

Medicine Admissions FAQs

Can I make all five applications for medicine?

No – only 4 out of your 5 choices can be Medicine. You have a free choice in what your fifth choice is, and it can be at any of the universities that you have applied to for Medicine, or any other university.

Can I apply for two medicine courses in the same year (e.g. graduate entry, extended programme etc)?

Yes you can. These courses however have different requirements and given that you only have four medicine choices on your UCAS form, we strongly suggest that you review the programme entry requirements on our website, seek advice from your school/advisors and speak to our admissions team about which of those courses is most suited to you.

If I apply/am eligible for the Extended Medical Degree Programme (ACORN etc) but I am predicted higher than the entry requirements, would I still be considered?

Yes, that is fine. There are no maximum entry criteria for the EMDP programme – it is much more about whether you feel that you would benefit from the additional support.

If I apply for Graduate Entry but am not successful, would I automatically be considered for A100?

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 look for in personal statements and interview?

We look for personal statements that are clear, concise and relevant. They should demonstrate and include where possible:

- You have a clear understanding of the reality of working in medicine
- Work experience (such as shadowing doctors, voluntary work in healthcare setting etc)

Our advice is to be honest about yourself, demonstrate that you've reflected on what you've learnt, what that tells you about yourself and why you want to study medicine. Ask someone you trust to read it and feedback. Make sure everything you say is true and don't try too hard to stand out.

What If I can't get work experience?

We do not require you to have undertaken work experience, as we know that this is not always possible. The most important thing is to really think about the experiences that you have had (jobs, extra-curricular activities, clubs and societies), and reflect on what you have gained from taking part in them that might be transferrable to a career in Medicine.

Do I need to tailor my personal statement to include my non-medicine choice(s)?

You should write it for Medicine. Admissions teams for other courses understand that Medicine is generally the primary aim of the application, so the general advice is always to tailor your personal statement to Medicine rather than the additional science courses.

What do you place the most weight upon? A Levels, 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. We consider A-level grades, UCAT, Personal statements and GCSE grades when shortlisting for interview. If you are invited to an 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. We are therefore unable to provide an average score.

How many international places are there per year?

This is always subject to change, but is usually around 30 places per year.

What is the ratio of applications to offers?

It varies year to year and between the programmes, somewhere between approximately 10% and 25% of candidates are made offers.

What proportion of applicants get to interview? What proportion of interviewees get offered a place?

We run sufficient interviews each year to be able to provide the numbers of offers we require to translate into enrolling students. This varies between the programme, but in total on average it is in the order of approximately 30% (last year we interviewed approximately 1100 students)

Approximately half of the people invited to interview will be made an offer, but this also varies significantly by programme.

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

For 2024 entry interviews will be online. It will be an MMI (Multiple Mini Interview) format. This involves 7 stations, each run by a different member of staff, asking one question each.

Are resits accepted?

Where an applicant has taken longer than three years to complete their exams, only applicants with significant mitigating circumstances will be considered if they have resits. When they apply, a Mitigating Circumstances form should also be submitted.

Is there any flexibility on the A level/IB requirements?

Medicine is a very competitive course and as such there is no flexibility on the academic entry requirements. A full list of entry requirements can be found on the specific course page on our website.

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.

Is intercalation mandatory?

Intercalation is no longer mandatory, but we would certainly recommend it as a great opportunity to achieve a degree in one year, and work towards a particular speciality that you might be interested in. We have a very wide range of iBSc degrees available, and if we do not offer a subject you wish to study, you can study elsewhere for that year.

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.

Does the course use problem-based learning?

Problem-based learning is learning around problems in small groups with very little input from the teacher, who facilitates but doesn't direct learning. There is a little emphasis on this as an opportunity to develop learning skills in our Extended Medical Degree Programme, but not otherwise. We make extensive use of case-based learning. This is a similar principle of taking a problem and working on it, but with more input from the teacher.

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