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# Case Study

## *MEDICINE*





# Medicine

Applications to study Medicine are complex and very competitive. The main problem that prospective students face is that most countries prioritise applications from their own students (the UK for instance only allows 7.5 % of medical school places to be given to non UK/EU students -

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/applications/international-applicants>). In other words your passport and nationality carries far more weight in determining your medical options compared to any other subject. Other issues would be the need to sit a specialized test as part of your application and the need for an interview.

The only UK Medical Schools that don't restrict international student access are Buckingham and UCLAN. Both of these medical schools accept direct applications – you don't need to apply through UCAS.

<https://www.buckingham.ac.uk/medicine>

[https://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bachelor\\_medicine\\_bachelor\\_surgery.php](https://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bachelor_medicine_bachelor_surgery.php)

Outside of the UK, Newcastle University has a campus in Johor, Malaysia (NewMed) which accepts international applications -

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/numed/>

Queen Mary University London has established a campus on Malta -

<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/smd/undergraduate/malta/>



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A further international option would be The Royal College of Surgeons Ireland campus in Penang Malaysia -

<http://www.rcsiucd.edu.my/>

UK Medical Schools require either the BMAT test or the UCAT test. They're very different so best to choose one rather than the other.

The Bio Medical Admissions Test (BMAT) is used by medical schools in the UK, Asia and Europe. In the UK it is largely the elite end of the market such as Oxbridge, UCL and Imperial, in Europe it is used by medical schools in the Netherlands and Eastern Europe and in Asia by Singapore and Thailand.

When you take the test depends upon where you wish to study – in the UK it is usually August or October.

BMAT is a 2-hour, pen-and-paper test divided into three sections: Aptitude and Skills, Scientific Knowledge and Applications and a Writing Task. You will normally sit this test in your school or college. The test can only be taken once. The website provides examples of past papers and other preparation materials. For further information see:

<https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/>





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The University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) is used by over 20 UK medical schools. It is a two-hour computer-based test which assess a range of mental abilities identified by university medical and dental schools as important. It consists of five separately timed subtests which each contain a number of questions in a multiple-choice format. These are: Verbal Reasoning, Decision Making, Quantitative Reasoning, Abstract Reasoning and Situational Judgement. The UCAT is a computer-based test delivered in Pearson VUE test centres throughout the UK and internationally. Again the website is very useful and offers advice and support. See: <https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/>

The other important aspect of any medical application is the interview. There is a trend towards what are called Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI) in many medical schools. Instead of sitting opposite a panel of interviewers, you'll be taking part in a series of exchanges that test your ability to make ethical judgements and solve problems. However some still prefer the traditional method where you will be asked a series of questions by a panel of interviewers. And Oxbridge colleges have their own traditions. If called for interview it is vital to be clear about what interview format is being used!

# Further information

For further information and advice see:

<https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/medical-school-interview/>

For general advice about studying Medicine in the UK see

<https://www.studying-in-uk.org/medical-schools-in-uk/>

Outside of the UK there are a variety of excellent options for studying Med in Europe. See the European pages of this site for further information.

