UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

First class biomedical and clinical teaching for tomorrow's doctors





www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/medicine

Medicine (A100)

Medicine offers a breadth of experience that is impossible to find in any other subject. Every day brings different patients with different needs. It's a great choice for scientists who strive to understand and apply research findings to improve the lives of the patients in their care. However, practising medicine can be arduous, stressful, frustrating and bureaucratic and it's not for everyone. You need to be sure that medicine is the right choice for you.

Why Medicine at the University of Oxford?

"What strikes me most about the course at Oxford is the logic of its organisation. It teaches first of all how the healthy human body functions, before then going on to explain the pathological processes that undermine good health. It delivers this teaching in a combination of lectures, practicals and seminars, covering topics in an integrative fashion such that the heart, for example, is understood in anatomical, physiological, pharmacological, histological, developmental and biochemical terms!"

Oxford will offer you an exceptional environment in which to study, and will ensure that you graduate with both an excellent grounding in the science underpinning medicine, and with the skills and competitive edge to make a leading life-long contribution to your profession. At every stage, you will be encouraged to take an enquiring and critical approach to your studies; you should be self-motivated and interested in actively participating in shaping your own progression.

Is this course for me?
With separate pre-clinical and clinical stages of the course, students first gain a comprehensive grounding in medical science, before applying that scientific foundation in the clinical setting. Teaching is delivered throughout with reference to findings in academic research.

Oxford boasts superb facilities throughout training, which include a dedicated teaching centre for medicine, state-of-the-art laboratories and other learning technologies, and outstanding library provision. The course increasingly exposes students to patients and services at a network of hospitals and other medical facilities in and around Oxford, and allows students an excellent opportunity to train within diverse communities and settings.

Ranked top university in the world for Medicine by the *Times Higher World Rankings*, since 2011.

"The theoretical nature of the course would suit those with a passion for science. I feel that we are being well prepared to make clinical decisions in the future, and that the option of research medicine is always open to us. I really enjoyed the patient-doctor sessions that are held in GP surgeries twice a term in the first and second year. They help you appreciate the impact illness has on people's lives and reinforce what you learn in lectures. In addition they start to develop your communication style ready for the clinical course."

We're a prestigious University, regularly ranked as one of the top universities in the UK, and our teaching and research in medical sciences is recognised as world-class.

How is the Oxford course structured?

By working effectively together, the University and its colleges ensure that each student reaches their full potential by tailoring the care and support provided to best meet the needs of the individual.

The chart below gives an overview of course structure and subject options likely to be offered. Training is divided into two stages: a three -year pre-clinical course, followed by three years of clinical study (currently in Oxford or London). As the chart shows, the pre-clinical course is divided into two parts. The first lasts for five terms, and provides the 1st BM qualification which permits access to the later clinical years. The second, the 'Final Honour School' year, leads to a BA degree, and is a key and exciting difference to the programme offered by many other medical schools.

The Oxford BA in Medical Sciences will provide students with an understanding of and enthusiasm for science and scientific method, and is awarded at the end of the third year.
This part of the course aims to develop inter-pretive and critical skills, and encourages in-depth study in one of five advanced options.

As part of this year, every student undertakes an experimental research project, working within one of the numerous research laboratories across the University, or even beyond Oxford. Students propose their own topic, and the possibilities are therefore extensive and largely at the discretion of each student. Oxford is internationally recognized for its biomedical and clinical research, and so students will learn from groups at the forefront of current thinking using cutting edge techniques.

With a relatively small number of students in each year, the clinical school at Oxford (for which a separate admissions process operates during year 3 of the pre-clinical course) has a particularly friendly and supportive atmosphere. All students are valued as individuals, and, if they stay on in Oxford for clinical study, will become an integral part of the clinical team, backed by a strong programme of small group teaching and seminars. The School has been praised for the range and quality of specialist module choice, rotations, simulator training and electives (many of which are overseas) on offer.

Pre-Clinical

FIRST 5 TERMS

All courses compulsory (alongside associated practical work): Focus on introduction to the fundamental disease aspects of the structure and function of the human body, and the basic mechanisms underlying disease.

- Organization of the Body
- Physiology and Pharmacology
- Biochemistry and Medical Genetics
- Medical Sociology
- Patient and Doctor Course

Part I Examination; satisfactory practical record

- Applied Physiology and Pharmacology
- The Nervous System
- Principles of Pathology
- Psychology for Medicine
- Patient and Doctor Course

Part II Examination; satisfactory practical record

Clinical

SEPARATE ADMISSION PROCESS APPLIES. Core curriculum focus on preparation for Foundation Training, complemented by wide range of modules that

YEAR 4: focus on honing clinical skills

- Patient and Doctor Course II (+ GP residential attachment)
- Laboratory Medicine
- Rotations in Surgery and Medicine
- District General Hospital attachment
- Special study module
- Cross curricular courses in communication skills, ethics and law, disability and clinical skills

YEAR 5: focus on specialist clinical areas

Continuous, staged assessment

- Paediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Genito-urinary Medicine
- Orthopaedics, Rheumatology & Emergency Medicine
- Clinical Gerontology, Dermatology, Palliative Care, Public Health, Primary Care
- Neurology and Neurosurgery, ENT, Opthalmology

"I feel the clinical training I have received here has been first-class. It focuses on ample clinical exposure whilst maintaining a strong academic foundation enabling you to cover concepts in a well-rounded fashion. The course provided me with a good balance between core rotations and opportunities to exercise personal choice in my clinical options and special study modules. I have found the teaching methods engaging – varying from lectures to seminars to one-on-one tutorials, and the course content diverse and stimulating. There is strong pastoral care provided by a panel of trained colleagues as well as official welfare officers if you need support of any kind."

What do the Colleges do?

College life is one of the University of Oxford's greatest assets, since a close college community provides a friendly and welcoming home for students. Tutors get to know students individually, enabling them to respond to their particular academic needs. You therefore receive all the benefits of being educated at a large, internationally-recognised university while living and studying in a small, friendly community, where people know you. Colleges provide students with affordable accommodation for at least two (and often for all three) years of the pre-clinical course and act as a social hub: the extracurricular opportunities to be found within colleges are almost limitless and whatever your interests – music, drama, sports, politics – there will be a society for you in Oxford.

The Oxford system combines the best of one-to-one or small-group teaching in college with the wealth of resources in the University. The tutorial system means that you are likely to receive much more personal tuition and greater pastoral support than other universities can offer.
Tutorials are central to study at Oxford.

Tutorials are weekly meetings with a tutor and typically one or two other students, to discuss an essay or other written work. You will consider material that you have studied in advance, review theories and explore ideas that arise in discussion. A tutorial relies on the exchange of ideas between you, your tutor and other students. Tutorials develop your ability to think for yourself, an essential ability for academic success but also a skill that the best employers look for in Oxford graduates. Tutorials give you the chance to discuss your subject with an expert in the field, and will give you the inspiration, confidence, and challenge to get the most out of your course.

Each college has its own particular history, ethos and architecture. However, in terms of the quality of teaching you will receive, all colleges are identical. You can name a college at the application stage, but it is not necessary to do this: be aware that over a third of students for this course happily end up at a college different to the one they originally applied to. Colleges have more in common than they have differences, and all offer excellent facilities.

"For me, the icing on the cake is the tutorial system. Tutorials offer you the chance both to clear up confusing issues and to probe deeper into particular areas of interest – essentially, you get to have absorbing chats with top experts."

BA IN MEDICAL SCIENCES (last 4 terms)

One from the following advanced options, plus a RESEARCH PROJECT (including write-up, presentation and viva) and EXTENDED ESSAY. Focus on a spirit of enquiry and critical thinking.

- Neuroscience
- Molecular Medicine
- Cardiovascular, Renal and Respiratory Biology
- Infection and Immunity
- Cellular Physiology & Pharmacology

BA examination

Principles of Clinical Anatomy course

allow development of knowledge/interest in specialist areas, and offer additional research and presentation opportunities

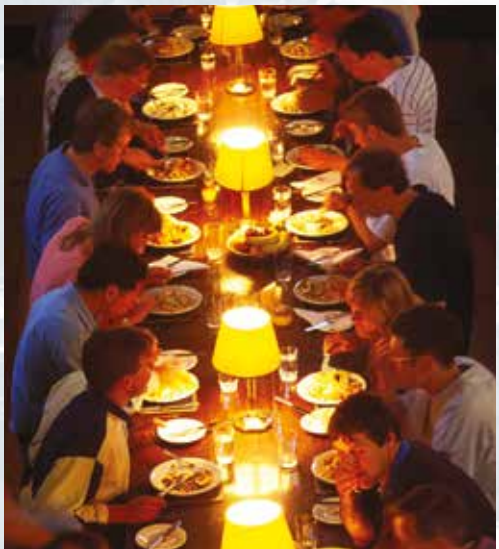
YEAR 6: consolidation of skills and preparation for practice

General Clinical Studies

- Senior rotations in Medicine and Surgery in Oxford and District General Hospitals
- Options in clinical specialties
- Vocational skills
- Special Study Modules
- Elective attachment
- Student assistantship
- F1 survival course

Successful completion of all stages of the course leads to the degrees of BM, BCh

Photo by Bi Scott



An Oxford doctor is trained to be a good scientist as well as an effective clinician and clear thinker.

"I have truly enjoyed my time here – it has been a 'complete' experience and I've made some great friends along the way."

What sort of student are tutors looking for?

Competition for a place for Medicine at Oxford is exceptionally strong every year, and it is important that candidates explore our web resources to research and understand our process and selection criteria, available at **www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/medicine**

As well as demonstrating very high levels of academic ability, and particular aptitude for and enjoyment of science and the style of teaching offered at Oxford, candidates will also be expected to show that they have a realistic picture of what a career in medicine will entail.

To help you to assess your suitability for entry, and chances of securing a place, please take a look at our selection criteria, common to all colleges, and the online description of our selection process.

ALL candidates must register for and sit the **Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT)**, which is a pre-interview test. Around 30% of candidates are short-listed for interview each year; short-listing is based on BMAT performance, and where GCSEs are offered we also look at the number and proportion of A* grades achieved. All short-listed candidates are interviewed at two colleges in Oxford at fixed dates in December each year.

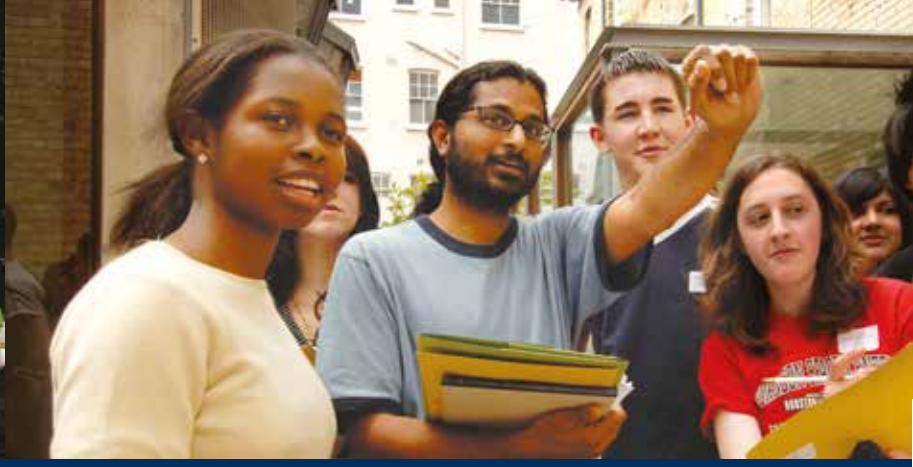
What qualifications do I need?

You should have achieved, or be predicted to achieve, **A*AA at A-level** (other qualifications are welcome; see full details and examples of typical offers on our website). You should have followed **Chemistry, plus Biology and/or Physics and/or Mathematics** as part of your subject combination.

Is Oxford for me?

The University and its colleges are committed to admitting students of high academic ability and potential, whoever they might be and whatever their background. The result is a diverse study environment: undergraduate students represent over 130 nationalities as well as all regions of the UK.

The generous Oxford Opportunity Bursary, which has helped thousands of students graduate, ensures that finance should not be a barrier to any UK student who wants to apply to Oxford. Applicants' eligibility is determined solely by funding status and household income. Any UK applicant in receipt of an offer can automatically be assessed for the Bursary.



What next?

You are encouraged to visit us on an Open Day; three are held per year, and details may be found on our course website. Alternatively, your questions can be answered by contacting admissions staff at **admissions@medschool.ox.ac.uk** at any point in your decision-making or application.

We also hold a UNIQ Summer School in Medicine each year. UNIQ is a programme of free residentials held in July and August for Year 12 students currently studying at UK state schools. Please see www.ox.ac.uk/uniq for further information. The closing date for applications is usually mid February.

Please do consult our website (**www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/medicine**) for further detail on the full range of qualifications we can accept and much more, covering everything from preparing your application and personal statement, entry requirements, and BMAT, through to what to expect at each stage of your application, the interview process, useful statistics on the last admissions exercise and a comprehensive 'frequently asked questions' section.

All candidates are expected to register for and sit the Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT) in the year of application. This test is taken locally, usually at the candidate's own school or college.

Get in touch...

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