

BHASVIC

BRIGHTON HOVE AND SUSSEX SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary

Medics Information Booklet

2025/26

Why BHASVIC?

A friendly, active community

At BHASVIC you will find a friendly, active community of over 200 students interested in medicine, dentistry or veterinary. We have proven success in supporting students gain places to medical school, many of whom have significant barriers to learning, and we achieve this through specialist one to one support and group sessions.

Everyone is welcome to attend events as a member of the Medic community at BHASVIC. Find out how BHASVIC can support you in your application for medicine, dentistry or veterinary:

A proven record of success

In the last two years:

98

students

(78 medics, 7 dentists and 13 vets) have received at least one offer for med/dent/vet (between them a total of **198 offers**)

73%

success rate

In 2025 73% success rate (way above the national average)

5

students

In 2025, 5 students gained a place to study medicine at Cambridge



Specialist Medical tutor groups

Unique to BHASVIC are specialised medical tutor groups, which start in the summer term in your first year. You will be in a tutor group with just med/dent/vet students and will receive a weekly 45-minute specialised tutorial session covering all aspects of the application process. The team of four specialist medical tutors are highly experienced and meet with you regularly in one to ones to support you in your application.



Medics Plus portfolio course

In addition to weekly tutorial sessions, the Medics plus portfolio course is a taught 24-week course that runs in the second year for med/dent/vet students only. The 90-minute weekly sessions are delivered jointly by the Medical Futures Coordinator, the head of Philosophy and local doctors. You will learn vital interview techniques, group work and presentation skills and cover topics such as medical ethics, the NHS, AI, research skills, disease, clinical skills and current affairs. Last year 98% of students who participated in this course said it helped them gain an offer.

Become a member of Medsoc

From day one at BHASVIC you are a member of Medsoc. You are welcome at all weekly meetings where we guide you through the application process including personal statements, work experience and the UCAT admissions test. We also welcome lots of visitors to these sessions. You will have access to a virtual Medsoc Team, where we advertise external and internal opportunities and host helpful resources. There are channels where you can share wider reading and chat to other BHASVIC medics, dentists and vets. Vet students meet regularly and we also have student led Dentistry and Women in Stem societies.





Medic Journal

We encourage you to carry out your own research. You can publish your own articles in the BHASVIC student led medical journal and you can choose a wider audience by publishing in B-Mag. In 2025 BHASVIC students were named top 10 finalists of the national Imperial Science in Medicine Team competition for their research into Rare Autoimmune Rheumatic Disease Alliance (RAIRDA).

Attend lectures

We regularly have over 250 students and staff attend one of our biannual medical lectures. Recent speakers include:

- Sir Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England
- Professor Martin Elliot, Paediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeon, former director at Great Ormond Street Hospital
- Professor Rob Galloway, Emergency Medical Consultant, University Hospitals NHS Trust, Honorary Clinical Professor at BSMS, President of the **Brighton & Sussex Medico-Chirurgical Society** and BHASVIC parent

In 2026 we are hosting Lord Darzi of Denham and Dr Chris van Tulleken.

Attend trips

We host a variety of workshops at BHASVIC that you can attend. Recent ones include:

- Gresham College, London, Sir Chris Whitty's lecture series on medicine in disasters
- Gresham College, London, Professor Robin May's lecture series on vaccines
- Animal and Plant Health Authority (APHA), Surrey for vets.
- BSMS for workshops on UCAT and clinical skills

In 2026 we are planning trips to the Royal College of Surgeons, Gresham College and APHA.



Attend talks

We have a wide range of visitors to BHASVIC in our weekly lunchtime Medsoc talks. These are always informal, and you will have a chance to ask questions. Recent ones include:

- Dr Bob Levin, GP, talked about his experiences of Médecins Sans Frontières
- Laura Lyford, a home dialysis sister, talked about the role of nurses
- Dr Khalid Ali, Consultant Geriatrician and senior lecturer in Geriatrics and Stroke Medicine and Dr Caroline Ackley, senior research fellow in Medical Anthropology, discussed stigma through film
- Vanessa Lazanakis talked about being a dentist
- Dr Chulanthi Samaratunga, discussed her role as a GP for people experiencing homelessness
- Rosemarie Lane, talked about being a vet

Attend workshops

We host a variety of workshops at BHASVIC that you can attend. Recent ones include:

- Resuscitation skills workshops with Dr Pete Westhead, Consultant Anaesthetist and Clinical Director of the Sussex Trauma Network alongside David Bowen, Lead Resuscitation Practitioner at University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust and St John's Ambulance
- 'Learn to listen like a Samaritan' workshop with Mick Macve, Director of Brighton, Hove & District Samaritans and Tig Miller, a volunteer
- Getting into medicine workshop with BSMS
- Interview skills workshop with BSMS
- Medical ethics workshop with BSMS

In 2026 we are hosting a suturing workshop by the Surgical Society at BSMS.



Help with work experience

We help you source work experience and volunteering. We also run numerous volunteering opportunities within BHASVIC that students can get involved with, including volunteering as a Wellbeing Ambassador and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

Coaching on writing your personal statement

We run a series of three personal statement workshops to help you write your personal statement. Your medic tutor will also support you individually with this process. We regularly have over 25 Alumni helping at these workshops.

Advice on UCAT admissions test

We run a series of five UCAT help sessions (with help from Alumni) in the summer term of the first year to help you prepare for UCAT.

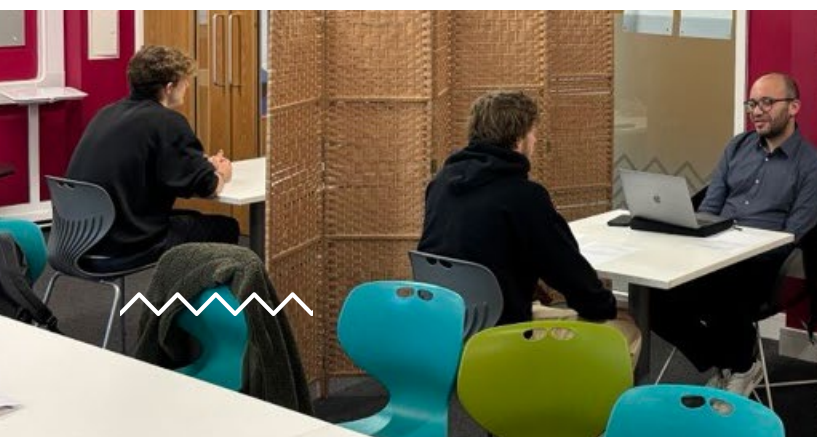


Support with interviews

Students take part in mock interview practice with the admissions team at BSMS, in tutorial and in Medics Plus sessions. BHASVIC also hosts a team of 15 doctors from the Royal Sussex County Hospital who kindly give up their time to run mock MMIs for students all day.

Help with Oxbridge

If you are considering Oxbridge you remain in the medical tutor group but are also supported by the specialist Oxbridge team. We currently have five Alumni currently studying medicine at Oxbridge who can help you with your application.

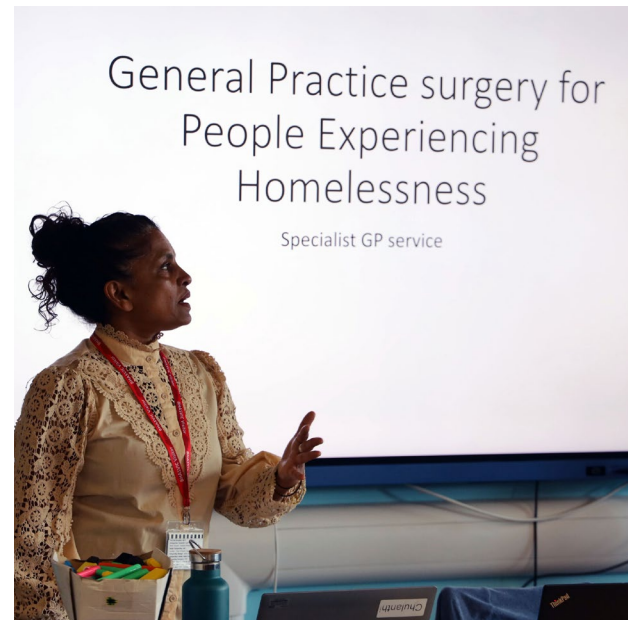


Strong links with Alumni

We currently have Alumni at over 30 medical schools who regularly return to BHASVIC to help you with personal statements, interview practice and UCAT.

Strong links with University Admissions teams

BSMS admissions team visit us for workshops throughout the year. We also receive visits from other medical school admissions teams including Liverpool, Birmingham, Lancaster, Nottingham and RVC. This gives you a unique opportunity to ask questions.



Strong links with subject departments

We work closely with the Chemistry, Biology and Maths departments who will support you in reaching the grades you need for this competitive application. We also work closely with the Learning Support department.



Application FAQs

How do I choose a medical school?

There are approximately 40 medical schools, 16 dentistry schools and 11 veterinary schools. All are highly competitive. You usually apply to four medical schools and one non-medical choice (this can be any subject). Applications are submitted to UCAS at the end of Sept in the second year. The entry requirements for all medical schools (including A levels and GCSEs) for 2026 entry are here (**updated in June for 2027 entry**)

UK medical
school entry
requirements



DSC Entry
Requirements
2026



VSC Course
Guide 2026



What A levels should I study?

We recommend you study **Chemistry AND Biology** and one other A level. The third choice can be any A level subject e.g. English, Art, Maths etc. Most medical schools require 3 A grades at A level so you should choose your third subject where you feel you can achieve an A grade. Key points:

- For medicine, we recommend you study **Chemistry AND Biology**, as you'll have access to **ALL** courses (except Cambridge)
- For medicine if you choose to do JUST Chemistry **OR** JUST Biology, you'll have access to far fewer courses. You will usually need to do another science (* typically Biology, Chemistry, Maths and sometimes Psychology but you should check with the uni's websites)
- **Vets and dentists MUST have Chemistry.**



- **Cambridge** now wants Chemistry plus TWO other sciences (see table below). Anyone thinking of doing Medicine at **Oxbridge** should consider doing something extra e.g. an EPQ, your own research or set up a society. If you choose to do Further Maths be aware that your offer is likely to be A*A*A in one sitting (your second-year exams). Only choose Further Maths if you are confident you will get an A* in Maths A level.
- Please check up to date info with the uni websites and email admissions
- Most courses require **grade 6 in both Maths GCSE and English Lang GCSE** (a couple will allow English Lit)

MEDICINE

Entry requirements 2026

Bio AND Chem	Bio OR Chem plus one other science *	Chem plus one other science*	Chem plus two other sciences (from Maths, Bio, F Maths, Physics)	Bio plus one other science*	Bio or Chemistry	No subject requirements
Aston, Birmingham, BSMS, Cardiff, Edge Hill, Exeter, Hull York, Imperial, Kings, Leeds, Nottingham, Queens Belfast, St George's, UCL, UEA	Anglia Ruskin, Brunel, Keele, Kent & Medway, Lancaster, Leeds, Leicester, Manchester, Queen Mary, Sheffield, Sunderland	Aberdeen, Bristol, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Oxford, St Andrews, UCLAN (Northwest students only)	Cambridge	Southampton, Plymouth	Buckingham, (private medical school)	Newcastle (but realistically you will need some sciences)



DENTISTRY

Entry requirements 2026

Bio AND Chem	Bio OR Chem plus one other science *	Chem plus one from Bio, Physics, Maths	Two from Physics, Chem or Bio	Bio plus one other science
Birmingham, Cardiff, Dundee, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Queens Belfast, Sheffield	Kings, Queen Mary	Bristol	Dublin	Plymouth

VETERINARY

Entry requirements 2026

Bio AND Chem	Bio OR Chem plus one other science *	Chem plus one from Bio, Physics, Maths	Chem plus two other sciences (from Maths, Bio, F Maths, Physics)
Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, RVC, Nottingham, Surrey	Harper and Keele	Bristol	Cambridge

Which medical course do I apply to?

Standard Entry Medicine – usually five years long but can be six. It can have different abbreviations, such as MBBS or MBChB, but all result in a degree in medicine.

Medicine with a Gateway/Foundation Year – often six years long with the first year being a foundation year. They are designed for those who have had barriers to their learning e.g. young carers, care experienced, disability etc and often have lower entry requirements.



Do I have to sit an admissions test?

All medical and dental schools use the UCAT admissions test as part of their entry requirements. Registration is in May of year 1. We **STRONGLY** recommend students sit the UCAT test in the summer holidays at the end of their first year. There is no need to purchase expensive packages for UCAT preparation as there are lots of free resources here:

Practice Tests | UCAT Consortium.

You should not think about starting UCAT prep until the summer of your first year.

Vets do not sit an admissions test (unless they are applying to Cambridge). ALL vets will be asked to complete additional questionnaires in September of the second year once they have submitted their applications. Tasks often include outlining their work experience or completing situational judgement tests.

What is Widening Participation (WP)?

WP refers to initiatives which provide opportunities to those who face barriers due to their educational and/or

socioeconomic circumstances e.g. young carers, bursaries, first in family to go to uni etc. Removing barriers will help to build a medical profession which is diverse, highly capable and represents the communities it serves. We have a dedicated WP program at BHASVIC which offers support and opportunities to students who meet certain criteria.

If you are thinking of medicine please check **Widening participation to medicine** - **BSMS** to see if you fit the criteria for BSMS's **Brightmed** program as you can join in year 11. Completing this program and the summer school means you will get a guaranteed interviews to the following medical schools: Birmingham, BSMS, Hull York, Keele, Leicester, Manchester and Plymouth.



Do I need work experience?

Work experience is vital for any competitive medical application. We strongly encourage students to find their own work experience in year 1, but we can offer help with this.

For medicine it doesn't have to be in a clinical setting. Anything that highlights your ability to work with the public (especially elderly or children) in a caring role is ideal e.g. a care home, a charity shop, or working in a restaurant. It's even better if you can show leadership skills so classroom assistant, teaching football, lifeguard etc. Work experience gives you an understanding of the realities of working in a caring profession. You need to show you have observed and demonstrated the values, attitudes and behaviours essential to being a doctor such as communication, empathy, compassion, teamwork.

Vets and dentists will need experience in a clinical setting. Vets will need to include a certain number of hours in both a veterinary practice and in a small animal setting, often lambing. Vets will need to obtain signed references confirming dates and duties (medics and dentists do not need references).



Contact

Please contact Stella Coleman, Medical Futures Coordinator, on [**s.coleman@bhasvic.ac.uk**](mailto:s.coleman@bhasvic.ac.uk) if you have any further questions or if you have an interesting medical related job you'd like to share with students.

We'd love to hear from you!

