

BHASVIC

HE evening – Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine

This short booklet does not purport to provide a detailed explanation of the medical school application process, nor does it set out all the many and varied nuances of a successful application. It is hoped, however, that it addresses some of the actual questions which parents/guardians have asked in previous years and dispels some of the myths and misunderstandings which can surround a medical school application.

How many A/A*s at GCSE does a student need in order to apply to medical school?

The guidelines on entry requirements in terms of GCSE grades vary hugely from one university to the next. For the majority of medical schools students will need a B in English Language and a B in Maths. Most require at least a B in Double Science.

Entry into medical school is undoubtedly competitive and successful candidates tend to be those with a strong profile of A*/A grades at GCSE. The average GCSE profile of successful BHASVIC applicants in 2017 was [5/6A* + 4/5 A + 1B]. The range was from 11A* to [1A* + 5A + 5B].

Students with a GCSE profile which is weaker than the lowest cited above, would probably be better to apply post A- level.

How many medical schools can a student put on their application form?

A student can only apply to four medical schools; the fifth choice on their application must be for a subject other than medicine/dentistry/veterinary medicine. This is in recognition of the competitive nature of a medical school application; students are effectively forced to choose a back-up course in case their medical school application is unsuccessful.

Many students choose a medically –related subject (nursing, biochemistry, pharmacology, clinical sciences) but they can choose any subject as their fifth choice.

The deadline for applying to medical school is 15th October 2018 (all applications must arrive at the universities by then) and so the BHASVIC deadline is the 14th September 2018. Students can apply to all five universities straightaway or add their fifth choice course up until the UCAS deadline in mid-January.

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How should students prepare for the 'tests'?

Students can access full information about all the tests on the relevant websites:

- UKCAT: <https://www.ukcat.ac.uk/ukcat-test/>
- BMAT: <http://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/>

Students register for the UKCAT test online and take the (online) test at a Pearson Professional Test Centre. Students register for and sit the BMAT test at BHASVIC.

There is plenty of material available to students to practise and prepare, including books of practice questions, downloadable apps, Youtube videos and advice and practice papers on the test websites. As with all tests/assessments it is crucial to understand the nature of the exam itself, timings, structure etc. Students should prepare for the assessments steadily, thoroughly during the summer term and break, ensuring that a couple of tests have been attempted within the correct exam timings.

The Assessments are skills-based and do not require any new knowledge material.

What's the best way to prepare for interviews?

There are two types of medical school interview. Traditional interviews generally last 15-20 minutes and are either a formal panel interview or a less formal one-to-one discussion. Many medical schools now use the MMI (Multi Mini Interview) process. Students will experience a series of mini-interviews as they move through a sequence of stations. At each station they may be asked to perform a practical task, answer a question or enter into a role play.

The worst way to prepare for the interview is any form of 'drilling' or pre-prepared answers. The interviewers want flexibility of thought and an intelligent and insightful response to the questions asked. Being well-read and well-informed is important and students should make sure that they have engaged with wider reading and discussion.

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How important is work experience?

Very important. Students applying for a vocational course in medicine are expected to have realistic insights into their chosen career and this means having spent time in a hospital, dental or veterinary surgery. A significant proportion of their Personal Statement will discuss their reflections on work experience and an evaluation of their own personal motivation and skills.

Students should already have accrued some time volunteering in a suitable healthcare setting where they can learn from skilled professionals and develop their own maturity and interpersonal skills. Volunteering also demonstrates a student's commitment and drive for their career choice, and the ability to juggle academic and other commitments.

How important are extra-curricular activities?

Helpful but not essential. Students have to be able to demonstrate that they have the skills and personal qualities to make a good potential medic. Skills such as leadership and teamwork can be demonstrated in any context.

Can a student reapply to medical school if they are unsuccessful in gaining a place this year?

The competitive nature of this process means that every year some excellent candidates are not offered places. Each year some BHASVIC leavers (who have achieved the necessary A-level grades) make a reapplication and are successful.

However it is important for students to be strategic about this. Some medical schools will not consider a reapplication from an applicant they have previously rejected and so students should check carefully that their application *will* be acceptable.

When do students make their final university selections?

May 2018. Students keep a Firm and an Insurance offer. If they were made five offers, the student rejects three of these at this point.

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BHASVIC University Application Timeline

<p>Spring Term 2018</p>	<p>Is HE for me? A1-A2 Transfer Higher Education/Specialist evenings for parents/carers Careers staff available UCAS Apply opens 24th May for Sept 2018 Entry</p>
<p>Summer Term 2018</p>	<p>Research skills / University focus in tutor Open days Careers Enrichment Day Careers staff available Intro to Personal Statements Help me write your reference</p>
<p>Autumn Term 2018</p>	<p>UCAS Apply – applications can be submitted 6th September College Internal Deadline for Oxbridge / Medics 15th September FINAL UCAS deadline for Oxbridge Medics deadline 15th October College Internal Deadline for all guaranteed UCAS applications Friday 24th November References and Personal Statements reviewed in tutor / Apply sessions</p>
<p>Spring Term 2019</p>	<p>FINAL UCAS Application deadline 15th January Focus in tutor on accommodation / Finance / Independent Living UCAS Extra opens 25th February FINAL UCAS Application deadline for art / design foundation courses 24th March (check individual institutions) Offers and replies</p>
<p>Summer Term 2019</p>	<p>Deadline for University replies and offers UCAS Apply - if you receive all decisions by 31st March, reply by 4th May UCAS Apply - If you receive all decisions by 5th May, reply by 8th June UCAS Clearing - Applications received after 30th June into Clearing UCAS Apply - Last date to apply in Extra – 4th July UCAS Clearing opens – 5th July</p>
<p>Results Day 2019</p>	<p>16^h August 2019 – BHASVIC Helpdesk opens UCAS Adjustment opens UCAS Apply 31st August Offer conditions must be met & Adjustment ends Final deadline for 2018 entry applications – 20th September 2019</p>