



## Applying for Medicine at UCL – the Selection Procedure

There continues to be considerable pressure on the available places for students to read Medicine. Applications typically exceed 2400 for a total of 330 places. We do not have the capacity to interview all eligible applicants.

### Selection for interview

All applications are read carefully by several people and an overall 'priority' score is assigned to each. Candidates are then invited to interview in order of priority and we continue interviewing until we run out of places. This usually means that we invite around 30% of applicants to attend an interview at UCL, starting in December and finishing in early March. The following factors are taken into account when deciding which candidates to interview.

- Predicted and actual grades. Although there is no simple relationship between academic performance and whether or not a student will make a 'good' doctor, there is some evidence that those with low grades or those who need to re-sit examinations are more likely to have academic problems with the programme. GCSEs will be used as a general indicator of the candidate's academic background. AS-level grades are used to gauge academic performance (a strong performance at AS, particularly in Chemistry and Biology, is expected of prospective medical students).
- Previous experience (both personal and through work experience or volunteering), particularly if it has involved contact with the healthcare profession or laboratory work, or if the candidate has been involved with the sick, disabled, very young or elderly, and, importantly, is able to reflect on their experiences.
- Demonstration of motivation to study Medicine and an appropriate attitude.
- Other interests, for example music, travel, sports, or any activities that are considered to broaden the general education of the candidate.
- Evidence of teamwork, leadership and communication skills.
- The referee's assessment of academic ability, study skills, motivation for medicine and personal qualities.
- BMAT scores. High scores in each section will strengthen an application. Candidates with scores that are below the average for their cohort are unlikely to be successful. The average scores are posted on the Medical School website in November/December.

**Please note:** It is the policy of this Medical School **not** to reconsider an applicant who has previously been unsuccessful following interview unless they were given specific permission to re-apply.

### Assessment at interview

Selected candidates are invited to visit on a weekday morning or afternoon. The visit includes a talk by the Admissions Tutor, an opportunity to speak with current medical students, the interview, and a student-led campus tour. Interviews last approximately 15-20 minutes and are conducted by a panel of 2-3 interviewers, including clinical and basic medical science staff, a senior medical student or 'lay' interviewer (e.g. Head of Sixth Form, guest GP). Interviewees will be given a copy of their BMAT essay prior to the interview, as discussion of their essay will form part of the assessment at interview.

Interviewers score the candidate for the following qualities:

- Intellectual ability (intellectual curiosity and robustness)
- Motivation for (and understanding of) a career in medicine
- Awareness of scientific and medical issues
- Ability to express and defend opinions, including discussion of BMAT essay topic
- Attitude, including flexibility and integrity
- Individual strengths (e.g. social, musical, sporting interests or activities)
- Communication skills (verbal and listening)

Following the interview the recommendations of the interviewers will be reviewed by the Admissions Tutor and the outcome will be sent to each candidate within two weeks.