



# **UCAS Early Entry: Applications for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.**

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Head of Sixth Form.



# What is early entry?

**15<sup>th</sup> October** application deadline, rather than mid-January. Late September internal deadline.

## Applicable for:

- **Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science** courses
- All courses at **Oxford** and **Cambridge**

## Why is there any early deadline?

- Highly competitive courses, therefore a rigorous admissions process
- Admissions test and interview requirements
- Collation of wider evidence in support of applications



# MDV courses

Applicants for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science can make **4 applications** (out of a possible 5) with a **fifth choice reserved for an 'Insurance'** option.

## Work experience requirements

- Clinical (hospital, GP, physiotherapy, etc).
- Caring (care home, childcare)
- Public facing (charity shops, or anything where you interact with the public)

## Entry tests: UCAT (scored out of 2700)

- Verbal Reasoning (900)
- Decision Making (900)
- Quantitative Reasoning (900)
- Situational Judgement (Band 1-4, often double weighted)

## Interview requirements

- MMI
- Panel.





# Understanding the courses

## St Andrews

- **Highly academic and science focused** in the earlier years of the course (less hospital immersion, and more academic medicine).
- May need to **relocate** for clinical placements (Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester – they have a ‘two location’ training model).
- Best for those with an interest in **theoretical science**, those who prefer **close staff interaction**, and are **academically driven**.



## Hull/York Medical School

- **Problem-based learning**, with clinical skills teaching that integrates science and clinical medicine. Greater emphasis on **active participation**, with fewer large lectures.
- **Multi-site experience**: students may be based in York or Hull. There are associated travel implications- Yorkshire/Humberside, with potential need for temporary accommodation.
- Best for those who want **patient-centred medicine** with **early clinical experiences**.





# Making a strategic application

Many universities score GCSE grades; some rank the number of 7-9 grades.

Application grades?

Admissions tests

Personal statement

Work experience and volunteering

(Interview performance)

Applications are administered by each university, therefore, research should be completed into:

- **UCAT-heavy schools:** Admissions test + academics
- **GCSE-heavy schools:** GCSE profile
- **Interview-heavy schools:** MMI performance
- **Holistic schools:** Balanced overall profile

**Contextual data**





# A strategic application: **Birmingham**

(Birmingham is considered relatively “numbers-heavy” before interview)

## **GCSE performance (45%)**

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Biology
- Chemistry
- (Combined Science)
- Two additional GCSEs



## **UCAT score (40%)**

- Ranked by top deciles
- Top decile gets maximum points
- Lower decile get proportionally fewer
- No fixed cut off.

## **Contextual factors (15%)**

- Contextual schools
- Free school meals
- Lower **POLAR4** quintiles



# A strategic application: **Birmingham**

(Birmingham is considered relatively “numbers-heavy” before interview)

## ***An interpretation of this information:***

- A strong Birmingham applicant often has:
  - Very high GCSEs (especially lots of 8s/9s)
  - Strong UCAT (often upper deciles)
  - Decent contextual uplift, if eligible (ABB offers for 2026 intake)
  - Solid MMI skills





# What could students be doing?

- **Learn about the medical profession early:**
  - NHS pressures
  - Realities of medicine/emotional demands
  - Read healthcare news and follow current issues in the NHS.
- **Work experience:** prestigious experience is *not* the main goal:
  - Reflection
  - Empathy
  - Communication
  - Understanding caring roles
- **Researching universities/courses**
- **Prepare for UCAT**





# Engagement





# What support is offered at SCGSG?

- Dedicated member of the Sixth Form Team.
- Formal preparation programme during Friday Enrichment sessions.
- Useful, current market information about courses and career choices
- Individualised help with personal statements (PS supervisor)
- Preparation help for UCAT, as well as other entrance tests.
- Interview practice
- Talks and visits from experts.



# Questions?



Please use the QR code to post any questions you have related to Post-18 Next Steps.

These will be covered in a remote parent event on the **21<sup>st</sup> May (12:45pm and 16:30pm)** delivered via MS Teams.