Leaving Certificate grades A2 B2 B2 B2 B2 B2 or better at first attempt at Higher Level	2.1 Honours degree or potential to achieve on graduation on completion of programme prior to admission.	36	<p>Chemistry and Biology at Higher Level minimum grade HB2.</p> <p>English and Mathematics at Ordinary Level grade OC are required if not offered at Higher Level.</p> <p>Must have Physics background – Junior Certificate Science grade A if Physics is not taken to Leaving Certificate.</p> <p>No specific degree subject required.</p>
Irish Leaving Certificate grades B2 B2 B2 B2 B2 B2 or better at first attempt at Higher Level	<p>First Class Honours or potential to achieve on graduation on completion of programme prior to admission.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>2.1 plus PhD</p>	36	<p>Chemistry and Biology at Higher Level minimum grade HB2.</p> <p>English and Mathematics at Ordinary Level grade OC are required if not offered at Higher Level.</p> <p>Must have Physics background – Junior Certificate Science grade A if Physics is not taken to Leaving Certificate.</p> <p>No specific degree subject required.</p>

Qualifications Table – International

General: Please note that in shortlisting for interview a number of factors are taken into account so previous academic performance and UKCAT (while important) are not scored as outlined for Home and EU applicants above.

Where applicants have not previously taken any formal examination (eg either GCSEs or O-levels) they will be considered on the basis of High School reports and this information will also be used to assess whether or not they are able to fulfil subject requirements eg GCSE Physics or equivalent

Qualification	Offer	Subject Requirements
A-levels	AAA (Chemistry and Biology) at A-level, OR A (Chemistry) AB (including at least one from Biology Maths and Physics) plus an A grade in a fourth AS-level or equivalent in terms of other qualifications.	Biology is required to at least AS-level (grades B) if not offered at A-Level. GCSE/SPM/O-Level (or equivalent) Maths and Physics are required if not offered beyond this level.
Singapore/Cambridge A Levels	AAA (Chemistry and Biology) in H2 Level subjects OR A (Chemistry) AB (including at least one from Biology Maths and Physics) in H2 level subjects plus an A grade in a fourth H1 Level subject (excluding General paper)	Biology is required to at least H1 Level (grade B) if not offered at H2. GCSE/SPM/O-Level (or equivalent) Maths and Physics are required if not offered beyond this level
STPM (Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia)	AA (Chemistry and Biology) and A in another subject excluding Pengajian Am (General Studies) and Bahasa Melayu (Malay Language)	GCSE/SPM/O-Level (or equivalent) Maths and Physics are required if not offered beyond this level
International Baccalaureate	36 points with 6,6,6 to include Chemistry and Biology at Higher Level	GCSE/SPM/O-Level (or equivalent) Maths and Physics are required if not offered beyond this level
Canadian High School Graduation Diploma	Minimum of 90% overall at Grade 12 including marks of at least 90% in Chemistry and Biology	Evidence of study of Maths and Physics if not taken In Year 12, preferably to Year 11 standard
American High School Diploma	Minimum GPA of 3.5 out of 4.00 plus 4 Advanced Placement (AP) Tests with scores of 5.5 (Chemistry and Biology), 5.4	AP Tests are preferred though SAT subject Tests or ACT scores may be accepted in lieu. Evidence of study of Maths and Physics if not taken In Year 12, preferably to Year 11 standard
Indian Higher Secondary School Leaving Certificate	Grade XII with 90% overall including marks of at least 90% in Chemistry and Biology	Grade Xin Maths and Physics are required if not offered beyond this level

Qualification	Offer	Subject Requirements
Australian High School Certificate (Year 12)	Australian School Leaving Certificate (Year 12) with ATAR at 98.8 or higher (including A grades in Chemistry and Biology). GCSE Mathematics, English and Physics (or equivalent) are required, if not offered beyond this Level. *Queensland Certificate of Education with Very High/High Achievement (including Chemistry and Biology), plus Overall Position Band 1 or 2.	GCSE Mathematics, English and Physics (or equivalent) are required, if not offered beyond this Level.
Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE)	Successful completion of CAPE with Grade 1 in all units undertaken, including Double units in Chemistry, Biology and Maths	Physics to GCSE standard also required - Caribbean Examinations Council Secondary Education Certificate with Grades I-III at General Proficiency comparable to GCSE Grades A*-C
Singaporean Diploma in Biomedical sciences	Minimum overall CGPA of 3.85 on a scale of 4.0 may be considered.	GCSE/SPM/O-Level (or equivalent) Maths and Physics are required if not offered beyond this level
Degree or due to complete Degree	For those who have already completed or are due to complete a degree, both school and University qualifications are taken into account. A minimum of a 2.1 Honours degree, 78% in a Canadian degree, CGPA of 3.3 on a scale of 4 or equivalent is required	Appropriate background at School level in science subjects is required – see requirements for different qualifications above. No specific degree subject required.

English Requirements for International Candidates:

Appropriate evidence of proficiency in English language is required. Most commonly accepted qualifications are:

Qualification	Minimum Score(s) Required
O-Level/IGCSE	Grade C provided qualification includes assessment of Speaking and Listening. To be competitive a higher grade is normally necessary
IELTS	Overall score of 7.5 with a minimum of 7 in speaking and listening and 6.5 in reading and writing
TOEFL IBT	105, with not less than 24 – Listening; 21 – Reading; 23 – Speaking; 23 – Writing.
Cambridge GCE O Level English Language syllabus (UCLES)	1119 with a minimum grade of A2