

APPLYING TO MEDICINE – MEDICAFE WEBINAR 2022

(HULL YORK MEDICAL SCHOOL OUTREACH)

(Delivered by Emily Proctor – Student Recruitment, Admissions & Outreach Coordinator at HYMS)

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Career options – Why medicine? Think about different medical schools. Do the research.

Summer – work experience / admissions tests / 15th October is the early deadline (this is strict, no flexibility) / interview

CHOOSING MEDICINE

- Why medicine?

Problem solving...Variety...Enjoy science...Helping people...Caring profession...Hands on.....

- Why not other medical careers?

Paramedic / Operating Department Practitioner / Speech and Language Therapist / Nurse / Midwife / Physiotherapist / Occupational Therapist / Dietician / Radiographer.....

Visit www.healthcareers.nhs.uk

- Gaining experience

This should not be a tick box exercise – applicants need to have a realistic understanding and insight into the profession but also need to be able to show relevant EVIDENCE via a wide variety of sources. It is important that applicants can also show what they are LEARNING from their work experiences and others and not just to state what they have done and leave it at that.

- CLINICAL (hospital, GP setting – there are also hospices, clinics)
- ONLINE CLINICAL OBSERVATION (Brighton and Sussex Medical School – virtual work experience / Observe GP / Patient Journey, General Medical Council)
- VOLUNTEERING (plan your summer)
- PART-TIME JOB (think about what already have, the skills you can show that link to medicine)
- PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

- Qualities that are looked for in applicants via their Personal Statement, Admissions Tests and interviews -

Understanding

Listening

Critical thinking

Team working

Time management

Empathy

Patience

Communication

Responsibility

NB There will be another Medicafe webinar on work experience on the 23rd of May from 5-6:30pm – for more information on this Medicafe and those on other topics visit www.hyms.ac.uk

- Comparing medical schools

Create a longlist – what do you want??? This is a key question you need to ask – it does not matter which one you choose in terms of the best ones and so on – they are all the same in quality, they all offer the same standard of degree but they DO differ in various ways and so you need to choose carefully which is the best one FOR YOU –

Check out and shortlist -

- The style of teaching (Problem-based learning? Case-based learning? Traditional? HYMS is problem-based learning.
Is the course focussed on prosection or dissection? Prosection is when the cadaver/object is already dissected for you, can already view the arteries, ligaments and so on
- When do you start seeing patients? (Earlier or later?) –
At HYMS, you will start from week 3, some will be once a term, some will have a pre-clinical /clinical split such as from the 3rd year onwards, students will start seeing patients – no difference in quality – has to be YOUR OWN PREFERENCE
- Entry criteria (required subjects, GCSE requirements, Admissions Test)
- Clinical exposure – hospitals, GP practices – the medical schools will differ on this
- Location / size of the medical school (for example, UCLAN – University of Central Lancashire – is very small and King's College London is very large with 400 students per year – HYMS is in the middle)
- Student Support provision
- Intercalation degree option – do you want an additional year of study on top of your medicine degree? This can offer the chance to explore an area of interest you may have within medicine – will give you more skills and experience, an additional qualification, an opportunity to make new contacts and so on – usually taken between Year 2-3 and 3-4. Can be at the same university or a different one
- Go on open days and other events

THERE ARE 42 MEDICAL SCHOOLS WITH 8,000 PLACES

TIPS / ADVICE

Caitlin – 1st year medical student at HYMS

“Make EXCEL spreadsheets...I did one and it really helped with my research – included the cost of living there, the style of teaching, location, entry criteria, Admissions Tests....the journey to medical school was a lot longer than what my peers were going for so get a support system set up...family, teachers and so on ...really helped me...go on online...lots of useful websites such as The Student Room (www.thestudentroom.co.uk)...I felt I was not on my own...for the Admissions Tests, practice as much as you can!... revise for them early...there are lots of FREE resources...such as the UCAT website...I also asked some students in the year above me about their experiences, those who had also applied for medicine and I got some of their old textbooks that way too!”

Tao – 1st year medical student at HYMS

“I would ditto much of what Caitlin has said - look outside the box...medical schools look to see what you are like as a person so stay true to yourself...it can make you stand out...”

ADMISSIONS TESTS

UCAT at a glance –

- 30 universities use it
- 2 hours – multiple choice / computer-based
- Rest breaks available
- £70 – bursaries on offer
- Timeline – between Year 12-13 – registration opens in May, testing starts in July, registration and bursary deadline in September, last day to book test in early October, application needs to be in by the 15th of October, results sent to universities in November
- Sections – verbal reasoning / quantitative reasoning / abstract reasoning / decision making / situational judgement
- Do practice tests (question banks). Question and Test Tutorials, all on UCAT website as well as visit YouTube - 30 hours practice is the usual advice
- It is NOT essential to pay for any courses!

Caitlin's top tips – “there is so much text on the screen – with time pressure too...can be annoying, running out of time...I googled how to quicken up my reading speed...found out that reading a chapter of a book every day as fast as I could really helped...use as many free resources as you can...you don't have to pay...”

BMAT at a glance –

- 8 universities use it (Brighton and Sussex / Leeds / Keele / UCL / Lancaster / Cambridge / Imperial /Oxford)
- 2 hours – multiple choice plus essay writing, pen and paper test
- Extra time available
- £61 – bursaries on offer
- Timeline – registration opens in September, deadline for registration is on the 1st of October, the final registration and bursary deadline is on the 15th of October, the test date will be in November, results sent to the universities in late November
- Sections – Aptitude and Skills / Scientific knowledge and applications / Written task
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Caitlin/s top tips - “The time issue is super stressful! You must have your heart set on the test if you’re going to do it. There is a lot of pressure on with your mocks and the UCAS application as it is so start as early as you can with your revision and practice the tests as much as you can...”

Q AND A –

- 5th choice of degree – yes, you can apply for another course at the same university if you want – but bear in mind you only have the one Personal Statement.

You will need to direct it to medicine – there is a fine line in that you will need to cover the skills etc you can offer but also show your passion for medicine at the same time!

- UCAT scores – at HYMS, we use combined scores from GCSEs and UCAT score - strong GCSE grades will compensate for a lower UCAT score and vice versa
- Personal Statement – be creative, what makes what you have done unique? Why does it matter to you? What impact did this have?

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