

CARDIFF  
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL  
CAERDYDD



PRIFYSGOL  
BANGOR  
UNIVERSITY

C21

gogledd  
Cymru

north  
Wales

FAQ update 2021  
UCAS A102



Delivering Cardiff University's C21 programme in collaboration with the School of Medical and Health Sciences, Bangor University.



## *What will I learn?*

Our Medicine Programme has been developed with input from experts in Medical Education, doctors and scientists, as well as students. The curriculum is sectioned into four categories – learning the right science at the right time, developing scholarship by stimulating your curiosity and a love for life-long learning; developing and practising the skills needed throughout your medical career while also ensuring patient and personal safety; and developing your sense of service and professional behaviour, helping you to recognise the important role you will play in improving teaching, training, service delivery and clinical practice.

To start, you will learn how basic science fits into a clinical setting, preparing

you for your early patient contact. You will also learn vital skills – how to communicate effectively, how to perform practical procedures and how to elicit relevant information from people, books and online resources - and you will practise these on your clinical placements. You will learn how to apply what you have learned to real people and how to work as a professional in a medical team.

You will continue to accumulate knowledge and practise your skills throughout the course, as you will learn what is normal and not normal in different medical scenarios. You will have many opportunities to choose what you learn, when you look more in-depth at specific subjects and learn to research and write in a scholarly way.

## *Where will I learn?*

Learning in the early years happens in a variety of settings, including the newly-built anatomy lab and inter-professional clinical skills centre in Bangor University and clinical sites across north Wales.

In Year 3 you will undertake a year-long placement in the community, where you will become a working member of your practice team, with a month in a district general hospital. In Years 4 and 5 you will have multiple hospital placements across north Wales.

## *How will I learn?*

Case Based Learning (CBL) helps you to make sense of your new knowledge and skills, and to relate them all to a common theme. CBL in the early years explores the most common cases a doctor sees (e.g. a sports injury, abdominal pain, mental health issues etc.): with each case you will look at anatomy, physiology and social aspects, develop practical skills and get relevant clinical experience through short placements. You will come to understand how each relates to the other, giving you an overall perspective of the case.

You are responsible for your own learning, supported by plenary and small group sessions, anatomy centre teaching, lab-based practicals and clinical placements. (A plenary is an interactive session where large numbers of students receive information from an expert scientist or doctor. In small group sessions, approximately 10 students and a facilitator discuss what they have learned in the week's plenaries and the associated reading. Your timetable will also have Independent Learning, time when you will have no formal sessions and are expected to arrange your own discussion groups, research in the library, read around a subject etc.)

In later years, you will also learn as part of a clinical team on longer placements and during extended projects, either locally or internationally.

## *When will I learn?*

In Years 2-3, Wednesday afternoons are free, for your extra-curricular activities. Don't worry, you won't be in plenaries eight hours a day, five days a week; you will also have clinical and communication skills sessions, anatomy teaching, small group learning and, of course, be on wards and in clinics. Scheduled sessions for self-directed learning give you time to then explore and develop your new knowledge and skills.

Your timetable changes as you progress: to begin with, almost half your time is scheduled learning, about 10% is out on placement and the rest is independent learning. By your final year, almost 60% of your time is on placement, with the balance made up of scheduled learning and independent learning.

## *How will I learn anatomy?*

All doctors need thorough knowledge of the human body and our Anatomage table is a great way to learn anatomy. You will also learn about human structures through prosection, post-mortem pathology, clinical skills sessions, digital imaging, computer resources, models, high technology simulations and modern radiological techniques.

## *What opportunities are there for me to experience rare conditions and other conditions we don't get in this country?*

Our final year elective allows students to choose almost anywhere in the world to learn anything they want, related to Medicine. Most students arrange their own elective but we also have elective partners around the world.

Many students have chosen to spend one of their Year 4 placements abroad: we have European Exchange Scheme partner institutions to make it a really memorable one for you.

Students wanting extra academic emphasis can take a year out to intercalate, studying for a bachelor or masters degree in a Medicine-related subject. We offer intercalated degrees in over a dozen subjects, from Neuroscience and Biochemistry to Emergency, Pre-Hospital and Immediate Care (EPIC).



## *What language will I learn in?*

You can opt for parts of your course, and some assessments, to be in English or Welsh. We are increasing the amount of our programme available in both languages.

Studying Medicine in Wales, a bilingual country, lets you develop valuable communication skills; feeling confident to treat patients whose first language is not your own equips you to work anywhere in the world, from Carmarthen to Canada. How much of their language you learn is up to you, and we will help and support you along the way.

## *I'm nervous about meeting patients – what if I make a mistake?*

Mistakes are inevitable but by teaching you practical skills in a skills lab, then giving you early exposure to patients, we will help you to develop the skills and confidence you need.

## *How will you prepare me for my first year as a doctor? I hear the first Foundation Year is tough.*

The first year is traditionally difficult for newly-qualified doctors so our curriculum is designed to give our graduates a good start. We work closely with our NHS partners and colleagues in the Wales Foundation School, on an innovative programme that 'harmonises' your final year of medical school and your first year of work as a doctor. We want to make sure you are ready to start taking care of patients, safely and professionally, from the word go.

Final exams are early, to allow you to focus on experiencing what it is like to be a doctor. There will be intensive revision support and reinforcement of essential clinical skills, including prescribing.

You will have more frequent, and longer, clinical experience in the sort of places you will eventually work. Shadowing allows you to learn important skills from people who may soon be your colleagues; for your final placement, we aim for you to shadow the doctor whose job you will take over when you graduate, if you choose Wales for Foundation programme. If you plan to work elsewhere, we will allocate you to the best available placement relevant to your F1 post.

## *What are Progress Tests?*

Like some other UK medical schools, we have progress tests in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5: all students in these years sit a written exam, at least three times a year, to assess and monitor what you have learned. Test questions are the same for all students, allowing you to track your progress over time and against the rest of your year group.

## *How much say will I have in where I have my placements?*

We offer you the whole of north Wales as your classroom, meaning you get to experience a broad range of learning opportunities not always available to medical students. Vibrant city living, immigrant or deprived populations, seasonal holiday destinations, suburban areas, post-industrial communities and small rural villages each have unique needs – and joys – and our impressive range of placements across north Wales prepares you to make good career choices after medical school.

We are doing what we can to offer medical students more say in their placement locations. Bear in mind that medical students who are not prepared to travel cannot expect to have all the learning experiences needed to qualify and practise safely as a doctor.

## *How will I be assessed?*

Our assessments follow a non-modular structure, where you learn to apply knowledge rather than just learning facts. For example, instead of learning about anatomy and then sitting an exam on anatomy, then learning about pain and sitting an exam on pain, you will learn about anatomy and pain and how they relate to each other in real life. Both will be tested in the same exam, possibly in the same question, with other questions on other topics.

Our students are examined in the four areas of the curriculum: science, practice, professional behaviour, and scholarship. We assess you throughout the year using reflective writing, essays, regular contact with doctors and academics, completion of logs of clinical skills and written exams. For all of these, you will receive extensive feedback.





## *What if I need help adjusting to university life or academic work?*

Whatever your academic background, you will need support in essential areas such as study skills, numeracy and literacy, research skills and time management. In addition to the regular support offered by Bangor University to all students, we make sure that these areas are covered throughout the course and that targeted help is

available for those who need it. We will allocate you a Personal Tutor in your first week, to meet with regularly throughout your studies, to discuss any support you might want and to help you make the most of your time in university.

MyMedic, a confidential service, offers help with personal issues, health issues, time management and study skills. Specialist support is also available for those who speak English as a second language.

## **Interested? Get in touch...**

For more information, or to ask further questions, please contact us:

 [C21@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:C21@cardiff.ac.uk)  
[medadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:medadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk)  
[medicine@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:medicine@bangor.ac.uk)

 [www.cardiff.ac.uk/medicine](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/medicine)  
[facebook.com/CardiffC21](https://www.facebook.com/CardiffC21)

 School of Medicine  
Neuadd Meirionnydd,  
Heath Park,  
Cardiff CF14 4YS

 +44 (0)29 2068 8113