

Supporting Students With Their Medicine and Dentistry Applications

Presented by King's College London and University of Liverpool



From the
RUSSELL
GROUP

Overview



- Introduction:
 - Medicine
 - Dentistry
- Applying to these subjects:
 - Preparation
 - Work-experience
 - Barriers
 - Interviews
 - Additional resources
- What next - Access Schemes
- Questions

Medicine

- 46 Medical Schools across the UK
- Number of Sector Applications - 98,840
- Number of Sector Acceptances - 10,710



Dentistry

- 16 Dental Schools across the UK
- Number of Sector Applications - 23,115
- Number of Sector Acceptances - 1,505



Applying to Medicine & Dentistry

- Application numbers explained
- University of Liverpool – Clinical application numbers explained
- (Source – University of Liverpool internal data E2023)

	Applications	Interviews	Offers	Registrations	Percentage of applications to interviews	Percentage of interview to offers	Percentage of offer to acceptances
Medicine	3,023	1,872	583	309	62%	31%	53%
Dentistry	1,330	507	127	70	38%	25%	55%

Applying to these subjects

Entry Requirements and Admissions Processes

Academic:

- A levels or equivalent
- Subject requirements
- GCSEs
- Research: UCAS and University websites

Preparation:

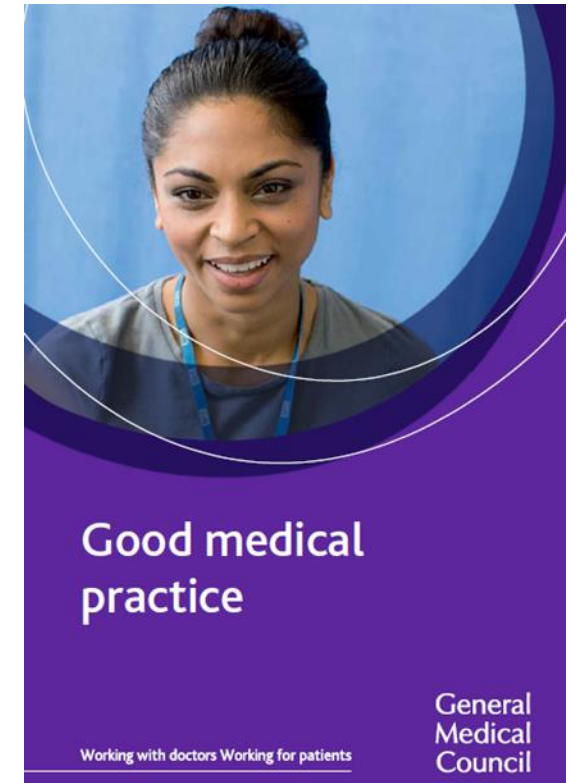
- Work Experience
- Aptitude tests
- Interviews



Applying to Medicine

- Values Based Recruitment (VBR)
- Health Education England published VBR framework
- “VBR is an approach which attracts and selects students, trainees or employees on the basis that their individual values and behaviours align with the values of the NHS institution”
- General Medical Council (GMC)
- Core values and attributes needed to study Medicine

Values Based Recruitment Framework



Work Experience

- When students spend a set amount of time working in a professional setting to gain practical knowledge and experience about a particular industry or profession.
- This provides students with valuable insights into the world of work so that they can make **informed decisions** about their future career paths.
- It can also help students build their CVs and make connections that may be useful in the future.

Critical for:

- a) IAG – helping a student make an informed decision on what they want to do.
- b) Providing content and evidence for applications and interviews.



How do you Find Work Experience?

- Ask around for connections with people who work in clinics (e.g., friend's parents, personal dentist, etc.)
- Contact several local clinics / surgeries and enquire about any opportunities for work experience.
- Ask a teacher for some guidance in writing a cover letter and seeking out opportunities to speak to professionals in the field.
- Look for virtual work experience opportunities
- Be proactive!

Any issues with this advice?



How can Universities Help?

- Can *you* be the work experience? Either through placements or access programmes?
- Link potential applicants/target schools with opportunities.
- Provide practical help (cover letters, scoping, targeting).
- Support schools and teachers.
- Guidance on how to make the most of placements.

What if they don't secure work experience?

- They need a broader definition of 'work experience' - relevant skills and experience can be from outside a clinical setting.
- Many of the traits the interview looks for are intrinsic, and do not depend on having done m/d-related work placements.



Barriers to Access

Who Counts as WP?

Essential Criteria

- First in family to complete university.
- Attended a non-selective state school.

School & Postcode Factors

- Progress 8, Attainment 8.
- Pupil Premium & FSM .
- IMD, POLAR & ACORN.

Priority Groups

- live or have lived in local authority care
- are a young carer
- are disabled
- are estranged from their parents
- are a forced migrant
- are currently living in a homeless shelter or sofa surfing,
- are from Gypsy, Roma or Traveller backgrounds.
- are from Black Caribbean backgrounds.



Barriers Specific to M&D

- Access to knowledge.
- Access to peers.
- Access to professional networks.
- Access to opportunities.
- Confidence and 'soft skills.'

The barriers to accessing medicine and dentistry courses are already high. For applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds, these barriers can be particularly acute.



Interviews

How to Support Applicants



- **Building confidence.**
- Close ‘the advantage gap.’
- ‘Peak with your Practice’
 - Thinking strategically about where the interview will take place in their academic calendar.
- **Collaborate** with peers – interview in groups with other applicants/ambassadors.
- **Reflection** – making the most of any work/life experiences, even the process of application.
- **Sector awareness** – GMC, BMJ, current issues.
- Suitable **motivation.**
- Support **schools and teachers.**



The London Med Summer School

The London Med Summer School programme brings together four of London's medical schools (King's College London, Queen Mary University of London, St George's University of London, and University College London) to give Year 12 students with limited access to medical schools an opportunity to find out what it is like to study medicine in London.

The Med & Dent Lecture Series

The lecture series is made up of 14 core lectures and a bonus programme of talks to support you in crafting your best application. It is your hub of support on your journey to studying medicine and dentistry. The programme consists of online lectures delivered by practicing doctors, dentists, and King's social mobility staff, Q&A's with current medical and dental students, and advice on the application process. You'll become part of a community of like-minded students who are interested in finding out what it is like to have a career in healthcare and what it takes to succeed.



Destination Medicine

- 15th-18th July: 4 Day non-residential event. 40 places
- Merseyside students only (please check your local Uni)
- 1 day of work experience in a hospital, 3 days of tasters with Medical staff and students on campus
- Eligibility criteria, must meet WP Indicators: Postcode (POLAR Quintile 1), Free School Meals, Disrupted Education Status or currently part of a WP Outreach Project plus academic criteria

Destination Dentistry

- 22nd-25th July: 4 Day residential event
- Students recruited nationally
- 35 places - funded through MSC - all activities, travel and accommodation are free
- Programme will involve taster sessions with Dental staff and students, hands on practicals and larger scale lectures. Will also include evening social activities and University Halls experience
- Eligibility criteria, must meet 2 WP Indicators: Postcode (POLAR), FSM, First in Family, State School, Disrupted Education Status – Etc. plus academic criteria



What if students don't get an offer?

- There are alternative options and pathways
- 5th Choice – Subjects allied to Medicine
- Graduate Entry
- Changed course offers
- Waiting lists
- Clearing (occasionally for Clinical)
- Deferred Entry
- Re-sits



Preparation

- [Selecting for Excellence](#) – Medical Schools Council
- [Dentistry Admissions](#) – Dental Schools Council
- [Values Based Recruitment](#) – NHS Health Education England
- [Multiple Mini Interviews](#) – Complete University Guide
- [Code of Conduct](#) – General Medical Council (GMC)
- [Aptitude Tests](#) – University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

