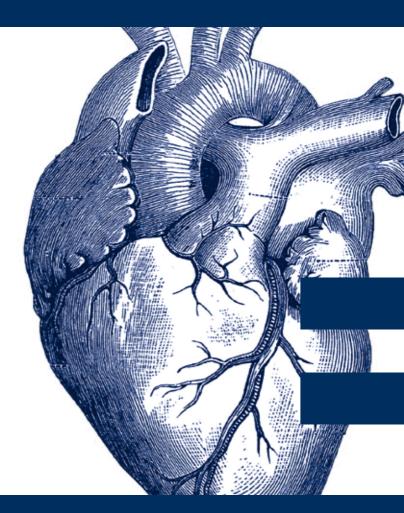


THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH Edinburgh Medical School

Medicine Undergraduate opportunities 2026





www.ed.ac.uk/medicine



Studying Medicine at Edinburgh

Our six year Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) degree will equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to become a Foundation Year 1 doctor.

Medicine at Edinburgh offers a modern, innovative curriculum designed to prepare you for contemporary medical practice.

Our aim is for you to graduate as a competent, ethical and reflective doctor, with the care of patients as your first concern.

You will graduate as an excellent communicator and team player, prepared for complex and uncertain situations, equipped for ongoing personal development, and trained for high professional achievement and leadership. As such, you will have a deep understanding of medical research and evidence-based medicine, which will be useful whatever career path you follow.

You will be especially wellequipped to pursue an academic career in medicine, where ongoing practical involvement in research, as a physicianscientist, is paramount.

Outcome of the course







Course structure

Our curriculum is ambitious, with an ethos of respect and support for our students, and a programme which is responsive to feedback from students and staff. We work with the General Medical Council to ensure we meet professional standards.

Clinical elements are included from day one, and from Year 4 teaching is mainly clinicallybased.

As the programme progresses, assessment is closely linked to clinical practice, and you are given formative feedback on your performance during each year to develop and extend your understanding.

You will undertake a series of modules across year-long courses which are based on biomedical knowledge integrated with the body systems, patient presentations and diseases.

Years 1 and 2

In years 1 and 2, you will look at biomedicine and sociology from a patient's perspective, undertaking 'Research and evidence-based medicine', 'Knowledge to clinical practice', 'Socio-ethical aspects of medicine' and 'Professional skills', and also a range of biomedical modules each semester. In Year 2, you will also continue to develop your practical, research and clinical skills, including history-taking and examination.

You will learn practical clinical skills such as resuscitation and interviewing patients, and develop your clinical reasoning and decision-making skills.



Teaching methods include lectures, tutorials, workshops and group work, community projects, GP-based teaching and studentselected components or projects on a range of topics, from the clinical to the non-medical.

Year 3

In Year 3, you'll take on a whole new challenge, beginning an academic year of full-time, research-based study, leading to a Bachelor of Medical Sciences Honours degree. This means by the time you graduate, you will have both a MBChB and your research-based BMedSci (Hons) degree.

The programmes on offer include biochemistry, neuroscience, pharmacology, psychology, sports science medicine, zoology and many more.

Years 4, 5 and 6

In Year 4, you will study all aspects of clinical medicine and healthcare. You will also develop your practical experience through placements in hospitals and general practice.



In Year 5, you will be integrated into teams on hospital wards and community practice. In addition, you will complete a group research project in partnership with a clinical tutor.

In your final Year 6, you will apply your learning from previous years, with an emphasis on developing practical skills and knowledge of senior general and acute medicine and surgery. During your Assistantship you will have the opportunity to assist a junior doctor and, under supervision, undertake some of the duties of a Foundation Year 1 doctor.

Electives

After your final exams, you will also have an 'elective' period, where you will have the opportunity to gain further experience of a speciality you are considering for your future career or clinical research.





Teaching

Support

The medicine degree programme has a Student Support team who can offer help and advice.

You will have a named Student Adviser from the Student Support team who you can contact for support throughout your medical school journey.

Teaching methods

You will be taught through in-person lectures, tutorials, problem-based learning, laboratory work, project work, clinical placements and peer-learning projects.

The student-selected components in Years 1, 2 and 5 offer flexibility and choice throughout the curriculum.

Assessment

Assessment methods include in-course assessments, clinical examinations, knowledge tests covering the whole year curriculum, group projects and professional skills.

Facilities

Edinburgh Medical School is located in the Chancellor's Building, Edinburgh Bioquarter, which is beside the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh hospital.

The building offers lecture theatres, seminar rooms, a clinical skills centre, library and computing facilities.



The Medical Education Centre at Western General Hospital also has a clinical skills training area, library and computer rooms.

In Year 1 and 2, you are mainly taught at the University main campus in George Square and at the Old Medical School, Teviot Place.

In Year 3, your intercalated programme could be based on any of the University campuses depending on your choice of subject.

In Years 4, 5 and 6, clinical teaching also takes place in three teaching hospitals in Edinburgh, in community GP practices, and in hospitals across other areas of Scotland.

Why choose Medicine at Edinburgh?

• Edinburgh Medical School is one of the most prestigious schools of its kind in Scotland and has been influencing the world of medicine for centuries.

• Our Medical degree (MBChB) spans six years, including an academic year of full-time, research-based study in Year 3.

• We are ranked in the UK's top five universities for medicine by both the Complete University Guide (2023) and the Guardian University Guide (2023), and 22nd in the world by the QS World University Rankings by Subject (2024).

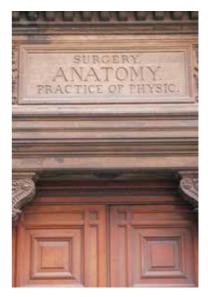
• Our international reputation in research is first-class. The University of Edinburgh is fourth in the UK based on the quality and breadth of its research – known as research power – and is Scotland's top ranked institution, according to Times Higher Education's Research Excellence Framework 2021 power ratings.

Framework 2021 power ratings.

• We place a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary working. Our larger College has five major research institutes, each with more than 500 staff and postgraduates. Each institute is home to inter-related centres, led by internationally-renowned scientists.

• Edinburgh is a picturesque, historic place to study, which is consistently voted one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

• Edinburgh Medical School has a global student community, with people from all over the world coming to study with us.



How to apply

Applications must be submitted through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Applications can be submitted from the beginning of September to 15 October for the following September's intake. We cannot consider applications after this deadline.

You need to meet our standard academic entry requirements and have also sat the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) – see page 15.

Your academic grades (achieved and predicted) and your UCAT total will be scored, with separate scoring of the situational judgement test.

The top scoring applicants will be invited to attend an Assessment Day. Following Assessment Days, decisions will be made by the Admissions executive, and you will be informed of the outcome by the end of March.

Applications for deferred entry (for no more than one year) will only be considered for applicants undertaking compulsory National Service.

If you are currently undertaking a qualification which is not yet completed, we require predicted grades in order to consider your application. Find out more here:

Edinburgh Medical School - predicted grades

Those who have experienced extreme extenuating circumstances should ask their academic referee to evidence this within the academic reference or provide this information to the Admissions Team separately at the time of application.



Useful contacts

Admissions Team

+44 (0) 0131 6517999 Email: futurestudents@ed.ac.uk Undergraduate admissions contacts

Disability and Learning Support Service

+44 (0) 131 650 6828 Email: disability.service@ed.ac.uk

Student disability service

UCAS

UK: 0371 468 0468 Outside UK: +44 330 3330230 Email: enquiries@ucas.ac.uk **@ ucas**

UCAT +44 (0)161 855 7409 **ℬ UCAT**

Widening Participation +44 (0)131 651 1755 Email: wpteam@ed.ac.uk

Academic requirements

In order to be considered for a place, you firstly need to check whether you meet our standard academic requirements, which we outline below for SQA, GCE, UK degrees and IB qualifications, with links to the website for other qualifications.

All examination grades must be achieved in the first attempt (no resits permitted whatsoever). You will not be eligible if you have just started or are midway through a degree in the academic year in which you apply. All recent relevant and updated academic study must have been completed within three academic years prior to the beginning of the programme.

SQA

Qualification	Breakdown
National 5s	B grades or above in Chemistry, Biology, English and Mathematics. Best six grades are scored including required subjects.
Highers	AAAAB by end of S5, to include Chemistry and two from Biology/Human Biology, Mathematics/Applications of Mathematics or Physics – we would accept both Mathematics qualifications as part of our requirements for five Highers by the end of S5. However, we would expect applicants to have either Biology/Human Biology or Physics as their third required science subject in order to show breadth of study in the sciences. Best 5 Highers are scored including three required subjects. *
Advanced Highers in S6	2 Advanced Highers at grades BB (no specific subject requirements). Offers are conditional on S6 performance.

* For some applicants, this combination at S5 Higher is neither possible nor appropriate. Students who meet the grade requirements in S5 but are missing one or more of the required subjects may take the missing Higher subject(s) in S6, along with the required Advanced Highers.

GCE

Qualification	Breakdown	
GCSEs	7/A or above in Chemistry, Biology, English and Mathematics. *	
	Best 8 grades are scored, including required subjects.	
GCE A levels (in one set of	A*AA to include Chemistry and one subject from Biology/Human Biology, Mathematics and Physics at A. Only one of Mathematics or Further Mathematics and one of Biology or Human Biology will be considered.	
exams)	Best 3 A levels are scored including the two required subjects.	

* Double Award combined sciences or equivalent at Grade AA / 77 may replace GCSE grades in sciences. Additional Applied Science and Applied Science will not be accepted. For a list of approved subjects, see:

Scottish qualifications - approved subjects

A levels - approved subjects



International Baccalaureate

Qualification	Breakdown
IB	Overall score of 40 points (including TOK and EE) including 766 at HL with Chemistry and at least one other science subject and 666 at SL. Biology should be taken to at least SL.
	English/English Language (A or B) and Mathematics (either Analysis & Approaches or Applications & Interpretation) must be taken to at least SL grade 6 if taking these within the IB.
	If English/English Language and/or Mathematics do not form part of your IB Diploma, you must also provide evidence of having completed these subjects to GCSE grade A or equivalent.

Widening access offers

If you have experienced certain barriers that might make it more challenging for you to achieve our standard entry requirements, then we want to take this into account.

We give extra consideration to those eligible for a widening access offer, as well as considering some widening access applications based on our minimum – as opposed to our standard – academic entry requirements.

The University's Widening Access offer policy – and an explanation of eligibility – can be found here:

Widening access offers

Graduate applicants

Qualification	Breakdown	
Medical related degree (eg Biomedical Sciences;/Medical Science/Nursing/Paramedical Science)	UK 1st class or 2:1 Honours degree or its international equivalent.	
Other science-based degree	UK 1st class or 2:1 Honours degree or its international equivalent in a Biology; Chemistry; Mathematics or Physics based subject.	
Non-science based degree plus school leaving qualifications	We also consider other subjects at same degree level as above but must be supplemented with SQA Higher/GCE A Level in Chemistry at grade B; HL Chemistry at grade 5 within the IB; or accepted international equivalents.	

Please note: Graduates applying for our undergraduate medicine degree do not qualify for any additional consideration under our widening access offer policy unless they are care experienced or are an asylum seeker/refugee.

In addition, we are not able to consider transfer into our MBChB programme, nor can we consider those who previously commenced their studies in medicine elsewhere, then subsequently terminated their studies. For more information, visit:

Graduate and mature applicants

Mature non-graduate applicants

Applicants over the age of 21 years will be assessed on their school leaver qualifications, with the same standard entry requirements as for school leavers. They will be required to provide evidence of updated science knowledge.

We do accept some Access courses which you will find details of here:

Access courses

Please contact the Admissions Team for any other queries.

International applicants



International applicants are assessed in the same way as all other applicants. If shortlisted for interview, they will be invited to attend an Assessment Day session (likely to be virtual).

Successful applicants are usually required to pay a deposit of a third of a year's fees in order to reserve their place.

Applicants requesting a refund for any reason within 14 calendar days after the payment date will be refunded in full. Refund requests received more than 14 days from the payment date will only be considered if the applicant fails to meet the conditions of offer.

Please check our Student Administration website for further guidance on visas:

Student Immigration Service

Frequently asked questions

I am currently doing military service in my country and am not expected to finish until after the course starts. Can I still apply and just enrol late?

No. You need to have finished any military service before the start of the course (preferably before September). You can apply for deferred entry for one year only in this scenario.

If I have a reference or document in a language other than English, will it need translating?

Yes, these documents must be certified by a professional translator.

Will it make any difference if I have already studied in the UK?

There may be implications on how much time you have left available to you to study in the UK and the level of study you can undertake. For further details, visit:

🔊 Student visas - Gov.uk

Will I need an English Language qualification?

Yes. All applicants, even those from the UK, require a recognised English language qualification. However, the list of eligible qualifications becomes more restricted if you require a visa. For more information, visit:

English language entry requirements

The qualifications I am taking are not listed in this booklet or on the degree finder – where will I find information on my country's requirements?

You will find each country's requirements at this link under the Medicine heading:

Entry requirements by region

Your personal statement

Your personal statement provides you with an opportunity to tell us all about you!

While it will not be formally assessed, your personal statement may provide guidance to us when we are shortlisting applications and will be essential preparation for you if invited to attend one of our Assessment Days.

Your personal statement

UCAS - how to write your personal statement

The format and structure of the personal statement will change from 2026 academic entry. It will now consist of three sections with question prompts. We advise you to consider the following factors when writing your statement:

Personal qualities and skills

Examples may include empathy, interpersonal relationships and the ability to communicate.

Evidence of career exploration

Evidence of a clear understanding of the realities of a career in medicine is sought. Examples include:

• work experience/shadowing with health professionals or in health promotion, for example, working in a nursing home and/or volunteering with disabled people

- talking with doctors and medical students
- attending a university open day and medical conferences/lectures
- engaging with medical-themed literature/

digital content/articles.

We value quality of experience over quantity. We are looking for clear evidence of reflection on these experiences, showing us what personal lessons you took from them and using these to demonstrate an aptitude for medicine.

The Medical Schools Council has provided guidance on how to gain relevant experience, while the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) have a free video platform with insights into the role of a GP and the wider primary care team:

Studying healthcare - MSC guidance

RCGP - Observe GP

Non-academic achievements and interests

Medicine is a demanding subject and can be stressful. It is important to maintain a healthy study/life balance and we look for evidence of outside interests. Examples of these can include:

- involvement in community groups
- extracurricular school responsibilities
- leadership positions
- cultural, sporting, vocational and voluntary achievements
- interests and hobbies.

University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

The UCAT was introduced in 2006 as part of the selection process for the majority of the UK university medical and dentistry schools.

If you want to study Medicine, you must take the UCAT before applying through UCAS. For example, if you are applying in September then you must take the test between July and September. There are test centres across the world listed on the UCAT website. Without a UCAT score or exemption, your application will not be considered.

If you reapply to Edinburgh the following year, you must resit the test. Please do not send your test results to us as we are advised of your score in November.

In order to ensure your results reach us directly from UCAT, we advise that you register for the test using your name as written in your passport.

Exemptions

In order to be granted an exemption from taking the UCAT, you must contact the UG Admissions Team prior to 1 August in the year you will be applying. Exemptions will only be granted in extreme extenuating circumstances. Applications without UCAT or where no prior exemption has been granted will not be considered.

How do we use the UCAT?

The Selection Committee uses your UCAT to make a more informed decision about your application. We assess your total UCAT score and your performance in the Situational Judgement Test (SJT) section. A band 4 in the SJT is not accepted. For testing in 2025, the Abstract Reasoning section has been removed. Therefore, the total score will be out of 2700 instead of the previous 3600. Our minimum UCAT total cut-off score for those applying for 2026 entry is 1650.

Edinburgh Medical School UCAT

Once all the scores are received we rank them, divide the cohort into deciles (ten equal groups) and allocate a score.

We also allocate a score to your situational judgement banding. The points are then added to your total score to contribute towards your final ranking.

The individual sections of the total score an applicant achieved may be looked at again when final decisions are made where there are applicants with the same ranked score and limited places left to offer.

🔊 UCAT

Special educational needs

Applicants applying to Edinburgh who have sat any of the alternative versions of the test must be able to supply evidence to support this in the form of a medical diagnosis or report from an appropriately qualified teacher or specialist. The evidence should include a statement on how much extra time the candidate has been allowed in examinations.

Widening participation

Edinburgh Medical School fully supports the University's initiative to create a more diverse student population.

The central principles in selection remain that:

• selection decisions will continue to be based on the assessment of academic potential and aptitude for the respective professions

• by the declaration of transparent criteria, both academic and non-academic, applicants can be assessed fairly and equitably.

Therefore, we follow the University's Widening Access Offer Policy, and support the LEAPS and Reach initiatives, which seek to encourage and support applications from those from educational and social disadvantage.

More information about eligibility for support from LEAPS or Reach can be obtained from the Widening Participation team:

Widening Participation

Please note: Graduates applying for our undergraduate medicine degree do not qualify for any additional consideration under our widening access offer policy unless they are care experienced or are an asylum seeker/ refugee.

Further information about minimum entry requirements can be found here:

Degree finder: entry requirements



Care-experienced applicants to higher education

Prospective students who identify themselves as having had local authority care experience in their UCAS applications will be provided with information about the support systems available to them at the University.

With permission, contact will be maintained throughout the MBChB programme to ensure students are being appropriately supported.

More information about the University of Edinburgh support for care-experienced applicants and students is available here:

Students with care experience

Protecting vulnerable groups

As with all UK medical schools, applicants to the Medicine programme are required to complete a criminal record check.

The main purpose of this check is to ensure that medical students can safely have contact with vulnerable adults and children, which is a feature of many healthcare courses and professions.

The Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme is run by Disclosure Scotland.

The PVG scheme is changing from lifetime membership to five-year membership from 1 April 2026. This means you may be required to update your membership during the course of your studies. The Medical Teaching organisation will however facilitate any additional updates to your membership that are required.

Those parties who declare an interest in your membership will be notified if any new vetting information arises. Information is collected on a continual basis after PVG membership, thus ensuring that any new critical information can be acted on promptly. All UK, EU and international applicants are required to join the scheme. A Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) check cannot be used in lieu of a PVG check.

Those who have not lived in the UK before must still complete a PVG application using their current home address but must also either obtain a Certificate of Good Conduct from their own country, or complete a self-declaration form. Guidance on this is provided within your offer pack.

The Admissions Office will advise on how to complete a PVG applicaton once you have accepted your offer.

Find out more about the PVG scheme:

The PVG scheme



How we assess your application

Each application is assessed and scored independently by two selectors. We consider academic results, UCAT deciles and Situational Judgement Test (SJT) scores.

If an applicant attains a band 4 in the SJT, their application will be processed as unsuccessful. Applicants must meet or exceed our UCAT cut-off score in order to be considered further within the selection process.

Invitation to Assessment Day

The top scoring applicants will be invited to participate in an Assessment Day.

Ordinarily, this would take place in person over a half-day at Edinburgh Medical School.

However, in support of our sustainability policy, we are likely to continue to run virtual interviews for those domiciled outside the UK and Ireland.

The structure of the day is based on a consultation of clinicians and teachers in the medical school about the most important attributes we seek in our medical students.

These attributes have been selected from those published by the Medical Schools' Council:

MSC core values and attributes (PDF)

In addition we highly recommend that you read the GMC document, Outcome for Graduates:

Outcome for graduates

The day will involve three 'stations.' Each station will be scored independently by one selector.

You will be provided with more information about the Asssessment Day if you are invited to attend.

Decisions following interview

Following completion of the Assessment Days, all applications will be reviewed.

The final score you attain will be based on the following: your academic score, UCAT decile and SJT band, as well as your interview score.

Each of these areas is weighted as follows:

Academic score (achieved and predicted):	25%
UCAT score (by decile):	17.5%
Situational judgement test (SJT) banding*	7.5%
Assessment Day scores	50%

Applicants will be ranked, and offers made to the highest-ranking candidates, in each of the fee categories.

The outcome of your application

Once all applications have gone through the selection process, we are then in a position to decide who is to be made an offer.

The number of students we can accept is controlled by the process of medical workforce planning that takes place in the Department of Health.

This in turn impacts on the number of places funded by the Scottish Funding Council and the number of places we have for students from other parts of the UK.

We usually make more offers than we have places as not all applicants accept their offer. All applicants should hear from us regarding the outcome of their application through UCAS.

Successful applicants

Successful applicants will normally have conditions to meet. Offer holders are required to verify their achieved qualifications and obtain a satisfactory PVG scheme disclosure.

Applicants who still need to pass exams may also have academic conditions in their offer. Offers will only become unconditional once all conditions have been met.

If you are successful, you will receive offer information electronically.

If you select us as your Firm choice, you will also receive a link to your offer pack and an email with a link to complete a PVG Scheme application form. We will also ask you to upload verified copies of certain documentation to your EUCLID portal. These verified copies of your originals can be certified by: your school/education institution; GP; other working professional in the UK; official notaries, British Council; embassy.

Once your application is unconditional firm, you will receive an electronic joining pack (from late July onwards) from our Medical Teaching Organisation.

Unsuccessful applicants

We are aware that many of our unsuccessful applicants would make suitable doctors. Sadly, due to the number of places we have, not everyone can obtain an offer. However, we do offer the opportunity to obtain feedback.

All requests should be emailed to **medug@ed.ac.uk**

Feedback will be available to unsuccessful applicants on request. However, the feedback we can provide will be limited where an applicant did not meet our standard entry requirements.

Student profiles

Andria Chen

Year: First year.

Originally from: Taiwan and Singapore.

Favourite speciality: I'm really not sure at the moment but I quite like paeds and ortho.

The best thing about Medicine so far: The friends I've made and all the amazing people and professors you get to meet.

Hobbies: I was a part of Medics Tennis this year, which I really enjoyed, and I also joined the Paeds Society which has good events and conferences.

The best thing about Edinburgh: The historical buildings and all the greenery around the city, especially during the spring/summer months

Biggest challenge: Balancing the workload with your social life and societies and sports.

Top tip for new students: Don't be scared to reach out if you ever need help with anything. You'd be surprised by the amount and variety of support the school offers!

Charvi Negi

Year: First year.

Originally from: New Delhi but I moved to Glasgow when I was three years old.

Favourite speciality: So many at this stage: dermatology, psychiatry and trauma surgery.

The best thing about Medicine so far: The community – from academic families to lecturers, to peers in your year. Everyone is super-friendly!

Hobbies: A highlight has been learning how to ski! Medicine-related societies also offer opportunities to explore specialities. I have particularly enjoyed the paediatrics conference and Homelessness and Healthcare Inclusion Society.

Looking forward to next year: Being an academic parent and building my medical knowledge. Academic families are great network of support for new students.

Biggest challenge: Finding a method to study that worked for me. Advice from older years and trying various techniques has helped me discover my preference.







Other things to consider

Is medicine right for you?

Medicine is a demanding but rewarding career choice. It requires a lot of work, from preapplication through to practising as a doctor.

You need to make sure that medicine is the right career for you.

Fitness to practise

The University has a responsibility to ensure that students studying on a programme which involves practical training in a clinical environment and which leads to a professional qualification which is registered with a regulatory body are fit to practise.

Students are expected to display professional behaviour and are monitored under a low-level concerns reporting system.

Any issue raised will be considered by the Medical School Commendations and Concerns Panel. In some cases, issues can be referred directly to the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine Fitness to Practise Committee. Students are expected to inform the Medical School of any issues which could mean that their fitness to practise is impaired.

Practising as a doctor requires high professional standards. Find out more from the GMC publication, Good Medical Practice, at:

GMC Good Medical Practice

Disability support

If you have been offered a place to study and have a disability, learning difference or



health condition that may impact on your studies, please make contact with the University Student Disability Service and the Medical School Student Support Office before you arrive, to discuss your support needs. The Medical School will make reasonable adjustments for students where the disability or condition would not prevent the student from fulfilling the required competencies to graduate.

Medical School Student Support Office

Student Disability Service

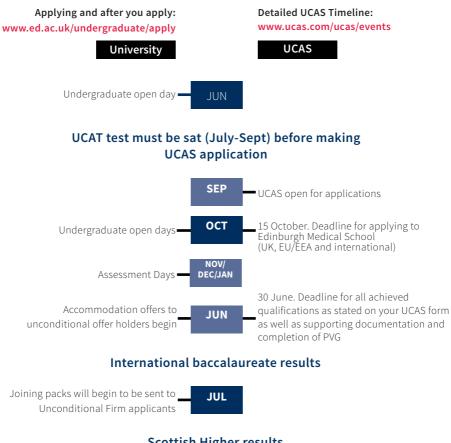
Health checks and general fitness

The Department of Health requires all students admitted to the medicine degree to undergo viral screening for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV, and to be immunised against hepatitis B. This will form part of your induction. A positive result in any test will not necessarily prevent entry to the medicine degree but would need to be investigated further.

Further information on the fitness standards expected of medical students is available from the Higher Education Occupational Physicians/ Practitioners (HEOPS).

HEOPS standards (PDF)

Timeline



Scottish Higher results A Level results



Meet your Year 1 buddy







This publication can be made available in alternative formats on request.

Contact For further information, please contact: E futurestudents@ed.ac.uk www.ed.ac.uk/medicine

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336

