

# *Applying for Medicine*

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Manchester Medical School

# *Manchester Medical School*

- Over 2000 students  
including 100 entering in Year 3 from
  - St Andrews University
- Early clinical experience
- Dissection
- Four major teaching hospitals – Central M/Cr, Preston, Salford, South M/Cr
- 20 District General Hospitals
- Over 350 Health Centres

# *Doctors care across the whole spectrum of society*

- We need applicants from the whole spectrum of society
  - irrespective of background or school
- Age, disability and creed not barriers
- We need compassion, enthusiasm and determination and ability
- **Tomorrow's Doctors**
  - knowledge, skills, attitudes & behaviours of a UK medical student.

[www.gmc-uk.org/students](http://www.gmc-uk.org/students)

# *What does a good applicant have*

- Professional attitude.
- Motivation – clear and well explained. Why medicine?
- Caring experience - do you really know what the job entails? Clear description and reflection.
- Strong academic background -have you have the right qualifications?
- Have you the right temperament? - How do you cope with stress? Self-awareness showing suitability for medicine.
- Interests/hobbies – good work/life balance.

# *What do you have to do to apply?*

- **Speak to clinicians and healthcare staff. [Shadowing is not that vital – if under 18 it can be difficult to get into a hospital). Talk to a wide range of people to develop your understanding of the profession.**
- **Volunteering – working with vulnerable people, practical hands-on caring experience, motivating/teaching others, mentoring, volunteering with other healthcare professionals to gain an appreciation of the wider healthcare team. Ideally you have done this once a week for about a year.**
- **Evidence of team work.**
- **Review the options at medical schools - [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)**

# *Which 4 choices of Medical School?*

- Visit Open Days
- Useful websites:
  - Medical Schools
  - [www.admissionsforum.net](http://www.admissionsforum.net)
  - [www.medschoolsonline.co.uk](http://www.medschoolsonline.co.uk)
  - Learning and teaching styles
- Geographical location
- Reputation
- Number of medical places available? number of applicants? do they interview? How many interviewees? How many offers made?

# *Do I need Plan B?*

- Yes – what will I do if I do not get any offers for Medicine? There are no guarantees.
- Think about using the 5<sup>th</sup> non-Medicine choice on the UCAS form or another degree e.g. Biomedical Sciences. Remember that your personal statement is all about applying for Medicine so contact the back-up choice to see if they would need more information about you before you put it down on the UCAS form.
- Have a gap year and re-apply with a minimum of AAB/AAA.
- Re-sitting A2 subjects? Clearing/UCAS extra? NO!

# *What type of course do you want?*

## **The integrated model – more structured**

- **Lectures**
- **Individual study**
- **Clinical attachments**

# *What is the alternative form of learning?*

Problem based/enquiry based [PBL]

- Students taught in small groups of 8-12
- Early clinical experience in year 1 at Manchester
- Structured cases based on ‘core curriculum’
- Some lectures.
- Responsible for your own time-management – good organisational skills imperative!
- Tutor acts as facilitator not teacher
- Students involved in curriculum design

## *Entry requirements 2012*

- At least seven GCSE subjects –Dual Award Science minimum B/B. Physics and Biology at either AS (minimum C) or GCSE (minimum B) .Maths & English Language minimum Grade B. 5 subjects at Grade A/A\*.
- 4 AS subjects [grades not counted]
- For A106, 5 year course, Chemistry, one other science & one other academic subject at A2. Grades ABB. (MAP offer). Critical Thinking and General Studies excluded.
- For A104, 6 year Foundation Course, 3 arts at A2 or one science and two arts subjects. Grades BBB.

# UKCAT

- UK Clinical Aptitude Test .
- The test will not contain any curriculum nor any science content. It cannot be revised for.
- [www.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk) with specimen questions
- Cognitive ability – used in assessment
  - Verbal reasoning
  - Quantitative reasoning
  - Abstract reasoning
  - Decision analysis
- Best way is to practise the sample test!
- Bursaries available on UKCAT website

# *The Manchester Assessment Process*

- Initial screening
  - academic attributes
- UCAS form assessment
  - non academic attributes
- UKCAT (not taken into account for MAP)
- MAP applicants guaranteed an interview

# *What are we looking for in the personal statement?*

- Commitment to medicine: how did this interest develop? Personal experiences, work experience etc. Realistic understanding of the profession. How you followed up this interest.
- Experience: hands-on experience is better than simply observing. What did you learn about the caring profession and about yourself? How have you built on this experience? What skills can you bring from other work/extra-curricular experience? Interests/hobbies – show that you are a rounded individual, have a good work-life balance and stress-busters!
- Team working skills/ communication skills
- Honesty

# *Reference [School report]*

We are looking for :-

- evidence of commitment
- communication skills
- evidence of caring
- leadership qualities
- team work [may be sports, social, charity work]
- extenuating circumstances
- Predicted A2 grades

# *Interview*

- Most medical schools interview and offer on predicted A2 grades
- Each one will have different sizes of Panels
- Manchester uses 3 interviewers. For 2013 the interview will comprise:-
- Assessment of ability to communicate and work in a group
  - a group task
- Assessment of interpretive skills
  - work experience
  - leisure time
  - stress management, reflection and self-awareness

# *What are we looking for at interview?*

- The ability to communicate
- The experiences you can talk about that made you decide on your choice of career
- The type of medical course offered
- Awareness of medical issues
- Interests/hobbies you have listed
- That you have been honest in your personal statement and have indeed done what you have said.

# *What is the competition like?*

- For 2012 entry by 15 October deadline, Manchester received 2,250 applications for the 5 year course, A106
- We interviewed 925 students
- made 649 offers
- had 300 places available

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