



## Helpline Enquiries

### Medical Work Experience and Covid-19 restrictions

#### Enquiry

*We have some students interested in applying to Medical School in 2021 who have had their work experience cancelled. What else can they do?*

#### Our reply

Prospective medics will need to have a good understanding of Covid-19 and its progression. Students who are interviewed by Medical Schools for 2021 entry are likely to be asked about this, therefore we suggest students read a quality newspaper and visit medical websites, such as these listed below

[British Medical Journal](#)

[The Lancet](#)

[General Medical Council](#)

[The Medic Portal](#) website also has a blog and a COVID-19 tab and these contain useful information. Some of their paid for courses have been moved online. They also have a reading list.

InvestIN also have a paid for [Young Doctor Day](#) which is now also available online

If students are able to volunteer in their community this is something they can mention in their personal statement. It could be telephoning an elderly neighbour or grandparent on a regular basis or getting shopping for them. This could help show empathy and community spirit.

Students can also prepare for UCAT and BMAT testing by doing past papers.

There are many free online short courses and modules that students can study for and these can be referenced in their personal statement. These are some of the most popular platforms to explore:

[Future Learn](#)

[MOOC](#)

[Coursera](#)

#### Reading Material

It is always recommended that students do some preparatory reading to know what to expect when they reach Medical School. They won't be expected to read all the books from the websites below, but if they read a few these can also be referenced in the personal statement to reflect what they learnt from the book.

[University of Cambridge](#)

[King's College Cambridge](#)

[University of Oxford](#)

Please also see information on the [Medical Schools Council](#) website

**The University of Birmingham** has posted the following [Guidance for Applicants](#) on their website:

*We have been made aware that work experience and voluntary placements have been cancelled.*

*We want to reassure you that if you are unable to gain experience of work in a healthcare setting because of the impacts of COVID-19 you will not be at a disadvantage in our selection processes. Our websites have not been updated yet so please do not be concerned if you read information and guidance about work experience that conflicts with this statement. We are considering very carefully all of the implications of COVID-19 on our admissions processes and we will provide updated guidance as soon as we are able.*

*We recognise that experience in a healthcare setting can provide you with a great deal of insight into the profession you aspire to join. This can help you to decide if a career in a caring profession is right for you and also help you to identify the skills you need to develop.*

*In the absence of face-to-face experiences, it is important that you use other means to gain an understanding of the work and challenges faced by healthcare staff. Reports on the present situation in the national media highlight that healthcare staff are working under great pressure. You must recognise, however, that this situation is unprecedented and an understanding of a more routine life in healthcare can be gained using on-line resources.*

**The Helpline Team**

**March 2020**