



Cardiff School of Medicine  
Undergraduate Degree Programmes

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/medic](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/medic)





C21 is an ambitious three-year project to review medical education at Cardiff University to ensure it continues to attract, train and retain the very best doctors: doctors who understand patients and the world in which we live. As part of the project the Medical School is undertaking the most comprehensive review and consultation on a medical curriculum ever in the UK.

This will culminate in the introduction of a new medical programme for students entering in September 2013. The details included in this brochure provide an overview of what the new programme will be like. Further details will appear on the Cardiff University website and will be presented at Open Days in 2012.

# Did you know...

- We are one of the largest medical schools in the UK with more than 3,000 students and staff
- We make a world-leading contribution to medicine and are a major international centre for teaching and research, rated among the top 10 medical schools in the UK and the top 100 world-wide<sup>1</sup>
- We aim to produce great doctors who understand people and the environment in which we all live
- We are investing heavily in a programme of curriculum development and are among the five most rapidly improving medical schools in the UK<sup>2</sup>
- Whilst we are based at Cardiff University's Heath Park Campus, alongside the University Hospital of Wales, our students train at sites across Wales and have opportunities to study across the world, ensuring the broadest educational and clinical experience
- We are committed to the pursuit of improved human health, through education, research and engagement with the wider world
- We have developed a curriculum which provides a smooth transfer into the first year of work and postgraduate training for our graduates – our graduates are among the most successful in obtaining their first choice foundation training place<sup>3</sup>
- We make a positive difference to the way medicine is practised across the country and play an important part in the life of Wales

<sup>1</sup> QS World University Rankings 2011    <sup>2</sup> National Student Survey 2011

<sup>3</sup> UK Foundation Programme Office Interim Report on Foundation Programme Recruitment 2011 – Application Results

# Welcome to Cardiff School of Medicine

*“Since its foundation in 1893, the School of Medicine has been committed to the pursuit of improved human health, through education, research and engagement with the wider world.”*

During a period of radical reform in the NHS and increasing expectations among students, patients and the General Medical Council, we are investing in a comprehensive review of our medical curriculum to ensure that we continue to fulfil that commitment. We are working with patients, clinicians, students, staff and others to ensure that when you start your medical degree in 2013, you will benefit, not only from studying in one of the UK's largest and most prestigious medical schools, but also from the most modern medical education practice delivered in state-of-the art facilities.

Studying Medicine at Cardiff University combines clinical experience and cutting-edge science across the whole course. You will be treated as doctors in training from your first day and are expected to show a high degree of professionalism and commitment. You will experience a research-led curriculum rich in clinical contact, delivered and supported by enthusiastic academics and consultants. Students willing to meet the many challenges of the course will develop an understanding of scientific medicine that will stand them in good stead in whatever branch of medicine they choose. I am proud of the fact that our graduates are among the most successful in the UK when it comes to obtaining their first choice foundation training place and are highly valued by employers.

The School emphasises clinical contact in both primary care and hospital environments, in order to expose students to a diverse patient population and provide a context to learning. Patients and clinical conditions are used throughout to provide a focus for study and there is an emphasis on small group tutorials supported by seminar work, practicals, self-directed learning together with a core lecture programme in keeping with the expectations of an established top-ranking research-led University. The School boasts excellence across a range of clinical research areas and students are encouraged to witness and participate in current research, through student-led projects, dissertations and vacation scholarships. Interested (and high achieving) students can intercalate to obtain a BSc in one of a wide range of subjects, or a Masters in Research (MRes).

I invite you to visit the School on one of our open days to find out more about how the medical course at Cardiff is evolving to meet the challenges of being a doctor in the future. I have every confidence that meeting our staff and seeing our excellent facilities will convince you that Cardiff is the place to study medicine.

**Professor B. Paul Morgan FRCPATH FMedSci**  
Head of School



# Cardiff: The City



Cardiff is one of Europe's youngest capital cities. Compact, green, friendly and full of life, it provides a first-class environment in which to live and study.

As the capital city of Wales, Cardiff has an impressive range of leisure, sporting and cultural amenities. Many of the facilities are of international standard. The city boasts world-class concert venues in the International Arena, Millennium Centre and St David's Hall, and is the focus of national and international sports events at the Millennium Stadium.

Culturally, Cardiff is well catered for, with the National Museum and Gallery of Wales, several theatres covering a wide range of tastes and the historic Cardiff Castle. The city also boasts a vibrant shopping centre, numerous cinemas and restaurants, great pubs and music venues. The development of Cardiff Bay is a major attraction and is home to the Welsh Assembly and the impressive Wales Millennium Centre.

Cardiff is a compact city with large areas of parkland and good local transport. Unlike many other cities, it offers easy access to the countryside, coast and mountains.

The Brecon Beacons National Park is only a 30-minute drive from Cardiff and the Glamorgan Heritage Coast is within easy reach. The city is also well served by road and rail from other parts of Britain. Cardiff International Airport, just outside the city, has frequent connections to Europe and destinations outside the EU.

Cardiff combines the practical advantages of a small, friendly, city with the cultural and recreational amenities of a successful and modern capital. Such is the quality of the 'Cardiff experience' that in a recent survey a large majority of the students said they would like to stay and live in the city after graduation.

### Come and see for yourself...

Cardiff benefits from excellent road and rail links with Britain's other major towns and cities. London, for example, is two hours by train, and the M4 links both the West and South of England, as well as West Wales. Travel to the Midlands and the North is equally convenient. The journey by road from Birmingham, for example, takes only two hours. The main coach and railway stations are both centrally placed and Cardiff also has an international airport.

### Don't just take our word for it...

*"Cardiff is one of the best places to study in Britain. It has well situated, cheap housing, lively nights out, friendly people, great shops and hundreds of miles of countryside. It is all that any right-thinking fresher could desire."*

**Virgin Alternative Guide to British Universities**

*"Cardiff is a young, vibrant city. A blend of beautiful old architecture and new, cutting-edge developments. Cosmopolitan with a large student population."*

**Daily Telegraph Guide to UK Universities**

*"Cardiff has it all: grand civic architecture in a breezy waterside location, super-smart city bars just a short hop from lovely countryside."*

**Guardian University Guide**



# Cardiff: the University

Cardiff University is recognised in independent government assessments as one of Britain's leading teaching and research universities. Founded by Royal Charter in 1883, the University today combines impressive modern facilities and a dynamic approach to teaching and research with its proud heritage of service and achievement.

The University's breadth of expertise encompasses: the humanities; the natural, physical, health, life and social sciences; engineering and technology.

The University's Cathays Park campus has an outstanding location among the parks, Portland stone buildings and tree-lined avenues that form the city's elegant civic centre. Unusually for a civic university, most of the University's student residential accommodation is within easy walking distance of lecture theatres, libraries and the Students' Union, saving you time and money. Medical students will spend much of their time at Cathays Park in the early years of the course.



More than £200 million has been invested in the university estate in recent years to provide new and refurbished facilities of the highest quality. Cardiff is a member of the Russell Group of Britain's leading research universities. This creates a stimulating environment for teaching, ensuring that you are exposed to the very latest thinking and that the most modern technology and equipment is available.

Teaching at Cardiff has been independently assessed as being of excellent standard. The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, which undertakes assessments with all UK universities, confirmed that prospective students, parents, teachers and graduate employers can have every confidence in the quality and standards of Cardiff's awards.

The student population is drawn from a variety of backgrounds, with students attracted from throughout Wales, the rest of the UK and worldwide. The University currently has around 25,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students and there is an almost equal balance between male and female students. International students comprise some 17% of the total student population.

Government performance indicators show that students at Cardiff are more likely to succeed in their studies than students at most other UK universities. Currently, 95% of students successfully complete or transfer, better than many similar universities and better than the UK national average.



#### What the Guides say:

*"Cardiff offers a compelling student experience: Russell Group research credentials, the full gamut of traditional undergraduate degree courses and relatively affordable living with hot and cold running nightlife on tap."*

**Sunday Times University Guide**

*"Cardiff is a tip top uni academically... hugely popular with its students. Is Cardiff perhaps the best kept secret among Britain's universities?"*

**Virgin Alternative Guide to British Universities**

*"The University is as confident and forward-looking as the city it's located in, and has an excellent reputation for the quality of its teaching and research. Almost 60% of its research is ranked as world leading and it is a member of the Russell Group of leading universities."*

**Guardian University Guide**



# Accommodation

Cardiff has always attached great importance to the provision of student accommodation and has invested heavily in recent years to provide some of the highest quality residences in the UK university sector. Most of the accommodation is located close to the academic buildings. All first year undergraduates (who apply during the normal admissions cycle) are guaranteed a place in university accommodation. There is a choice of catered or self-catered residences.

New residences have been built in recent years and many of the older ones have been refurbished to a high standard. The majority of the 5,100 study/bedrooms have individual shower and toilet facilities and all halls of residence have computer network connection points.

Accepting an offer of a place at Cardiff University on a firm basis and completing your online Accommodation Request Form promptly increases the chances of your accommodation preferences being met. Full details of all University-owned accommodation are provided in the University Residences Guide.

Besides managing university property, the Residences Office maintains close links with the private sector and helps students looking to rent or share houses or flats.

#### What the Guides say:

*"Guaranteed accommodation in halls and houses for first years. Very high quality and relatively cheap."*

**Equitable Student Book**



# Student Life

As a fast developing capital city, Cardiff is a great place to be a student. It's large enough to offer you an exciting variety of activities and entertainment, but small enough for you to feel comfortable in.

## The Students' Union

Cardiff Students' Union is one of the biggest, best and most active in Britain. Solus, the Great Hall and the Taf are among the Union's major attractions. Solus is the students' own high quality nightclub and the second largest in South Wales. The Great Hall is a 1500-capacity venue for major concerts and the Taf Bar is the Union's very own 'local'.

Other facilities include CF10 café, a general shop, University bookshop, computer shop, a games room and video arcade, five full size snooker tables and twelve pool tables, satellite TV, banking and insurance services. The Union also has its own letting agency and Student Advice centre and is home to Xpress Radio (the students' own radio station), an award winning student newspaper, and more than 150 cultural, political, religious, social and sporting societies.

## Cardiff MedSoc

Medsoc is one of the largest societies in the union with a committee of over 40 students to look after the social, academic and welfare needs of Cardiff's 1,500 medical students. When the whole committee acts together we're a pretty formidable force and between us organise some of the biggest events in the medic calendar – including a fortnight of RAG events (that last year raised £10,000 for charity) and the Freshers' Welcome Day to show our new first year students just how incredible life as a Cardiff Medic is!

Medsoc's social committee has always been extremely active, providing a spectrum of events with something that every type of student will enjoy. From the traditional Back to School and Toga nights, to the hugely successful Circus of Horrors and Gangsters and Molls parties, to formals in the shape of the Freshers' and Halfway Balls, to the annual summer raft race and international medic meals, you can ensure your social life as a Cardiff Medic will be thoroughly enjoyable!

Medsoc also has an active role to play in the continual appraisal and improvement of the course via our staff- student meetings. On top of this, the academic committee also run information evenings for the students ranging in subject from electives to intercalating to becoming a clinical student.

The welfare committee are a relatively new addition to Medsoc and strive to provide confidential, impartial advice to students who require any kind of welfare support. They've also produced Housing and Financial guides, packed full of information and tips from older students to help the younger years. So essentially, Medsoc is here to support the Medical students in every way possible! Whether it's an academic issue that needs raising with the relevant staff, the contact number for financial support services or a mind-blowing IV social - Medsoc can help!

For lots more information, check out our website: [www.cardiffmedsoc.com](http://www.cardiffmedsoc.com)

**Richard Kiff**

Medsoc President 2011/12

### What the Guides say:

*"Cardiff Students' Union is the biggest and best equipped in Britain."*

**The Independent**

*"The Union is a top class venue under continual enhancement. Evenings inevitably lead to Solus, the union's 1,800 capacity, custom-built nightclub with an immense dance floor and state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems. With an eclectic music policy, few would dispute that Solus offers some of Cardiff's best nights' out."*

**Virgin Alternative Guide to British Universities**

*"The lively Students' Union offers good welfare provision and an award-winning student newspaper."*

**Guardian University Guide**



# Cardiff School of Medicine



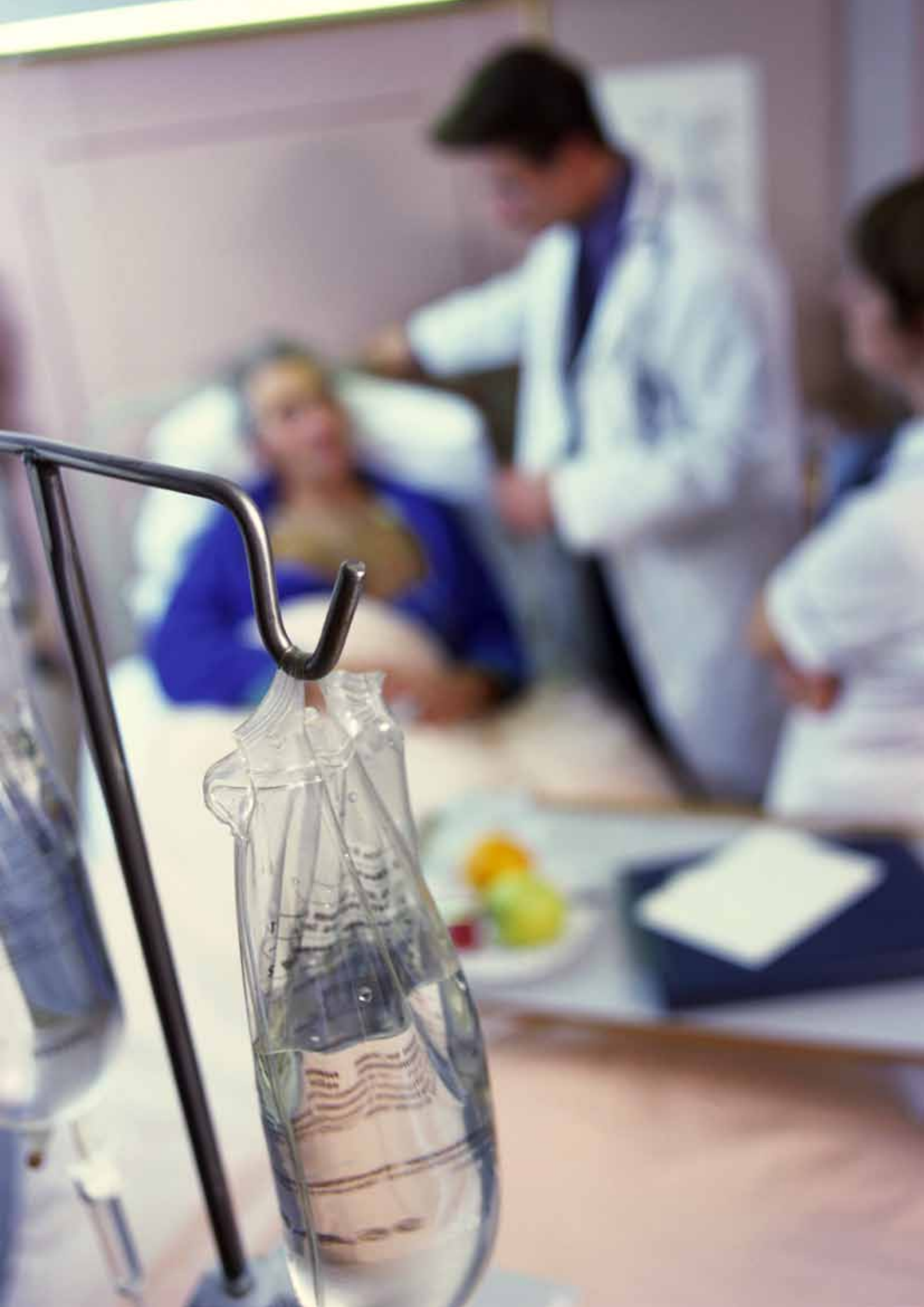
## An Introduction

We aim to attract, train and retain the best doctors for Wales and more widely in the UK. Our medical programme is delivered in partnership with the NHS throughout Wales. The course is structured so that there is a progressive acquisition of knowledge, clinical skills and professional attitudes. By the time you graduate you will have developed the scientific background and technical skills to practice medicine. Equally importantly you will have demonstrated the communication skills and personal and professional values to pursue a successful career in medicine.

Cardiff School of Medicine is long established, well resourced and has an international reputation for its teaching and research activities.

However, to respond to reforms in the NHS and changes in the expectations of students, patients and the General Medical Council, we are undertaking a major review and development of the curriculum. Although the final programme is still in development, our curriculum offers you:

- A systems based, integrated, learning approach which teaches you about all of the major systems of the body – their function in both normal and diseased states – using patients and clinical scenarios (cases) to provide the context and to develop skills in investigation, diagnosis and treatment.
- Teaching methods are based on evidence gathered from looking at best practice in medical education across the world and using small group, case based work, supported by a coordinated programme of patient consultations, clinical skills, lectures, seminars, self-directed learning and e-learning.
- Teaching from internationally renowned researchers and clinicians with opportunities to work alongside leading experts.
- Excellent teaching facilities with a major recent investment in a state-of-the-art teaching centre which houses a brand new clinical skills centre featuring the latest high-tech simulation equipment.
- Clinical placements in a variety of healthcare settings and in a diverse range of urban, rural and coastal areas; large city hospitals, smaller district general hospitals, general practices of varying size and specialist units.
- World class anatomy teaching using a variety of learning methods including dissection, prosections, clinical skills and simulation sessions, digital imaging, post mortem pathology sessions, plastinated specimens and models.
- A smooth transfer into the first year of work as a doctor, with extensive clinical experience throughout and an innovative programme of professionalism providing students with a unique perspective on the roles and duties of doctors. The final year has been developed jointly with the Wales Postgraduate Deanery to prepare students for practice and the Deanery is able to offer a foundation post to all Cardiff School of Medicine graduates.





## Facilities

Cardiff School of Medicine is based at the University's Heath Park Campus which is also home to the University Hospital of Wales. Progressive healthcare education and patient care are successfully integrated with world famous research facilities in this major teaching and research centre.

Whilst the School of Medicine dates from 1893 it is clearly focussed on the 21st century and the need to offer its students a first class environment in which to live and study. The School has outstanding facilities and benefits from an ongoing programme of investment. More than £16m has been invested in the development of the Cochrane Medical Education Centre which opened in September 2011 and is the home to the School.

It provides facilities including a new library, clinical skills and high-tech simulation centres, seminar rooms, wireless access to online services and student support services. Facilities will be shared with students studying other healthcare disciplines and this creates new opportunities for inter-professional learning and collaboration.

The Heath Park Campus is also the main base for the students of other healthcare disciplines, including Nursing, Midwifery, Dentistry, Physiotherapy etc. There are a number of healthcare student societies and other informal opportunities for inter-professional learning. There is a sabbatical Student Union Officer with special responsibility for the welfare of Health Care students.

## Other recent developments have included:

- Completion of the Michael Griffith Resource Centre. This £3M building is equipped with a 377 seat lecture theatre, seminar rooms, 'break-out' rooms and a clinical skills area
- Refurbishment of the lecture theatres and improved learning resource facilities in the Biosciences building, where students spend some of their time during years 1 and 2
- Opening of The IV Lounge; the main focus of the Students Union on the Heath Park Campus. Services include coffee shop, deli, and the function bar which hosts the sports teams on Wednesdays and multiple socials throughout the year.



'In depth investigation of Alzheimer's disease susceptibility loci' based in Cardiff University's Medical Research Council Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics; 'Mountain Medicine' involving work with the RAF Search & Rescue Helicopter teams in North Wales; and 'The Challenges of Practicing Medicine in a Developing Country' an 8 week placement in Mauritius.

### Student support

Medicine is a demanding programme physically, mentally and emotionally. Should you experience any problems it is always reassuring to know that we have a wide range of support services to help you.

### Learning and Teaching Methods

The course uses a blend of learning methods and has been developed to provide opportunities for you to interact, participate, ask questions, reflect and take shared responsibility for your own learning. Initially, there is an emphasis on small-group learning to present materials from a variety of disciplines and integrate science, social science and clinical practice. This learning is reinforced by a coordinated programme of lectures, seminars, clinical placements, access to relevant life sciences and clinical skills resources and self-directed study. Over the duration of the course you are expected to take more control of your own learning. This is particularly evident during the extended clinical placements in years 3-5, where you are expected to use your own initiative to make the most of the opportunities and experiences in order to help you achieve the required learning outcomes. By the time of graduation you should be responsible for your own learning and continuing professional development as an independent practitioner.

### Assessment

Throughout, you undertake assessments designed for feedback purposes and also assessments which determine progress to the next year. Details of all assessments are provided in course documentation at the start of each year. To graduate, you need to demonstrate the appropriate level of competence in knowledge, clinical skills, and professional attitude and conduct. The final degree of MBChB may be awarded with Honours or Commendation for high achieving graduates.

### Student Selected Components

All students have opportunities throughout the course to study areas of particular interest to them. You can select and design a variety of clinical studies and laboratory based research projects. This flexibility will allow you to undertake a variety of short projects or an extended longitudinal project across the duration of the course. Many successful projects are presented by students at scientific and clinical meetings. Some of the innovative projects and modules students have undertaken include:

### Student support services include:

- Individual Performance Programme to provide additional and tailored support to students who encounter any academic or pastoral difficulties during their studies
- Personal tutors
- Annual one to one academic feedback sessions
- Year Directors assigned to manage and support each year group
- Honorary Senior Lecturers and support staff at each district general hospital in Wales
- Excellent links with the Wales Postgraduate Deanery to ease the transition from student to Foundation Doctor.

### Student support centres offer the following services:

- Advice Service
- Careers Advice
- Counselling Service
- Disability and Dyslexia Service
- Financial Support
- Day Care Centre offering childcare facilities
- Health Centre
- Eye Clinic
- University Chaplaincy
- Students Union

# The Course Structure



We offer a 5 year undergraduate programme (UCAS code A100) suitable if you have appropriate science A-Levels (or equivalent), a 6 year programme (UCAS code A104) if you do not have a science background, and a 4 year graduate entry programme (UCAS code A101 – subject to validation) is also available for candidates who have successfully completed one of our recognised 3 year feeder courses: the BSc in Medical Pharmacology (Cardiff University School of Medicine) and the BSc Medical Sciences offered by the University of Glamorgan. Similar links with a number of degree programmes offered by the Cardiff University School of Biosciences and Bangor University are under development and further details will be available on the website in the future.

During a period of radical reform in the NHS and increasing expectations amongst students, patients and the General Medical Council, we are investing in the most comprehensive

review and extensive consultation of a medical curriculum ever in the UK. The following information provides an overview of the proposed curriculum although we are continuing to work with patients, clinicians, students, staff and others to ensure that the programme you enrol onto in 2013 will provide the best possible medical education and preparation for becoming a doctor.

In order to produce the best doctors, we believe that patients must be the focus of a medical degree. Therefore throughout the course, you will spend time with patients in clinical settings to provide a context for your learning. As the course progresses your exposure to patients increases as does the complexity of clinical cases and your responsibilities for patients' care.

The curriculum is based on the guidelines of the General Medical Council's (GMC) publication *Tomorrow's Doctors* (2009). It is delivered in partnership with the Schools of Biosciences, Psychology and Social Sciences. Clinical placement teaching takes place at hospitals, community medical centres and over 150 general practices across the whole of Wales and this 'hub and spoke' model gives a unique diversity of clinical learning experience. Skills and professional behaviours are developed throughout the curriculum so that graduates are prepared for the Foundation Programme and postgraduate medical training. The curriculum blends basic medical sciences, pathological sciences and clinical experiences. It is delivered using a variety of teaching methods, including small-group tutorials, lectures, laboratory based sessions, and cadaveric dissection. Clinical skills are learned initially in clinical skills session, using models and simulators, before being put into practice on clinical placements.

## Year 1 and 2 – Core Science and Clinical Practice

The first phase of the course introduces students to the core knowledge, skills and behaviour, which underpin medicine to ensure that all students are ready to embark on the rigorous and demanding programme of study to follow. As well as learning the basics of anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, cell and molecular biology, immunology, microbiology and pathology, students will also undertake some short early clinical experience days and develop the fundamental communication, clinical skills and professionalism required of a doctor.

The second phase is based on a series of clinical scenarios (cases), studied in small groups, that illustrate how the basic sciences inform the study of common clinical conditions e.g. heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, obesity etc. and allow students to learn in context as well as develop a diagnostic appraisal approach. This small group learning is supported by a coordinated series of lectures and seminars, a ‘Doctoring’ programme, access to relevant life science and clinical skills resources, all of which will be closely linked to the cases being considered. To reinforce the cases and to set them in the context of the NHS and patient communities, students will spend one day per week seeing patients with relevant conditions in local hospitals, general practices and other community based services around South East Wales. Initially the emphasis of the cases will be on basic science applied to medicine and the basics of clinical consulting, with students learning about normal structure and function. As the cases progress, students consolidate and build on prior knowledge and skills with the application to more complex clinical presentations which focus on abnormal structure and function.

## Years 3 and 4 – Learning to Care

In years 3 and 4, students will spend the majority of their time on placements in a variety of clinical settings across Wales. Students will make the patient the focus of their learning and will witness patient journeys through the health care system providing insight into the patients’ experiences of illness and health care. In doing so, students learn the fundamentals of excellent clinical care, become proficient in performing clinical assessment, begin to formulate differential diagnosis and understand the principles of investigation, management and treatment of common diseases. By mirroring clinical practice, the placements also provide opportunities for students to spend time in a variety of specialist clinical teams whilst offering them flexibility to tailor their individual learning.

During year 3 students will follow patients with malignant diseases and a variety of common chronic diseases providing early exposure to life as a front line doctor. In year 4 the emphasis will be on more specialist and complex cases, with students spending dedicated time with paediatricians, obstetricians, psychiatrists, physicians and general practitioners.

Each placement is linked by a short introduction and consolidation period of group teaching where the fundamentals of good medical practice will be emphasised and specific instruction provided on the relevant pathology, therapeutics, social sciences and ethics. Throughout both years the importance of the doctor as a professional will be continually reinforced, with students maintaining a comprehensive clinical portfolio facilitating reflection on attitude, conduct and behaviour and aiding their professional development.

In addition to the patient pathways, there is also a ‘Science in Practice’ block, which revisits, reinforces and enhances the core science learnt in the early years of the programme and relate it to current medical practice. This block has an element of choice and provides an opportunity to work with leading experts at Cardiff University and at our partner health boards.

Students assigned clinical placements outside of South East Wales will normally be provided with on-site accommodation for the duration of their placement.

As part of the Socrates Erasmus Scheme some students are able to undertake parts of their Year 4 clinical placements in European Medical Schools, such as Lisbon, Rome and Nantes.



## Year 5 – Consolidated Preparation for Practice

The emphasis of the final year is on consolidating the skills and knowledge required to perform at the highest level within the NHS, particularly on the assessment and management of acute clinical presentations. To provide the smoothest transition, this year has been designed to build students' confidence and ability to work as part of a team and attain the necessary clinical competencies for work and entry into foundation training.

There will be two 8-week 'Junior Placements', one hospital based and the other community based, that are designed to encourage the students to deal with increasing complexity of patient presentations and management and to build on their prior experiences and knowledge across these different clinical settings. There will also be an 8-10 week 'elective' period which is a unique opportunity to explore a subject in depth and experience medicine in different cultural situations, anywhere in the world. Finally, there is an 8-week 'Student

Assistantship' with time spent embedded within a hospital team, usually the same clinical environment where the student will be placed for foundation studies, easing the transition from medical student to doctor. A robust system of workplace based assessment is used to ensure that students continue to progress and develop appropriately.

In order to get the most out of these clinical experiences there will also be four short blocks of core learning, throughout the year themed "Preparing for Practice", "Changing Practice", "Science in Practice" and "Practise for Practice". These modules will focus on the development of essential skills required to become a functioning member of the NHS. This will include important issues such as the structure of and change in the NHS, patient safety through service evaluation, and the relevance of science to the delivery of evidence based practice. All together this final year will ensure that students are in the best possible position to start work within the NHS and their postgraduate studies.

## Intercalated degrees

Approximately 100 students per year take the opportunity to participate in the Intercalated Degree Schemes between years 3 and 4 or year 4 and 5. A wide range of schemes are offered by Schools within Cardiff University e.g. pharmacology, genetics, public health, psychological medicine and many more! An MRes is also available to give you opportunity for some serious research immersion.

We also have strong partnership arrangements with other Universities in Wales, and some students complete an intercalated degree at other Universities in the UK. The intercalated year gives students the opportunity to research a subject in depth and develop the intellectual and practical tools to prepare them to become a net producer rather than consumer of evidence. Medical students with a good academic record from other academic institutions are welcome to apply for entry to our intercalated programmes.



# Research

Cardiff is a member of the Russell Group of Britain's foremost research-intensive universities. Since its foundation in 1893, Cardiff School of Medicine has been committed to the pursuit of improved health, through education, research and engagement with the wider world. Its research activities span the spectrum from laboratory investigation to clinical practice, in hospital and community settings.

The School is now one of the largest in the country, home to over 1,500 undergraduate students, 1,400 masters students, 157 doctoral students, and 800 staff. Between 2009 and 2011 the School was successful in securing in excess of £100m of competitive research funding from a wide range of funders. Attracting leading health and social science based researchers to the School of Medicine (and the wider University) ensures that the leading experts in their field are involved in the undergraduate Medical teaching programme.

Key highlights identified in the latest Research Assessment Exercise include:

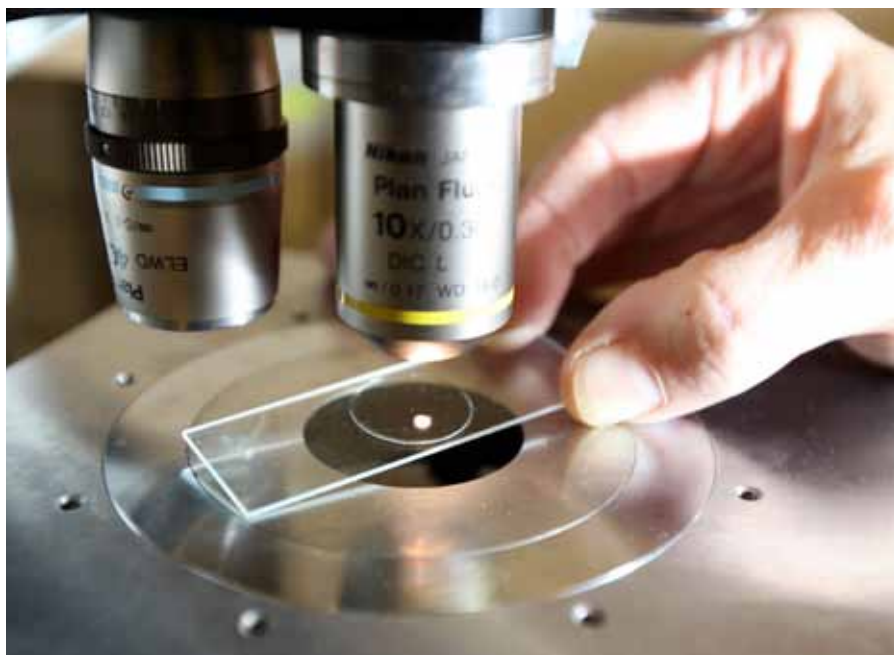
**Neuroscience** – Rated joint first with Cambridge in the UK for the level of top-rated research. The group is conducting the largest genetic study of Alzheimer's disease in the world and is at the forefront of the molecular genetic studies of major psychiatric disorders, with recent landmark publications on schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, ADHD, and Alzheimer's disease.

**Primary Care** – Work in common infections, and healthcare communication and behavioural change was recognised as having international recognition and impact.

**Cancer Studies** – Research highlights include a major breakthrough in breast cancer treatment that will spare around 20,000 women each year in the UK the need for potentially debilitating surgery. This approach has been adopted internationally.

**Immunology & Infection** – Research highlights include the development of engineered immune cells capable of recognising the many disguises of the HIV virus.

**Cardiovascular Sciences** – Studies combine basic and translational research in the themes of myocardial and vascular biology with internationally recognised projects in sudden cardiac death, heart failure, familial hypercholesterolemia and premature atherosclerotic disease.



**Three new Cardiff University Research Institutes have been established with the School of Medicine at the heart of their world-leading, agenda setting research:**

**Cancer Stem Cell Research Institute**

– aims to explore the potential of new approaches to cancer treatment. It may be possible to treat cancer by focusing on a small number of cells in each tumour that are central to disease progression, rather than all of the cells, as do present treatments. The Institute will investigate the importance of these cancer stem cells across a range of common cancers.

**Neuroscience and Mental Health Research Institute** – will build upon the recent Cardiff breakthroughs on the genetic origins of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and Alzheimer's, aiming to develop therapies for a range of diseases that span from childhood to old age. The aim is to exploit those findings to understand fundamental

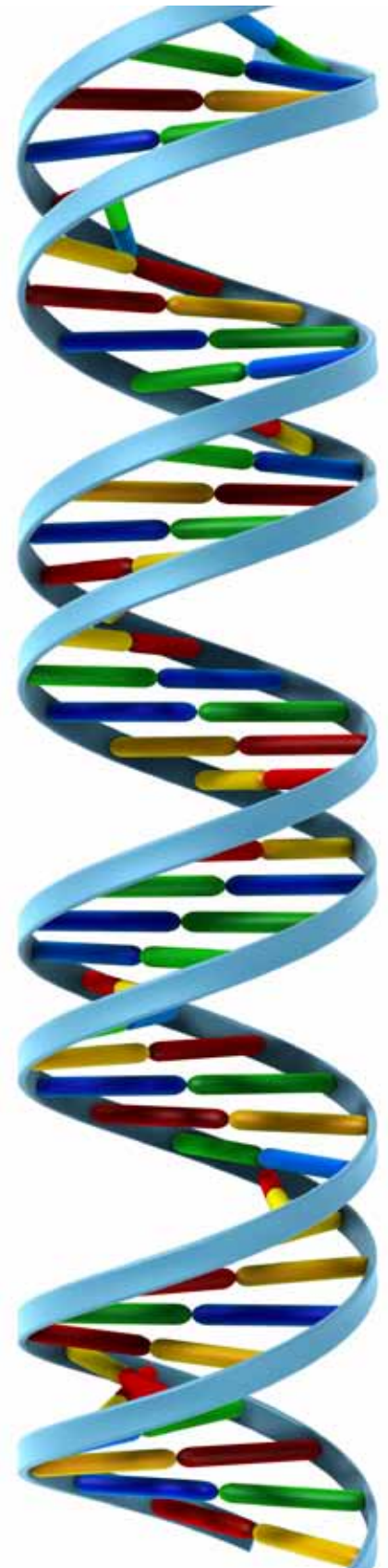
disease mechanisms and hence develop therapies for these profoundly disabling disorders.

**Sustainable Places Research Institute**

– will create integrated solutions drawing on many different specialisms – buildings, energy, systems, communities, the natural environment, infrastructure, health and policy-making. These solutions will be tailored to the individual needs of different locations around the world.

**Excellent research facilities and enabling platforms include:**

- Wales Gene Park
- Wales Cancer Bank
- Central Biotechnology Services
- Clinical Research Facility
- Registered Trials Units, including the Wales Cancer Trials Unit and the South East Wales Trials Unit
- The Severnside Alliance for Translational Research (SARTRE) collaboration between Cardiff and Bristol Universities.



# What the students say...

## The Students:

**Ryan Hext**, 23, from Plymouth

**Dena Pitrola**, 22, from Cardiff

**Carwyn Shires**, 21, from Merthyr Tydfil

**Katerina Walach**, 20, from Hengoed

## What is the best thing about the course?

**Katerina:** It is intellectually challenging, exciting. The student selected components (SSCs) allow you to choose to study a topic of interest to you. Cardiff's 'systems based approach' gives you a great appreciation of just how complex the body is in both healthy and diseased states.

**Dena:** The best thing is having lots of time on the wards on placement, talking to and seeing patients. You see a patient with a condition and you realise how all the reading up you've done is actually relevant.

**Carwyn:** The variety – everyday is different; working with people.

**Ryan:** Dissection was a highlight – I think the best way to learn about the body is by dissecting and seeing the anatomy for yourself, I wasn't hugely keen at first to be honest, but you don't forget following the median nerve down the arm into the hand! It's really good, and also a great way to make friends early on.

## Why did you choose to study at Cardiff University?

**Ryan:** I looked around the city and thought it was really nice, its like a 'local' capital city – everything is close and accessible to where we live but at the same time you get the perks of living in a capital – good shops and of course international sport. The open day was really good, the staff seemed approachable and I felt the course would suit me.

**Carwyn:** Nice city; good course; I wanted to stay in Wales; ability to go all over Wales for placements which provides variety of clinical experience.

**Katerina:** I live nearby and have always envisaged myself working in the Heath hospital. For me it's close to home



which I like. The opportunity to see patients early on in the course made learning relevant. For me, Cardiff is a home from home.

## Why would you recommend Cardiff to potential students?

**Carwyn:** You have the ability to go all over Wales for placements which provides a variety of clinical experience.

**Katerina:** Cardiff has so many opportunities for students, offering choice, flexibility and supportive staff who are always there to help. The excellent teaching and research facilities allow for endless opportunities.

**Dena:** The academic staff have always listened to comments and concerns and are very supportive. Cardiff is a vibrant, up and coming city with plenty to do. There are big-name high street shops inside a bustling city centre, but less than an hour's drive away is stunning scenery and tranquillity of Brecon Beacons National Park.

**Ryan:** If you are looking for a brilliant city with something for everyone, loads of activities and opportunities and a course backed by tradition then come to Cardiff. I have enjoyed my experience and it has gone far too quickly!

## Describe the social life in Cardiff?

**Carwyn:** Good – plenty of things to do for those who don't want to get drunk!

**Katerina:** There are plenty of places to 'let your hair down' in Cardiff. In the

daytime, there's Roath Park for a relaxing stroll. There are plenty of shops to visit especially since the opening of 'St Davids 2' – a great way to de-stress after a hard day's learning! At night time, the Students' Union has lots to offer from Comedy to club nights – you're guaranteed to have a brilliant night out. The well known medic place to be 'Live lounge' always offers a good night out with live acts performing regularly there's no place to be but the dance floor!

**Dena:** There's a lot going on – plenty of choice for going out in the evenings in terms of bars and clubs. Student life is also busy, with lots of societies to cater for many, if not all tastes!

**Ryan:** There is generally something to do for everyone! I have had a great time in Cardiff, the city is fantastic for nights out – often other friends from other uni's come down to enjoy a weekend here. The facilities around are also top notch – good gym and hockey areas for me.

## Finally, describe your Cardiff experience in four words!

**Dena:** Hectic, fulfilling, stimulating, demanding.

**Carwyn:** Challenging, rewarding, exciting, worthwhile.

**Katerina:** Fast paced, exciting, full of energy and unmissable!

**Ryan:** Fun, educational, social, unforgettable.

# Admissions

To be considered for entry onto the course you should apply online via the UCAS website using the UCAS Apply facility. To use this facility you need to log on to: [www.ucas.ac.uk/apply](http://www.ucas.ac.uk/apply). The website will provide you with information on how to apply and explain the procedure. Applications should be made by **OCTOBER 15TH**.

## Programmes Offered:

### A100 Five Year Programme

This is the conventional 5 year programme leading to the MB BCH degree. There are around 280 places for Home and EU students including graduate/mature applicants and approximately 24 for overseas students.

### A101 Four Year Programme

This is a 4 year graduate entry programme leading to the MB BCH degree. There are up to 20 places available to graduates from a number of recognised feeder courses.

### A104 Foundation Programme

The Foundation programme is designed for students who have demonstrated high academic potential but who do not meet the specific subject requirements for entry to the five year medical programme i.e. those who have non-science subjects or a combination including no more than one of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The aim of our selection process is to identify those applicants who are best suited to follow our medical programme successfully, and who have the greatest potential to embark on a productive career in the medical profession. All applicants are assessed in two broad areas: academic ability and potential; and personal qualities appropriate for a career in medicine. Underpinning these principles is a commitment to ensuring that the selection policy and its operation is open, equitable, and applied fairly to all applicants.

## Academic Requirements

To establish an applicant's potential to cope with the academic demands of the programme, the initial assessment consists of ranking applicants who have met the specified minimum requirements (see below) according to their overall profile of academic performance in a breadth of subjects (e.g. for GCSE this will be across nine subjects). Resit applications will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

All applicants (other than those resident in exempt countries) are required to take the national UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UK-CAT) during July – October in the year of application.

## Interviews

Applicants obtaining the highest rankings in both academic and non-academic assessments are invited for interview. No offers are made unless a candidate has been invited to interview. Interviews, which will last approximately twenty minutes, take place during the period November – March, and no significance should be attached to whether the interview date is early or late within this time frame.

When possible all attempts will be made to accommodate those whose first language is Welsh by providing a Welsh speaking interview panel.

Interview panels typically comprise of three members and usually include a medical student from the senior years of the course. The purpose of the interview is to assess:

- Motivation and interest in studying medicine and understanding the demands of medical training
- A caring ethos and sense of social awareness and responsibility
- Evidence of a balanced approach to life
- Interpersonal and communication skills.

## Use of Contextual Data

Cardiff School of Medicine is committed to widening access and welcomes applications from students of all backgrounds. The School is piloting the University's use of contextual data. The academic and non-academic attainment of a candidate will be reviewed against school performance data and socioeconomic background to provide admissions tutors with a more complete overview of an applicant's attainment and potential. The School will consider this information in deciding whether or not to call a candidate for interview. It will not use this information to make lower or differential offers to any particular group of students. For further information about contextual data and its use please see our web pages:

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/applyingtocardiff](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/applyingtocardiff)

## A100 Programme

**A-level/AS-Level:** AAA grades at A-level, plus C grade in a fourth AS-Level. A-levels must include two science subjects from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics or Statistics, one of which must be Biology or Chemistry with A grade. C grade at AS-level in an additional subject not offered at A-level. Biology or Chemistry must be offered at AS level with a grade A if not offered at A-level. General Studies not accepted. Critical Thinking only accepted as fourth AS level. Key Skills level 3 in three subjects is an alternative to an AS Level.

**Welsh Bacc:** Pass Advanced Diploma, grade A in A-level Chemistry or Biology, grade B in a second A-level science subject (from Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Mathematics or Statistics), and grade C in an AS subject not offered at A-level. Biology and Chemistry must be offered at AS-Level with a minimum grade B if not offered at A-Level.

**International Bacc:** (A100): 36 points (excluding Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay). Two sciences (out of Chemistry, Biology, Physics, and either Mathematics or Statistics) must be offered at Higher Level, one of which is Chemistry or Biology. A minimum of 18 points must be achieved in the Higher Level subjects including a 6 in Chemistry or Biology. Chemistry or Biology must be offered at Subsidiary Level if not at Higher Level. Physics must be offered at GCSE level if not at Higher or Subsidiary Level

**Non-academic requirements:** Students should demonstrate evidence of an understanding of medical training and practice; a caring attitude towards people; the ability to communicate effectively; a willingness to accept responsibility; evidence of team working and broad interests. All applicants selected for interview must satisfy the requirements with regard to health and a criminal records check. Applicants who do not quite meet some of the academic criteria may be invited if their Personal Statement is of a sufficiently high quality or there are extenuating circumstances.

**Other:** Applications from those offering alternative/vocational/overseas qualifications (e.g. Access, Vocational A-level) are welcome, as are those who have combinations of qualifications or other relevant work/life experience. Please visit our website for further details.

### A104 Foundation Year Programme (Foundation Year plus 5-year medical programme)

Entry is restricted to applicants who cannot meet the requirements for entry to the 5-year programme by the virtue of having inappropriate subject combinations or depth of learning. Those with more than one science A-level are not usually considered. A/AS-level, GCSE, Welsh and International Baccalaureate entry standards are similar to those for the 5-year programme.

**Non-academic requirements:** Students should demonstrate evidence of an understanding of medical training and practice; a caring attitude towards people; the ability to communicate effectively; a willingness to accept responsibility; evidence of team working and broad interests. Applicants accepting offers must satisfy the health requirements and be registered with the National Safeguarding Authority's Vetting & Barring Scheme.

### Graduate Entry

#### *Entry into year 1 (A100 or A104)*

Graduate entry will be considered for those candidates who are predicted (or have achieved) a 1st or 2(i) Hons Degree and in addition have achieved a minimum of BBB at A-level and B in English/Welsh Language and B in Mathematics at GCSEs.

*Entry into the 4 year Graduate Entry Programme (A101) - Subject to Validation*  
Up to ten students will be considered, dependent on academic performance and subsequent non-academic assessment for entry in to the 4 year graduate entry programme from each of Cardiff University BSc Medical Pharmacology (UCAS Code B210) and University of Glamorgan BSc Medical Sciences (UCAS Code B901).

Similar links with degree programmes offered by Cardiff University BSc Biomedical Science and by Bangor University are under development.

### Open Day

University-wide Open Days will be held on 25th April, 6th July and 14th September 2012 and provides the opportunity to visit all schools in addition to residences, the Students' Union and sports facilities.

Admissions tutors are always willing to discuss queries, either by telephone or by letter.

### Equal Opportunities

Cardiff University is committed to promoting equality and diversity in all of its practices and activities, including those relating to student recruitment, selection and admission. The University aims to establish an inclusive culture which welcomes and ensures equality of opportunity for applicants of all ages, ethnicities, disabilities, family structures, genders, nationalities, sexual orientations, races, religious or other beliefs, and socio-economic backgrounds. This commitment forms part of the Equality and Diversity Policy which is available at:

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/cocom/equalityanddiversity/index.html](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/cocom/equalityanddiversity/index.html)

### Notes for Welsh Language Applicants

We recognise that if you are a Welsh speaker you may feel more comfortable speaking to a Welsh speaking personal tutor and every effort will be made to allocate a Welsh speaker to you. If you wish, you can also submit your assessed work and take your examinations through the medium of Welsh, regardless of the language of tuition of the course you are following. Some of the accommodation at Senghennydd Court and Talybont North student residences has been allocated for Welsh speakers and learners who would like to be grouped together. If you would like to take advantage of this please make a note of this on your accommodation form.

## Tuition Fees and Financial Assistance

The University charges an annual fee which covers all tuition fees, registration and examinations other than the re-taking of examinations by applicants not currently registered. Please note charges for accommodation in University Residences are additional.

### Tuition Fees

Please see the following website for more information:

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees)

### Scholarships and Bursaries

For more information please visit the following website:

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/scholarships)

### Useful websites for information about tuition fees and financial assistance:

Cardiff University website:

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees)

Student Support Centre website:

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/financialsupport/index.html](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/financialsupport/index.html)

DfES Student Support web pages:

[www.dfes.gov.uk/studentssupport/](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/studentssupport/)

Welsh Assembly Student Finance web pages:

[www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

Student Finance England:

[www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk](http://www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk)

Student Loans Company

[www.slc.co.uk](http://www.slc.co.uk)



### Important information. Please read carefully.

The University offers the information contained in this brochure as a guide only. It does not constitute a contract and is not binding on prospective students, students or the University. While the University makes every effort to check the accuracy of the factual content at the time of publication, some changes will inevitably occur in the interval between publication and the academic year to which the brochure relates (Entry 2013). For example, courses, entry requirements and typical offers may have changed in line with market and student demand, and research development. Applicants should not therefore rely solely on this brochure and should visit the University website ([www.cardiff.ac.uk](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk)) for up-to-date information concerning course content, accreditation, and entry requirements for the relevant academic year when considering applying to the University.

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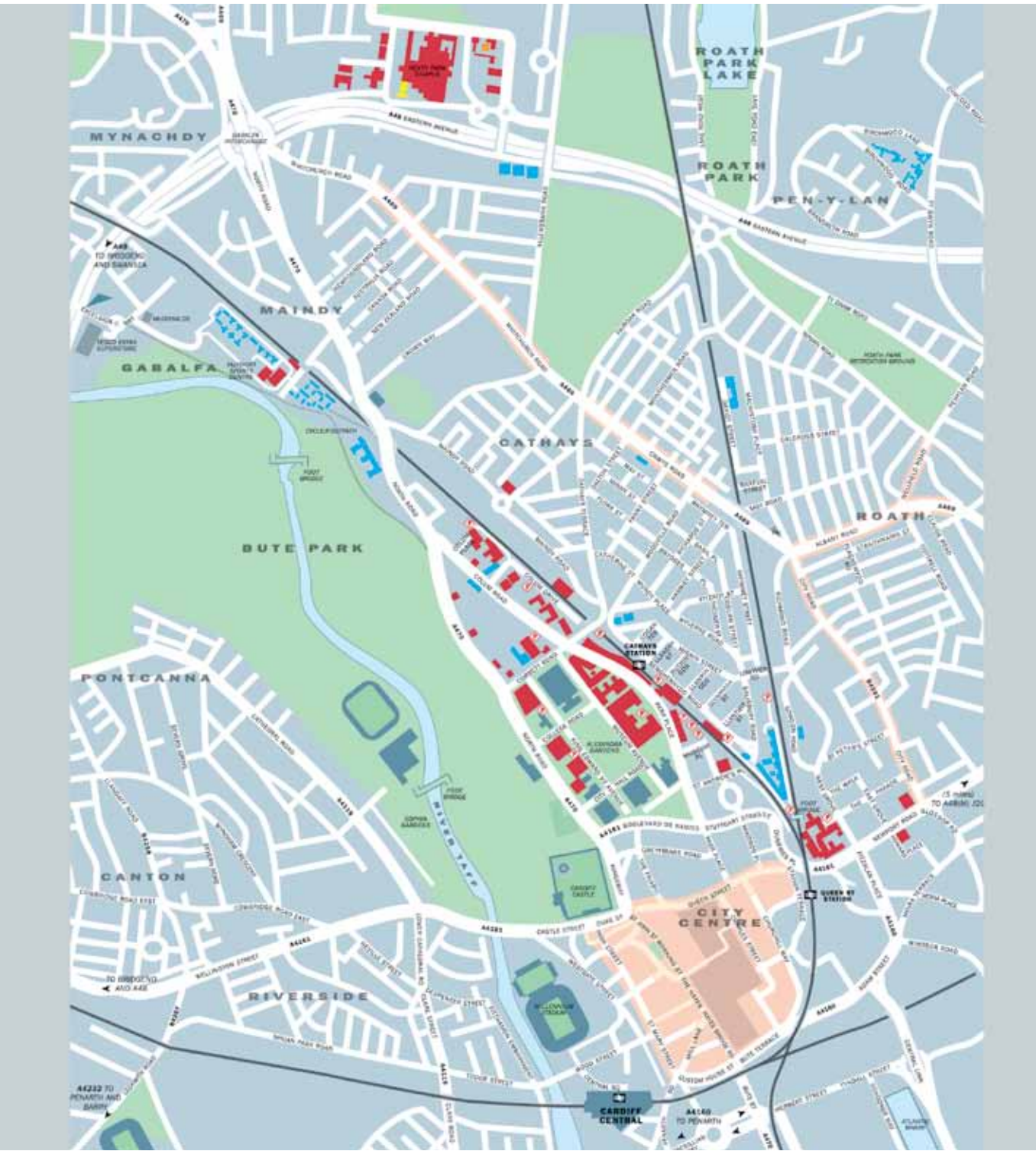
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**Tel: 029 2087 4839 Email: [RobertsL9@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:RobertsL9@cardiff.ac.uk)**

# How to find us

## Key

- Cardiff School of Medicine
- University Buildings
- Cochrane Building
- Student Residences



To find out more about studying at Cardiff University and the exciting changes to the medical curriculum visit one of our open days on:

25th April 2012

6th July 2012

14th September 2012

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/opendays)



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Email: [medadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:medadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk)

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/medic](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/medic)

