

to Aberdeen if taken within 2 years of proposed entry. For further details, please refer to our website.

Deferred Entry

Applications from candidates who wish to take a year out between school and university, or from graduate or mature candidates who cannot enter in the current year usually for financial reasons, can be considered. However, deferred entry will not be granted to applicants from S5 who intend returning to school to complete S6 nor to applicants part-way through an undergraduate degree programme.

The request for deferred entry should be declared from the outset, when applicants will be expected to have a clear plan of activity for the next year, preferably involving work of a caring nature.

UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT)

The UKCAT, along with other selection criteria, is used to select for interview. For more information on the UKCAT test, including registration dates, please refer to their website www.ukcat.ac.uk. You should ensure that you register early for a test as being unable to gain a test sitting will not be accepted as an extenuating circumstance.

Transfers From Other Degree Programmes

Transfer of students from another degree course into medicine is not normally considered. Undergraduates enrolled in other degree programmes

are advised to complete their current degrees and apply as graduates.

How Do I Apply?

Applications to this degree programme are made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). You apply online at www.ucas.com and may apply to up to five institutions on the full-price UCAS application of which up to four choices can be made for Medicine.

Overseas applicants should obtain a form from their nearest British Council Office. Prospective students (and their parents/guardians/teachers) are welcome to visit the University at any time, or attend our University-wide Open Day in August/September. Please contact the Student Recruitment and Admissions Service, who will be happy to make arrangements for a visit.

Where Can I Get Further Information?

Please contact:
Medical Admissions Assistant
College Office (Admissions, Medicine)
Polwarth Building, Foresterhill
Aberdeen, AB25 2ZD

Tel: +44 (0)1224 437923
Email: medadm@abdn.ac.uk

Or be our friend at
www.facebook.com/universityofaberdeen
www.twitter.com/aberdeenuni

For further details relating to Medicine at Aberdeen, please also visit www.abdn.ac.uk/medicine/prospective-students



MB ChB MEDICINE

The University of Aberdeen has a long and distinguished history of producing excellent medical graduates, many of whom have subsequently travelled the world practising medicine or undertaking highly acclaimed research.

The Medical School is relatively small, enabling us to offer superb care and support for our "medical apprentices", whilst remaining at the forefront in areas of medical research. The clinical facilities, both locally and across the Highlands and Islands are outstanding and available to all students.

Our medical programme aims to produce excellent doctors who will be able to assimilate and apply new knowledge throughout their careers and who will themselves contribute to the advancement of medicine. We encourage a critical approach to the study of underlying principles and the development of independent thought. This is linked to practical training in the Clinical Skills Centre and in hospitals and the community. Our students develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that ensure they are well prepared for life as a junior doctor and that provide a firm basis for postgraduate training and lifelong education.



Why Study Medicine At Aberdeen?

- > You will have the opportunity to study medicine in a thriving medical school that is co-located on one of the largest clinical sites in Europe with superb teaching and extensive research facilities
- > The course you will undertake is very modern, dynamic and clearly delivered using a systems- and case-based approach. Student feedback is encouraged and is extremely important in informing future course developments
- > Clinical experience is central to teaching and you will have increasing patient contact throughout the MB ChB from year one. As a senior student you will be able to undertake arguably, the most widespread and diverse clinical placements in the UK, with an additional opportunity of spending up to two years in remote and rural areas
- > Much of the MBChB is now being delivered from a new state-of-the-art Teaching and Learning Centre. The Suttie Centre offers excellent teaching and simulation facilities as well as good social facilities
- > In your final year, you may choose to travel virtually anywhere in the world to undertake a project-based elective
- > The course with its 'culture of care' has been highly rated by outside bodies. The GMC were impressed by the "enthusiasm and commitment of the staff", "enthusiasm and loyalty to the school of the students" and by the excellent student support offered
- > As a student of one of the few ancient universities in the UK, you will find that Aberdeen is a lively and vibrant city, with an excellent social scene and night life, and superb sporting opportunities

Degree Structure & Content

The curriculum has been newly revised and thus is thoroughly modern, systems-based and fully integrated. Students are encouraged to explore concepts for themselves, to utilise the excellent facilities available to them and to exercise choice in many areas of study. Student feedback is encouraged and is extremely important in informing future course developments. The length of the programme is 5 years and each year students will undertake a step-by-step approach to the development of knowledge, skills and professional attitudes, whilst undertaking a systems-based approach to learning. In addition, there is an option to undertake a one-year intercalated BSc (Medical Sciences) degree as well as to undertake a Remote & Rural option for Years 4 and 5. Student Selected Components (SSCs) are undertaken in each year, which allows students to follow up areas of personal interest for more detailed study. The SSC in third year provides a unique opportunity to study a wide choice of topics within Medical Humanities for a six week block.

Year 1

The first term sets the scene for the whole of undergraduate study. This begins with the student gaining an understanding of the medical sciences and the disease processes that underpin medicine. The foundations of clinical method and communication skills are explored with an introduction to clinical practice and patient care. The systems-based course will then commence with the study of two major systems, the Respiratory and the Cardiovascular Systems. This systems-based course will use clinical cases to act as a focus for learning. Students will learn how to explore patients' symptoms and perform clinical examination (clinical

What Are The Minimum Admission Requirements For Medicine?

Competition for places to study Medicine each year is extremely high. We strongly advised you to find out more about the academic and non-academic requirements for Aberdeen, by visiting: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/medicine/prospective-students>

Scottish Highers

Highers: 5 Highers @ grades AAAAB at first sitting, normally in S5.
Subjects: Chemistry is required plus two from Biology/Human Biology, Maths and Physics plus two others. In addition applicants should undertake three full courses of study in S6 to achieve a high academic score.

GCE

A Levels: 3 A Levels @ grades AAA at first sitting
Subjects: Chemistry required plus at least one of Biology, Maths and Physics plus one other subject (excluding General Studies).

Irish Leaving Certificate:

Highers: 6 Highers @ grades AAAAAA at first sitting
Subjects: Chemistry is required plus two from Biology, Maths and Physics.

International Baccalaureate

Higher level: 3 subjects @ grade 6 or better including Chemistry plus one of Maths, Biology and Physics plus
Standard level: 3 other subjects @ an average of grade 6 - to include one of Maths, Biology and Physics (i.e. at least 36 points overall excluding TOK and bonus points).

The majority of successful candidates achieve the minimum requirements at the first sitting. We do not normally consider applicants who are re-sitting their examinations to upgrade results unless very exceptional circumstances at the time of the first sitting can be demonstrated and verified. For alternate qualifications, please consult our website at: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/medicine/prospective-students> or write to our Medical Admissions Office prior to application.

Graduate Applicants

Degree minimum of upper second class Honours level.

Additional requirements: Chemistry to at least B grade in either Scottish Higher or A grade in GCE A Level examinations is also required although this requirement may be satisfied in individual cases by appropriate courses of study and achievement during the first degree. For further details regarding specific degrees, please refer to website.

Mature Applicants

Applicants who have completed full time secondary education and who have elected to delay University entry, but whose life-long experiences are comparable at least to those of a graduate, are considered as "mature applicants". Such applicants are expected to achieve the same minimum academic requirements for entry as school leavers. However, these qualifications may be obtained over two diets of examinations and will be considered current if taken within 6 years of proposed entry. Mature candidates who have not previously undertaken an Honours degree but who have successfully undertaken specific Access courses can also be considered for entry



clinical exams. These are tested by the use of the Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE). These comprise a sequence of stations, usually between 13 and 17 in any one exam, each of which tests the candidate on his or her ability to perform a specific clinical task or solve a clinical problem over several minutes. Formative Assessments are widely distributed within the course and their purpose is to provide feedback to students on how well they are performing. There is no sanction or penalty for failing these “practice” exams – they are intended to provide an early warning to students that they are not reaching the required standard. There are extensive support mechanisms within the Medical School and formative exams often help staff to identify students who need help for one reason or another – e.g. because of illness or personal or financial difficulties.

Summative Assessments are degree exams, usually at the end of a year. These

are the “official” assessments that determine whether a student is good enough to proceed to the next year of the course, or to graduate at the end of the course. Students normally have two opportunities to pass such assessments.

Careers

Pre-Registration Year

After your graduation, you will be provisionally registered by the General Medical Council. All newly qualified doctors are matched to the Foundation Training Programme. On satisfactory completion of Foundation Year 1, you will be awarded full registration by the General Medical Council, subject to demonstrating to the GMC that your fitness to practice is not impaired. Under new arrangements for the Foundation Programme, a further year is required. For more information please see the ‘Modernising Medical Careers’ website (www.mmc.nhs.uk).

method) for each of the systems studied and thereafter will have opportunities to practice these skills in a variety of clinical settings. The teaching of communication skills and clinical method will be fully integrated from the start of the new curriculum. The Community Course is based in General Practices across Aberdeen and introduces students to psychological and social issues in health, while a Personal and Professional Development (PPD) thread starts in Year One. The first 4-week Student Selected Component will be undertaken towards the end of Year 1.

Year 2

The systems-based courses, the Community Course and PPD continue to develop throughout Year 2, with students building on their basic knowledge of clinical skills acquired in Year 1. A second 4-week Student Selected Component with the theme “Molecular Medicine” is undertaken halfway through Year 2.

Year 3

The study of the systems and the Community Course will be completed in third year. Students by now are able to perform a complete history and examination and have basic knowledge of common diseases in all the major body systems.

A 6 week SSC just before Christmas provides students with a unique opportunity to study a topic outwith the mainstream of medicine, with a wide variety of topics within Medical Humanities offered e.g. History of Medicine, Literature and Medicine, History of Art etc.

Year 4

Year 4 commences before the summer

break with a wide choice of subjects within an SSC exploring population-based aspects of disease – “Clinical Effectiveness”, This provides a gentle start to an intense year of clinical experience. Students undertake nine five week blocks when they experience at first hand in clinics, operating theatres and wards the delivery of healthcare – the practical application of the knowledge and skills they have gained in Years 1 to 3. These clinical opportunities are based in hospitals and the community, in and around Aberdeen and at least one clinical block will be undertaken in Inverness.

Year 5

The final year is very much an apprentice year to prepare students for the competent, safe, effective and professional practice of medicine as a pre-registration Foundation Doctor. This is no longer system based, but instead focuses on the patient rather than the disease or system. Students gain extensive clinical experience during three eight week attachments in medicine, surgery and GP/psychiatry over the widest of locations. Student Assistantships allow students to take on the role of a junior doctor under supervision for a short time during clinical attachments. This experience, together with the two week Professional Practice Blocks at the beginning and end of final year, help bridge the gap between life as a student and the practicalities of life as a junior doctor. Finally, students have the opportunity during final year to seek out worldwide locations for an eight week project based elective in a subject of the student’s choice.

Intercalated Degree

At the end of third year or alternately, between fourth and fifth year, there is the opportunity to be involved in cutting-



edge research, by undertaking an intercalated one-year Honours BSc in the School of Medicine and Dentistry or in the School of Medical Sciences. Currently around 20% of the year does this. This degree will enable students to learn about critical evaluation & research methodology by the study in-depth of an area of biomedical or clinical science. A recent innovation is the option to take an intercalated degree in the Medical Humanities.

Learning & Assessment

Core material accounts for approximately 80% of all teaching and covers topics which are essential for all doctors. The SSCs make up the remaining 20% of the programme. Most of the SSCs involve group projects but the Humanities Module and the SSCs in Year 5 are individual projects. Ultimately, students must successfully complete both the core and SSC parts of the course to graduate.

The core material is delivered in an integrated fashion, with science and medicine taught together whenever possible. During the first three years of the curriculum, students receive teaching through a variety of methods including lectures, tutorials, practical anatomy and clinical sessions and small group Community Course sessions. The rest of the time is set aside for self-study and self-directed learning, often computer based. The online Learning Guides are comprehensive course booklets that support each individual System or block of teaching and direct students towards the further researching of topics.

Clinical expertise is initially acquired both in the Clinical Skills Centre as well as in hospital and other clinical areas. Teaching sessions may involve practical demonstrations with real or simulated patients, with many opportunities for supervised or self-directed practice. Simulation plays an important part of clinical learning in the Clinical Skills

Centre and students are encouraged to take the opportunity to 'book' the rooms and equipment and practice their skills further. Later clinical attachments consolidate early practice when students may be placed within or outwith Aberdeen.

There is an exciting range of clinical attachments on offer across the whole of the North East of Scotland and across the Highlands and Islands. There are additional clinical campuses at Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin and Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, and all students undertake hospital-based clinical placements outside Aberdeen. This variety of placements allows our students to experience not only inner-city medicine, but also gives a unique opportunity to see how health care is delivered in areas far removed from large teaching centres.

The Inverness campus at Raigmore Hospital is the gateway to healthcare delivery in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Our Remote & Rural Option has been developed to be undertaken in Years 4 and/or 5 for students with a special interest in careers in a Remote and Rural setting. These students can undertake clinical attachments in final year at more distant locations such as Stomoway, Fort William, Wick, Orkney and Shetland. The Remote and Rural option is based at Raigmore Hospital where a new clinical skills centre and library have been built. In addition, our extensive network of teaching general practices around Scotland, also give students opportunities to experience patient care in a community setting.

The curriculum is supported by an e-learning platform – *My MBChB*. This is a web-based intranet resource for students to support their learning

throughout their undergraduate years and can be accessed by students from all clinical and university campuses as well as from outside these areas. Material available includes administrative information such as timetables, educational resources such as teaching videos and podcasts, and bulletin boards for students to exchange information and post notices.

Exams are never a popular feature of any undergraduate curriculum, but everyone recognises that the Medical School has a duty to ensure that its graduates have achieved a safe and satisfactory standard of performance in all the elements of medical practice. Assessment is built in throughout the five years of the course, to ensure that basic skills are mastered before moving on to more advanced topics. Since medicine is not simply a theoretical subject, teaching and learning covers **knowledge, skills and attitudes** and assessment must therefore do the same. A variety of assessment methods are used.

Written exams – these test factual knowledge, but can also test clinical reasoning/diagnostic skills and, to a lesser extent, attitudes. The format includes short answer questions, extended matching questions and multiple choice questions.

Course Work - In some courses, essays or reports are written. Some courses also involve students working in groups to produce posters or oral presentations.

Clinical Exams – clinical skills include history taking, communication skills and examination technique. Diagnostic skills, knowledge of disease management and a wide range of professional skills including ethics are also encompassed within