

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
MMI FOR 2026 ENTRY.**

International fee applicants

Guidance for Candidates: Online Interviews.

All interviews for international fee applicants for entry to Medicine at QUB will take place online. This is a guide on what you need to do before the day and how the day itself will work.

INTRODUCTION

The selection process for medicine is intended to look at the following factors:

- Consideration of previous academic performance, either school or university grades.
- Assessments of cognitive ability using the UCAT ability test
- Assessments of non-cognitive ability. These assessments examine skills and attributes such as the ability to communicate, to empathise, and sense of professionalism.

WHY DO WE INTERVIEW?

All candidates will have their cognitive ability scored using their academic background and UCAT. A ranked list will then be created from which the top applicants are chosen for interview.

MMIs - WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The interviews have been designed to test the following which have been identified by both patients and academic staff as key non-cognitive competencies for medicine:

- Communication skills
- Empathy
- Moral reasoning
- Problem-solving

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO BEFORE THE DAY OF THE INTERVIEW

With this letter you have received -

1. **An online form** which covers:
 - a. A confidentiality agreement
 - b. A fitness to practice agreement (Excluded Student Database notice which is a GMC requirement)
 - c. A fit to sit notice

Please submit the online form which confirms you have read and agreed to these statements by the deadline you are given. Failure to do so may mean you are unable to complete the interview as planned. A privacy notice will be included with the link to the

form so that you are aware of how we use your data, please ensure you have read this document.

2. **A website link. This site includes all of the information in this document and video as to exactly what will happen on the day** (only for those called for interview). We have included the same information about interview set up in the document attached. We encourage you to take time to look at this website as soon as you receive the link to help you prepare for the day.

This webpage also includes video tours of the medical school to replace the talks and tours which we normally run on the interview days for applicants and their families.

The next correspondence from us will contain -

A ZOOM link address which you will use for your interview will be sent to you a few days prior to your interviews. You will receive this link in the week before your interview date. Please keep this link safely. Some of you may like to add this to your calendar. Please note the link will be open early for administrative reasons but you only need to log-on at the time you have been given for registration.

COMPUTER/ TECHNICAL SETUP REQUIRED

Please make sure that you have thought carefully about where you wish to do these interviews and the technical support you need. You must have a computer, internet connection and quiet space to ensure the session runs smoothly for you.

These interviews must be completed on a computer access and not a phone.

- You will require a strong and stable internet connection which can support and sustain streaming video for up to two and a half hours.
- You may use either a desktop, laptop computer or iPad.
- You will need a device that has both a camera and a microphone. Please check that you have a working camera and microphone on your device. You must keep your camera and microphone on at all times during the interview.
- You will need a quiet and uninterrupted space. You must be alone in the room when you do the interview. The interviewer may ask you to move your camera around the room so that they can see you are alone or check your desk.
- Use a plain and minimal background.
- Face a window, if possible, as natural lighting makes it easy for interviewers to see you. Try to avoid any glare or shadows if you can.
- Place your computer of choice on a desk (not resting on your knees) and be sure that your head and shoulders are clearly visible.
- The interview itself will last just under an hour. However, please ensure you have sufficient battery (or electrical plug in) for at least two and a half hours to allow for registration, extra time between stations etc

The platform being used for the interviews is ZOOM. Please download and install this prior to the interviews – the link is <https://www.zoom.us>. We encourage you to practice on this platform by

setting up meetings for yourself. You could practice being interviewed with a friend or record yourself and play it back again. This will help ensure joining the link for interviews will happen smoothly on the day and also help you feel at ease with talking online.

For the interviews we wish your name to appear on the screen. We understand people use many other options on ZOOM normally but for the interview please rename this to be your name. You can always change it back again after the interviews.

Two useful links:

- [Testing computer audio in Zoom](#) (this provides information on testing your audio and how to change settings)
- [Join a test meeting](#) (this allows you to try out the Zoom meeting environment with your camera and microphone)

24 HOURS BEFORE YOUR INTERVIEW

Please check all of your technology to ensure it is working well so that you can communicate effectively. That means going through everything listed in the paragraph above is working and ready for your interview.

ON THE DAY OF YOUR INTERVIEW

Log on to the ZOOM address you have been sent for your interview.

You will have been forwarded a ZOOM link meeting for the time and date for the interviews. The time you are given is the time we ask you to log in – the interview itself will start about 15 – 20 minutes later but you must log in at this time.

To log in you can either use

- the log in address simply by tapping on the link (this is the easiest method)
- or log in using the ID and password provided.

When you log in you will enter a waiting room. Please stay in this room and do not log out. You will be called from this room to have your registration checked. It may take 15-20 minutes to do this for all the candidates on your circuit. However, you must log in at the time you have been given. Interviews will commence whether you are there or not.

Registration:

We will

- Check your registration – please have your photographic ID ready. (Usually a valid Passport or Current Driving Licence)
- Check that your name is on the screen
- Check that your camera and microphone are working
- Then move you to your breakout room

You will stay in this break out room for the entire interview session.

What happens when the interviews begin?

At the start of the session the first interviewer will appear on the screen and welcome you to your interviews in Queen's University Belfast. There will be 7 stations in total, two of these will include role players.

Your first station

- The interviewer will share their screen and ask you to start reading. You will have a minute to read the information on the screen.
- The interviewer will then remove this information and the interview begins. You will have five minutes in the station for the interview,
- There will be a 'one minute left' warning and then the station ends. This will appear as a blue box on the screen. Do not worry if you do not notice this as the interviewer will also raise their index finger so that you can see this visible prompt. They do so silently so that they do not interrupt your conversation.
- Remember to stay in the breakout room when the interview ends.

Remaining stations

The interviewer will then be moved to a different room but you will stay in the same breakout room. We have planned our interviews in this way to ensure least disruption to candidates. The next station will not begin until all interviewers have moved to their next candidate, you may therefore have to wait for a couple of minutes. The process then repeats itself until all seven stations are completed.

Roleplayer stations

In these stations it is the roleplayer you are interacting with, not the interviewer. The interviewer will be watching your interaction with the roleplayer and marking the station as usual.

This rotation will continue until you have completed all seven stations. We have already explained that two of the seven stations have roleplayers. It is obvious which stations have a roleplayer from the reading information at the beginning of the station.

Rest stations

There are no rest stations in the MMIs. This has been replaced by the rest time between every station whilst your interviewer moves from one breakout room to another. There will therefore be more rest time in total between actual interviews than in a normal face to face MMI.

During the rest time between each station we encourage you to breathe slowly and empty your mind about the station you have just completed and prepare for the next station.

THE INTERVIEWERS

All of the staff who are interviewing for entry to medicine teach our medical students – either as clinicians or in the foundations of practice science classes.

To reduce the possibility of issues with internet links or clarity of picture, from the interviewer side of this process, all interviewers will be onsite in QUB working within a computer suite. The screens are large desktop screens so that they can see your interaction clearly during interviews. They will be wearing headphones to minimise external noises or interruptions.

AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEW

When you are finished your rotation the ZOOM meeting will be terminated. Later in the day at 6 pm (GMT) you will have the opportunity to provide us with feedback and to ask any questions you may have in relation to the assessment. However, it is very important that if there are any issues during your interview that you contact the telephone number given for the day immediately to let us know on the day rather than after the offers are made.

DISABILITY

Candidates with a disability who may require reasonable adjustments are advised to contact the University in advance so that appropriate support can be provided. Please email MMI_MedEd@qub.ac.uk with relevant details.

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS A PROBLEM DURING THE INTERVIEWS?

We hope that all of this preparation means there are no glitches or difficulties during your interviews. However if you have a problem here are our suggestions.

- 1. You cannot gain access to your ZOOM link on the day of the interview.**
Contact the email MMI_MedEd@qub.ac.uk as soon as you realise there is a problem. This email is specifically manned all day for any queries you may have. There is also a mobile telephone number 07786 456208 which can be used on the day.
- 2. If you have momentary lapse or pause in your internet connection during your interview.**
Please continue talking. In this situation usually you are unaware of the problem or more of the conversation is coming through than you realise.

The interviewer will alert the invigilators to decide if it had a significant impact on the station and how best to ensure you are not disadvantaged.
- 3. If your internet connection completely stops during the interview.**
Do not panic or worry. Fix the connection. Then join with your ZOOM meeting link as soon as you are able. This will bring you back to the staff at the registration desk and the invigilators will decide how best to proceed. If you are unable to access staff on the same link (the interview session may have completely finished). Then use the contact phone number that will be given to you with your link or email MMI_MedEd@qub.ac.uk and a plan will be put in place for you.
- 4. If I feel unwell during the interview**
Tell the interviewer you are with at the time and we can discuss a plan with you.

AFTER INTERVIEW FEEDBACK SESSION

We arrange a session each day at 6pm (GMT) for those who have attended for interview during the day. You will receive a separate Microsoft TEAMS meeting link for this session. We specifically hold this on TEAMS so that you do not get the two links confused. This is your opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the admissions process.

WHEN WILL YOU KNOW WHETHER YOU WERE SUCCESSFUL

Interviews are held between December and March. A full ranking of candidates cannot take place until after the last of the interviews are held and final decisions on offers can be made. This means that you will not receive a decision immediately. While some early offers may be made please be aware that it could be mid-April before you hear. We hope that you will be successful and that you find the interviews interesting and challenging. In the event that you are not successful, there is the opportunity to request feedback within 6 weeks of being notified of the decision and details of the appeal process for admissions can be found at

<https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/MRCI/admissions/UndergraduateAdmissions/UndergraduateAdmissionsPolicy/>

DATA PROTECTION

The University receives and processes information from UCAS and UCAT in relation to your application.

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/MRCI/admissions/FairProcessingNotice/>

In addition, a privacy notice will be emailed to you explaining what data is collected and how it is used as part of the admissions process for medicine.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Please email us at MMI_MedEd@qub.ac.uk if you have any additional questions that are not addressed here or in the FAQ section available at:

<https://www.qub.ac.uk/Study/medicine-mmi-candidate-information-international/int-faq/>

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