Medicine

APPLICATIONS GUIDE

Everything You Need to Know About Applying to Medical School (UK, Europe, North America & Australia)

YOUR GUIDE TO STUDYING MEDICINE

Exploring pathways to becoming a doctor in the UK, Europe, North America & Australia

Introduction to Medicine as a Career

Medicine is a career of lifelong learning combining science, critical thinking, and compassionate patient care. Whether in hospitals, research, or public health, doctors shape the future of healthcare and improve lives. However, the journey to becoming a doctor is rigorous requiring dedication, resilience, and strong academic performance.

Why Choosing the Right Pathway Matters

There are many routes to studying Medicine, and selecting the right pathway is essential. Factors like entry requirements, cost, teaching styles, and career prospects vary between different countries. Understanding these differences will help you make an informed decision about where and how to pursue your medical degree.

What This Guide Covers

This guide provides an overview of medical school applications in:

- United Kingdom – UCAT, personal statements, MMIs & panel interviews.
- Europe – English-taught medical programs, entrance exams, and tuition fees.
- North America (USA & Canada) – pre-med pathways
- Australia – Undergraduate pathways, GAMSAT & UCAT ANZ.

"Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity." – Hippocrates

SECTION 1

UK MEDICAL SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

YOUR GUIDE TO APPLYING FOR MEDICINE IN THE UK

A step-by-step guide to applying to medical schools in the UK, including UCAT, work experience, interviews, and entry requirements

Applying to study Medicine in the UK is a competitive but rewarding journey. This guide will walk you through each step of the process, from entry requirements to interviews ensuring you have the best possible chance of securing a place. Medical schools in the UK typically require strong academic performance, admissions tests, work experience and a well-structured personal statement to demonstrate your passion for the field.

Key Steps to Applying for Medicine:

GCSEs & A-Levels – Strong grades in Biology & Chemistry are essential.

Admissions Tests – Most universities require UCAT or BMAT to assess problem-solving and critical thinking.

Work Experience & Volunteering – Shadowing doctors, hospital placements, and care home volunteering help strengthen your application.

Personal Statement – A compelling essay explaining why you want to study Medicine.

UCAS Application (Deadline: 15th October, Year 13) – Apply to four medical schools plus a fifth non-medicine choice.

Interviews (MMI or Panel) – Prepare for ethical scenarios, motivation questions, and role-plays.

Offers & Final Exams – Meet your offer conditions and prepare for medical school!

THE UCAS APPLICATION PROCESS

Y12 - research, work experience and personal statement

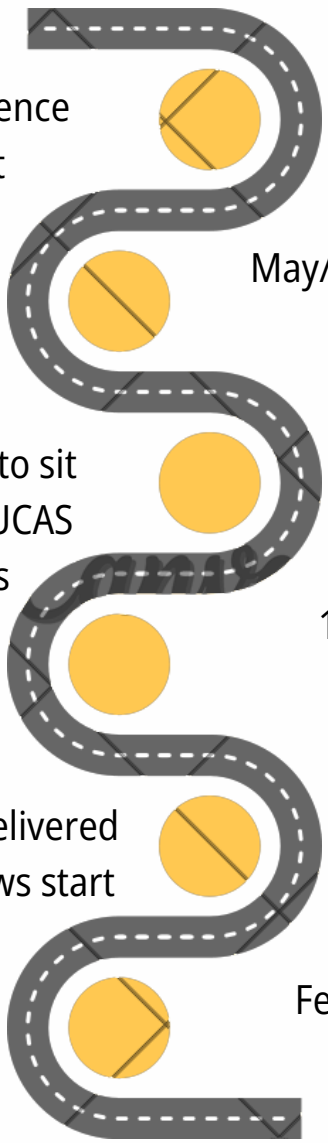
May/June Y12 - Register and prep for the UCAT exam

September Y13 - last date to sit the UCAT. Finalise your 4 UCAS medical school choices

15th October Application Deadline

November - UCAT results delivered to universities and interviews start

Feb - March, recieve offers and make your final decision



THE UNIVERSITY CLINICAL APTITUDE TEST

...UCAT

What is the UCAT?

The UCAT is an admissions test used by most UK medical and dental schools to assess a candidate's mental ability, problem-solving skills, and professional behaviour — not scientific knowledge.
It is taken in the summer before applying through UCAS.
It is computer-based and taken at Pearson VUE test centres.

When and How?

- Registration opens: Early June
- Testing period: Late July to late September
- Pearson VUE centres in the UAE
- Fee: £70–£115 (depending on location)
- Fee bursaries are available for eligible students

UCAT SECTIONS

Section	Questions	Timing (minutues)	Scoring
Verbal Reasoning	44	22	300 - 900
Decision Making	35	37	300 - 900
Quantitative Reasoning	36	26	300 - 900
Situational Judgement	69	26	Band 1 -4

Results and how they are used

Your results will be handed to you as you leave the test centre.

Your UCAT score will also be available online via your Pearson VUE account

Your results will be shared with the universities you've applied to on the application deadline.

What Is A Good UCAT Score?

Historically, a UCAT score above 2800 (ie an average of 700 in each section) is usually considered good. However, as Abstract Reasoning has been removed, we can subtract 700 (the average section score) from 2800, giving us an estimated good score for 2025 onwards of 2100 out of 2700.

As there is no data regarding student performance in the new UCAT format, we do not know exactly what scores will be considered good.

Scoring in the top 20% would be considered a high UCAT score, so the 8th decile (the 80th percentile) or higher.

What Score Do I Need?

There is no single minimum UCAT score that you need in order to get into Medical School – it depends on how each UCAT university uses scores.

The approach to scores varies with each UCAT university. Some will only shortlist candidates who meet a cut-off UCAT score, while others weight the score alongside other things like your Personal Statement or academic history.

The best way to understand how your UCAT score will be used is to check directly with the admissions team at each university.

Currently UCLAN and Buckingham do not require the UCAT.

WORK EXPERIENCE AND VOLUNTEERING

"It's not about what you saw — it's about what you learned."

Quality Not Quantity

Medical schools don't expect rare or extreme experiences—what matters most is reflection and understanding the role of a doctor.

- Clinical shadowing
- Volunteering with vulnerable groups
- Patient-facing or support roles
- Health-related research
- Virtual placements

Options for Students in the UAE:

🩺 Clinical Shadowing (if available)
Observe doctors in hospitals or private clinics. Watch how they communicate and make decisions.

🧓 Elderly Care Volunteering
Help in community centers or support neighbours. Show empathy and compassion.

🏥 Hospital or Clinic Support
Reception, admin, or volunteer roles — learn about the patient journey and hospital teamwork.

🌐 Virtual Work Experience
📍 Observe GP | Brighton & Sussex Virtual Medicine | Medicmentor.org
Explore medical ethics, diagnostics, and healthcare systems from home.

💉 Public Health Projects
Join Emirates Red Crescent, first aid programs, or lead school health initiatives.

🔬 Scientific Research
Assist with biology or healthcare projects. Great for showing curiosity and initiative.

🎯 Top Tip: Start early. Even 1–2 days can be meaningful if you reflect deeply.

Keep a Reflection Journal

Every time you volunteer or observe, ask yourself:

- What did I learn about being a doctor?
- What skills did I see in action?
- How did it confirm my desire to study medicine?

Why Reflection Matters

Work experience isn't just about being in a hospital or clinic — it's about what you learn. Medical schools want to see that you've gained insight into the realities of a doctor's role, including the emotional, ethical, and communication challenges they face. A few meaningful experiences, well-reflected on, are far more powerful than a long list with no depth.

🗣️ Student Voice Example

"Spending just a few days shadowing a doctor showed me how important empathy, teamwork, and clear communication are in medicine. It wasn't just about watching procedures — it was seeing how doctors supported patients emotionally and worked with the wider healthcare team that really stuck with me."

How to Write About Work Experience

✗ Avoid this:
"I shadowed a cardiologist for a week."

✓ Write like this:
"Shadowing a cardiologist taught me how empathy and communication are key when delivering difficult news. It inspired me to improve my own communication skills when volunteering."

Use the STARR technique in interviews:
Situation – What you did
Task – Your goal
Action – What you actually did
Reflection – What you learned
Result – How it influenced you

ACING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

Show who you are. Show what you've learned. Show why it matters.

🔹 Be Reflective, Not Descriptive
Don't just list your experiences—explain what they taught you and how they strengthened your motivation to study medicine.

🔹 Start with a Strong Hook
Open with a short story, moment of insight, or a clear statement of intent. Capture the reader's attention from the first line.

🔹 Show, Don't Tell
Instead of saying "I'm empathetic," describe a moment where you demonstrated empathy during volunteering or work experience.

🔹 Link Experiences to Medicine
Whether it's shadowing, tutoring, playing sports, or volunteering—connect each experience to a skill or quality useful in medicine (e.g., communication, resilience, teamwork).

🔹 Keep It Personal and Genuine
Admissions tutors want to hear your voice. Avoid clichés and overused phrases like "I've always wanted to be a doctor."

Personal Statement Example - this student recieved all 4 offers and chose Imperial

The intersection between keen scientific interest and intrinsic moral responsibility is the foundation for my determination to study medicine. The intricacies of medical science are captivating enough, but coupled with the reward of caring for people, really solidified my commitment to medicine.

However, this assuredness only came after deepening my understanding of the medical profession. Firstly, I explored medical journals about topics I was interested in; most notably, when looking into the placebo effect, I read about the story of Mr. Wright, a man with advanced lymphoma whose tumours shrank after his doctor administered an experimental drug, even after reports exposed its futility. This ignited my interest in the human body and how its greatest miracle is healing. Naturally, by presenting an ethical dilemma, it demonstrated to me the importance of beneficence and non-maleficence. Additionally, I understood the holistic role physicians play in helping their patients, from administering the treatment to inspiring faith that the patient will recover.

Then, to gain insight into the realities of healthcare, I undertook work experience at a university hospital. One significant lesson I learnt was the importance of patient-centred care, when a doctor recorded a video for an unconscious patient during surgery to explain how they adjusted the treatment when they discovered their initial diagnosis was inaccurate due to an obscurity on the MRI. This experience taught me the significance of critical analysis for doctors, a concept that extends to the necessity of revalidation and audit in the NHS. But the highlight of my experience was during an ENT consultation with an elderly patient. The patients' symptoms alone lead to no definitive diagnosis. Accordingly, the doctor ordered a variety of tests to aid in the diagnostic process. However, the patient refused the tests because they didn't have insurance and couldn't afford all of them, emphasising that they are old and in no shape for regular doctor visits for testing. This foregrounds the importance of the NHS pledge to provide care based on clinical need and not one's ability to pay. Also demonstrating why the NHS underscores the need for specialised care for the elderly to improve the patient experience. After the consultation, I enquired about the doctor's approach to dealing with patients who refuse tests. His response was the definition of autonomy and how to alter treatment to best serve the patient and their wishes. This experience taught me the importance of exercising curiosity in a medical setting.

To further develop my aptitude for medicine, I've undertaken leadership positions, like the role of Inclusion ambassador, where I organised events to help disabled students feel more included. This role enriched my self-confidence and ability to work well in a team, which is essential when working on a multidisciplinary medical team. I am also a committed member of a peer mentoring program, where I meet with my mentee weekly to support her through any issues she's having. I ensure that I treat her with respect by maintaining her privacy and offering actionable advice; this is an ability I have cultivated with practice.

While exploring medicine, I have also kept busy academically and socially and continued to dedicate time to my other interests, like reading and swimming. A central factor to my academic success, which led me to score the top GCSE grades in my year, was refining my studying technique, which mainly consisted of writing clear and concise notes. This is a crucial skill, as a significant portion of the patient consultations I shadowed involved doctors writing patient notes and actively listening to gather valuable information.

Ultimately, my work ethic and determination are the basis of my confidence that I will succeed in medical school. I'm excited about the prospect of lifelong learning and practising empathy and patience when facing difficulties.

INTERVIEWS – MMI VS PANEL

Multiple Mini Interview (MMI)

MMIs consist of a series of short stations (usually around 8), typically lasting 5–10 minutes each, designed to assess a range of attributes and skills.

Common MMI Station Types:

- Role-Play Stations: Engage in scenarios with an actor, such as delivering bad news or handling a difficult conversation.
- Professional Judgment Stations: Evaluate ethical dilemmas or prioritize tasks, showcasing decision-making abilities.
- Communication Stations: Demonstrate clarity and effectiveness in conveying information, possibly by instructing someone on a task.
- Calculation and Data Interpretation Stations: Interpret medical data or perform basic calculations relevant to clinical scenarios.
- Problem-Based Learning Stations: Collaborate to solve a medical problem, reflecting teamwork and analytical skills.

Key Attributes Assessed:

- Communication Skills
- Ethical Reasoning
- Empathy and Compassion
- Problem-Solving Abilities
- Resilience and Adaptability
- Integrity and Professionalism

Panel Interviews

Format: Traditional interviews with a panel of 2–3 interviewers.
Duration: Typically lasts between 20–40 minutes.
Focus: In-depth questions on motivation, ethics, work experience, and academic interests.
Universities Using Panel Interviews: Institutions like Oxford, Cambridge, and Edinburgh.

Panel Interview Tips:

- Build Rapport: Engage with each panel member, making eye contact and responding to their cues.
- Depth Over Breadth: Be prepared to discuss topics in greater depth than in MMIs.
- Stay Composed: Maintain professionalism, even if faced with challenging or unexpected questions.

🧩 MMI Tips for Success

- Practice Thinking Aloud: Articulate your thought process clearly during problem-solving tasks.
- Time Management: Practice delivering concise responses within 6–8 minutes to mirror MMI station timings.The Medic Portal+1The Medic Portal+1
- Stay Calm Under Pressure: Develop strategies to manage stress and maintain composure.
- Clarify When Needed: If a question or scenario is unclear, don't hesitate to ask for clarification.
- Reflect and Learn: After each practice session, reflect on your performance and identify areas for improvement.
- Be clued up on the NHS and local trust news and the GMC
- Involve the 4 pillars of medical ethics:
    - Autonomy
    - Beneficence
    - Non-maleficence
    - Justice

Common MMI Question Topics & Examples

🧠 Motivation for Medicine

"Why do you want to be a doctor?" / "What excites you most about a medical career?"
Balance personal insight with practical understanding. Reference specific experiences from your work or volunteering background.
"*My interest in medicine started with a fascination for biology, but it deepened during my volunteering at a local hospital in Dubai. I realised that medicine is as much about human connection as it is about science. One moment that stood out was when I observed a paediatrician explaining a diagnosis to a child in a way that made them feel safe and understood — it reminded me that communication and empathy are just as vital as clinical knowledge. That balance of science and service is what draws me to medicine.*"

⚖️ Medical Ethics

"Should euthanasia be legal?" / "A patient refuses treatment for a life-threatening condition—what do you do?"
Apply the Four Pillars of Medical Ethics:
"This is a sensitive issue that requires balancing several ethical principles. From an autonomy standpoint, patients should have the right to make decisions about their own lives. Euthanasia can also be seen as an act of beneficence — relieving suffering. However, it must be weighed against non-maleficence — the idea that doctors must 'do no harm' — and justice, considering the potential impact on vulnerable patients or healthcare workers. Personally, I think with strict regulation and safeguards, there may be a place for euthanasia, but it must be approached with extreme caution. It's a complex topic, and I'd follow GMC guidance when faced with real scenarios."

👥 Empathy & Communication

"A parent is angry in A&E—how do you handle it?"/ "Tell us about a time you showed empathy."
Use the STARR method (Situation, Task, Action, Reflection, Result) to structure your responses.
"During school, I supported a classmate going through a family crisis. She was usually talkative, but I noticed a sudden change in her behaviour. I quietly asked if she wanted to talk and simply listened without judgement. I didn't try to offer advice — I just made sure she knew someone cared. Later, she told me that having someone notice and listen helped her get through the week. This taught me how small, compassionate actions can have a big impact — something I think is essential for future doctors."

🎭 Role-Play Scenarios

"Break bad news to a patient."/ "Speak to a fellow student who's behaving unprofessionally."
Remain calm, compassionate, and clear. Demonstrate professionalism while being approachable.
"First, I'd introduce myself calmly and acknowledge their frustration:
'Hi, I'm really sorry about the long wait. I understand it must be worrying seeing your child unwell and not knowing when help is coming.'
Then, I'd explain the situation clearly:
'We're seeing the most urgent cases first, but I assure you your child hasn't been forgotten. I'll check where they are in the queue and keep you updated.'
I'd avoid being defensive and focus on reassurance. People often just want to be heard — showing empathy goes a long way."

🔍 Insight into a Doctor's Life

"What challenges do doctors face?"/ "What aspects of the job don't appeal to you?"
Acknowledge the pressures and challenges, but explain why you're prepared to face them.
"I think one of the biggest challenges is managing patient expectations while dealing with limited resources. For example, in fast-growing places like Dubai or the NHS in the UK, there's high demand for services but not always the capacity to meet it quickly. Doctors also face emotional challenges — especially after breaking bad news or during high-pressure situations. I've seen from my shadowing experience how important resilience and teamwork are to coping with this side of the job."

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Know what you need and where you stand

Top Tips

- Check each university's website – entry requirements can change yearly.
- Use the UCAS Course Search tool for up-to-date info.
- Speak to the admissions office if you're unsure you meet the criteria.
- Think strategically — apply to schools whose requirements match your predicted grades.
- Remember the few direct application schools that you can apply to outside of UCAS:
  - Greater Manchester
  - UCLAN
  - Brunel
  - Buckingham

Subjects

- A-Level: Chemistry required by all. Most also expect Biology.
- IB: HL Chemistry + HL Biology are usually expected. (Math HL will also strengthen your application)
- Maths or Physics will strengthen your. Psychology can be a strong alternative. **The strongest applications are usually Bio, Chem and Math (A Level/HL)**
- **Minimum AAA / 36 (666)**
- **A strong GCSE portfolio mainly 8/9's**
- **Resits are not usually accepted**

2025 Examples

University	A-Level	IB
Imperial	A*AA	38+ points (766 HL)
UCL	A*AA	39 points (666 HL)
King's College London	A*AA	35–36 points (666 HL)
Queen Mary	AAA	36 points (666 HL)
Sunderland	AAA	36 (666 HL)
Birmingham	A*AA	36–38 points (766 HL)
Manchester	AAA	36 points (666 HL)

2024/5 Student Profiles

Student	GCSE's	Post 16	Offers
1	9's, 8 in Math	Bio, Chem, Math: 3 A*s	Imperial, Edinburgh, Leicester, St Andrews
2	9's, 8 in Psych	Bio, Chem, Psychology: A* A A*	Hull York, Aston
3	9's, 2 x 8's	IB (Math AA SL): 44, 777776ab	Queens Belfast
4	CBSE 94%	IB (Math AA SL): 38, 666774bc	Hull York
5	A/A*'s	Bio, Psychology, Math: A A* A	Sunderland, Leicester
6	8/9's	Bio, Chem, Physics: A* A A*	Kings', Manchester

SECTION 2

EUROPEAN MEDICAL SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

WHY EUROPE?

High-quality, globally recognised medical education — across borders.

English-Taught Degrees: many universities offer full programmes in English

Globally Recognised Qualifications: Degrees are often GMC-recognised and widely accepted across the world.

Affordable Tuition and Living Costs: when compared to the UK or US

Cultural and Clinical Experience: Studying in Europe gives you the chance to explore new cultures, healthcare systems, and even learn new languages.

Competitiveness: Entry requirements could be lower than the UK and places are slightly less competitive. A great option if you did not secure a UK place

Medical Doorway (a GEMS partner) offers FREE advice and application management with over 20 partner universities across Europe.

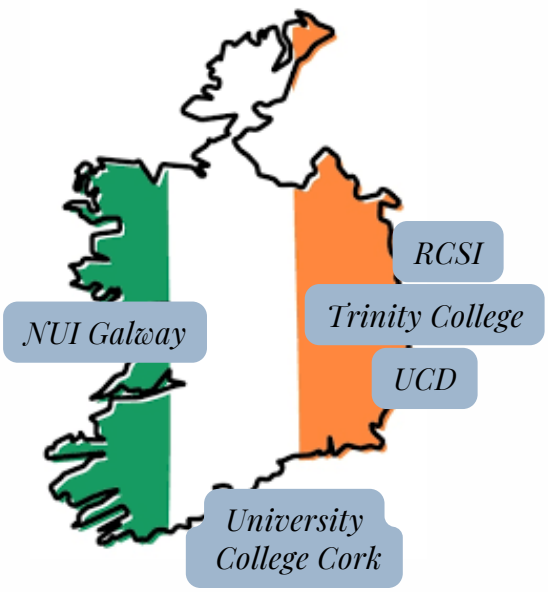
POPULAR DESTINATIONS

European countries for studying Medicine in English

IRELAND

Key Facts

- Duration - 5 or 6yrs
- Application - Direct or via CAO (EU students)
- Minimum Entry requirements:
  - AAA
  - 36-40 IB
  - Biology and Chemistry recommended
- Admissions test: HPAT (Irish and some EU applicants, international students may be exempt)
- Fees: EU - €6,000–€9,000, non-EU €12,000–€20,000 per year
- Curriculum: Integrated approach combining early clinical exposure with scientific education.
- Teaching Style: Emphasis on small group learning and problem-based learning (PBL).
- Students also have the chance to explore non-Medicine related elective subjects, and may take a year out to complete an intercalated degree in Biomedical Science.



https://www.themedicportal.com/

After Graduation

Intern Year:

- Graduates must complete a one-year internship, registered with the Medical Council of Ireland.
- Upon successful completion, a 'Certificate of Experience' is awarded, allowing progression to Basic Specialist Training.

International Recognition:

- Irish medical degrees are globally recognized.
- Graduates intending to practice in their home countries should verify recognition with their respective medical councils and be aware of any additional licensing requirements.

CZECHIA

Why Study in Czechia?

- Long-established medical schools
- English-taught programmes available at several universities
- Affordable tuition compared to Western Europe
- High-quality education and modern hospital training centres
- Degrees are widely recognised (check GMC & local boards for verification)

Applications

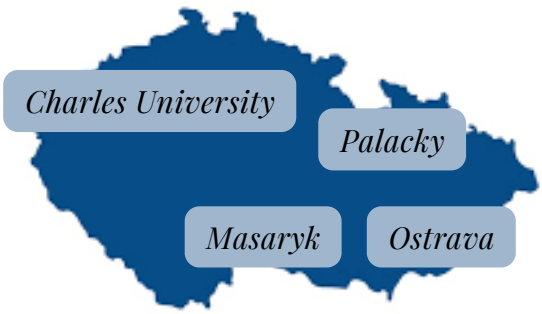
- A-Levels/IB or equivalent: Strong science subjects (Chemistry + Biology)
- Entrance Exam (varies by university)
- Some universities may require an interview or motivational essay
- Direct application to university
- Application windows: usually December–April

Good To Know

- Clinical placements take place in Czech hospitals — mostly public, modern facilities
- Many universities have long-standing international student communities
- Czech language not required for admission but may help during clinical years
- Excellent public transport, student life, and safety

Costs

- Tuition: €10,000–€15,000 per year (varies by university)
- Living Costs: €500–€800/month (very affordable compared to Western Europe)
- Scholarships: Limited, mostly merit-based and competitive



HUNGARY

Why Study in Hungary?

- Long-standing reputation for international medical education
- All programmes are taught entirely in English
- GMC-recognised qualifications from key universities
- Strong focus on theoretical knowledge + clinical practice
- Modern hospitals and facilities, with students from 70+ countries

Applications

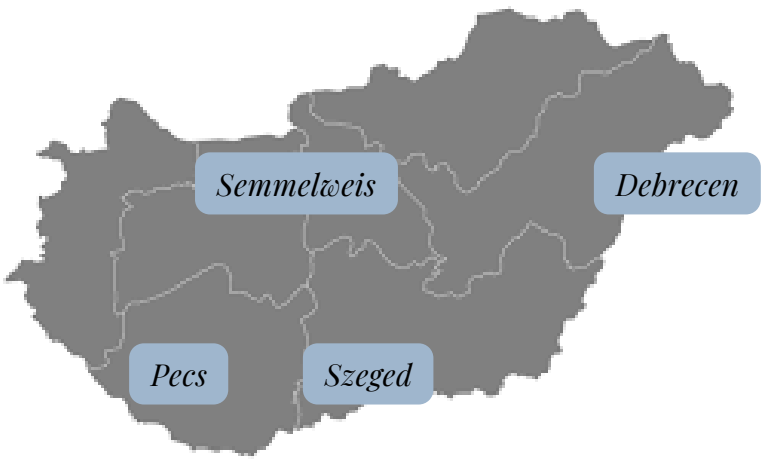
- A-Levels/IB or equivalent with strong science focus (Biology + Chemistry required)
- University-specific entrance exam, which includes bio, chem and English (and sometimes general knowledge or logic) held online or at international centres (March–July)
- Some schools may require a short interview

Good To Know

- Degrees recognised by the GMC (UK) and most global boards (check requirements)
- No centralised application – apply directly to each university
- Option to study pre-med foundation year if academic background is slightly below standard entry
- Hungary offers student-friendly cities, historic campuses, and safe communities

Costs

- Tuition:
- €12,000–€16,000 per year depending on the university
- Living Costs:
- ~€700/month in Budapest (Lower in Debrecen, Szeged, and Pécs)



ITALY

Why Study in Italy?

- Wide availability of English-taught programmes at public universities
- Affordable tuition, even for international students
- Rich academic tradition and vibrant student life
- Globally recognised qualifications (check GMC/local requirements)

Applications

- A-Levels: ABB–AAA (with Chemistry and Biology)
- IB: 34–38 points with HL sciences
- IMAT test: MCQ Biology, Chemistry, Physics/Maths, Logic, General Knowledge
- No interviews for most schools — IMAT performance is key
- Some private universities have their own tests (e.g. Humanitas University)

Good To Know

- All applicants (EU and non-EU) can apply to public medical schools
- You can apply to multiple universities using one IMAT score
- Italian language not required to start — but helpful for clinical years

Costs

- Public universities: €800–€4,000/year (based on income bracket)
- Private options (e.g. Humanitas): €10,000–€20,000/year
- Living costs: €700–€1,100/month depending on city

CYPRUS

Why Study in Cyprus?

- Fully English-taught medical programmes
- Strong partnerships with UK institutions (e.g. St George's, University of London)
- Modern medical campuses, small class sizes, and personalised learning
- Warm climate, safe environment, and a multicultural student community
- Pathways to clinical training in Cyprus or the UK

Applications

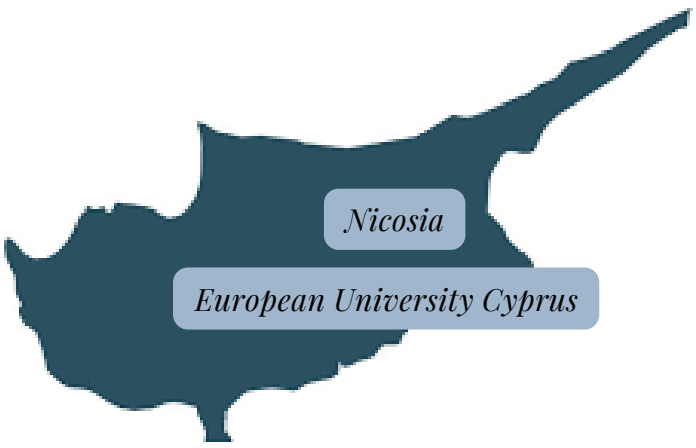
- A-Levels: ABB–AAB (Chemistry + one science subject)
- IB: 32–36 points with HL sciences
- Other Requirements:
- Personal statement
- Interview
- No centralised entrance exam

Good To Know

- Clinical years in Nicosia teaching hospitals or partner hospitals in the UK
- UK-aligned curriculum designed to meet GMC and international standards
- Medical degrees are internationally recognised, especially in the UK, EU, and Middle East

Costs

- Tuition: €18,000–€22,000/year
- Living Costs: ~€700–€1,000/month
- Scholarships: Available for high-achieving students and based on financial need



SECTION 3

PATHWAYS TO MEDICINE IN NORTH AMERICA

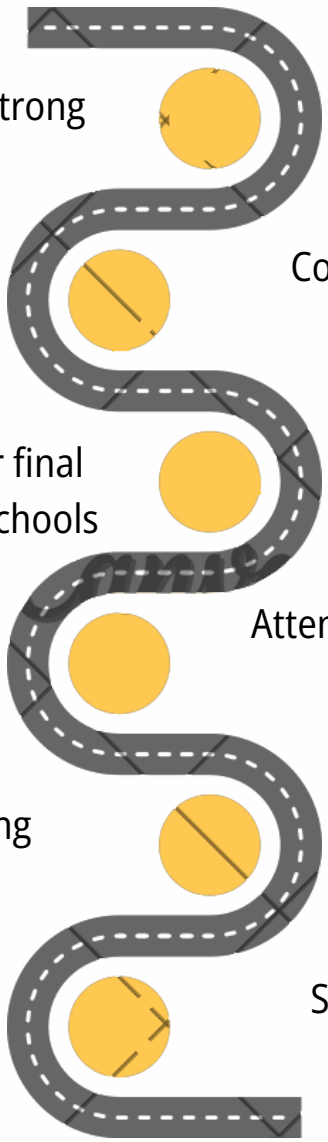
STUDYING MEDICINE IN NORTH AMERICA

A longer pathway - but packed with possibilities

In both the USA and Canada, you cannot apply directly to medical school after high school. Instead, you must complete a Bachelor's degree first, typically in a science-related subject (called Pre-Med), and then apply to medical school as a graduate.

It takes around 10-12 years from high school to becoming a qualified doctor.

This process takes time — but it also gives you more maturity, academic depth, and experience before becoming a medical student.



Y13 - finish A levels/IB with strong Bio, chem and maths

Complete a 4 year bachelors degree

Take the MCAT during your final year and apply to medical schools

Attend medical school for 4 years

Begin residency training

Specialisation in your chosen field

UNDERGRADUATE PRE-MED PATHWAYS

What Is a Pre-Med Programme?

- "Pre-Med" isn't a specific degree — it's a track that includes all the courses required for medical school applications in the US and Canada.
- You can major in almost anything — Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, even English — as long as you complete the required science courses.

Core Pre-Med Courses Required

These are typically needed before taking the MCAT and applying to med school:

- General Biology (with lab)
- General Chemistry (with lab)
- Organic Chemistry (with lab)
- Physics (with lab)
- Mathematics (Calculus or Statistics)
- English / Writing-intensive course
- Psychology & Sociology (increasingly expected)
- Some schools may require additional courses — always check each med school's prerequisites.

Rembember:
Not all Canadian med schools accept international students
Some US schools may prefer degrees from US-based institutions — but many accept international applicants with equivalent coursework

Studying Undergraduate Elsewhere

Yes, you can study your undergraduate degree in the UK, UAE, or elsewhere, and still apply to US/Canadian medical schools — but you must plan carefully.

What You'll Need:

- A Bachelor's degree from a recognised institution
- Completion of all required science courses
- Strong GPA (usually 3.6+ on a 4.0 scale)
- A competitive MCAT score
- Shadowing, volunteering, or clinical experience
- Letters of recommendation (ideally from science faculty)
- A strong personal statement

SECTION 4

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

STUDYING MEDICINE IN AUSTRALIA

World-class education, sunny campuses, and clear routes to becoming a doctor.

Why Study Medicine in Australia?

- Globally recognised medical degrees
- Fully English-taught programmes
- High standard of education and research
- Many universities ranked in the top 100 worldwide
- All Australian medical graduates complete a 1-year internship. After that, they begin vocational (specialist) training.
- Post study work visa opportunities and well paid healthcare professions
- There is also the possibility to study a science/medical related undergraduate degree and apply to graduate medical schools.

Costs

- Tuition (International): AUD $60,000–$75,000 per year
- Living expenses: AUD $20,000–$25,000 per year
- Some scholarships available, but limited

Applications

- Duration: 5–6 years
- Application via:
- UCAT ANZ (similar to UK's UCAT)
- Direct application
- A-Levels: AAA–AAB (incl. Chemistry/Biology)
- IB: 36–40 points (HL Biology/Chemistry)

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICINE IN AUSTRALIA

Criteria

- Academic merit
- Aptitude test and UCAT ANZ score
- Interview (the format of this will vary depending on the school).
- In order to be eligible to apply, students must have completed their school leaving qualification (or be in the final year of study for that qualification) with strong grades in the required subjects and have achieved a minimum score on an aptitude test.
- Provided academic and aptitude test score requirements are met, applicants are invited to interview for a place on the course.

Intakes

- One intake each year, in Semester 1 (February). Students are required to be on campus early to mid-February in order to attend international student orientation and enrolment. Teaching usually commences on the first Monday of March.
- Applications usually open at the beginning of March the year before the intake. Application deadlines range from June to the end of September, depending on the university.

If you are an international student, you can also submit your application via Study Options.

NEXT STEPS...

SUMMARY

You don't have to have all the answers today — just the courage to start your journey.

Key Takeaways

- There are many pathways into Medicine — UK, Europe, North America, Australia, and beyond.
- Every region has its own structure, timeline, and entry requirements — the best choice depends on your goals, academic background, and flexibility.
- Reflection, research, and resilience are key to a successful application.
- Your journey may be longer or different than others — and that's okay. There is no "one right way" to become a doctor.

Checklist

- ☐ Research entry requirements
- ☐ Check degree recognition with GMC (UK) or local medical councils
- ☐ Map out timelines — especially if entrance exams or interviews are required
- ☐ Build relevant experience: volunteering, shadowing, healthcare exposure
- ☐ Keep a reflection journal — it will help with personal statements and interviews
- ☐ Prepare for admission tests early
- ☐ Speak to your school's university guidance counsellor for personalised advice

Resources

- UCAS Medicine Application Hub
- The Medic Portal & official test websites (UCAT, MCAT, GAMSAT)
- GMC: List of accepted overseas qualifications
- NHS & Observe GP (UK work experience resources)
- University websites & international admissions teams
- Study Options
- Medical Doorway

Be realistic — but also ambitious.
Be informed — but stay flexible.
Ask questions. Reflect deeply.
And start early.