

Applying for Medicine and Dentistry

UCAS Application Deadline – 15th October 2025

Applying to study medicine or dentistry is quite different from an application for any other course.

These courses are competitive (only around 25% of applicants are successful) so it is important you are as prepared as possible to give yourself the best chance of getting a place. This sheet lists a few things you will need to consider before making your application.

Your Profile

One of the first things medical schools will look at will be your grade profile. Medical schools pay close attention to your GCSEs as they are a good indicator of future potential. You will also need predicted A-Level grades in line with university entry requirements – most universities ask for at least AAA and some will be higher.

Admissions Tests

Given that most applicants for medicine and dentistry will have similar GCSE and predicted A-Level grades, medical schools use the **University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)** as a good way to compare applicants. You sit this exam outside of school and need to register for it independently. See below for more information.

Extra and Super Curricular Activities

While you can demonstrate your academic ability through exam results and tests, medical schools will also be looking for evidence of your character. To show universities that you are a well rounded individual you will want to have work experience or other activities to write about on your personal statement. You will need to demonstrate you have soft skills such as teamwork, organisation, communication and problem solving skills.

Interview

Most universities will hold **MMIs (Multiple Mini Interviews)**. These have several stations that you rotate through, with different tasks at each one. Tasks might include a maths problem, a role play, an ethical discussion etc. They are looking at your inter-personal skills, as well as your knowledge.

UCAT

Be wary of organisations online that charge for admissions test support – there is lots of free preparation material available on official websites, and in the Further Reading section below.

www.ucat.ac.uk

- 13th May 2025 - Registration opens
- 17th June 2025 – Booking opens
- 7th July 2025 – Testing starts
- 16th September 2025 – Access Arrangement deadline
- 19th September 2025 – Booking deadline
- 26th September 2025 – Last day of testing
- The cost is £70. There is financial support available if you meet certain criteria.

You should register as soon as possible to have your choice of test centre -

www.ucat.ac.uk/register

Preparation resources are available on the UCAT website - www.ucat.ac.uk/prepare

Your 5th Choice

Medicine and Dentistry are highly competitive courses, and to give you another option if you do not get in, UCAS will only allow you to list 4 choices that are Medicine/Dentistry courses. This means you have a 5th choice where you can list another course. You can leave this choice blank if you want to, but you need to realistically think of what your backup plan would be if you don't get into Medicine/Dentistry. Many students choose a similar course to Medicine/Dentistry (such as Biomedical Science) with a view to potentially applying for graduate entry to Medicine later on.

You could also apply for a course allowing you to get into another Allied Health Profession, such as Physiotherapy or Paramedic Science. Whatever you think you may do, it is worth considering this choice carefully as a well-chosen 5th choice can be a useful backup.

Remember: you don't have to choose your 5th choice by the 15th October deadline. As long as you meet the deadline for that specific course, you can add it on after you submit your application.

Further Reading

There are lots of good resources online to help you when applying for medicine and dentistry. Here are some to get you started:

- Student BMJ - www.bmj.com/student
- The Medic Portal - www.themedicportal.com
- General Medical Council - www.gmc-uk.org
- Medical Schools Council - www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/outreach-and-support/resources-for-teachers-and-students
- Dental Schools Council - www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk/making-an-application
- Observe GP - www.rcgp.org.uk/your-career/work-experience#observe
- BSMS Virtual Work Experience – www.bsmsoutreach.thinkific.com/courses/VWE
- British Medical Association - www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/studying-medicine
- Studying Healthcare – www.studyinghealthcare.ac.uk
- NHS - www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/applying-medical-school/applying-medical-school
- FutureLearn – Online Medicine course created by The University of Glasgow - www.futurelearn.com/courses/study-medicine and Dentistry course created by The University of Sheffield - www.futurelearn.com/courses/discover-dentistry