

UKWPMED (2027)

Widening participation in Medicine: a collaboration of UK Medical Schools

This collaboration provides an exciting opportunity for school leavers from socially and/or educationally under-represented backgrounds to improve their chances of gaining a place at one of the participating medical schools.

Advantage of the scheme for students

Eligible students will automatically receive an interview at any of the participating schools and, if successful at interview, will be given a reduced offer, which is currently ABB for most of the participating medical schools (AAB for Birmingham; please check with individual medical schools for details).

Who can apply?

Any student who completes any of the WP Programmes from the table below:

Participating Medical School	WP Programme
Birmingham Medical School	Routes to the Professions: Medicine
Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS)	BrightMed
Hull York Medical School (HYMS)	No current programme, but HYMS will accept applications from students who have completed other UKWPMED programmes
Keele University School of Medicine	Steps2Medicine
Manchester Medical School	Manchester Access Programme Preston Widening Access Programme (for Medicine) ¹
Peninsula Medical School (University of Plymouth)	Peninsula Pathways

- Successful completion is defined by each WP programme individually
- Applications may be made to one or more of the participating medical schools
- The pre-A level academic and aptitude-test requirements – i.e. UCAT and GCSEs – for each school to which an application is made must be met in full (Appendix 1)

All applications for UKWPMED must be made through UCAS for 2027 entry.

¹ PWAP students must meet the University of Manchester's WP+ criteria to be eligible for UKWPMED adjustments (see <https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/medicine/apply/widening-access/widening-participation-programmes/>)

How to Apply

- ✓ Personal details
- ✓ Contact and residency details
- ✓ Nationality details
- ✓ Supporting information
- ✓ English language skills
- ✓ Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion
- More about you
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Employment
- Extra activities
- ✓ Personal statement
- Reference

The screenshots below show the section of your UCAS application where you must enter the relevant data which is in the [Extra activities](#) menu near the bottom of the side menu as shown in the screenshot.

Add activity

The screenshot shows the 'Add activity' form with the following fields:

- Type of activity ***: A dropdown menu with 'Masterclass/ subject insight' selected.
- Activity provider ***: A dropdown menu with 'UKWPMED' selected.
- Name of the activity/programme ***: A text area containing the text 'List the WP programme you are taking part in here and the university this is in partnership with.' Below the text area, it says 'Characters used: 97 of 100 characters'.
- Start date ***: A date selection field with three dropdowns for Day (DD), Month (MM), and Year (YYYY).

When you open this menu, you will see the screenshot below. This allows you to add activities. For UKWPMED we recommend that you enter <Masterclass/subject> insight into **Type of Activity**. Then select <UKWPMED> from the dropdown in **Activity provider**. Then in **Name of the activity/programme** you should give the name of the WP Programme as above. <e.g. Steps2Medicine>

Please note

By applying as part of UKWPMED through UCAS, you are consenting to allow each Medical School to check your eligibility by contacting the Medical School where you completed your WP programme. This principle applies to any aspect of your application, which can be checked by the recipient universities.

Please see the UKWPMED privacy notice at <https://www.medschools.ac.uk/privacy-statement/> (scroll to the bottom of the page for the UKWPMED information).

Important information about the scheme

- The UKWPMED scheme as described here is open only to medicine applicants who apply via the standard UCAS process in the 2026 application window for 2027 entry or deferred entry in 2028
- Medical Schools will only consider UKWPMED applicants who are eligible for home student tuition fees, and each medical school will follow their own procedures for determining this status; international fees-status students are not eligible
- The scheme is only applicable to standard-entry medicine programmes, typically with the UCAS course code A100 (A106 at Manchester); UKWPMED adjustments will not be applied to applications for gateway/foundation years
- Medical Schools might not consider applicants as part of the UKWPMED scheme if they have already completed year 13 at the time of application (check with medical school before applying)
- All medical schools will follow their own admissions procedures
- An interview at one medical school does not guarantee an interview at another, as the UCAT and/or GCSE requirements may differ
- Although the benefits of the scheme are largely similar between medical schools, there may be some differences
- At Birmingham and HYMS, the benefits are contingent on firm acceptance of an offer

FAQs

I am enrolled on one of the above WP programmes, how can I get more information about UKWPMED?

The organisers of your WP programme should be able to give you advice about the scheme and answer any questions you might have.

I am a year-11 student; how do I find out if I am eligible for one of the WP programmes?

These programmes normally cater for local widening-participation students. If there is a programme local to you then use the links in the table on p 2 to check your eligibility and whom to contact.

If I am on the Keele Steps2Medicine course and I apply to Manchester, for example, will students on the Manchester WP programme get preferential treatment?

No, as part of the collaborative project, all students will get the same consideration whether they are from the host WP programme or from another.

I am doing a WP programme from a medical school that is not listed. Can I still apply to UKWPMED?

No, unfortunately we can only offer the benefits of the scheme to students from a participating university medical school WP programme.

We hope in time to add more schools to the collaboration. However, depending on your WP credentials, you might still get some benefits from the above medical schools. Check their websites for details.

I am considering a gap year; will I still be eligible for the scheme?

If you wish to take a gap year, either you should apply for deferred entry, or, if your application is successful, request that your offer is deferred if this is permitted by the medical school.

For deferral requests received after an application is submitted, each medical school will consider those requests according to its own policy.

Do I need to advise each medical school in the scheme that I am applying as a UKWPMED candidate?

No. If you have consented to sharing of your data through the Medical Schools Council (see note on privacy on p 2), your details will be made available to other UKWPMED medical schools by the school where you undertook your UKWPMED widening-participation programme

What should I do if I think my WP programme has not been taken into consideration at one of the participating schools?

Speak to your WP programme organiser about it and if they agree that this is likely, then the medical school should be contacted to check what has happened.

If a medical school doesn't have predicted grade requirements, in appendix 1, how do I know what grades I need to achieve?

Keele and Manchester don't use predicted grades in selection. However, if you are made an offer it will be for the standard UKWPMED conditions of ABB subject to meeting subject requirements

What if I have to re-sit my level 3 qualifications (A levels)?

Each medical school has its own policy regarding resits. You will need to discuss with the medical school you are applying to whether they will be able to offer you any benefits under the scheme.

What happens if I apply to a medical school that is not part of the scheme?

You will not be entitled to the benefits of this scheme. However, depending on your WP credentials, they may be able to offer you some benefits. The details should be available on the website of the medical school. Please note that the University of Leicester, which was previously a member of UKWPMED, will recognise completion of a UKWPMED programme as a contextual indicator for scoring of applications.

Will the scheme continue in the future?

Each year, the programme will be reviewed and may change as a result. Also, the medical schools and WP programmes involved may change. In light of the announcement by the Department of Health & Social Care in April 2026, changes may be made to the programme to fit in with national provision of programmes to support widening access to medical school.

Will I have to attend for an interview?

All successful applicants to the scheme will have succeeded at interview at their selected medical school(s). No applicant will be offered a medical-school place without an interview.

Appendix 1 Pre A-Level academic requirements for application to UKWPMED medical schools

Medical School	GCSE	UCAT	Predicted A-levels	Other
Birmingham	A minimum of seven GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English language, maths, chemistry, and biology (or double-award science) at grades 7755 in any order	Has to be taken but no threshold score has to be achieved	ABB to include chemistry plus a second science (biology, physics or maths)	
Brighton & Sussex	Maths and English (language or literature) at grade 5 or higher	No cut off at present but must achieve at least band 3 in SJT	ABB to include biology or chemistry plus one subject from biology, chemistry, maths or physics	
Hull York	6 GCSE grades 4-9 6 in English language 6 in maths	4 th decile or above in year of application SJT band 1,2,3	ABB predicted required with biology and chemistry	UKWPMED offers are only eligible for 1 application cycle. More information about entry requirements can be found here: https://www.hyms.ac.uk/medicine/entry-requirements/entry-requirements-medicine Will request evidence of contextual criteria via an online form sent shortly after the UCAS application deadline.
Keele	5× grade 6/B, including combined science or three separate sciences; minimum of grade 5/C in English language and maths; one level-2 BTEC at D may be accepted in lieu of one non-science GCSE at 6	Minimum of 1,700 and SJT band 3	Studying three A-Levels or equivalent that meet our science subject requirements; we don't look at predicted grades	Will accept applications during year 13 or the following year but must not be currently enrolled on a university course
Manchester	6 GCSEs at grade 7 or above (to include maths and English language at minimum grade 6).	UCAT total score in the 5 th decile or higher and SJT Band 1 or 2.	Studying three A-Level subjects or IB (we don't look at predicted grades) that meet our subject requirements	
Plymouth	A minimum of seven GCSEs at grade 4 or above, to include English language, maths, and 2 sciences from biology, chemistry and physics or double-award science	No preset. SJT section not considered.	ABB at A level with A in biology and B in a second science from chemistry, physics, maths or psychology	Conditions as stated for Hull York, above

*****Warning***** If you apply to a medical school where you do not meet their requirements your application will be rejected.