

MY ROUTE TO BECOMING A GP...

Where do I start?

GCSE / Scottish Nationals

All medical schools require different things, as a rough guide they'll ask for a minimum of five GCSE/Scottish National passes at grades A-C (9-4) or equivalent including subjects such as Maths and English.

Top tip!

Medical degrees can have different names, but they tend to fit in to four types:

- Standard Entry Medicine (5 or 6 years)
- Graduate Entry Medicine (4 or 5 years)
- Medicine with a Preliminary Year (6 years)
- Medicine with a Gateway Year (6 years)

For more information visit:
medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine

A level / Further Education / Scottish Highers

Again, each medical school will have it's own entry requirements. Most are looking for the following:

- A*A*A – AAA at A level or AAAAB – AAABB for Scottish Highers.
- Some schools look for specific subjects to be taken such as Chemistry and others offer contextualised admissions which allow entry with lower grades.
- To find out more about each medical school's entry requirements visit:
medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/applications/entry-requirements

Top tip!

Medical schools are looking for applicants who have the correct academic aptitude but who are also able to demonstrate the core values and attributes required to study medicine. Find out more at: medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/applications

Applying to Medical School

When applying you'll need to:

- Have achieved good exam results throughout school, college or sixth form and have good predicted grades.
- Have developed an understanding of the career through activities such as work experience and volunteering.
- Take an admissions test where necessary such as UCAT, BMAT or GAMSAT.
- Usually attend an interview to demonstrate further the non-academic attributes that you have written about in your personal statement.

Top tip!

Most medical schools will ask you to demonstrate what you have learnt and gained from your work experience, caring activities and voluntary experience. Remember, it is what you have learnt from these experiences that is important – not how many hours you have completed. To find out more about work experience visit: medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/applications

What next?

University Degree

- Study for between 4-6 years depending on your course and choose from 40 medical schools in the UK!
- While at medical school you'll:
 - ✓ Gain relevant skills and experiences in basic medical sciences and practical clinical tasks.
 - ✓ Carry out wide range of clinical placements under supervision, spending time in GP practices, hospitals and specialist clinics.
 - ✓ Sit exams and carry out a wide range of projects that develop skills such as teamwork and communication.

Foundation Programme

- Having graduated from medical school you'll become a foundation doctor – your first paid job as a doctor! You'll carry out two years of training known as F1 and F2.
- The foundation programme involves six different rotations across a wide range of medical specialties. These rotations enable you to gain valuable experience and become competent in basic clinical skills.
- You'll also be able to further develop non-clinical skills such as communication, teamwork, leadership and research.

Progressing to...

GP Specialty Training

- To become a GP in the UK, you will need to complete a minimum of three years (full time equivalent) specialty training.
- During these three years you'll typically spend 18-months in hospital posts and 18-months in general practice.
- As part of your training you'll carry out a series of assessments, which once passed – allow you to join the GMC's GP Register.
- For more information visit:
gprecruitment.hee.nhs.uk

What is the RCGP and how can it help you?

The RCGP is the professional membership body for GPs and is here to help you explore and discover the endless opportunities general practice has to offer. Becoming a GP is incredibly enriching and rewarding, it is a career that is diverse and fulfilling.

Discover a career with
endless opportunities at:
rcgp.org.uk/discovergp