



School of Medicine

Admissions Policy for Undergraduate Programmes in Medicine

Entry 2022

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Aims and governance

The School of Medicine aims to admit students with the qualities, abilities and attributes that can benefit from our medical programme and **“to attract, train and retain the best students and staff, producing graduates who understand the needs of individuals and the community in which they live”**.

This requires that the process of student selection is objective, transparent, open, fair, and free from discrimination of any kind. The selection process is bound by the University’s policy on Equality and Diversity: <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/equality-and-diversity>

We aim to ensure equality of opportunity for all individuals whose applications are considered in accordance with the Medical Schools Council *Statement on the core values and attributes needed to study medicine* <https://www.medschools.ac.uk/media/2542/statement-on-core-values-to-study-medicine.pdf>

We actively encourage applications from people of diverse backgrounds and use contextual data to help to do this. Applicants from Wales are encouraged as they are under-represented in applications for medicine in the UK.

In addition, applicants with a disability are welcome and should consult the General Medical Council’s *Gateways to the Professions* <https://www.gmc-uk.org/>.

Selection for a medical school implies selection for the medical profession and applicants should be aware of the duties of a medical student as outlined by the GMC in the guidance documents *Medical Students: Professional Behaviour and Fitness to Practise* and *Good Medical Practice* (<https://www.gmc-uk.org/>).

The Admissions process is overseen by the Director of Admissions and an Admissions Group, which consists of Medical School academic staff under the governance of the University. This Group advises on policy and individual cases. An Admissions Administrative Team who works alongside the Admissions Group can be contacted at medadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk

1. The courses

2.1 A100 5-year course

This is for applicants with three A-levels or equivalent qualifications including Chemistry and Biology. Science graduates can also apply for the A100 course. Students undertaking the 5-year course may wish to consider taking an *additional year* to complete an intercalated degree.

2.2 A101/A102 Graduate Entry to Medicine (GEM) 4-year course

This is only available to applicants enrolled on one of the following four Feeder Stream degree programmes:

- BSc (Hons) Medical Pharmacology degree, School of Medicine, Cardiff University (B210)
- BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences degree, School of Biosciences, Cardiff University (BC97)
- BSc (Hons) Medical Sciences degree, from the University of South Wales (B901)*
- BMedSci (Hons) Medical Sciences degree from Bangor University (B100)*

**The arrangements regarding these feeder streams are currently under review.*

There is provision for students from each feeder stream (see above) to enter the second year of the five-year A100 Medical programme in Cardiff (A101). In addition, students from the feeder streams can apply to study their medical degree in North Wales (A102). Students on both courses will graduate with a Cardiff University degree.

Details of all the programmes are found in the Undergraduate Prospectus
<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/for/prospective/ug/prospectus>

2. Entry requirements

For all applicants (including graduates)

All applicants must have grade B/6 GCSE (or equivalent qualification, grade and subject) in Mathematics, English Language, Chemistry, and Biology (and Double Award Science (BB or 66)). Applicants receive a score based on the four subjects above and the five best other GCSE (or equivalent level) results. No results below 6/B are scored.

Applicants who have already achieved all three relevant A-levels receive additional points for these in the scoring process (A-levels must meet the minimum requirements listed in the [Appendix](#)).

Applicants who are working towards a science degree may also receive additional consideration. Welsh-domiciled applicants are under-represented in applications to UK medical schools; additional consideration will be given to their applications.

For A100, applicants must offer three A-levels (or equivalent) including Biology, Chemistry and a third subject (see [Appendix](#)).

All applicants are required to take the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) **during July to October of the year of application**. Test results obtained in previous years are not accepted. The UCAT score may be used as part of the interview shortlisting or offer selection process. Graduate applicants are required to sit the GAMSAT (see [Graduate Applicants](#)).

All applicants may be asked to participate in a trial of an online situational judgement test (CASPer). Should we pilot it, we may ask applicants to complete the test. There will be no cost to the applicant and the test result will not contribute to the decisions in the application cycle. Further information can be found at: www.takecasper.com

Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to reapply, providing they meet the minimum entry criteria for the year they wish to apply.

3. UCAS applications

For all applicants (including graduates)

All applicants must complete all sections of the UCAS application and should include information supporting their suitability for a medical course in their personal statement. The personal statement should include insight into a career in medicine, evidence of experience and reflection in a caring environment, evidence and reflection of personal responsibility, evidence of a balanced approach to life, and evidence of self-directed learning. All applicants should note that the medical school requires an **academic** reference.

All applicants must be age 18 or over by 20th September of the year of entry to the course, as students are in a clinical environment from the start of the course (see [Under 18s Policy](#)).

Applicants who wish to be considered for a deferred entry must state this on their UCAS form by indicating the year of admission. Applicants can only defer for 12 months. Applicants who request a deferral after accepting an offer from the School of Medicine will be considered by the Admissions Group on a case-by-case basis.

4. Extenuating Circumstances

5.1 For all applicants

Should you think that something has significantly impacted upon your academic performance, you may submit extenuating circumstances. ***This must be provided prior to application by the applicant and not a third party.*** For extenuating circumstances to be considered we must receive a completed 'Extenuating Circumstances form' with supporting evidence (a letter from a medical professional if health related, or a letter from faculty at current school) before the end of September 2021. This form can be found on the website at <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/admissions-criteria/medicine/medicine> or can be requested via email to medadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk. The School cannot consider extenuating circumstances presented on a UCAS form without prior notice via the Extenuating Circumstances form'.

5.2 Performance at A-level or equivalent

Applicants who have failed to achieve AAA (or equivalent qualification) at first attempt will not usually be considered. AS results, where taken as part of a two-year A-level course, are not taken into consideration for selection for interview.

We will consider applications where modules have been re-sat in either AS level or A-level, on the understanding that they are completed within the standard two-year A-level period.

Re-sits for applicants who have previously applied to medicine at Cardiff, whose A-levels have been completed and the grades awarded will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Those whose underachievement was due to extenuating circumstances, and have previously applied to study Medicine at Cardiff, should complete an extenuating circumstances form which can be downloaded from <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/admissions-criteria/medicine/medicine>. This must be submitted before the end of September 2021. Individuals will be informed whether their circumstances will allow consideration, and if subsequently successful at interview, will usually be given a **conditional** offer.

Applications where additional Level 3 Qualifications are undertaken post A-level will not be considered unless there are extenuating circumstances and previous agreement is in place with the Admissions Group.

5. International applicants

We welcome UCAS applications from international students. Applicants offering qualifications other than A-level or International Baccalaureate should contact the Admissions team medadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk and provide full details of their qualifications to obtain advice on eligibility before making an application.

Applicants offering non-standard qualifications must clearly state the subjects and grades on their UCAS application as they are written on their certificates/transcripts. Do not attempt to convert these to GCSE grades.

All international applicants must indicate on their application form that they have or are taking an acceptable **English language** qualification for entry to Medicine. If the qualification is pending, it will form part of an offer. Re-sits for English language qualification may be accepted but must be achieved prior to confirmation of an offer. Details of acceptable English language qualifications and grades required can be found at <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international/english-language-requirements/undergraduate>

All places on the courses are conditional upon success at interview. This includes international applicants who should be prepared to attend for interview at Cardiff University. Cardiff University does not reimburse travel expenses for any applicant. All applicants with a fees status of overseas are sent a

questionnaire during the application process to confirm funding arrangements. If an individual receives the questionnaire, completion is required.

If you are an international student and your qualifications do not meet our entry requirements, you may wish to consider a Foundation Year. Cardiff University has partnered with *Study Group* to provide an International Foundation Year in Health, Medical and Life Sciences academic pathway to Medicine. This is taught at the International Study Centre in the centre of our campus. To find out more about the programmes available and for information about how to apply, please complete an enquiry form at: <https://isc.cardiff.ac.uk/university-referrals/>. Once registered, colleagues at the Study Centre will provide more information.

6. Graduate applicants

Science graduate applicants should refer to all areas of the policy prior to making an application.

Graduate applicants not on one of the four feeder stream degree programmes listed on page 4 should apply for admission to the five-year (A100) according to their previous academic experience in the sciences. Students who have already embarked on a degree course and are not in the final year of the course, will not normally be considered unless there are evidenced considerable and/or unforeseen extenuating circumstances which prevented completion of the initial degree programme. Potential applicants in such circumstances should complete an extenuating circumstances form and the form will be considered by the Admissions Group.

Applicants who have failed to complete a course for academic reasons or matters of probity will not be considered.

Academic qualifications obtained before entering university will also be considered and graduate applicants will need to meet the minimum entry requirements (listed in the [Appendix](#)) and will need to have either achieved a BSc Honours degree 2:1 or above in their first degree or be working towards it.

All graduate applicants are required to take the Graduate Medical School Aptitude Test (**GAMSAT**) by September of the Year of application. <https://gamsat.acer.org/university-admission/admission-uk>
A GAMSAT result in the previous year prior to application will also be considered.

The information stated in this section also applies to those with a PhD and Masters.

7. Mature applicants

Applications from mature students are welcome but should be aware of the [Standard Period of Relevance Policy](#) for academic qualifications.

8. Widening participation

Cardiff University is committed to widening participation. We welcome applications from students of all backgrounds, and we use contextualisation data when considering applications. Applicants who are participating in widening participation initiatives listed below will be offered an interview so long as they meet the [minimum entry requirements](#):

- Cardiff University Step-Up programme
- Sutton Trust attendees to Cardiff University Summer School
- Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (specifically the *Doctoriad Yfory* scheme)
- Coleg Gwent Certificate

9. Selection process

10.1 For all applicants (including graduates)

All applications must be made through UCAS, details of which can be found at <https://www.ucas.com/> and can be made in either English or Welsh - applicants can choose which of these languages they wish to receive correspondence in. **The closing date for applications for 2022 entry is the 15th of October 2021. Applications received or that are incomplete after this date will not be considered.**

10.2 Academic

Applicants should include **ALL** qualifications (including a breakdown of subjects and grades) achieved and pending, from the age of 14+ in the “*QUALIFICATIONS COMPLETED OR CERTIFICATED*” section of their UCAS application. Applicants who fail to do this will not be considered. Those who meet or exceed the minimum academic threshold will then be ranked and a cut-off point determined to proceed to consideration of the non-academic criteria. Applicants are reminded that an **academic** referee’s statement is required.

10.3 UCAT/GAMSAT

There is no minimum UCAT or GAMSAT threshold score that applicants must achieve. The UCAT and GAMSAT may be used as part of our selection process.

10.4 Non-academic requirements

Applicants who have reached or exceeded the academic cut-off score for the year are then considered on non-academic criteria according to the information in their personal statement and the academic referee’s statement. Applications are reviewed by trained selectors. The School of Medicine recognises that opportunities for certain types of work experience and participation in similar activities will vary according to individual applicant’s background, including socio-economic, cultural, and geographical circumstances. This will be considered when reviewing the personal statement.

10.5 Interviews

Applicants who are shortlisted will be invited to interview (normally January/February after the UCAS application deadline in October). Invitations are sent via email with a link to our online booking system normally in December of the application cycle. Once an applicant has booked an interview, the date/time cannot usually be changed, so please check with your medical school choices to avoid a clash of dates (interview dates are often published in advance).

The interview is in the form of multiple mini interviews (MMIs), exploring personal qualities and attributes important to developing a good doctor: <https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-doctors/good-medical-practice>

For applicants who have disability related access needs or those with any extenuating circumstances that may affect an applicant’s performance at interview must provide this information when booking the interview slot to allow sufficient time for consideration of reasonable adjustments.

In the event of illness preventing an applicant from attending an interview, the applicant should contact the Admissions Team to try to seek an alternative interview date, but this cannot be guaranteed. If the applicant has concerns about an interview, they must bring it to the attention of the Admissions Team on the day of the interview. Retrospective adjustments will not be made.

All offers are made after the interviews. Failure to attend a booked interview without exceptional reasons will result in the application being rejected. Applicants who are not offered interviews will be notified. All interviewees will be provided with feedback after all interviews have been completed.

Successful applicants will be notified via UCAS. To ensure equality of opportunity, no offers will be made until all interviews are completed. The decision to make all offers is made by the School of Medicine Admissions Group. The Admissions Group endeavours to make offers as soon as is practicable after the interview cycle.

Please also see the University's [Interview and Audition Policy](#).

11. Unfair practice

Where false or misleading information has been provided at application stage, the application will not be considered further. UCAS will also be notified. All UCAS personal statements are subjected to a plagiarism detection process. Applications that are suspected to contain false, plagiarised, incorrect, or misleading information will be investigated in accordance with the University's Admissions Policy. An offer of an interview or subsequent offer of a place will be withdrawn if false or misleading information or evidence of other unfair practice is subsequently discovered. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that we are informed of any relevant changes to their personal circumstances.

12. Other entry conditions

Entry to Medicine includes a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and completion of a health survey arranged with the University Occupational Health Service.

13. Confirmation of a place

Applicants who have met or exceeded the terms of their offer will be notified by UCAS following the receipt of results.

Those who have not met the terms of their offer are referred to the Admissions Group for review. The applicant will be notified of the decision via UCAS. The Admissions Group decision is final.

14. Transfers

Cardiff University School of Medicine has an integrated, spiral curriculum and therefore does not normally consider transfer requests from students studying medicine elsewhere.

15. Communication with the School of Medicine

Communication with the Admissions Team relating to an applicant's personal circumstances that could have a potential bearing on selection must be made in writing by letter or email. Due to Data Protection the University can only communicate with the applicant directly in relation to all aspects of their application unless the applicant has authorised a third party to act on their behalf.

16. Complaints and appeals

We are committed to delivering a high quality, efficient and fair admissions process. Information about the Complaints and Appeals procedures can be found at: <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/students-applicants/admissions-policies/complaints-and-appeals>.

17. Applicant's conduct

Professional behaviour is an important part of studying medicine and being a doctor. If there is behaviour that may be considered as unprofessional, this will jeopardise the application and may result in a rejection. Any behaviour that contravenes Cardiff University's Equality and Diversity and/or Dignity at Work and Study Policies may result in the withdrawal of an offer/admission. Details of the policy can be found on <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/equality-and-diversity>

18. Further enquiries

For further enquiries regarding admissions to Cardiff University School of Medicine undergraduate medical degree programmes please contact:

School of Medicine Admissions Team

2nd Floor Neuadd Meirionnydd

Heath Park Campus

Cardiff University

Cardiff

CF14 4YS

Telephone: (029) 2068 8113/8073

Email: medadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk

APPENDIX - Academic requirements

All applicants must provide evidence of prior academic capability in externally moderated, publicly validated examinations, e.g. GCSE, IGCSE or equivalent qualifications. For applicants with UK qualifications, only those that are defined in the National Database of Accredited Qualifications are acceptable: <http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk/office-of-qualifications-and-examinations-regulation-ofqual.html>

A. GCSE requirements

GCSE Subjects	Minimum requirements
English or Welsh Language	Grade B or 6 Note: International applicants must also meet UKVI requirements for English language.
Mathematics or Numeracy	Grade B or 6 Note: Applicants taking GCSE/IGCSE examinations under the numeric grading system are required to have Mathematics at a minimum of grade 6. Applicants taking GCSE/IGCSE examinations under the alphabetical grading system are required to have either Mathematics or Numeracy at a minimum of grade B. For all exam boards we will also accept one extra Mathematics subject alongside either Mathematics or Numeracy from Additional Mathematics, Further Mathematics or Statistics, if it is to the advantage of the applicant.
Science	Either BB or 66 in Science and Additional Science or equivalent OR BB or 66 in Chemistry and Biology OR BB or 66 in Core Science, and one of Additional Science or Further Additional Science Note: GCSE Human Biology is accepted, but not in conjunction with standard GCSE Biology.
Other subjects	Applicants must offer a total of nine subjects including the minimum requirements above. Where an applicant cannot take nine GCSEs due to school policy, they must offer a minimum of 7 GCSEs and are advised to email medadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk for advice. A single GCSE short course is not considered alone. If, however, there are two short courses which taken together would give the applicant an advantage, then this can count as one whole GCSE. Level 2 certificates such as the Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA), Applied Business, ICT (examining board) and the Diploma in Digital Applications (DiDA) will be considered as contributing one additional, separate subject in lieu of a GCSE during academic scoring.
Not considered	Level 2 BTECs and NVQs
GCSE resit policy	We will only accept GCSE resits within 12 months of the original sitting except English Language which has no time limit for resit.

B. Level 3 requirements

B.1 A-levels

The offer will be AAA grades at A-level. Students must offer three A-levels, which **should** include Chemistry and Biology. Applicants undertaking science A-levels where a separate practical endorsement is reported will require a pass in this element. Applicants who are offering only **one** of Biology or Chemistry at A2 **and** a second science subject eg., Physics or Maths, may still be considered for the A100 course, if they achieve an A grade at AS level in the subject (Biology or Chemistry) not offered at A2 level. Such candidates are advised to contact the Admissions Team, to confirm the acceptability of this arrangement prior to applying.

B.2 Additional information on A-levels

Only one Mathematics subject at A-level (from Maths, Further Maths and Statistics) will be considered. Human biology and biology will not be considered as separate A-levels. General Studies and Critical Thinking are **not** accepted. Applicants offering applied subjects should contact Admissions Team for advice medadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk.

B.3 Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (WBA)

The WBA will be considered in lieu of an A-level. Applicants must also satisfy the A-level subject and grade requirements in Biology and Chemistry.

B.4 Graduates

All graduate applicants should have achieved a minimum of grade B/6 in GCSEs listed in the table above, in addition to BBB or ABC grades at A-level and have achieved a BSc Honours degree 2:1 or above or be working towards it. All graduates should have Biology and Chemistry at GCE A-Level. **Those who do not hold A-Level qualifications in Biology or Chemistry may be considered for the A100 course, however, they are required to provide details of specific modules (as evidence that they have sufficient level of Biology and Chemistry) from their degree courses directly to the School at the time of application and will then be considered individually by the Admissions Group.** Further details can be obtained from the Admissions Team. Applicants who have completed a PhD who wish to apply for Medicine must meet the minimum GCSE entry requirements specified in this section and should contact the Admissions Group for advice. Graduates will be required to sit the GAMSAT.

Graduate applicants **must have completed their degree or must be in the final year of their current degree** programme for their application to be considered. Degree results must be awarded and conferred by 31st August of the year of entry to the course.

B.5 Graduates applying for A101 and A102

Individual academic performance required to maintain eligibility to apply to the A101/A102 course is set by each Feeder Stream course. It is the responsibility of the University providing the Feeder Streams to check the entry requirements and ensure that applicants who subsequently apply to the A101/A102 are competitive.

B.6 International Baccalaureate

Applicants applying prior to having achieved the IB qualification **must include details (including a breakdown of subjects and grades) of their achieved Level 2 examinations, GCSE/Middle Years Programme (MYP), in the Education section on their UCAS application to be considered.** We accept performance from the MYP in English qualification (either at SL or HL) as indicative of the expectation of

IB English: A Language and Literature (first language) or IB English B (second language) being achieved at SL6 or HL5.

Successful candidates require an overall total of 36 points (excluding Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay) for entry. A minimum of 19 points must be achieved in Higher level subjects made up of a score of 7, 6, 6 points to include two science subjects. This must include at least one of Biology and Chemistry at Higher level (if both subjects are not offered then the second subject must be one of Physics, and either Mathematics or Statistics) with the score of 6 points being achieved in either Chemistry or Biology. Chemistry or Biology must be offered at Standard Level with a score of 7 points, if not at Higher level.

If Mathematics and English language are not offered within the IB they should be offered as GCSE subjects with at least grade B/6.

B.7 European Baccalaureate Diploma

Applicants for the A100 course require a final overall mark of at least 85%. Chemistry and Biology with individual grades of at least 8.5 in year 7 must be included in the Diploma.

If Mathematics and English language are not offered within the diploma they should be offered as GCSE subjects with at least grade B/6. **All applicants offering the European Baccalaureate must include details (including a breakdown of subjects and grades) of their achieved Level 2 examinations, GCSE or S6, in the Education section on their UCAS application to be considered**, if applying prior to having achieved the final European Baccalaureate qualification.

B.8 Cambridge Pre-University Diploma

The full Pre-University Diploma with three D3 grades in the Principal Subjects, which must include Chemistry and Biology, is accepted.

Alternatively, applicants can offer a single Principal Subject at D3 in addition to AA at A-level.

B.9 AQA Baccalaureate

In addition to passing the Baccalaureate, AAA grades in three A-Level subjects are required, which must include Chemistry and Biology.

B.10 Access Diploma

For potential applicants who have not studied Biology and Chemistry A-levels but expect to meet our GCE A-level requirements for A100, the [Access to Higher Education Diploma: Subject Descriptor for Medicine \(qaa.ac.uk\)](http://qaa.ac.uk) is available. Similarly, international applicants whose qualifications are not either A-levels or IB and have not studied Chemistry and Biology to sufficient depth and qualification (AAA at A-level), may be eligible for the [Access to Higher Education Diploma: Subject Descriptor for Medicine \(qaa.ac.uk\)](http://qaa.ac.uk). Applicants must also meet the [minimum entry requirements at Level 2/GCSE](#) and must contact medadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk to check their eligibility for this application route.

B.11 Irish qualifications

Applicants with Irish qualifications are eligible to apply for the A100 course. If applying prior to obtaining Leaving Certificate qualifications, **applicants must include their Junior Certificate qualifications (including a breakdown of subjects and grades) in the Education section on their UCAS application to be considered**. For Junior Certificate qualifications, English and Maths are required at Higher level. All subjects offered at Junior Certificate must be at B or Higher Merit and must include Science. For Leaving Certificate qualifications, applicants must offer six subjects at Higher level and obtain six H2 grades, including Chemistry and Biology. Mathematics and English language must be passed to at least O3 Level.

B.12 Scottish qualifications

Applicants offering two subjects at Advanced Higher level with AA grades (including Chemistry and Biology) along with five Scottish Higher A grades are eligible to apply for the A100 course. Mathematics and English language must be passed to at least Standard Level with grade 2 or grade B. Mathematics and English language must be passed to at least Standard Level with grade 2 or grade B.

B.13 Dental graduates

Dental graduates applying to study medicine will be considered for the A101/A102 4-year course only. Up to two places will be set aside for suitably qualified applicants in each cycle. Applicants should submit a full curriculum vitae to the Admissions Team (medadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk) at the time of making their UCAS application. Applicants must have a UCAT score and will need to participate in the multiple mini-interview process and will also be expected to attend a panel interview (to include local Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons) for the purpose of ensuring that applicants are intending to follow the OMFS training route. The application must include an **academic reference** or a reference from a Maxillofacial Surgeon.

The British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (OMFS) provides information for applicants for training in OMFS <https://www.baoms.org.uk>.