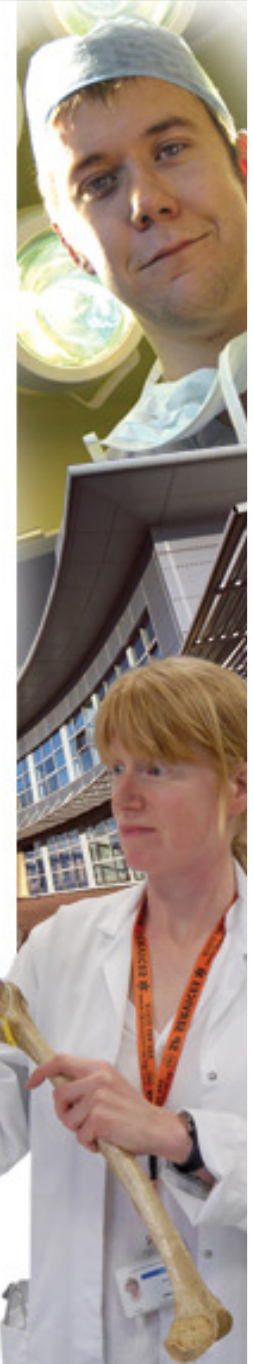


# Medicine

## Routes of entry and entry requirements

Dr Gordon Dent  
Director of Admissions and  
Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology  
Keele University School of Medicine

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# Areas for discussion

- The qualities you need
- The admissions process

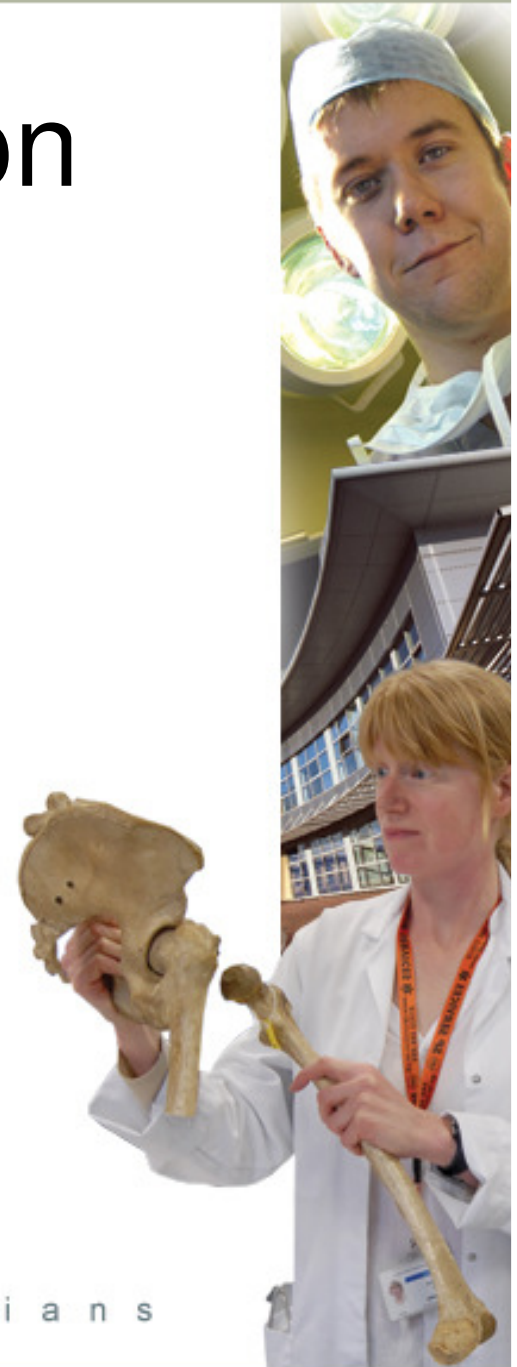
UCAS

Selection

Interview

- Choosing a school

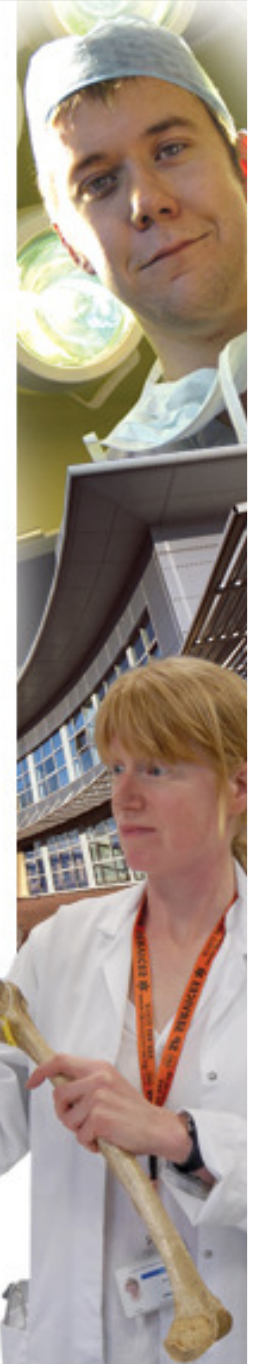
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# What are we looking for?

- Academic ability
- Commitment
- Awareness of what medicine involves
- Healthy work/life balance
- Capacity for self-directed learning
- Good communication and team working skills
- Empathy/understanding/desire to help

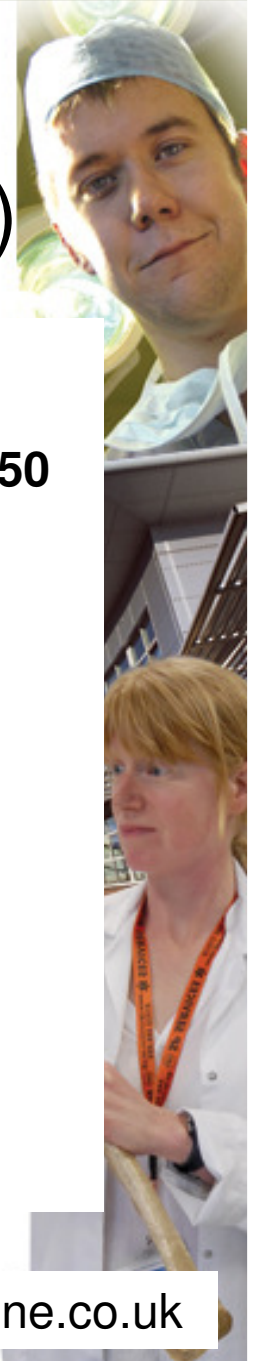
G r a d u a t i n g   E x c e l l e n t   C l i n i c i a n s



# What are your chances?

(number of home student places 2011)

<b>Aberdeen</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>Leeds</b>	<b>243</b>
<b>Barts &amp; The London</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>Leicester</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>Birmingham</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>Liverpool</b>	<b>268 + 50</b>
<b>Brighton &amp; Sussex</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>Manchester</b>	<b>380</b>
<b>Bristol</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>Newcastle</b>	<b>327</b>
<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>Nottingham</b>	<b>249</b>
<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>Oxford</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Dundee</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>Peninsula</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>East Anglia</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>Queen's Belfast</b>	<b>262</b>
<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>Sheffield</b>	<b>241</b>
<b>Glasgow</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>Southampton</b>	<b>206</b>
<b>Hull/York</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>St Andrew's</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Imperial</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>St George's</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Keele</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>University College</b>	<b>330</b>
<b>Kings College London</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>London</b>	

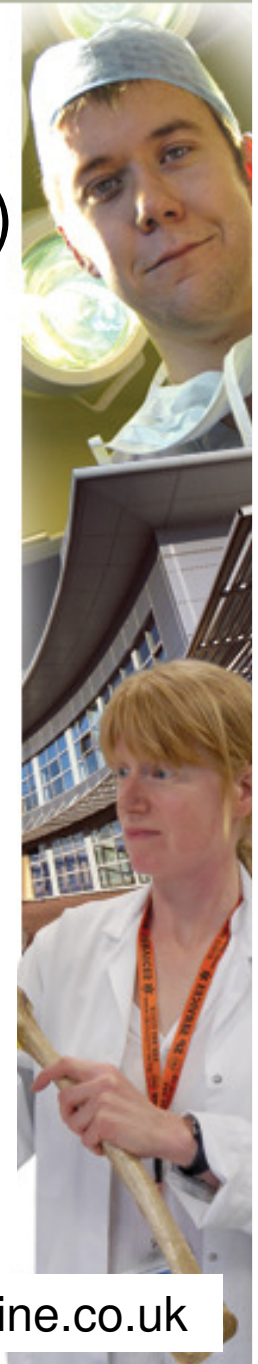


Five-year standard entry programmes. Source: <http://www.medschoolsonline.co.uk>

# What are your chances?

(proportion of applicants receiving offer 2010)

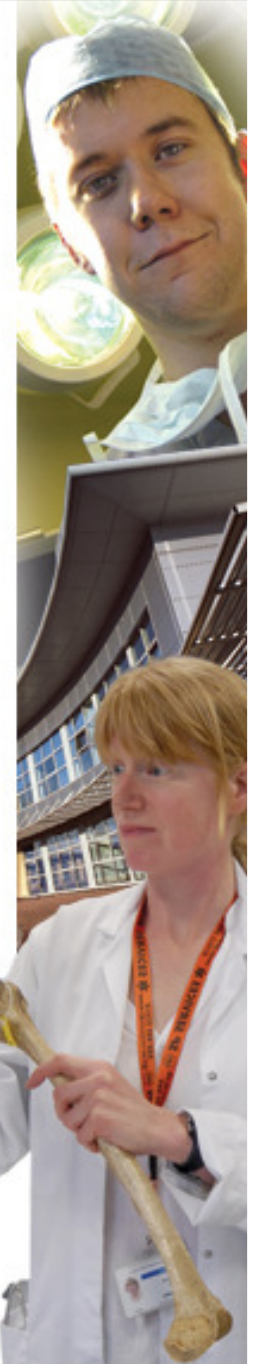
<b>Aberdeen</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>Leeds</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Barts &amp; The London</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>Leicester</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Birmingham</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>Liverpool</b>	
<b>Brighton &amp; Sussex</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>Manchester</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Bristol</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>Newcastle</b>	
<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>Nottingham</b>	
<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>Oxford</b>	
<b>Dundee</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>Peninsula</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>East Anglia</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>Queen's Belfast</b>	
<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>Sheffield</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Glasgow</b>		<b>Southampton</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Hull/York</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>St Andrew's</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Imperial</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>St George's</b>	
<b>Keele</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>University College</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Kings College London</b>		<b>London</b>	



Five-year standard entry programmes. Source: <http://www.medschoolsonline.co.uk>

# Routes of entry

- **A104 Health Foundation Year for Medicine (6 years including foundation year)**
  - For students with academic qualifications of appropriate standard but lacking specific science qualifications
- **A100 Standard Entry (5 years)**
  - For students with appropriate academic qualifications
- **A101 Graduate Entry (4 years)**
  - For graduates in any discipline



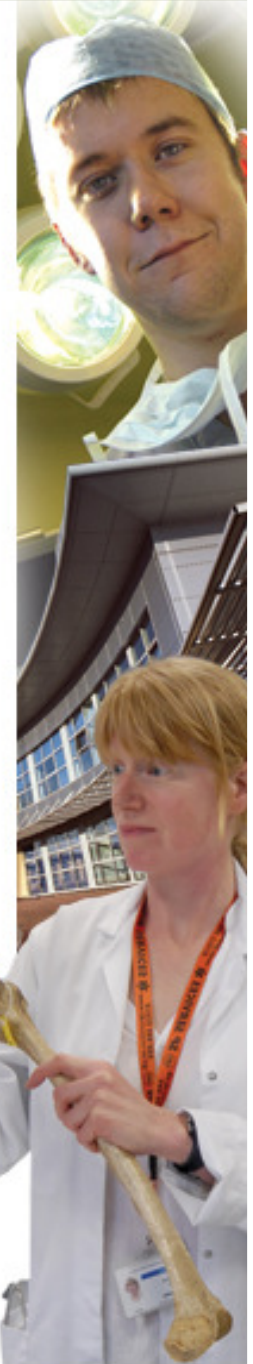
# A100 MBChB

- GCSE
  - Minimum of 4 A\*/A grades (unless with verified extenuating circumstances)
  - Minimum grade B in
    - English language
    - Mathematics
    - Any science not offered at AS or A2
  - Overseas equivalents judged on an individual basis



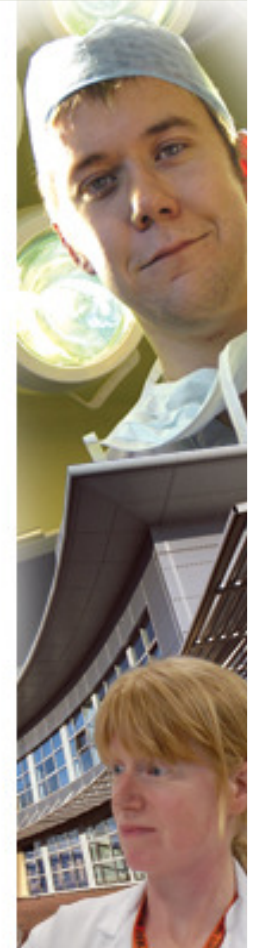
# A100 MBChB

- A-level
  - Standard offer 360 UCAS Tariff points from 3 A levels, with no less than a B grade in any subject
  - Chemistry required at minimum of AS grade B
  - Either Chemistry or Biology required at A2, plus:
    - at least one additional “hard” science (physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics)
    - one additional rigorous academic subject assessed predominantly by externally marked examinations
  - 3 A Levels plus 4<sup>th</sup> AS grade B must be completed within 2 year period



# A100 MBChB

- International Baccalaureate
  - Standard offer 35 points
  - Higher level (grade 6 minimum):
    - Chemistry or Biology plus one additional “hard” science and one additional rigorous academic subject
  - Standard level (grades 6, 6, 5)
    - any academic subjects
  - Theory of Knowledge/Extended Essay not currently taken into account



# A100 MBChB

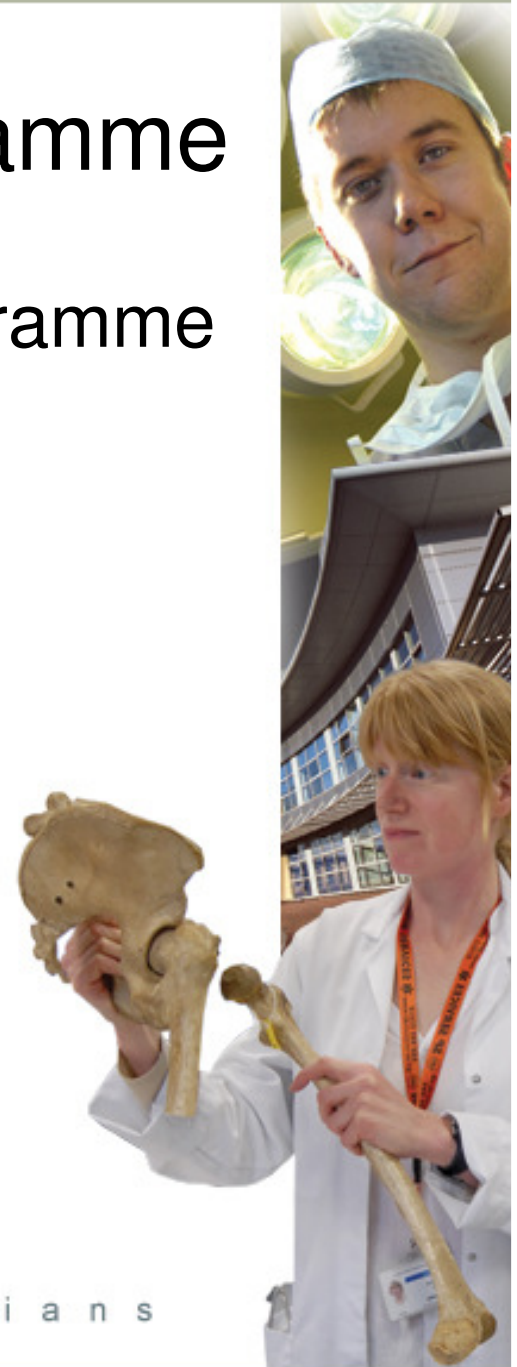
- Degree
  - Graduates holding – or expecting to attain – a 2:1 in a relevant science subject may apply for A100 or A101 (see next slide)
  - Requirements for GCSE English language and mathematics still apply
  - Applications dealt with individually: may require specific A-levels or evidence of degree course content
  - Graduate applicants to A100 must have taken UKCAT (see later slides)



# A101 Graduate-Entry Programme

- Direct entry to year 2 of MBChB programme
- Last year programme set to recruit to
- Degree
  - Minimum 2:i in any subject(s)
- No overseas students (currently)
- Applicants to A101 must have taken GAMSAT (see later slides)

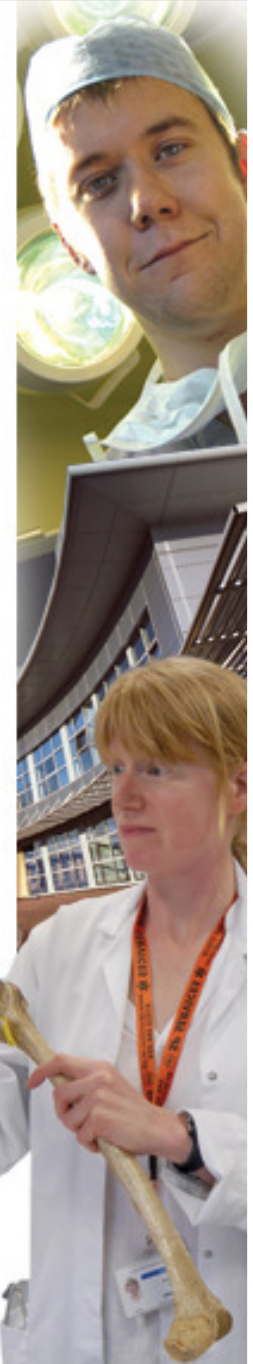
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# A104 Health Foundation Year for Medicine

- Open to entrants with 360 UCAS Tariff points but without A-level biology or chemistry (no less than a B in any subject) plus 4<sup>th</sup> AS Subject
- Other level-3 qualifications considered (including Access to HE but not Access to Medicine)
- Shared health foundation year with pharmacy, nursing and physiotherapy students

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# Aptitude tests

## **GAMSAT**

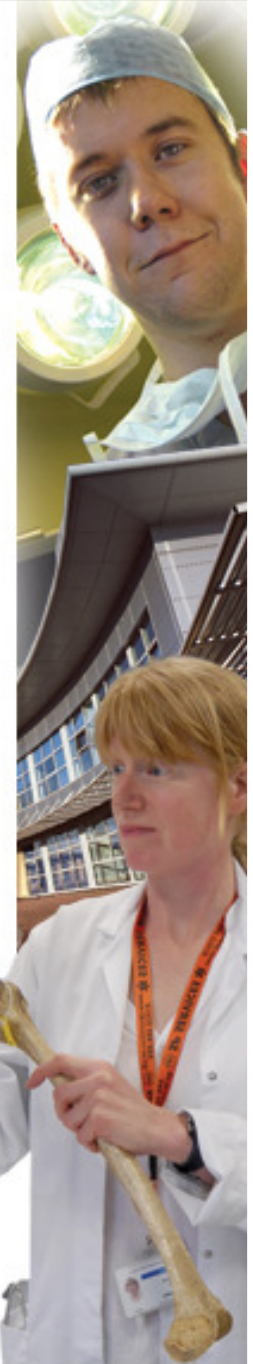
- Graduate entry programmes (St George's, Derby, Swansea, Peninsula, **Keele**)

## **BMAT** (Biomedical Admissions Test)

- Standard 5-year programmes (Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial College, University College London)

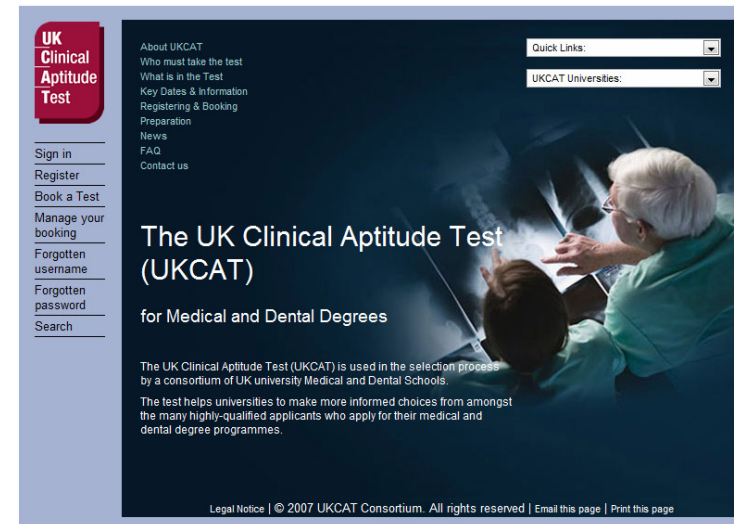
## **UKCAT** (UK Clinical Aptitude Test)

- Majority of medical schools, including Oxford and Imperial graduate entry programmes



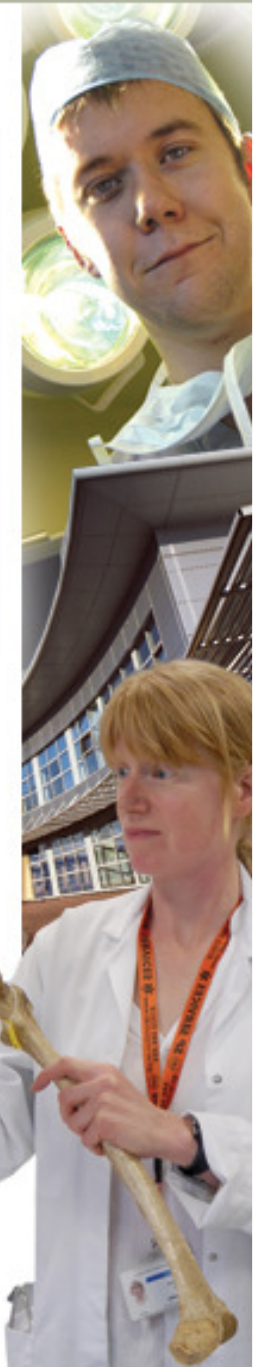
# Universities using UKCAT (2011 entry)

**Aberdeen University**  
**Brighton and Sussex Medical School**  
**Barts and The London School of  
Medicine and Dentistry**  
**Cardiff University**  
**Dundee University**  
**Durham University**  
**East Anglia University**  
**Edinburgh University**  
**Glasgow University**  
**Hull York Medical School**  
**Imperial College**  
**Keele University**  
**King's College University of London**  
**Imperial College London Graduate  
Entry**  
**Leeds University**  
**Leicester University**  
**Manchester University**  
**Newcastle University**



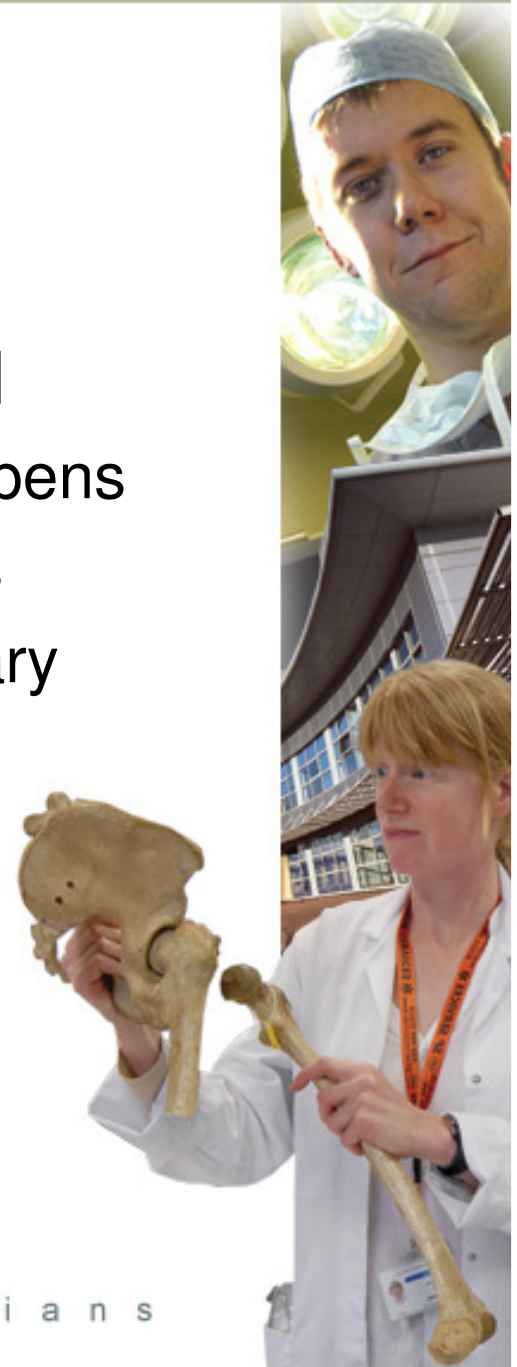
**Nottingham University**  
**Oxford Graduate Entry  
Medical Degree**  
**Peninsula Medical School**  
**Queen's University, Belfast**  
**Sheffield University**  
**Southampton University**  
**St George's Medical School,  
University of London**  
**Warwick University Graduate Entry**

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# UKCAT

- Four subtests
  - Verbal reasoning
  - Abstract reasoning
  - Quantitative reasoning
  - Decision analysis
- Important dates 2011
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> May – registration opens
  - 5<sup>th</sup> July – testing begins
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> September – bursary application deadline
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> September – registration/exemption deadline
  - 7<sup>th</sup> October – last test
  - 15<sup>th</sup> October – UCAS application deadline**



# Work experience

- It does not have to be with a doctor/in a hospital
- Sustained caring work is an advantage
- Reflection on what you have gained from it is important
  - Why did you do it?
  - What did you do?
  - What did you learn?

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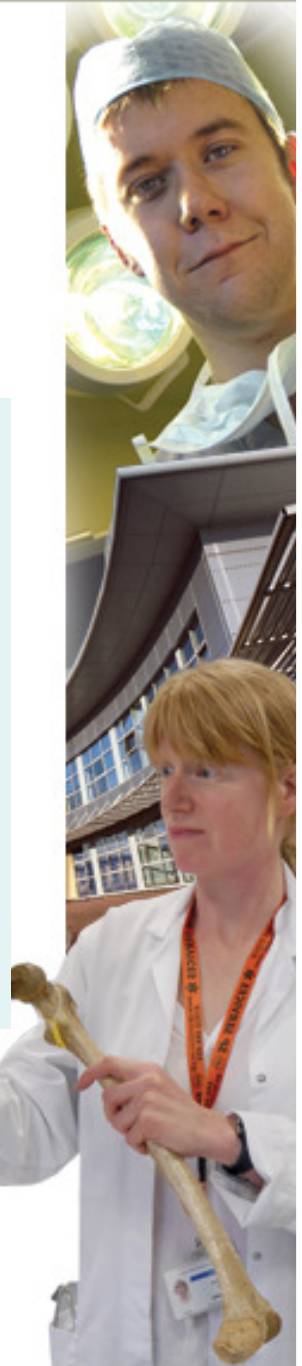


# Personal statements

- Broadly similar criteria looked for by most medical schools
  - motivation
  - experience
  - interests
  - communication
  - team working
- Show, don't tell

UCAS/admissions teams aware of plagiarism of personal statements

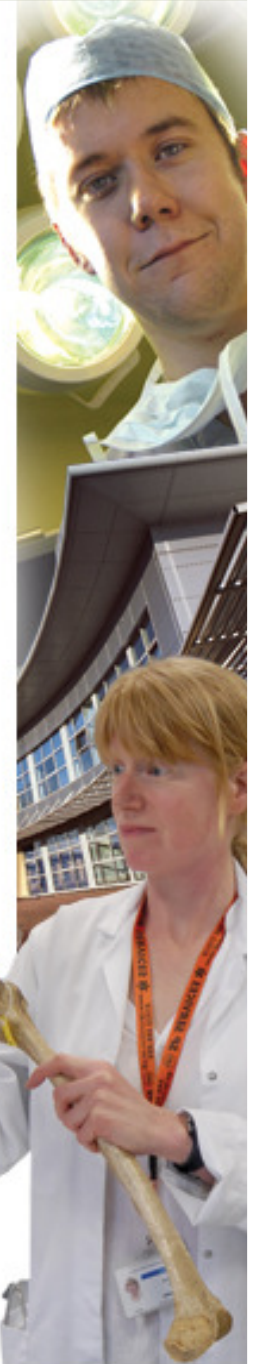
- similarity detection software used to identify copying
- suspicions that work experience, etc. has been fabricated/exaggerated will be followed up



# Please remember

- Your form is all we know about you
- Each tutor will look at hundreds
- We have set areas for awarding marks
- Presentation makes a big difference
- There is a lot of free advice available (e.g. [wanttobeadoctor.co.uk](http://wanttobeadoctor.co.uk))
- We interview about 20% of applicants

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# Interview

- Not directly related to personal statement
  - (but beware of self-contradiction)
  - Will be piloting new format in 2011-12
- Motivation & determination
- Understanding of the course
- Experience in caring roles
- Understanding of what being a doctor involves
- Range of extracurricular activities/interests
- Topical discussion: reasoning, summarizing

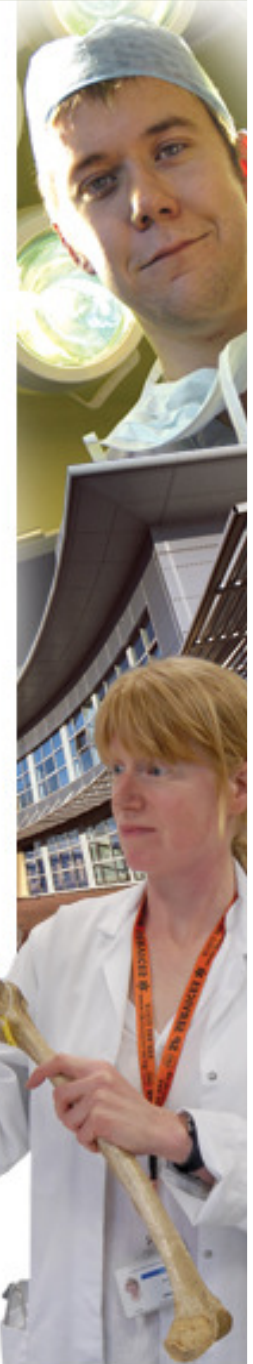
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# Interview

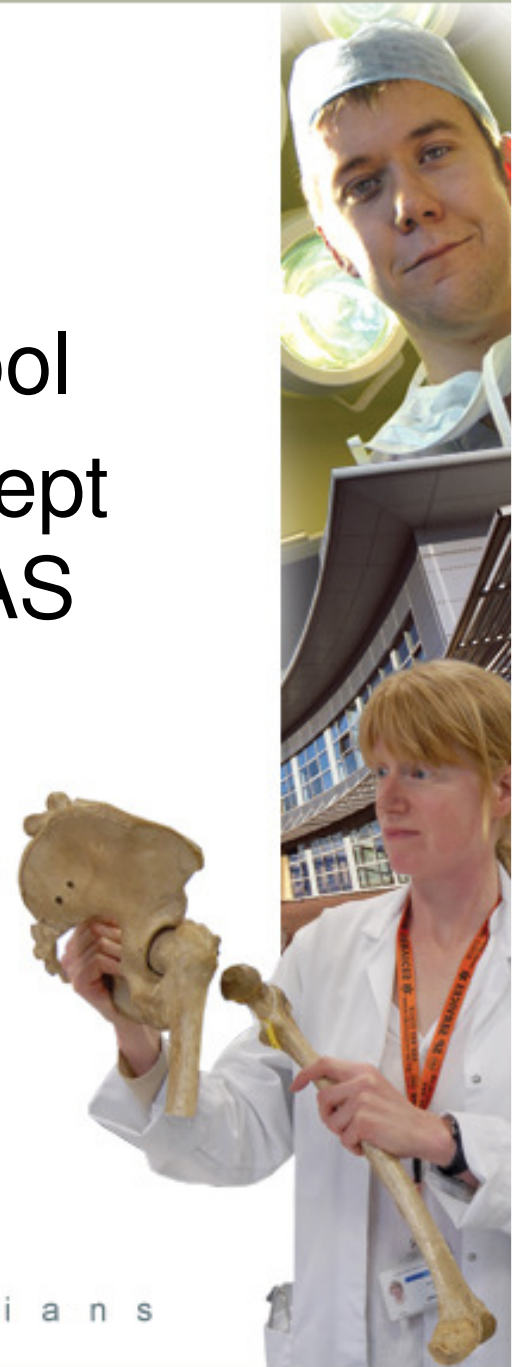
- Answer the question you are asked, not the question you prepared for
- Highly rehearsed answers are very obvious
- If you don't understand the question, ask for clarification
- Give full answers but don't ramble: there is limited time available
- Try to practise answering questions (about anything that requires thought) under pressure

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# Offer

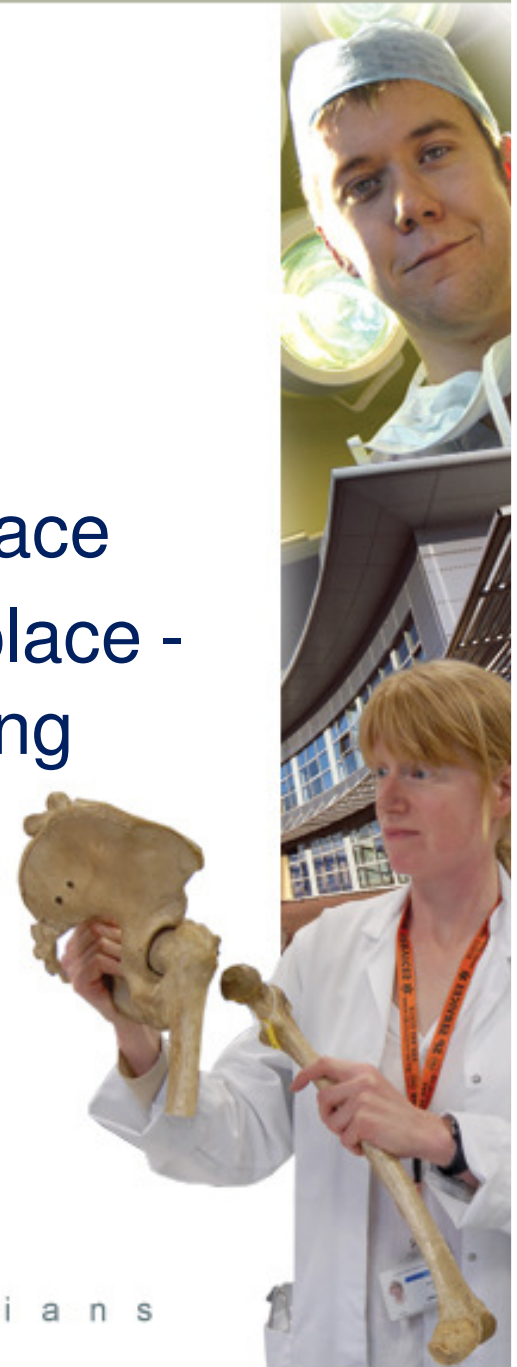
- Offers come via UCAS and school
- Your decision on whether to accept offer by date determined by UCAS
- Firm / Insurance offer
- Check ALL conditions of offer (CRB, etc.)
- Consider visit days before final decision



# RESULTS

- UCAS web site will record you as Unconditional Offer if you have a place
- Below AAA you MAY be offered a place - at Keele depends on factors including interview and UKCAT scores

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# Peer support

- Many people are in the same situation as you
- Look at dedicated medical student websites (e.g. [www.newmediamedicine.com](http://www.newmediamedicine.com), [www.thestudentroom.co.uk](http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk))
- Find medical school-specific groups on social networking sites (facebook, etc.)
- Don't take one person's word for anything

G r a d u a t i n g   E x c e l l e n t   C l i n i c i a n s



# Any Questions?

- More information is available on our web site:

[www.keele.ac.uk/health/schoolofmedicine/](http://www.keele.ac.uk/health/schoolofmedicine/)

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