



Medicine



OVERVIEW

The British Medical Association's [Studying Medicine](#) and [The Medic Portal](#) will provide a wealth of information on choosing a medical school and the highly competitive application process. Take time to familiarise yourself with some of the different medical roles and specialties too www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors

SKILLS

Skills that you need to have in the medical profession include compassion, resourcefulness, stamina, motivation and perseverance and the ability to work within a multidisciplinary team of healthcare professionals. Here are some job profiles from the prospects.ac.uk website: [Hospital doctor](#) ; [General practice doctor](#)

Routes to qualification and professional accreditation

Medical degrees are available at undergraduate level and typically take five years to complete, fees can be costly but do vary by medical school, so it is important to research this thoroughly. If you've already got a degree in a subject other than medicine (with a 2:1 or above in a science-related subject) you can apply for a four-year accelerated graduate entry medicine programme, also known as a graduate entry programme (GEP). The British Medical Association has further information about [applying to medical school as a graduate](#). Entry into medicine is competitive, and your motivation and commitment are rigorously assessed. Most medical schools will expect you to take one of the following tests:

[University Clinical Aptitude Test \(UCAT\)](#) - the most widely used test.

[Graduate Medical School Admissions Test \(GAMSAT\)](#) - mainly used by medical schools that offer the GEP.

Training to become a doctor can also now be achieved via the new Medical Doctor Degree Apprenticeship. To find out more visit: [Medical degree apprenticeships and NHS Jobs](#), currently the training offered is at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) and is aimed at those wishing to train as GPs; we await further information on funding for the programme to be rolled out more widely in future UCAS cycles.

Entry Requirements to degree courses and degree apprenticeships

Successful applicants typically have high GCSE grades (7-9), A Level grades of A*A*A-AAA in Chemistry and usually Biology. Some medical schools will accept Chemistry or Biology + one from Biology, Maths, Physics. You will also need to sit the [UCAT](#) admissions test.

You can only apply to 4 medical schools. Check entry requirements, find out about course content and think about which [teaching style](#) is going to be right for you.

Applicants usually use the fifth choice for another degree subject as a back-up. Research what would interest you. This could be a [subject allied to medicine](#) or a more general life sciences option such as Biochemistry or Biomedical Science. Search for courses at [UCAS](#) or [The Uni Guide](#).

Note: Medicine is still an option if you don't have the right A levels. A few Medical Schools offer [Foundation courses](#) (some of which are known as Gateway to Medicine) or you could consider [Graduate Entry](#). Again, competition for places is high.

Work Experience

What can it lead to?

[Work experience](#) is essential for every applicant and will help you gain insight into clinical and ethical issues and reflect on what you have learnt and whether medicine is right for you. Check individual schools for their requirements, but the more you do the better. There are some online work experience programmes such as [Observe-GP](#) and [BSMS virtual programme](#) that you could explore too. See also our list of [virtual Work Experience](#) opportunities.

It's likely that you'll work within an NHS practice trust as a GP, although there are opportunities to work in private practice as well. There are a limited number of jobs for GPs in the armed forces, with some possibility of working overseas. You can also find work in the Civil Service, in settings such as prisons.

It's possible to work for a practice as a salaried doctor, which allows you to stay focused on clinical care and have flexibility over the hours you work.

Many GPs look to become a partner within a surgery, which also means taking on responsibility for the business side of the practice and having more control over the direction the practice takes.

Medicine provides 29 different specialties and offers doctors a wide range of roles in fields as diverse as clinical genetics, infectious diseases, neurology or sports and exercise medicine. You can research other specialisms in medicine at [NHS - Explore roles: Medicine](#)

Useful websites

[Wider Reading for Aspiring Medics](#)

[Wider Reading Society – MedicMentor](#)

[The Royal Society of Medicine - Podcasts](#)

[How To Build Your Medicine Application - The Medic Portal](#)