

# Medicine Subject Guide

## Medical Study

Medicine courses are studied at university and are between 5-6 years long.

- [University of Aberdeen Medical School](#)
- [University of Dundee Medical School](#)
- [University of Edinburgh Medical School](#)
- [University of Glasgow Medical School](#)
- [University of St Andrews Medical School](#)

Remember you can only apply to 4 Medical Schools through UCAS: your 5th choice must be a back-up. You don't need to consider this when writing your personal statement though - keep it entirely focussed on Medicine.



## Alternative Options

- Stay motivated! If you are not successful the first time, you can always reapply the following year. Use the time in between productively, by gaining more work experience and achieving any additional grades if needed.
- Consider related degree pathways. If you find that the science behind Medicine interests you, then consider related HE courses such as Medical Sciences or Biomedical Sciences.
- Think long term. If you complete an alternative Honours degree first, you could use this as your entry requirement for Graduate Medicine courses. There are a few different options in Scotland but be aware that student funding may not cover the costs of a second undergraduate degree.

## General Advice

The **UCAT** (UK Clinical Aptitude Test) is a way for universities to filter applications. It tests your decision making and reasoning skills, not your medical knowledge. Use the **free resources** on the UCAT website to get familiar with the style of questions. It's designed to be tight on time, so try out lots of practice tests. Registration typically opens in May and you can book your test slot from June. Testing runs from July - end of September, so you sit the test before the UCAS deadline.

Work experience in a hospital can be tricky to organise (but keep trying!). Consider other care settings such as care homes or working with children and volunteering in your community. The University of Edinburgh **Reach resources** page also has links for virtual work experience programmes and career exploration ideas.

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## Resources

Here are some good resources that can help you to get started:

- **Reach Pupil Resource:** Reach Tayside are specialists in Widening Access to Medicine, check out the additional resources section.
- **Studying Healthcare:** Is a partnership between the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Schools Councils providing up-to-date and accurate information about the university application process for healthcare subjects.
- **Reflection Tool-kit:** University of Edinburgh have developed this tool-kit to help build reflective practice skills; these are key qualities for medical applicants.
- **The Reflective Practitioner:** The General Medical Council produced this guide for medical students, however you can use this to develop these skills as an applicant!
- **Interview Preparation:** UCAS have created a handy guide to help you prepare for the interview process.

## Checklist

Get ahead and prepare yourself for future medical study and applications:

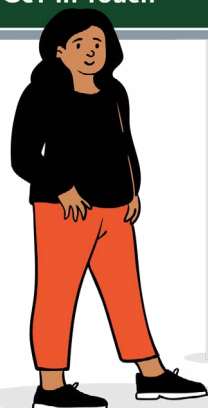
Check entry requirements carefully!

Organise some work experience, this could be in person or virtually.

Build on your reflection skills and use them when writing your Personal Statement and in interviews.

Prepare and practice for the UCAT exam and book your test!

Make note of the early UCAS deadline, usually around the 15th of October.



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