

Healthcare Entry Medicine (HEM) Admissions FAQs

Can I apply for more than one medicine courses in the same year (e.g. Healthcare Entry (HEM), Graduate Entry (GEM), Standard 5 year)?

Yes, you can. These courses however have different requirements, and we strongly suggest that you review the programme entry requirements on our website and speak to our admissions team about which of those courses is most suited to you. For those of you who meet the criteria for HEM and GEM (e.g. dentists) please consider whether you want to undertake a programme that revisits the biosciences, anatomy and physiology and has reduced early clinical content (HEM), or whether you wish to bypass the former content and have a fuller early clinical experience with immersion into the main MBBS cohort from the start of the programme (GEM).

If I apply for Healthcare Entry but am not successful, would I automatically be considered for Graduate Entry if I meet the criteria?

Unfortunately not – we do not make alternative offers for other Medicine programmes for those who are unsuccessful in applying for their original choice

What do you place the most weight upon? Prior degree, personal statement, UCAT or interview etc?

There is a sequential process to your application being considered, the last of which is the interview, so issues such as weighting are difficult to quantify. Clinical experience and prior degree qualifications are non-negotiable – they must be in place for your application to be considered. Your personal statement needs to be satisfactory. If all of these are in place, it is your UCAT score that we use primarily to invite you to interview. If you are invited to a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) our final decision is then based on how you perform at interview.

Is there a cut off score for the UCAT? What is the average score you accept?

There is no cut off score as UCAT is used in combination with the rest of your application in the shortlisting process. What is deemed a competitive score varies each year and will depend on the performance of other students applying to King's. As HEM is a new programme, we don't have past UCAT scores to compare against. Because of this, we can't provide an estimated cut-off score or an average score for applicants.

Are international places available?

HEM is only available to 'home students'. This is defined as someone with settled status in UK and its associated territories for at least three years prior to the start of the course and who is ordinarily resident in UK on first day of their course.

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/eligibility-for-home-fee-status-and-student-support-in-england/>

Are qualifications from abroad accepted?

Please see our website for the international criteria we accept – if you have others you would like to query please do so with the Kings admissions team.

Is there an upper age limit?

No.

What is the ratio of applications to offers?

This depends on a number of factors. HEM is a new programme therefore we have no available data about competition ratios.

What is the standard interview process? Will it be face-to-face?

Interviews will likely be online. It will be an MMI (Multiple Mini Interview) format. This involves around 7 stations, each with a different interviewer, asking one question each.

When will I hear about whether I am being made an offer on the programme?

Once you have been interviewed offers will be made. The offer window can last up to May of the academic year.

How many places are available on this course?

Ten for 2026/27 and 2027/8. We project expansion to 40 from 2028/9 onwards.

Can I continue to work while I study?

This is a full-time accelerated course, meaning that aspects of the course are compressed and are of greater intensity than our standard programme. We know that some students choose to work alongside their full-time studies, but it is important that you carefully consider how you will balance this with the demands of studying. There will be self-directed study days built into the programme design in the first year and you can manage that time flexibly- for example you may decide that it suits you better to allocate home study time to the weekend rather than the allocated weekday.

What funding is available?

Graduate entry medical degree programmes are eligible for NHS bursary and Student Finance England support. Please see here for further information <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-bursary>, <https://studentfinance.campaign.gov.uk/>. Be aware that while you can also apply for our standard 5-year programme, the financial supports available via Student Finance England and NHS bursary are impacted by having undertaken a prior degree.

Do I have to have completed my degree within the last five years?

No, there is no time cap on when you completed your degree.

What counts as two years full-time experience working in a patient-facing role?

You must have at least two years of full-time experience in a patient facing role in the healthcare field of qualification at the point of applying for HEM (not at the point of commencing HEM). Your two years' experience must be in an NHS role for which you hold the corresponding degree. Time spent working in other healthcare roles unrelated to your degree, such as Health Care Assistant, will not count towards these two years. Patient facing practice hours accrued during your study placements do not count towards the two years, nor does lab work. You must not have been out of clinical practice for more than two years prior to starting HEM.

How will I be expected to demonstrate my two years' patient facing working experience in healthcare?

We will ask you to provide a letter from your line manager confirming you have at least two years full time equivalent patient facing working experience.

Would people with more years of clinical experience be considered over those with the minimum two years?

No, not necessarily. We consider a range of elements before shortlisting for interview.

Is there an option for Approval of Prior Learning so I can complete the degree programme more quickly?

No, all modules and course elements are mandatory for all students on this programme.

What is the degree requirement for HEM?

You are eligible for HEM if you hold either a Bachelor's degree of 2:1 classification or above, or if you have a Master's degree. The degree must be in the healthcare field in which you work. A 2:2 degree will not be accepted, nor will a degree in a non-healthcare subject, even if you have gone on to work as a healthcare professional. If you have a Bachelor's degree in a non-healthcare subject but you have gone on to do a Master's related to your healthcare field then you will be eligible. If you have a 2:2 in your Bachelor's degree then unfortunately you will not be eligible, irrespective of having gone on to do a Master's degree in your healthcare field. Please note GCSEs and A-levels are not considered within the admissions process.

Who can I contact for further advice about my eligibility for Healthcare Entry Medicine?

Please email newstudents@kcl.ac.uk and see this webpage for further details on contacting the admissions team <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/contact-us>

The Medicine Course/Life at King's

What format do assessments take?

We have four main assessment methods, there is an in-year retake opportunity for all types:

1. **E-Portfolio**

At King's, our focus is to develop professionals, and the professional approach begins from the very start of the course with our E-Portfolio: a series of small and important tasks that recognise your ongoing growth. Professional standards and ways of working is something that you continually grow throughout the course and indeed throughout your medical career.

2. **Progress Tests**

Single best answer knowledge-based assessments, in stages two and three are our own brand of progress testing. With this type of assessment you gain experience with the types of questions we ask as well as your understanding of the topics, and you can get feedback about how you've done in order to grow for future progress tests. In Stage 1 single best answer question papers take a more traditional approach.

3. **Essays and Project-Based Assessments**

Project assessments take the form of essays together with engagement measures.

4. **Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs)**

We assess you clinically through objective structured clinical examinations (OSCEs) which happen in years 2 and 4 to give you feedback on how you're doing (formative assessment). In years 3 and 5 these are summative assessments, i.e. you must pass in order to progress.

What are the timings of a typical day? Does this allow me the option of a part time job alongside my degree?

Medicine is a full-time degree. During the earlier years of the programme it is more or less 9-5. In the later years as you work more clinically, it is important to be able to stay for extended hours when necessary. It is possible to have a part time job and do the degree (for example many of our students are King's Student Ambassadors which allows for flexible working), but you should make sure it doesn't interfere with your study.

Is there a student society for medical students?

Our Medical Student's Association is a vibrant society that work with the faculty to help shape policy. They have a great social programme and are strong on diversity, student support and understanding the complexities of being a medical student.



How diverse would you describe the environment at King's?

King's is incredibly diverse, reflective of the average street in London. We have a hugely rich cultural mix at King's and the university all the better for that