

# UK Medical Schools Information Sheet

## Key points for Grade 10

- The more 7's you have in your semester 2 G10 subjects the stronger your application will be
- Diploma subject choices:
  - HL Biology and Chemistry are a must
  - SL Maths (not Math Studies)

## Key points for Grade 11

- Decide early on which schools you think you might apply to
- Some schools require the UKCAT test, others the BMAT
- Recommend to do UKCAT **or** BMAT (not both)
- If the UK medical school you are planning on applying to requires the BMAT then it is important that you realise that this contains some Physics questions.
- Start practicing for the UKCAT and/or BMAT
- **Your UKCAT and/or BMAT score will heavily affect your chance of being offered an interview.**
- You need to be able to include evidence of work experience in your personal statement in which you have developed skills needed to be a successful Doctor (ideally in a caring environment such as hospital, Drs surgery, nursing home, kindergarten etc.) A caring activity over a period of time is better than just for 2 weeks.
- A summer school medicine course would be a sign of passion and experience

## Grade 12 (Applying)

- It will be important to have at least two 7's in your predicted higher level subjects (preferably in Biology and Chemistry)
- You will need a high 30s score minimum as an overall university predicted grade
- Application deadline is October 15 but school deadline is always the last day of school before the October break (usually 1 week earlier)

## UKCAT schools:

- Currently 24 universities.
- Sit the UKCAT between July and October. Results immediately.
- **Because you know your results before the application deadline you can apply to schools whose UKCAT score cut off is the same or less than your score which will therefore maximise your chance of getting to interview stage.**
- University UKCAT cut off scores are published on line
- Not curriculum based. Tests verbal reasoning, decision making, quantitative reasoning, abstract reasoning, situational judgement (this bit not used for all schools)
- Total score out of 3600.
- Medical Schools have a cut off score AND normally have a minimum score for EACH section.
- UKCAT website (includes a practice plan, practice tests etc.):  
<http://www.ukcat.ac.uk/preparation/candidate-toolkit/>
- Companies that offer tutoring :
  - Kaplan:  
[http://www.kaptest.co.uk/ukcat/course?utm\\_expid=429392-24.RoXHD7kSQISofQ7rW4lWXA.o&utm\\_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.ch%2F](http://www.kaptest.co.uk/ukcat/course?utm_expid=429392-24.RoXHD7kSQISofQ7rW4lWXA.o&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.ch%2F)
  - One day summer course in UK: <https://www.ukcatcrashcourse.com/register/>
  - Past Test.com: <https://www.pastest.com/ukcat/>
- Book:
  - Get Into Medical School. 1000 UKCAT Practice Questions. Includes Full Mock Exam. 2016 Edition for 2017 Entry Paperback – 1 May 2016  
by Olivier Picard (Author), Laetitia Tighlit (Author), Sami Tighlit (Author), David Phillips (Author)

## BMAT schools:

- Currently 8 universities.
- Sit the BMAT in early November. Results by end of November.
- **Because you do not know your results before the application deadline you cannot strategically apply to schools to maximise your chance of getting to interview stage.**
- Tests aptitude and skills, scientific knowledge and applications, writing task.
- BMAT website (includes a practice plan, practice tests etc.):  
<http://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/preparing-for-bmat/>
- Companies that offer tutoring:
  - Kaplan: <http://www.kaptest.co.uk/courses/uk-university/bmat/bmat-preparation>
  - One day summer course in the UK: <https://www.bmatcrashcourse.com/register/>
- Book:
  - Get into Medical School - 700 BMAT Practice Questions Paperback – 1 Jul 2016 by [Lydia Campbell](#) (Author), [Olivier Picard](#) (Author, Editor)

## Private Medical Schools:

- May have different entry requirements (eg IELTS instead of UKCAT or BMAT)/different term dates/more expensive
- On the increase.
- Current examples are Buckingham University and the Medical School within Lancaster university
- Future examples - Aston university open their private medical school in 2018, Anglia Ruskin may also be opening one

## Interviews

- Usually based around Multi Mini Interviews (MMI).
- Expect a “breaking bad news” role play - looking for honesty and empathy.
- Expect medical systems questions so you should know something about the NHS.
- Expect a comparative health care systems question (Switzerland vs UK for example)
- 5 mins to answer. Take a breath - think for a few seconds to plan the answer - you do have the time. Practice speaking for 5 minutes at home.
- Looking for the following skills;
  - Academic ability and intellect
  - Empathy
  - Initiative and resilience
  - Commas skills
  - Organisation and problem solving
  - Team work
  - Insight and integrity
  - Effective learning style

## Studying Medicine in English Abroad

There are a few countries In Europe which have Medicine degrees in English. It is important, however, to remember that at some point you will need to learn the language of that country as you will be working with patients in that language. Some recommended examples are:

- University of Debrecen, Hungary: <http://www.edu.unideb.hu/page.php?id=51>
- Ireland - Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin: <https://www.rcsi.com/dublin>
- University of Maastricht:  
<https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/about-um/faculties/faculty-health-medicine-and-life-sciences>
- Charles University, Prague: <https://www.cuni.cz/UKEN-337.html>
- Humanitas University, Italy: <https://www.hunimed.eu/>

## **Alternative Routes to Medicine**

- Gap years are good (some schools you have to be 18 so a Gap Year may be obligatory).
- Foundation programmes - check rules for progression to medicine (example - at St Georges an IB student who goes to foundation is considered as “re-sit” and therefore not eligible for medicine).
- Biomedical science route - 3 options -
  - do whole Biomedical science degree followed by graduate medicine (preferred),
  - transfer after 1 year into year 1 of medicine (highly competitive eg St. George's and Newcastle)
  - transfer in the middle of the Biomedical science degree
- Please remember that MANY students who start Biomedical science realise they actually don't want to be a Dr.

## **Useful Websites**

[Medic Portal](#)