

Medicine @ UK unis - quick facts

Top 20*

1 Oxford	A*AA	11 Aberdeen ***	AAA
2 Cambridge	A*A*A	12 Bristol	AAA
3 Glasgow	AAA	13 UCL	A*AA
4 Swansea **	2.1	14 Newcastle	AAA
5 Edinburgh	AAA	15 Cardiff	AAA
6 Dundee	AAA	16 Lancaster	AAA
7 Imperial	AAA	17 KCL	A*AA
8 Queen Mary	A*AA	18 Sheffield	AAA
9 Keele	AAA	19 Leeds	AAA
10 Exeter	AAA	20 Plymouth	A*AA

* Complete University Guide April 2020 ** graduate entry only *** you have to live in Scotland to apply here

Must haves

Chemistry A Level plus at least one other science; biology sometimes specified as well. You will need to take the UCAT or BMAT dependent on which universities you apply to.

Other degrees to consider

Biomedical sciences, pharmacology, pharmacy, biotechnology, physiotherapy, physiology, genetics, biochemistry, forensic biology, biological sciences, cellular & molecular medicine, applied anatomy.

Example course modules

Medicine is a broad subject and to succeed you need to be genuinely interested in how the human body works and have a concern for the welfare of others. The demanding five-year course will furnish you with a foundation of knowledge in the art, science and craft of medicine. You'll have a blend of lectures, case-based learning and practical work and will gain clinical exposure in hospital, community & primary care sectors. Modules could include body systems; patients, doctors & society; nutrition, metabolism & endocrinology; thought, senses & movement; human reproduction; behavioural sciences; core epidemiology; biochemistry. It's a good idea to do voluntary work or take an elective (a period of clinical experience) while studying for your degree. Some students spend an additional year at medical school studying for an intercalated degree – this involves taking a year out to do research or study in a different, usually science-related, area.

Contact hours per week: 20, on average. (Average all subjects 14.)

Career prospects

Armed with relevant practical and clinical skills, most medicine graduates go on to become doctors and undertake the 2-year UK Foundation Programme in order to practise medicine in the UK. You register with the GMC after successfully completing the first year. You can specialise in a number of areas to become, for example, a surgeon, anaesthetist, cardiologist, radiologist, neurologist, ophthalmologist, pathologist or GP. Alternatively, you could follow a research path or become a science writer. The oral and written communication skills, logical reasoning, decision making and other transferable skills you gain in your degree will make you attractive to a range of other employers too.

Average starting salary: £30,000