

**School of Medicine at
Guy's, King's College and
St Thomas' Hospitals**

KING'S
College
LONDON

MBBS Programme

Application guide

Entry 2012



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King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC) is a pioneering collaboration between King's College London and Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trusts.

King's Health Partners is one of only five AHSCs in the UK and brings together an unrivalled range and depth of clinical and research expertise, spanning both physical and mental health. Our combined strengths will drive improvements in care for patients, allowing them to benefit from breakthroughs in medical science and receive leading-edge treatment at the earliest possible opportunity.

For more information, visit www.kingshealthpartners.org



Welcome



Thank you for your interest in studying Medicine at King's College London.

By reading this guide, you are taking your first steps in finding out more about how we teach medicine at King's, and the application process for applying to one of the most competitive undergraduate subjects in the UK.

Importantly, I should point out that we receive around 5,000 applications a year. Our selection process is rigorous and we interview for every place offered. The School aims to notify all applicants of its final decisions by early May each year.

We are proud of our MBBS programme. We believe our NHS and global partnerships, history, innovative curriculum and facilities provide our students with a world-class learning experience.

If this guide does not answer all your questions, please look online for more details or contact our Admissions Office.

Good luck.

Professor Anne Greenough
*Head, King's College London
School of Medicine*

Introducing the School of Medicine

As a medical student at King's you will enjoy the resources of one of the world's top research-led universities, three of London's most successful hospitals and an extended network of partner hospitals and general practices throughout South East England.

King's College London was founded in 1829 and is today ranked as one of the world's top 25 universities. King's has played a major role in many of the advances that have shaped modern life, such as the discovery of the structure of DNA. It is now the largest centre for the education of doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals in Europe and home to six Medical Research Council centres.

The School has a faculty of 450 academic staff organised within 10 research and teaching divisions which have internationally renowned research programmes in cardiovascular, cancer, asthma and allergy, transplantation, genetics, immunology and infectious diseases, diabetes and nutritional sciences, women's health and imaging sciences.

The School of Medicine draws on the cumulative expertise of several centuries of medical training, and pioneering medical research. St Thomas' Hospital was founded as an infirmary near London Bridge in 1107; Guy's Hospital was founded in 1721; soon afterwards, the two hospitals made joint arrangements for training doctors. King's College Hospital was established in 1839 as a teaching hospital.

The relationship was formalised in 2008 through the creation of King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. King's Health Partners is a pioneering collaboration between King's College London and Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trusts.

Our unique combination brings together one of the world's leading research-led universities and three of London's most successful NHS Foundation Trusts.

With our position in one of the world's most diverse capital cities and a network of major London teaching hospitals, district general hospitals and general practices,

our medical students benefit from some of the most varied learning opportunities of any UK medical school, and the expertise of over 2,000 clinical teachers.

Right in the heart of London, the School of Medicine's campuses are co-located next to Guy's, King's College and St Thomas' Hospitals. The Guy's campus is located in London Bridge, Borough Food market and Tate Modern are a short walk away. The St Thomas' Campus is next to Westminster Bridge, opposite the Houses of Parliament. It's a five minute walk from King's Waterloo Campus, and the cultural quarter of the South Bank.

King's College Hospital is based on the Denmark Hill Campus in Camberwell, South East London. There are lively cafes and pubs nearby as well as peaceful walks in Ruskin and Dulwich parks.

More information can be found in our section on *Clinical experience*.

'The King's College London School of Medicine will train doctors who will aspire to the highest standards of clinical practice and patient care, who achieve professional excellence, have good relationships with patients and colleagues, and observe their profession's ethical obligations'.

Extract from *'King's College London School of Medicine Student and Doctor'*





The MBBS programme

The MBBS programme:

- ♦ has an underlying philosophy of full integration of medical science and clinical teaching
- ♦ has four entry routes, including a fast-track programme for graduates
- ♦ has patient contact from the first term
- ♦ is taught at three of the world's most renowned hospitals as well as a network of district general hospitals and general practices across south east England
- ♦ has a communications element throughout the curriculum including inter-professional training from year one to support healthcare team-working
- ♦ is underpinned by our own Virtual Campus, an online teaching resource
- ♦ is supported by a wealth of facilities and resources including the largest UK medical anatomy museum offering dissection and prosection teaching
- ♦ offers over 700 Student Selected Components including multi-disciplinary options (humanities and social sciences)
- ♦ is enriched by a network of international partnerships including Johns Hopkins University and Hong Kong University offering opportunities for exchanges and placements
- ♦ offers choice of more than 20 BSc programmes for optional intercalated BSc degree

Entry routes to medicine – our programmes

The King's MBBS programme has a number of entry routes. This reflects King's active encouragement of diversity. In addition to the standard five-year programme, King's offers a fast-track programme and a specialist programme for oral and maxillo-facial surgery. King's was also the first university in the UK to offer a widening access to medicine degree.

Medicine MBBS (five years)

The five-year programme is the main entry route into medicine at King's. You will follow the curriculum of five phases over five years.

- **Approximately 335 places**
- **Five-year programme**
- **Five years to cover five phases of curriculum**

Medicine Graduate/Professional Entry MBBS (four years)

The Graduate and Professional Entry (GPEP) MBBS is King's four-year fast-track entry route into medicine for graduates and health professionals.

- **28 places**
- **Four-year programme**
- **First transition year (Phase 1 and 2) then direct to Phase 3 of curriculum**
- **Since its launch in 2004, GPEP has quickly become one of the most popular routes of its kind in the UK. The first cohort of 23 students graduated in 2008 – all with distinction**

Medicine MaxFax Entry Programme MBBS (four years)

This four-year medical degree programme is designed specifically for a very limited number of qualified dentists (who are registered with the UK General Dental Council) wishing to pursue a career in oral and maxillo-facial surgery.

- **2 places**
- **Four-year programme**
- **First transition year (Phases 1 and 2) and then direct to Phase 3 of the curriculum**

Extended Medical Degree Programme (EMDP)

The EMDP is the UK's flagship widening access to medicine programme.

The EMDP runs for six years rather than the usual five, allowing the first two phases to be studied at a steady pace. Students receive mentoring and support during their first three years. EMDP students follow the same medical curriculum as all other medical students and undergo the same rigorous assessment.

- **50 places**
- **Six-year programme**
- **Three years to cover Phases 1 and 2 of curriculum**

Clinical Transfer students

There are approximately 35 places available each year for medical students from Oxford and Cambridge universities who have obtained their BSc honours degree and who wish to complete the final three years of their medical training in London. You must apply under the common application procedure agreed between Oxford, Cambridge and London.

- **Approximately 35 places**
- **Direct entry to Phase 3 of the curriculum**



Curriculum overview

The underlying philosophy of the King's MBBS programme is the integration of medical science and clinical teaching throughout the curriculum. The balance between the two elements shifts as you move closer to professional qualification.

The medical curriculum is divided into five phases. Each phase tends to represent a year unless you are an GPEP, MaxFax or EMDP student.

Phases 1 and 2 (Introduction to Medical Science) focus on basic science, illustrated and informed by clinical practice. Phases 3 and 4 (Intensive Patient Contact) focus on clinical training, underpinned by science. Phase 5 (Clinical Assistantships) is vocationally oriented and includes the opportunity to study abroad for an elective period. Each phase contains elements from the core curriculum, which is compulsory, as well as Special Study Components (SSCs), which offer a wide element of student choice. Students can follow a year-long BSc in a subject of their choice by 'intercalating' the degree between phases of their MBBS. Although there are four entry routes into medicine at King's, all students follow the MBBS curriculum.

From the first term of the programme you will be introduced to patients and clinicians. You will also work with other students destined for healthcare professions such as dentistry, nursing and midwifery. Interprofessional education is embedded in the curriculum, developing teamwork, communication, and an awareness of ethical and professional responsibilities.

An important feature of the King's approach to studying medicine is the way in which understanding is built up: as new knowledge is added, material covered in earlier phases is reinforced. So, for example, communication skills are developed through a 'spiral' curriculum which runs through all five years of the MBBS, allowing students to revisit and progressively build on their skills.

Clinical teaching takes place at our three main teaching hospitals: Guy's, King's College and St Thomas', with placements in general practices in London and district general hospitals throughout south east England adding a further dimension to the clinical experience.

Lectures and seminars are complemented by rich and varied opportunities to develop practical skills such as venepuncture and examination. Students can make use of the Chantler Clinical Skills Centre and a brand new Simulation and Interactive Learning Centre (SaIL) to develop and practise their skills in taught classes or on a self-access basis.

Students also benefit from the training provided by trained Patient Educators, Gynaecology Teaching Associates and student peers. These are innovative schemes which supplement more formal teaching.

Learning through clinical experience: Clinical Scenarios

Throughout Phase 2, you will study basic medical science through a series of realistic 'clinical scenarios' – stories about an individual patient with a health problem, or a health issue as it affects a wider population. Learning methods might include clinical placement, lectures, tutorials, practical workshops and self-directed study. You'll be given a full reading list including, where relevant, references to specimens and audiovisual materials in the Gordon Museum, and access to the online Virtual Campus for comprehensive details of all the clinical scenarios. A final summing-up session at the end of the week brings together all the new material, considering it in the context of an individual's experience. Studies have shown the pedagogical value of this approach and its usefulness for medical practitioners throughout their careers.

Study options

Student Selected Components

Throughout the programme, the equivalent of one day a week is set aside for study beyond the core curriculum. The Student Selected Components (SSCs) are highly flexible and allow students to focus on the areas of medicine that are of particular interest to you, and to broaden your education beyond medicine. The components develop students' independence and their research and communication skills. The components are varied in format: some are taught, others involve research, laboratory or clinical work, whilst others are library-based.

King's has more than 700 SSCs for you to choose. Some of the most popular SSCs include: teaching children about health; molecular medicine; metabolic regulation; drug design and development; gene cloning and analysis; palliative care; liver failure and transplantation; minimal access surgery; health care in Cuba.

Because the medical school is part of a multi-faculty institution, students can choose non-health-related modules such as modern languages, philosophy and maths. There is a strong medicine and humanities tradition at King's. Modules include: voice and body language; ethics and law; madness in literature.

The intercalated degree

The intercalated degree is a one-year BSc programme which is usually taken at the end of Phase 2, but sometimes at the end of Phase 3 or Phase 4. The intercalated degree allows you to study the subjects of your choice in greater depth.

For students who wish to pursue a research career in medicine, the intercalated degree is particularly useful. Apart from the personal value of the extra year's study in terms of development of interest and ability, the BSc offers an opportunity for training in experimental research methods.

The strength and range of research activity at King's provides an excellent choice of substantial projects.

King's offers 20 programmes, ranging from Aerospace Physiology to Psychology, Pharmacology, Human Genetics and Global Health. There is also the option to intercalate a PhD.

For more information regarding our intercalated degree, please visit our website: www.kcl.ac.uk/intercalated

International study – electives and exchanges

The first eight weeks of Phase 5 are spent on the elective attachment. For many students, this is the highlight of their undergraduate course. After four years of training, you are able to put your skills and knowledge to the test almost anywhere in the world. You choose your medical speciality and location.

King's offers the widest range of opportunities to study abroad in partner institutions of any of the UK medical schools, having formal twinning arrangements with 20 prestigious institutions around the world. During Phase 4 you are able to undertake an exchange placement during your studies at one of the universities. Many students also undertake their elective at one of our partner institutions. Students can also arrange their own placements in the UK or overseas for some clinical rotations.

Partner institutions

- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Cornell University, USA
- University of Pennsylvania, USA
- Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, USA
- Hong Kong University
- Jikei University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan
- Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, USA
- Lille II University, France
- Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
- Second Medical Faculty of Charles University, Prague
- University of the West Indies
- Universidad Francisco Marroquin, Guatemala

The five phases

Introduction to medical science		
PHASE 1	Overview	<p>Your introduction to medicine</p> <p>Over the first term* you will be introduced to the cardiovascular, respiratory, muscular, skeletal, gastrointestinal, renal and nervous systems; dissection of the thorax; immunology; statistics and ethics. You will have your first experiences of hospital and primary care and will begin the Interprofessional Education programme.</p> <p>*depending on pathway followed</p>
	What will I be doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting a general practice and interviewing a patient. • Working in teams with other healthcare profession students to explore ethical and professional issues and develop communication skills. • Attending tutorials, lectures and seminars on anatomy, dissection, pathology and histopathology, biological systems at the molecular level, pharmacology, physiology, psychology, sociology and statistics. • Learning time-management, communication and study skills.
	Where will I be studying?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainly on the Guy's Campus. • Visits to partner hospitals (Guy's and St Thomas' and King's College Hospital.) • Attachment (in pairs of students) to general practices in south-east London.
PHASE 2	Overview	<p>Clinical scenarios</p> <p>Over three terms, basic science is studied in a clinical context. You will be presented with a new clinical scenario every week. The clinical scenarios are grouped into systems areas and cover cardiovascular and respiratory medicine, gastrointestinal and renal medicine and nutrition.</p>
	What will I be doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studying biomedical sciences in relation to 36 clinical scenarios. • Continuing clinical contact in primary care and hospitals. • Continuing to develop clinical skills on attachment to general practices. • Continuing studies in Interprofessional Education and communication skills. • Completing three SSCs of your choice.
	Where will I be studying?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainly on the Guy's Campus. • Visits to partner hospitals (Guy's and St Thomas' and King's College Hospital.) • Attachment (in pairs of students) to general practices in south-east London.
Opportunity to intercalate		

GPEP and MaxFax pathway

Students on the GPEP and MaxFax programme cover Phases 1 and 2 material in an extended single year known as the 'transition year'. The year starts with a three-week introductory period which includes a revision of basic science, mainly chemistry, biochemistry and cell biology, an overview of the principal medical disciplines such as physiology and anatomy, and lectures on diverse topics such as psychology, sociology, ethics and statistics. GPEP students do not do the SSC or some of the practicals

that are more orientated towards basic science. Students do get additional tutorial support including a set of tutorials from clinicians.

The GPEP is also extended at the end of the year to provide a three-week slot to cover some of the early Phase 2 scenarios that the students do not cover in the main course. After the transition year, GPEP students are completely integrated into the standard MBBS cohort.

Intensive patient contact

PHASE 3	Overview	<p>Starting your clinical attachments</p> <p>Over three terms, Phase 3 begins with an introductory course in clinical skills. You will then undertake three 10 or 12-week 'rotations' (periods focusing on different areas of the body). Each rotation is divided into two sections: the Clinical Apprenticeship, when you work as part of a hospital-based team in wards, clinics, A&E, operating theatres and in the community, and the Clinical Science period which combines clinical experience with SSC's and elearning on the Virtual Campus.</p>
	What will I be doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking three Clinical Apprenticeships, focusing on abdomen, neurology and psychiatry and chest. • Studying the relevant Clinical Science. • Undertaking a 3 week pathology and therapeutics block. • Studying basic skills with a GP teacher and practising with specially invited patients. (This includes history taking, clinical examination, diagnostic reasoning, interpretation of pathological and radiological data, and practical procedures such as venepuncture and resuscitation). • Completing 36 web-based interactive scenarios individually or in small groups. • Studying topics in therapeutics, imaging, pathology, public health, health promotion and clinical pharmacology. • Continuing studies in Interprofessional Education and communication skills. • Completing two SSCs.
	Where will I be studying?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotations are based at the partner hospitals and University Hospital Lewisham, the hospitals of the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, and four district general hospitals in south east England (Ashford, Canterbury, Margate, Medway and Chichester) Clinical skills placements with GP teachers in one of 300 general practices or associated community services in London and south east England. • Campus-based studies on the Guy's Campus.
Opportunity to intercalate		

PHASE 4	Overview	<p>Developing your knowledge and skills</p> <p>Phase 4 consists of three 13-week rotations in Child Health, Development and Ageing; Emergency Medicine, Trauma and Locomotion; and Reproductive and Sexual Health.</p>
	What will I be doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing the particular communication skills required for these groups of patients. • Gaining an understanding of ethical issues in sensitive contexts • Learning about the impact of patients' psychological and socioeconomic circumstances and the role of the multidisciplinary team. • Studying public health, epidemiology, pharmacology, therapeutics and laboratory sciences. • Undertaking a Community and Applied Health Promotion study, following the progress of a pregnant patient and her family. • Continuing studies in Interprofessional Education and communication skills. • Completing two SSCs.
	Where will I be studying?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placements in the partner hospitals or in one of 20 hospitals throughout south east England (students can also arrange their own placement, in the UK or worldwide). • In a community setting in London or the south east of England for the Community and Applied Health Promotion study. • Campus-based studies on Guy's Campus.
Opportunity to intercalate		

The five phases *continued*

Clinical assistantships		
PHASE 5	Overview	<p>Consolidating knowledge – putting theory into practice</p> <p>The year begins with an eight week elective placement which may be taken in any specialty you choose, and almost anywhere in the world. On your return, you undertake three eight-week Clinical Assistantships in Medicine, Surgery, and General Practice & Community. You will spend most of your time gaining clinical experience, supported by short blocks of campus-based study. Phase 5 will help you integrate your knowledge, skills and professional behaviours and provides the final preparation for safe, competent practice as an F1 doctor after graduation.</p>
	What will I be doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becoming an active member of the care team, whether in primary care or in a hospital. • Demonstrating competence in clinical skills, time management, prioritising, problem analysis and solving, summarising and written communication. • Studying core topics such as informatics, communication skills, presentation and teaching skills, radiation protection, therapeutics, pathology and advanced resuscitation. • Demonstrating professional attitudes, based on an informed understanding of ethical and professional issues. • Taking responsibility for self-directed learning. • Completing two SSCs (the elective counts as one).
	Where will I be studying?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective placement worldwide (or in UK). • Two placements in partner hospitals or in one of 20 hospitals throughout south east England. • One placement in a general practice in London (or anywhere in the UK, if wished). • Short blocks of study on Guy's Campus.

Assessment

There is continuous assessment throughout all five phases of the MBBS curriculum. Practical skills are tested in Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) in which students deal with real or simulated clinical scenarios as medical professionals assess their clinical and communication skills.

Intellectual skills are tested using a variety of methods including written problem-solving papers and OSCEs. At the end of each phase students have written examinations. Phase 3 has an in course OSCE assessments and success in these and the written examination provides exemption from the end of year OSCE.

Clinical experience

With our location in one of the world's most diverse capital cities and partnership with major London teaching hospitals, district general hospitals and general practices, King's medical students benefit from some of the most varied learning opportunities of any UK medical school.

Right in the heart of London, the School of Medicine is located next to Guy's, King's College and St Thomas' Hospitals, where most clinical teaching takes place (as well as being placed in a rich community of general practices), right from the first term.

Together these primary NHS partners provide a clinical service to a local population of over two million people across an area covering over a quarter of London. They serve an economically and socially diverse population – allowing our medical students the opportunity to work with people from all walks of life. The hospitals provide a comprehensive range of general acute and mental health hospital services as well as offering the widest range of specialist services in the UK.

Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust is made up of two of London's best known teaching hospitals. It provides a full range of patient services for local communities in South East London and specialist services including cancer, cardiothoracic, kidney and children's services (Evelina Children's Hospital) for patients from further afield and a leading centre for treatment of cardiovascular disease, stroke, HIV and dermatology.

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is one of London's largest and busiest teaching hospitals and is internationally renowned for its work in liver disease and transplantation, neurosciences, fetal medicine and cardiac and blood cancers and is a major Accident and Emergency and trauma centre.

South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) provides the UK's most extensive portfolio of mental health services for people of all ages from more than 100 community based sites across south London. Students undertake training here in Phases 3, 4 and 5.

Training in the community

Around half of all medical students will enter general practice on graduation. At King's, you will have the opportunity to learn from more than 600 General Practitioners located in over 300 general practices and associated community services. You will spend time in general practice during every phase of the programme.

Peripheries of excellence

In later phases of the curriculum, medical students undertake placements at District General Hospitals (DGHs) in outer London and across South East England. This allows you to consolidate and apply knowledge gained in previous years. Students find that DGHs offer unrivalled opportunities for active participation and learning in small groups.

The hospitals are: Conquest Hospital, East Sussex; Darent Valley Hospital, East Sussex; Eastbourne District General Hospital, East Sussex; Maidstone Postgraduate Medical Centre, Kent; Kent & Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells; Kingston Hospital, Kingston; Maidstone Hospital, Kent; Medway Maritime Hospital, Gillingham; Poole Hospital, Dorset; Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich; Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital, Margate; Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup; Princess Royal University Hospital, Bromley; St Richard's Hospital, Chichester; Salisbury District Hospital, Wiltshire; University Hospital Lewisham; William Harvey Hospital, Ashford; Worthing Hospital, West Sussex and Croydon University Hospital.

Learning resources

Medical students are supported by a range of facilities including the Virtual Campus, the Gordon Museum, the Chantler Clinical Skills Centre and a new Simulation and Interactive Learning Centre (SaIL).



The Virtual Campus

A key resource for all King's medical students is the Virtual Campus, a constantly updated online environment which you can access at any time, from anywhere in the world. To help you organise your work and time, the interface provides facilities such as online timetables, lecture resources, course information, examination results, past papers (where available), SSC information, DGH and GP selection systems, clinical pairings and clinical session sign-ups, revision videos, elective abstracts and course feedback systems. The Virtual Campus also offers innovative teaching and learning resources such as interactive tutorials, elearning resources and online clinical scenarios.

The Gordon Anatomy Museum

As a King's student you will have access to one of the largest pathology museums in the world, the Gordon Museum, which has a considerable and growing collection of approximately 8,000 pathological specimens dating back to 1608. The Museum contains

some precious things, but all are used for teaching, helping with the training of generations of medics, and providing the evidence on which changes in medical practice are based. The Museum has collections that formerly belonged to famous Guy's alumni who have given their name to medical conditions, including Hodgkin, Addison and Bright.

Chantler Clinical Skills Centre

The Chantler Clinical Skills Centre supports the learning of around 4,000 King's medical, nursing and midwifery students. The aim of the Centre is to make the transition to the clinical environment as smooth as possible. As a central focus of healthcare training the Centre provides excellent facilities and services for simulated teaching, assessment and independent learning for developing clinical skills. The Centre has 17 skills rooms offering simulated wards, clinical equipment and anatomical models for teaching specialised skills such as life support, catheterisation, suturing, venepuncture, and wound management. The Centre's facilities simulate conditions



encountered in the clinical area, providing an environment for procedures to be learnt and practised without pain or risk of harm to patients.

A rolling programme of clinical skills for medical and nursing students runs throughout the academic year to provide a revision of taught skills. The Peer Tutor Scheme employs Phase 4 students to teach Phase 3 students clinical skills. The scheme gives Phase 3 students the opportunity to revise and practice clinical and assessment skills and in turn helps to reinforce the skills of the Phase 4 students. The small group approach provides the opportunity for close observation of technique, questions and practice of the skills observed. Trained Patient Educators help in the learning of clinical examination skills and Gynaecology Teaching Associates (lay women) who teach intimate examinations.

Simulation and Interactive Learning Centre (SaIL)

SaIL opened in 2009 as a brand new joint facility with Guy's and St Thomas' Foundation Trust. In addition to



the Chantler Clinical Skills Centre, the SaIL at St Thomas' Hospital is used for undergraduate teaching and postgraduate training. The centre comprises a six bed clinical skills ward and a high fidelity simulation room. The latter doubles as an operating theatre and a two-bed A&E/ICU ward. The centre additionally has a seminar room, home simulation room and outpatient simulation room/GP room.

Anatomy teaching

King's has two dissection rooms. Dissection teaching is led by 5 teaching staff, assisted by 12 anatomy demonstrators. The Upper Dissecting Room is the largest dissection room and has the capacity to hold 80 cadavers. Students also have access to museum pots, models and skeletal materials. The Lower Dissecting room is generally used for postgraduate teaching but also houses prosected specimens. It has 14 double tables. CD-ROMs and radiological materials are available for students to view. There is also an Anatomy Tutorial room which may be booked for remedial tutorials or small group.



Student support

Support and pastoral care

Of all King's undergraduate programmes, medicine is one of the longest and most demanding. The College is committed to supplying a supportive environment for students and ensuring mechanisms are in place to support those who experience any difficulties during the course of their academic life.

Personal tutors and clinical advisors

The Personal Tutor system provides pastoral care for students in MBBS during Phases 1 and 2 of the programme. Students in Phases 3, 4 and 5 are supported through the Clinical Advisor system. Clinical Advisors are concerned with both pastoral care and academic progress. They would monitor your progress and seek to act in your interest to resolve problems which may arise during your studies.

The School also has an Education Advisor who provides support for students who experience study difficulties. The first days of your course will include sessions exploring some of the issues of studying medicine, giving you an opportunity to meet and work with others in your tutorial group.

The School also has a Disability Mentor who is responsible for supporting students with conditions that affect their ability to fully engage with or perform optimally in the programme.

Applying

Medicine is a demanding programme and career. No student is offered a place without first having undergone a rigorous selection process, including interview. The King's admissions process aims to select the applicants who are most able and show the greatest potential to become good doctors. You will be assessed not only in terms of your academic ability but also your extra-curricular activities, interests and talents, which contribute to our community and to your future as a member of the medical profession.

In line with the recommendations of the report *Fair admissions to higher education: recommendations for good practice* produced by the Admissions to Higher Education Review in 2004, King's will endeavour to consider other factors in addition to examination results, including the educational context of an applicant's formal achievement.

As well as achievement at formal examination, King's will look for other indicators of potential and capability.

Overview of the application process

Medicine is a very competitive programme. Approximately 400 medical students are selected from around 5,000 applications to King's each year.

We aim to ensure that students can cope with the heavy academic workload of the programme and possess the professional qualities, skills and attitudes that help to make a competent and caring medical professional.

All the available information – including exam results, UKCAT scores, personal statements and reference – is considered together in deciding who is selected for interview. Around 1,000 applicants are interviewed each year and offers are made to around half of those.

This is the sequence of a successful applicant's route through the process:

- ♦ *Summer 2011* sit UKCAT test.
- ♦ *Summer/autumn 2011* write personal statement and contact referee.
- ♦ *15 October 2011* deadline for submitting UCAS application.
- ♦ *November 2011 – April 2012* selected candidates invited to interview.
- ♦ Receive offer letter.
- ♦ *Late March – April 2012* attend a postoffer open day.
- ♦ *October 2012* (or 2013 for students deferring) begin MBBS programme.

Your UCAS choices

Applications must be made through UCAS, the organisation responsible for managing applications to higher education courses in the UK.

Only four of your five choices should be medicine programmes. (This is to ensure medical applicants have an 'insurance' option if they fail to get an MBBS place.) Please be assured that King's will consider you to have a full commitment to medicine even if you include non-health professional programme choices.

www.UCAS.com

The UK Clinical Aptitude Test

You are required to sit the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) in the summer prior to applying (except those applying for the A104 MaxFax Entry route).

The UKCAT tests skills that are useful in studying medicine are: verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, abstract reasoning, problem-solving and non-cognitive skills. Your UKCAT scores will be considered in our selection for interview. They will not be the sole indicator for selection, and will be balanced against achievement in other areas, in particular your academic performance to date. All indicators will be considered together in deciding who will be selected for interview. It is therefore important to understand that there is no universal 'cut off' score for the UKCAT when applying for 2012 entry. For example, if an applicant has an excellent academic background then the test scores will play a less significant part in selection. For those with weaker academic backgrounds (relative to our overall applicant pool), the scores will become more important. An applicant who may not normally be considered on academic grounds could be invited to interview on the strength of strong UKCAT scores that may indicate potential. Also, if applicants are very similar in all other ways, the scores may be the determining factor in selection for interview.

www.ukcat.ac.uk

Applying *continued*

Your personal statement

Your personal statement should explain your interest in medicine as well as your outside interests and achievements. We look for evidence that you:

- are committed to medicine
- appreciate the academic, physical and emotional demands of a medical degree and career
- have normally undertaken work experience in a caring environment and/or observation in a medical clinical setting or, if this has not been possible, interacted with the general public through work, eg in a pharmacy, check-out or restaurant
- have good communication skills
- have the ability to work successfully in a team
- have participated as fully as possible in school or college life
- have some experience of society beyond your immediate environment.

Your reference

We would expect your referee to be able to confirm your academic achievements and potential, and your character and suitability for medicine.

You must be available for interview in London to be considered for admission, and are expected to make every effort to attend the scheduled session. Interviews are held between November and April (late January to early February for overseas applicants), and applicants are usually sent an invitation two weeks before the date by email and post.

You will be sent an interview pack, including travel directions, a map and dress code. As we are seeking to identify your suitability for a clinical environment we expect interviewees to adopt the dress code required of clinical medical students at King's.

Although it may sometimes be possible to reschedule an interview, this is not the case with the GPEP programme (for which interviews are normally held over two days in January).

Advanced (A) and Advanced Subsidiary (AS) level qualifications

You will normally be expected to pass four subjects at AS and pursue and pass three of these at A-level. Alternatively, you may pass five subjects at AS and pursue and pass two at A-level. For many applicants, AS-level results will be available when your application is made through UCAS. These results will supplement your referee's A-level predictions but will not replace them for selection purposes. You may take all your examinations at the end of Year 13 (or equivalent) without prejudice to your application.

A/AS-level in General Studies & Critical Thinking

Please note that General Studies and Critical Thinking are not accepted as A or AS-levels.

English language requirements

To follow our programmes successfully, you must have a good command of English and be able to apply this in an academic environment. Therefore, you will usually be required to provide certificated proof of your competence in English before starting your studies. The requirement may be waived, but only if the College is satisfied that your previous academic record clearly demonstrates your ability to study and be examined in the English language. IELTS (7.0 overall with a minimum of at least 6.5 in all four skills), completion of an English Language pre-session course run by King's or one of the other tests listed on our website is usually acceptable. Please see www.kcl.ac.uk/ug/apply/langreq for more information.

More information on programmes run by King's English Language Centre can be found at www.kcl.ac.uk/elc

Re-sit applicants

Re-sit applicants are not considered except where there are extenuating circumstances. It is expected that all A/AS-level grades will be achieved within two years (eg during years 12 and 13). We are looking for applicants who can study and pass subjects to a high level within a specific time frame, as this will indicate that they are able to deal with the academic load of our medicine programme. You may re-sit individual units within A/AS-levels as appropriate without prejudice to your application. If you are re-sitting the whole examination, or will be taking more than two years to complete the qualification, your application will be considered if extenuating circumstances, as judged by the School of Medicine, contributed to an unexpected poor academic performance at the first sitting.

Re-marked examinations

If a re-mark means that you achieve the grades for entry and you had previously accepted an offer, then the place will be confirmed if documentation is available before 1 September 2011. If documentation is not available by then, a place will be reserved for you for the following year.

Taking a gap year?

We welcome applicants who wish to take a gap year. You should include evidence of how you will spend the year in your personal statement.

Mature applicants

Applicants with significant life experience are valued for the experience and qualities which they bring to King's. You must satisfy the normal entry requirements.

Notification of application

There continues to be considerable pressure on the available places for students to study Medicine. Applications to the School each year for our undergraduate medical programmes are around 5,000 for a total of 410 places. Around 1,200-1,400 applicants are selected for interview.

The School will invite all successful candidates for interview between November and April. Successful international applicants will be offered interviews in either late January or early February.

The School aims to notify all applicants of its final decisions by early May each year.

Applying *continued*

Entry requirements

Medicine Programme MBBS (Five years)	
UCAS Code	A100
Application to offer ratio	5:1
Places	335
A/AS levels	AAA at A-level & B at one separate AS-level.
Compulsory subjects	Chemistry and Biology, at least one at A-level, the other may be at AS-level. We welcome applicants who offer non-science subjects chosen from the range of humanities, languages and social sciences.
GCSE requirements	Grade B in English Language and Mathematics if either of these are not offered at A or AS-level.
Other qualifications	We welcome applicants who offer qualifications equivalent to A-level (as deemed by King's College London) who have studied Biology and Chemistry. Details of other UK and International qualifications can be found on our website or by contacting the Student Admissions Office.
Graduate applicants	An upper second class undergraduate honours degree (any subject), plus a pass at A/AS-level Chemistry and Biology (or at least A/AS Chemistry or Biology, with a unit/module in the other subject). Alternatively, a lower second class undergraduate honours degree with a postgraduate masters degree with at least a merit. Non-UK graduates with the equivalent of the above will be considered.
Appitute test	The UKCAT must be sat in the summer before the UCAS deadline. More details, including sample tests, can be found at www.ukcat.ac.uk . UKCAT results are valid for one year only.
Professional requirements	The initial and continued enrolment of all students is conditional upon full Criminal Records Bureau and Occupational Health Clearance.
Application deadline	15 October 2011

Medicine Graduate/Professional Entry Programme MBBS (Four years)	
UCAS Code	A102
Application to offer ratio	46:1 (or 18:1 including offers for A100)
Places	28
Compulsory subjects	Any subject is considered.
Non-UK degrees	Applications will be considered from non-UK graduates with the equivalent of the requirements for 'Graduate applicants' listed below.
Graduate applicants	At least an upper second class undergraduate honours, or a lower second class undergraduate honours degree combined with a postgraduate masters degree with at least a merit.
Professional applicants	Health service professionals without an honours degree but with appropriate post-qualification experience may be considered. Diploma of Higher Education in Nursing will be considered with at least two years nursing work experience.
Appitute test	The UKCAT must be sat in the summer before the UCAS deadline. More details, including sample tests, can be found at www.ukcat.ac.uk . UKCAT results are valid for one year only.
Professional requirements	The initial and continued enrolment of all students is conditional upon full Criminal Records Bureau and Occupational Health Clearance.
Application deadline	15 October 2011

Medicine MaxFax Entry Programme MBBS (Four years)

UCAS Code	A104
Application to offer ratio	3:1
Places	2
Entrance requirement	Applicants must be qualified dentists, registered with the UK General Dental Council.
Other qualifications	Applicants must wish to pursue a career in oral and maxillo-facial surgery or oral medicine/pathology.
Aptitude test	Not applicable.
Professional requirements	The initial and continued enrolment of all students is conditional upon full Criminal Records Bureau and Occupational Health Clearance.
Application deadline	15 January 2012

Extended Medical Degree Programme (Six years)

UCAS Code	A101
Application to offer ratio	9:1
Places	50
A/AS levels	BBC-AAA.
Compulsory subjects	Three A Levels, including Chemistry, one additional science or mathematical subject, and any other subject.
GCSE requirements	Grade C at English Language and Maths, if not offered at A/AS-level.
Other qualifications	Please note, only Home/EU applicants are considered for this programme. To be eligible applicants must be studying in an eligible non-selective state school in London, Kent or Medway. Please see our online prospectus for detailed eligibility criteria.
Aptitude test	The UKCAT must be sat in the summer before the UCAS deadline. More details, including sample tests, can be found at www.ukcat.ac.uk . UKCAT results are valid for one year only. In addition, the College runs a PQA test in early December to help select applicants for interview.
Professional requirements	The initial and continued enrolment of all students is conditional upon full Criminal Records Bureau and Occupational Health Clearance.
Application deadline	15 October 2011

Applying *continued*

About the interview

The interview assesses your personal qualities, potential to become a member of the medical profession, what you are able to contribute to College life, and communication skills. Interviews last between 15 and 30 minutes (depending on the programme you are applying for) and are normally conducted by at least two senior staff members. Your personal statement will form the basis of the interview, which normally covers your extra-curricular activities and your commitment both to a career in medicine and to the community.

Before the interview, you will be given a questionnaire to complete and an ethical case study to read and consider. You will be asked to comment on the case study during the interview.

Interviews for the GPEP and EMDP programmes are slightly different: you will meet a number of interviewers at different 'stations', in an assessment that takes around 90 minutes in total. Interview questions are structured and the interviewers will not have access to your UCAS form.

Offers of places

We aim to notify all interviewees in writing of our decision around a fortnight after their interview. Some will hear earlier but at busy times interviewees may have to wait a little longer for a decision.

Applicants are ranked at interview and those who perform particularly well are offered a place first, while those who perform less well, but still to a high standard, are placed on a waiting list. At the end of the interview period, all the applicants on the waiting list are compared, with all the elements of their applications being taken into consideration, before a final decision is made.

Applicants for the GPEP programme will be informed of the result of the interview as soon as possible but this could be several weeks afterwards. Performance at interview will determine whether an offer for a four- or five-year course is made. To fill 28 places, approximately 35 offers are made for the GPEP, to the highest scoring interviewees. Further offers (usually another 40) are then made for the five-year programme. If these candidates accept this alternative offer, they act as a reserve if four-year GPEP places become available. If places do not become available they enter the five-year programme in the normal way.

Post-Offer Open Days

If you receive an offer for an MBBS programme, you will be invited to attend one of our Post-Offer Open Days. We encourage those holding offers to take these opportunities to learn more about the programme and what it is like to study at King's. You will also have the opportunity to meet students and take tours of the Guy's Campus and accommodation.

EU and international applicants

King's warmly welcomes applicants from the EU and further afield. EU and international applicants must satisfy the normal entry requirements. There is no quota on the number of EU students but the UK Government restricts the number of international students to approximately 7.5 per cent of our annual intake.

Meeting requirements and conditions

When your final results are known you will be accepted by King's if you reach the required grades. In a few cases, if you do not meet the academic requirements of our offer, it may still be possible to confirm your place if you have accepted us as your Firm choice. This will depend on the availability of places, and if we were particularly impressed with your application and interview. We also look for evidence of high achievement in other examinations such as GCSE, A-level and UKCAT and consider any mitigating circumstances such as illness in the period leading up to and during examinations. Your school or college will be required to confirm in writing that the relevant exam boards were not notified of your mitigating circumstances, and if not they must provide an explanation as to why. Any applicant offering a master's degree or PhD must ensure that they will be able to satisfactorily complete their studies by August 2011. Holders of conditional offers must supply complete examination results (including final grades) by 1 September 2011.

Health clearance

Any offer of a place at King's is subject to satisfactory health clearance by our Occupational Health Service. This is:

- to ensure that you are medically 'fit to practise' for the proposed course of study.
- to advise, where necessary, on any reasonable adjustments, so that any underlying health problem is not made worse by work.
- to ensure that you do not have a medical condition which could pose a risk to your safety or to that of your colleagues, patients or members of the public.
- to help us identify if there is a risk of developing a work-related illness from any hazards in the proposed workplace.

We recommend that all students are appropriately protected against chicken pox, measles, mumps and rubella (German measles), meningitis C and tuberculosis prior to enrolment. The Department of Health has published guidelines recommending that all new healthcare workers involved in exposure-prone procedures should be routinely tested for HIV antibody, hepatitis B surface antigen and hepatitis C antibody prior to receiving health clearance. As medical students may be involved in exposure-prone procedures, King's offers appropriate blood tests to this group of students.

The final health clearance decision on your admission to, or continued enrolment on, the MBBS programme will be made by the School of Medicine based upon recommendations from the Occupational Health Service.

Criminal Records Bureau clearance

All offers of places on King's medicine programmes, and continued enrolment, are made subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Enhanced Disclosure. All applicants should declare on their UCAS form if they have any spent or unspent convictions, cautions or reprimands. A copy of the King's policy for recruitment of students who are ex-offenders, use and storage of CRB Disclosure information and the CRB Code of Practice is available on request. Failure to complete the UCAS form correctly, or the disclosure process satisfactorily, may result in exclusion, suspension or other disciplinary action.

Applying *continued*

Applicants with disabilities and/or special needs

King's is keen to encourage applicants from all sections of the community, including those with disabilities/special needs, so that the medical profession is diverse and representative.

When applying to medicine there are two reasons why you should indicate any disability/special need on your UCAS application. Firstly, as the medical programme leads to professional registration, in accordance with General Medical Council guidance, applicants with disabilities can be considered provided their disability would not prevent them from completing all parts of the programme and thus restrict their medical practice to certain activities without reasonable adjustments. King's has a duty to ensure that only students who are 'fit to practise' their chosen career are admitted to and graduate from the MBBS programme. Also, any applicant who feels that a disability/special need may compromise their fitness to practise has a responsibility to protect themselves and the patients with whom they will come into contact.

When you tell us about a disability/special need, it will not be considered in the main selection procedure. If you are offered a place and accept it as your Firm choice you will be referred to Occupational Health who will make a formal assessment, as part of the normal Occupational Health appointment and clearance. Each offer holder is considered on an individual basis, according to how the disability or health condition affects you. No general rules apply regarding particular conditions. Occupational Health recommendations will then be passed to the School of Medicine, who will make the final decision. Once the requirement of 'fitness to practise' is dealt with, any details on your disability/special needs will assist the College in providing any support you may need during your programme and to make sure that anything required is in place at the start of the academic year. Any information you provide about a disability/special need will be processed sensitively and confidentially in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

For further information, or to arrange a pre-application information visit relating to your disability/special need, please contact Michelle Robinson, School of Medicine Disability Adviser (telephone: 020 7188 9665) or King's College London Disability Support Officer (telephone: 020 7848 3890; email equality@kcl.ac.uk).

Equal opportunities policy

King's College London is committed to promoting and developing equality of opportunity in all areas of its work. In order to achieve this aim, the College seeks to:

- ensure that prospective and current students, job applicants and members of staff are treated solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential without any unjustified discrimination on grounds of age, sex, disability, family circumstances, race, colour, nationality, citizenship, ethnic origin, social and economic status, religious belief, sexual orientation, marital status or other irrelevant distinction.
- promote good relations between individuals from different groups.
- recognise and develop the diversity of skills and talent within both its current and potential staff and student body.
- foster a culture based on trust and mutual respect.
- undertake a programme of action to make equality policies effective.
- monitor progress towards achieving equality of opportunity on a regular basis.
- communicate to staff, students, associates and others the promotion of equal opportunities and College procedures to sustain it.

Contact and further information

Contact

Student Admissions Office
King's College London
Hodgkin Building
Guy's Campus
London Bridge
London SE1 1UL

Telephone 020 7848 6501/6502

Email ug-healthadmissions@kcl.ac.uk

Admission to King's College London is subject to the requirement that you will comply with the College's enrolment procedure and will duly observe the Charter, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations of the College and the University of London.

Finding out more

For information about undergraduate study at King's College London including accommodation, fees and funding, open days, please visit www.kcl.ac.uk/study/ug

For further detail on the MBBS programme, including student video profiles, image galleries of campuses and a downloadable version of this guide visit: www.kcl.ac.uk/medicine

For research, student and staff news updates, follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/kingsmedicine>

For more information about King's Health Partners: www.kingshealthpartners.org

Disclaimer

The following message includes some very important information. Please read it before you use this prospectus. This prospectus was printed in the autumn of 2010. It contains information on undergraduate programmes that King's College London intends to run if you are planning to start university in the autumn of 2012.

The College has made every effort to ensure that the information provided is both helpful and accurate, and that it is as up-to-date as possible. However, this information is subject to change.

Some circumstances (such as staff changes or resource limitations over which the College has no control) or the level of demand for a particular course or programme, or changes resulting from the new credit framework, may result in the College having to withdraw or change aspects of the programmes detailed in this prospectus. This could include, but not necessarily be limited to, programme/course content, staffing, the location where the programme/course is taught, and the facilities provided to deliver the programme.

You should note that, in the event of such circumstance occurring, the College cannot accept liability for any claims or costs or damages made by you arising from any change to, or withdrawal of, a programme/course that you intended to study. For this reason it is particularly important that you should check the website for updates (www.kcl.ac.uk/gsp) or contact the College using the contact details contained in this prospectus.

www.kcl.ac.uk/medicine

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