

MEDICINE AT CAMBRIDGE



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Medicine is a great choice for those who wish to apply their understanding of science in a career that is respected, varied and meaningful. However, both the study and practice of medicine require a great deal of hard work, so you should be sure that medicine is the right choice for you.

At Cambridge, our medicine courses provide the education and training required to be one of tomorrow's doctors, reflecting the latest advances in medical sciences and practice. In the first three years students are taught the scientific principles underlying medicine, alongside a clinical strand. Students are also given the opportunity to conduct full-body dissection, which very few medical schools offer. It is a chance to really understand the relationships between different anatomical structures which will be crucial for safe clinical practice. They then move on to apply that knowledge to medical practice as a clinical student, spending much of their time learning directly from patients in GP surgeries and hospitals.

The aim of this booklet is to give you a flavour of why Cambridge may be the medicine course for you. For much more detailed information, see our website, www.biology.cam.ac.uk/undergrads/MedST.

"I chose Medicine because it's very academically and scientifically driven at the outset and more clinical towards the end, which opens up options when I leave" Simon, medical student

A UNIQUE SCIENTIFIC ENVIRONMENT



Cambridge gives you the unique opportunity to train as a medic at the world's premier science university. The key to being a great clinician is combining practical skills with excellent grounding in the science underlying practice – the Cambridge course gives you just that.

You will be in close contact with our environment of cutting-edge biomedical research. Experience shows that this makes our graduates well-equipped to deal with the high pace of change in medicine and poised for a wide variety of flexible and challenging careers.

Another unique opportunity is given to students in their third year: those who do not already have an honours degree can study a single subject to a high level to gain a Cambridge BA (Hons) degree. Most select a biological discipline, but other options are available, such as Management Studies or Engineering.

THE 'CAMBRIDGE EXPERIENCE'

All medical students at Cambridge are members of one of the University's colleges. Most students say that, apart from the course itself, college life is the main reason they are glad they trained here.

For at least the first three years, and often more, our students live in college accommodation alongside 100-250 other students studying the whole range of subjects offered by the University.

Colleges are much more than halls of residence, though. They are often students' main social hub, and provide many of the facilities they use – study, sport, music, and fun. The first three years of the course will take place in the city centre, while the clinical years will be based at Addenbrooke's Hospital, with a significant amount of time spent at regional hospitals and GP surgeries.

Information about the benefits of studying at Cambridge can be found here: www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/why-cambridge.



*"Wherever the art of Medicine is loved, there is
also a love of Humanity"*
Hippocrates

www.biology.cam.ac.uk
www.medschl.cam.ac.uk

OUR COURSE - PRECLINICAL YEARS (Y1-3)



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Providing an exciting and stimulating education for the doctors of tomorrow, the Cambridge Medical course embodies teaching from world experts, progressive technology and state-of-the-art facilities.

Years 1 & 2 will provide you with the knowledge of the human body underpinning clinical work, whilst introducing you to the basis of Medicine. The Core Science Modules you will attend are: Functional Architecture of the Body, Molecules in Medical Science, Histology and Homeostasis, Mechanisms of Drug Action, Biology of Disease, Human Reproduction, Neurobiology and Human Behaviour, and Head and Neck Anatomy. You will also follow some Clinical Strand Modules: Foundations of Evidence Based Practice, Social and Ethical Context of Health and Illness, and Preparing for Patients, a course which consists of visits to GP surgeries and hospitals.

Year 3 is a year of specialist study into one of a wide range of subjects on offer at the University of Cambridge. It is a unique opportunity to explore interests outside the typical medicine curriculum. Options vary from more science-related subjects, such as pathology or history of medicine, to less science-related, disciplines such as philosophy or management studies. The Preparing for Patients module continues throughout the year to maintain patient contact. At the end of this year, you receive a BA degree, which is necessary to progress into year 4.



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“The best thing about Cambridge is the opportunity. I’ve been taught by people who have developed or discovered their field, whose wealth of experience and knowledge have taught me far more than I could have imagined.” Tim, medical student

OUR COURSE - CLINICAL YEARS (Y4-6)



During clinical training (Years 4-6), students are based at the Clinical School on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and their time on placement is divided between Addenbrooke's and regional hospitals around East Anglia (King's Lynn, Huntingdon, Peterborough, Bedford, Stevenage, Ipswich, and Bury St Edmund's).

The Clinical curriculum is structured as a 'spiral' whereby key areas of clinical medicine are covered in progressively more depth through the three years.

Year 4: Core Clinical Practice

Year 5: Specialist Clinical Practice

Year 6: Applied Clinical Practice

During Year 5, students also have the opportunity to choose what Specialist Medicine and Specialist Surgery blocks they do, allowing them to explore areas they are particularly interested in.

Unlike Years 1-3, clinical students learn in a wide variety of environments, including: hospital wards, GP surgeries, practical skills labs, communication skills simulations, lectures, small groups, and workshops, to name a few! During these three years, clinical learning is complemented by book learning, formal and informal teaching. Students return to the Clinical School several times a year for 'Review and Integration' (R&I) weeks where the majority of formal teaching takes place.



At the end of Year 6 after their final qualifying exams students have an 'Apprenticeship' block. These 6 weeks are designed to help students transition into life as junior doctors during their foundation years.

"He who studies medicine without books sails an uncharted sea, but he who studies medicine without patients does not go to sea at all" William Osler, physician, creator of the first residency programme for speciality training of physicians

CAMBRIDGE GRADUATE COURSE IN MEDICINE (CGC)

The CGC is a four-year programme. It operates in conjunction with the West Suffolk Hospital, General Practices and four Cambridge Colleges. The base for learning core medical science is the Faculty of Biology; the main clinical base is the West Suffolk Hospital; and each year students are attached to a General Practice. Students also spend time at Addenbrooke's Hospital and, during Year 3 specialty placements, gain experience in Regional Partner NHS Trust hospitals and in General Practices throughout the East of England.

MB/PHD PROGRAMME

The MB/PhD programme selects and fosters the clinical and academic development of students who show early talent and enthusiasm for experimental science, coupled to academic robustness and sufficient scientific experience and maturity to engage in research at an early point in their training. Students start on the standard 6-year course. Following the Student Selected Component (SSC) during Year 4, most likely spent in a prospective PhD laboratory, and subject to satisfactory progress and performance in Final MB Part I, this is followed by a three-year period of full-time research combined with one hour per week of clinical education. It concludes with students rejoining the clinical course to complete their medical studies, having already obtained a PhD.



FOUNDATION PROGRAMME — 2 YEARS

At the end of the undergraduate course you will receive your MB/BChir degree which entitles you to provisional registration with the General Medical Council (GMC). At this point students may go anywhere in the country to complete two years as a junior doctor: these are known as the Foundation Years. At the end of these two years, you are eligible for full registration with the GMC as a doctor.

During these two years, training continues as employees of the NHS, with rotations in a variety of specialties and often in more than one hospital.

“Despite the intensity of the course, I’ve found it very rewarding and enjoyable. Support from colleges and clinicians is phenomenal. I highly recommend this course to anyone considering graduate medicine.”
CGC student

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE FOUNDATION YEARS?

There is a broad spectrum of hospital-based careers across medical, surgical and other specialisms but healthcare is moving towards a more community-centred model of delivery and, consequently, doctors are increasingly expected to deliver healthcare in a range of settings. Most UK graduates go on to work in the NHS, and about half become general practitioners. Some graduates also choose a career in academic research.



The foundation years are followed by several years of specialist training. This training can be in specialities such as General Practice, Surgery, Psychiatry, Medicine (such as Cardiology or Nephrology) or Obstetrics and Gynaecology. GP training takes three years and other speciality training can take up to eight years. About 50% of the speciality training opportunities are in General Practice. A wealth of information regarding careers in healthcare, including information on the different specialities and the associated training length, can be found on this NHS website: www.healthcareers.nhs.uk.

During Years 4,5 and 6 there are regular careers-related sessions to help you make informed decisions about your own career. The Student Selected Components during Year 5 will provide a taster for specialities available to you. You can pursue your interest in some specialities through societies and receive information from some departments of the Clinical School. For example, the Primary Care Unit (www.phpc.cam.ac.uk/pcu) and the Department of Psychiatry (www.psychiatry.cam.ac.uk) are supporting students considering careers in General Practice and Mental Health respectively.



“Medicine at Cambridge is a lot of work, but also a lot of fun. Being able to learn from some of the leading experts in their respective fields, and learn first hand in full-body dissections makes the course immensely interesting and interactive.”
Omar, medical student

YOUR HEALTH



All applicants offered a place to study Medicine at Cambridge are required to complete a health assessment with the University's Occupational Health Service (OH). The main purpose of this confidential assessment is to learn about any medical conditions or disabilities that you may have that require specific support during your training. Where necessary these will be

appropriately considered and implemented. Screening for blood-borne virus infections and vaccinations will also take place when you enter the course.

As students have patient contact from their first year, and throughout the course, the University has a duty to ensure students are 'fit for practice'. On admission, students sign the Medical Student Register Agreement (committing students to the Medical Student Code of Conduct) and undergo an Enhanced Disclosure via the DBS (<http://bit.ly/1sGepnO>).

The Clinical School makes every effort to support students with disabilities and we work closely with students, OH, and the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) to ensure that students are not disadvantaged. If you have a medical condition or disability that you think may affect your fitness to practise as a doctor, or that you think may be difficult to accommodate, then you should contact



OH or the DRC for confidential advice before applying. Information can be found on their websites: www.oh.admin.cam.ac.uk/medical-students; www.disability.admin.cam.ac.uk.

“The supervision system is the most unique, enjoyable and valuable aspect of my course. It has taught me how to think conceptually, questioning why we believe what we believe, developed my passion and curiosity in the biological sciences and made significant contribution to my academic success” Yun, medical student

SETTLING IN AND SUPPORT



Introductory lectures and detailed subject handbooks help students adjust to the fast-paced teaching environment when they first arrive. For those without A-level Biology, there is a web-based Cell Biology course. Academic support is provided through the College tutorial system and through small group teaching during Years 4-6.

We understand that students may encounter problems in their private lives which can affect their progress on the course. There are a variety of sources of support for students within colleges, the wider university and externally. In your college, these include tutors, directors of studies, supervisors, student mentors, nurses and chaplains. The University also hosts the Counselling Service, the Disability Resource Centre and the Occupational Health Service. The Clinical School provides additional pastoral support for students whilst you are in Cambridge or away on regional placements.



Within Cambridge, there are various societies organised by, and run for, medical students. These include MEDSOC (Cambridge University Medical Society, cambridgemedsoc.com), and ClinSoc (Clinical Student Society, www.srcf.ucam.org/clinsoc).

“In Cambridge, thanks to the supervisions, I was taught how to think beyond the core material and link aspects of the course to theory. The supervisors were passionate about their areas of research and went to great lengths when it came to answering my questions and explaining complex processes.”

Rebeka, medical student

OUR MEDICINE COURSES

We offer three different Medicine courses:

| | Standard-Entry Medicine | Affiliated course | Graduate-Entry Medicine |
|---------------|---|--|---|
| Length | 6 years | 5 years | 4 years |
| Qualification | BA and Bachelor of Medicine/ Surgery (MB BChir) | Bachelor of Medicine/Surgery (MB BChir) | Bachelor of Medicine/Surgery (MB BChir) |
| Intake | School leavers and mature students | Home/EU/ International students having already graduated with a degree | Home/EU students having already graduated with a degree |

| Year | Standard-Entry Medicine | Affiliated course | Graduate-Entry Medicine |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 1 | Medical Sciences | Medical Sciences | Combined Medical Sciences & Clinical Medicine |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | Part II courses | Clinical Medicine | Clinical Medicine |
| 4 | Clinical Medicine | | |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | |



“Medicine here is incredible. In the first year, we have full body dissection (offered in very few UK medical schools), which is an amazing way to learn anatomy” Mhairi, medical student

HOW TO APPLY



All undergraduate applicants for Medicine are required to take the BMAT test (Cambridge BioMedical Admissions Test) before interview. Applicants for the Cambridge Graduate Course in Medicine may opt to sit the BMAT if they wish to use the score to meet course entry requirements. For information, please visit:

[www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-](http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/bmat/)

[takers/bmat/](http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/bmat/).

UK or EU applicants only need to submit a UCAS application naming Cambridge as one of their choices. After the UCAS application has been received you will be asked to provide additional information through an online Supplementary Application Questionnaire (SAQ).

Applicants from schools/colleges outside the EU will need to submit a Cambridge Online Preliminary Application (COPA) alongside the UCAS application.

There is also an additional application form for applicants for the Cambridge Graduate Course in Medicine (UCAS course code A101).



All information about the application process can be found online: www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying

The admissions are the responsibility of individual Colleges. For more information, please contact the admission tutor at any of the Colleges or visit www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/medicine

Disclaimer: The information in this booklet is correct at the time of publication and may be subject to change.

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