

Graduate Entry Medicine

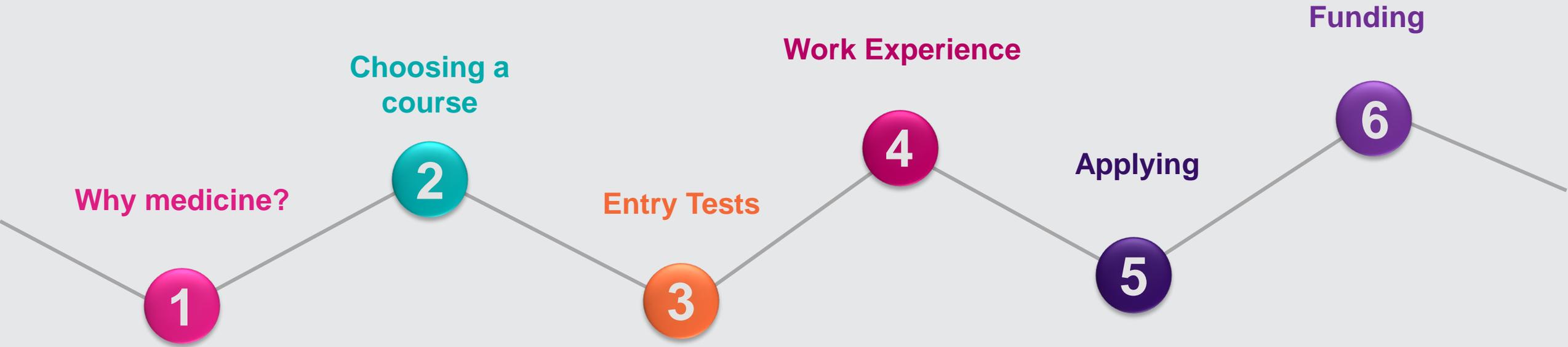
Matt Braziewicz and Paulina Olszewska

Sally Western – Careers Consultant, STEM

3rd March 2021 via MS Teams



Agenda



Why medicine?

Choosing a course

Entry Tests

Work Experience

Applying

Funding

Aims and Objectives



- Learn how you can become a doctor in 4 years rather than 5, and from any degree discipline
- Hear the personal experiences of Matt & Paulina, trainee doctors at The University of Nottingham Medical School
- Explore Graduate Entry Medicine as a career option, and how to choose a medical school
- Understand what admission tutors are looking for, the application process including an insight into the application form, entrance tests and interviews
- Know where to go for further information and advice

Information Health Warning!

All information in this presentation was correct at the time of writing but you must check all details (course information etc.) out for yourself as it is subject to change

Is Medicine for me?



- Why?
- Skills and qualities
- Academic criteria/potential
- Shadowing and experience
- When?
- Where?
- What are the alternatives?

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/studying-medicine>



[STP](#)

[Physician Associate](#)

[NHS Management](#)

Routes into Medicine



- 4 year accelerated course for graduates: known as GEM or GEP
- 5 year course (or 6 year course including foundation year '0')
- www.medschools.ac.uk for course types
- [PDF of entry requirements - Page 52 onwards for GEM](#)
- [Your Career Path in Medicine](#)
- More info on UCAS website: www.ucas.ac.uk
- Specifically: <https://digital.ucas.com/search> or [GEM Courses](#)

Institutions offering GEM (A101 (A102))



- Birmingham (UCAT)
- Cardiff (GAMSAT)
- King's (UCAT)
- Liverpool (GAMSAT)
- Oxford (BMAT)
- Queen Mary (Barts) (UCAT)
- Sheffield (UCAT) (only open to students Home students from widening participation backgrounds)
- Cambridge (none)
- Dundee/St Andrews (GAMSAT, UCAT, or SJFace)
- Newcastle (UCAT)
- Nottingham (GAMSAT)
- Southampton (UCAT)
- St George's (GAMSAT)
- Swansea (GAMSAT)
- Warwick (UCAT)
- Queen Mary (Barts) (UCAT)

Green: accept **ANY** degree discipline

[Number of places at each Med School](#)

Choosing a medical school



Factors to consider when choosing courses

- Entry criteria
- Structure of the course
- Learning and teaching styles
- Geographical location

Choose medical schools which you are most suited to

Consider entry tests

[Choosing a Medical School - The Medic Portal](#)



Matt & Paulina

GEM Medical School Students

Entry Criteria



Different for each medical school...

- Majority require 2:1 or above
- For some, minimum requirement is 2:2
- Degree requirements:

Either: Health, Life Science, Bio Science, Bio-Medical Sci. background

Or: Any background, including Arts

- Some specify science 'A' levels
- Tests
- Relevant work experience

Make sure you carefully check the entry requirements

Entry Criteria – the tests



Main aptitude tests used:

- GAMSAT
- UCAT (formerly UKCAT)

May also encounter:

- BMAT
- SJTace (Dundee & St Andrews)

No test required for GEM Cambridge, unless you're applying for the standard 5/6 year course too (in which case you'll need the BMAT)

GAMSAT



- Test last 5.5 hours; Mainly multiple choice; 2 short essays
- Emphasis on reasoning ability and critical thinking
- Base of scientific knowledge is necessary and problem solving is a major focus of the tests
- “...success in GAMSAT is unlikely without knowledge and ability in the biological and physical sciences.” GAMSAT website
- Registration: **March** entry: opens in November 2020 and **closes 1st February 2021**
Test date: **17-30 March 2021**
- **September**: opens in May 2021 and **closes 20th July 2021**
Test date: **13-16 September 2021**
- Costs £268 (subject to change)
- [Date and locations for the 2021 sittings](#)
- <https://gamsat.acer.org/covid-19-advice>

UCAT

(formerly UKCAT)



- Used by largest number of medical schools
- PC based and multiple choice
- Test covers verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, abstract reasoning, decision analysis and situational judgement

- Registration begins 2nd June 2021
- Testing begins 26th July 2021
- Registration deadline 22nd September 2021
- Last Testing date 29th September 2021
- Results delivered to Unis Nov 2020
- [Register for UCAT](#) £75-£120

BMAT



BMAT is a 2-hour test divided into three sections:

- Aptitude and Skills
- Scientific knowledge and applications
- Writing task

[BMAT Sept](#)

[BMAT Nov](#)

[Difference between Sept and Nov BMAT](#)

[BMAT test format](#)

Preparing for tests



- Look at sample questions on the relevant test websites
- Consider a preparatory course (through the test websites)
- [Prepare for the GAMSAT](#) (some free some charged)
- [Prepare for the UKCAT](#) (free)
- [Prepare for the BMAT](#) (useful pdf - links to free resources)
- [BMAT Content Specification](#)
- Consider either taking an A Level or following an A Level syllabus in chemistry (biology to a lesser extent), if your scientific knowledge is weak or gained a long time ago
- Books

Make sure you prepare thoroughly for these tests

Course Structure and Teaching Styles



- Traditional Courses
- Integrated Courses
- Problem Based Learning (PBL)
- Case-based Learning (scroll down)

QUIZ – which style is best for you?

Gaining Relevant Work Experience



- Talk to your GP and healthcare workers
- Shadow a hospital doctor
- Talk to current students and junior doctors – use LinkedIn
- Voluntary work in community
- Placement year as part of your undergraduate course (if not too late)
- Paid work in care homes, hospices, hospitals etc.

During studies, during vacations, in gap year after degree

**Reflect on your work experience -
What you learn from your experience is as
important as what you do.**

Gaining Relevant Work Experience



Contact the education department or postgraduate centre at your local NHS trust for opportunities.

[NHS Bank Staff](#) (1 min video)

Plus:

- <http://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>
- [Medic Portal - Normal Guide for Work Experience](#)
- [Medic Portal - Covid Guide for Work Experience](#)
- [BMA Guide to Work Experience](#)

Work shadowing & Volunteering



WORKSHADOWING

- GP, hospital doctors, other AHPs (e.g. physiotherapists, nursing staff, pharmacy assistant)
- Use networking skills
- Keep comprehensive notes

VOLUNTEERING

- www.do-it.org.uk
- www.work-experience.org
- www.volunteeringmatters.org.uk
- <https://www.charityjob.co.uk/>
- Students Union volunteering schemes e.g. Action
- Some hospitals offer work experience weeks for potential GEM applicants

This is what one university medical school says about Work Experience



‘The importance of work experience should not be underestimated. It is the only way we can ensure you are making a genuinely informed choice about a career in medicine. We expect you to demonstrate a commitment to caring for people and a realistic idea of what working as a doctor entails. Candidates will be invited to interview once details of the work experience are recorded via an online questionnaire, including contacts for more recent work experience. **Inadequate work experience may lead to withdrawal of interview offer.**’

Application Process



- Application to GEM through UCAS - Deadline: usually 15 October
- Four choices of medical school
- UCAS forward application forms to medical schools
- Detailed information on www.ucas.com specifically [GEM Courses 2021/22](#)
- UCAS require a referee – needs to be someone who can comment upon your academic ability
- Admission tutors will consider academic achievement inc. predicted degree grade, test scores, UCAS form (particularly your personal statement) and reference when selecting for interview
- [Med Schools](#)– check out individual criteria

UCAS Personal Statement



Key themes to include

- Why do you want to become a doctor?
- Why now?
- What do you understand about the role of a doctor in a modern healthcare service?
- How have you explored/confirmed that you would be suited to this career?
- How would you demonstrate that you have the right interpersonal skills?
- How is your degree (e.g. in History) relevant to studying medicine?

Convince admissions tutors you are:



- Motivated to help people
- Informed about career demands
- Realistic about yourself
- Community orientated
- Have a 'rounded' personality
- Fit to practise – eventually
- Honest
- A good judge
- A natural leader
- A problem solver
- Creative
- Resilient

Check it!



- Re-read out loud for content and structure
- Proof-read for errors
- Don't try to over-impress
- Get it checked e.g. Careers Network or academic tutor
- Keep a copy
- Start working on your personal statement early

<https://themsag.com/blogs/personal-statements/10-medicine-personal-statement-mistakes-to-avoid>

Interviews for Medical School 1



- Find out at least 2 weeks before
- Approx dates of interviews [here](#) – plus tips for individual schools
- Vary between each university – they could last 20 minutes or all day
- Interviewers are looking for potential doctors rather than just medical students
- Traditional/panel or MMI

Interviews for Medical School 2



- Why medicine? Why this course/school?
- Academic achievements
- Exploration of key personal qualities
- Work experience and other interests
- Matters of medical interest
- Ability to express intelligent opinion
- Your professionalism
- Questions about ethics

[The Medic Portal](#) – a free guide

Fees and Funding for GEM



[HealthCareers NHS Funding pages](#) – not yet updated by NHS

[BMA Funding Pages](#)

[Example Notts Uni](#) – a good explanation

In all cases, make sure you contact the relevant funding authority as regulations can change and individual circumstances vary.

Fees and Funding for GEM



YEAR 1

- Graduate entry students have to **self fund** the first £3,465 towards their tuition costs. Eligible students can apply for a tuition fee loan from Student Finance England (SFE) for the remainder of the fee £5,785. This loan *isn't* means tested.
- You may be eligible to take out a loan (of around £9k) towards *living costs* from SFE. Apply on-line for both the Tuition Fee Loan and the Loan for Living Costs at www.gov.uk/studentfinance

Fees and Funding for GEM



YEARS 2,3 and 4

- the **NHS** will pay the first £3,715 towards the University tuition fee. For the remaining amount you will be able to apply to SFE for a tuition fee loan of up to £5,535
- You may be eligible to take out a loan (of around £9k) towards *living costs* from SFE. Apply on-line for both the Tuition Fee Loan and the Loan for Living Costs at www.gov.uk/studentfinance
- Check with individual Medical Schools for additional local bursaries

Funding for 5 / 6 Year Programmes for Graduates



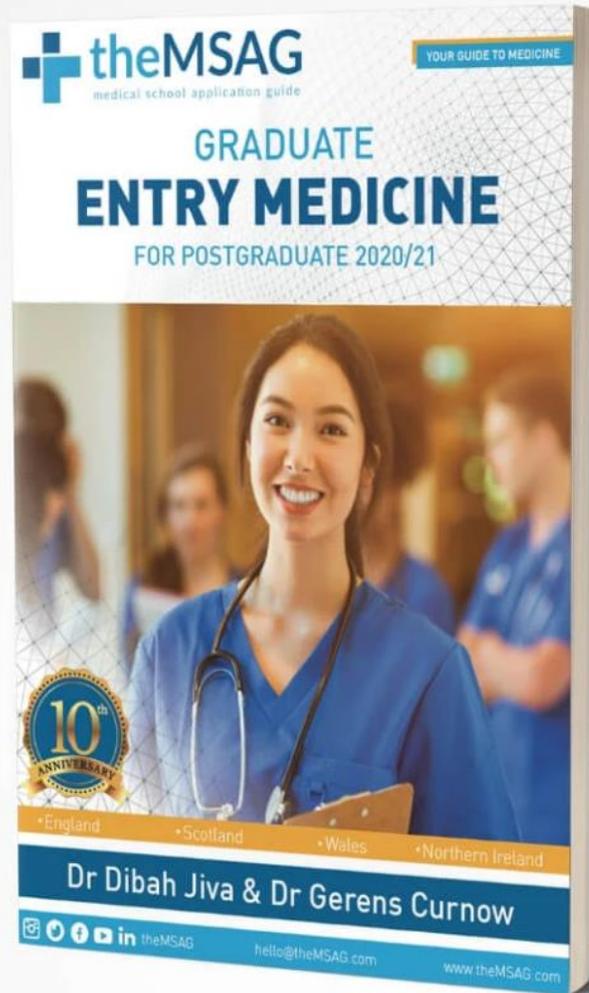
In the first four years of the 5/6 year course graduates are not eligible to receive a loan for tuition fees or a maintenance *grant*

However, students may be able to apply for a full, income based, maintenance *loan* from Student Finance England. From year five of the training, graduate medical students receive the same support as undergraduate medical students.

Only years 5 and 6 of medical school are eligible for NHS bursaries for students from England and Wales. Applicants secure funding from other sources for the first four years

Health warning: Please make sure you check the current situation on the relevant websites or with the relevant institution

<https://rmbf.org/medical-students/medicine-as-a-second-degree-in-england/>



GRADUATE ENTRY MEDICINE: UNITED KINGDOM 2020-21

5 recent viewers.

£16.99

ADD TO CART



Some useful resources 1



- [The MSAG UK](#) (Medical Schools Admissions Guide)
- [Get Into Medical School – 1250 UKCAT Practice Questions](#) (2017)
- [TARGET Jobs – Your career options in medicine](#)
- [Generation Medics](#)
- [GlobalPreMeds - for work experience and shadowing](#)
- [Student Loan Company \(England\)](#)
- [NHS Bursaries](#)

Some useful resources 2



Other important information sites:

- <https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/graduate-entry-medicine/>
- http://www.medicalcareers.nhs.uk/considering_medicine/introduction.aspx
- <http://www.medschools.ac.uk>
- www.nhscareers.nhs.uk
- www.bmjcareers.com
- www.gmc-uk.org
- <https://rmbf.org/medical-students/medicine-as-a-second-degree-in-england/>

YouTubers



You tubers:

Dr Hopes sick notes

<https://youtu.be/nRNNJzEfCSg>

Dr Sarah Nicholls

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOSuzl8V8F-SN76vdKzzaIQ>

Kenji Tomati

<https://www.youtube.com/user/cheatsikeblogspot>

Getting help with your application



- You can have your UCAS form checked at Careers Network
- During the summer vacation you can email your personal statement for checking - to careers@lboro.ac.uk and have a follow up phone conversation.

Contact Details



- Sally Western, Careers Consultant, Careers Network: s.western@lboro.ac.uk
- Contact Sally for further information or help with applications, personal statements and interviews.
- Matthew Brazkiewicz, Third Year GEM, Nottingham Medical School, Loughborough Chemistry Alumnus: mzymb12@nottingham.ac.uk
- Paulina Olszewska mzypo4@nottingham.ac.uk
- Matt and Paulina are happy to be contacted with specific questions but can't check personal statements/applications etc. If you want those checking, use the Careers Network (Sally and colleagues)



Any Questions



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www.careers.lboro.ac.uk

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