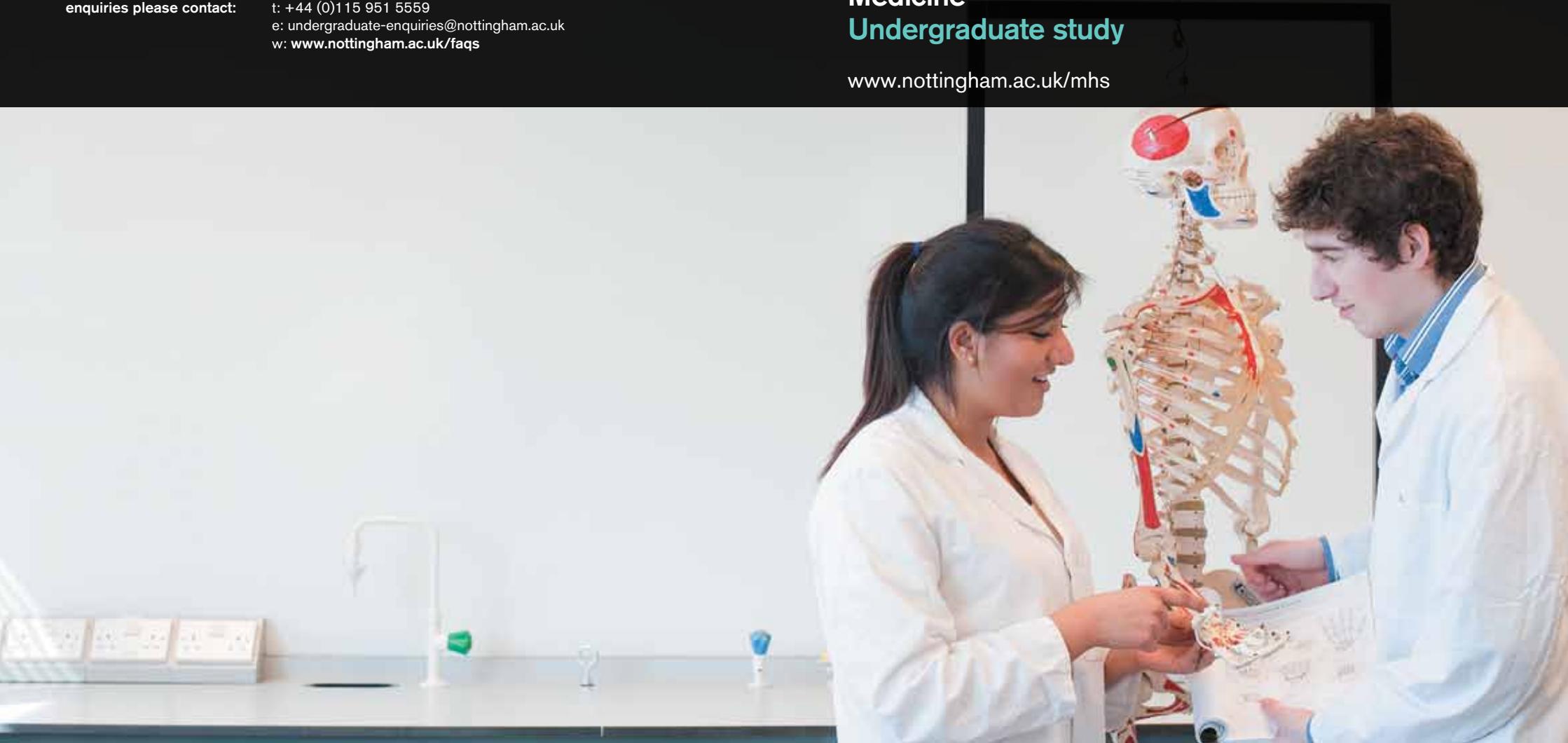


For general undergraduate  
enquiries please contact:

The Enquiry Centre  
t: +44 (0)115 951 5559  
e: [undergraduate-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk)  
w: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/faqs](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/faqs)

## Medicine Undergraduate study

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/mhs](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mhs)



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Front cover image:  
Students learning the anatomy of the carpal tunnel syndrome.



# Welcome to The University of Nottingham Medical School

You are about to embark on an adventure, perhaps the most exciting of your life, and opening this brochure may be the next step towards a successful future in medicine.

Our Medicine course is one of the most popular in the country, offering innovative teaching and early interaction with patients. We ensure our young doctors learn from experience, not exclusively from books and the internet.

We are one of only a few medical schools in the country that still offers the opportunity for students to participate in full-body dissection. While other universities are turning to computer-generated imagery for similar sessions, here at Nottingham we believe there is no substitute for the real thing. And it's this philosophy that underlies our course. We know that you are going to medical school to train to be a doctor and therefore we want to introduce you to patients and practical problems as early as possible. We are fortunate to have access to five teaching hospitals within the region,

which encompasses Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire, and a catchment population of almost two million people for our teaching in primary care and community health services. There will be no shortage of patients for you to see.

It might also interest you to know that the number of opportunities for medical graduates in the region has increased dramatically over the last 30 years, and will continue to do so as health services continue to expand in Nottingham, Derby, Mansfield and Lincoln. This is an important consideration, bearing in mind that eight years after graduation, 80% of graduates throughout the UK are still working within 80 miles of the medical school in which they trained.

Thank you for considering The University of Nottingham. We hope this brochure will answer some of your queries about studying medicine at Nottingham. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We hope to welcome you onto campus soon.

Student examining a patient's retina and looking for blood vessel changes related to diabetes.

# Why choose The University of Nottingham?

There are lots of things to consider when applying to university and some will be more important to you than others. We're proud that thousands of students apply to us every year – below are some of the reasons they give for choosing us.

## An inspiring environment...

A commitment to academic excellence drives everything we do and has earned us international recognition. It is evident in our teaching and research and our recent results speak for themselves: in the latest independent review of teaching quality carried out by the Quality Assurance Agency, Nottingham was awarded the highest possible judgement. Our scores in the most recent Research Assessment Exercise rank Nottingham seventh in the UK in terms of 'research power' and in 2010, we were runner-up for the Sunday Times University of the Year award.

## ...with great career prospects

Our high standards mean that a University of Nottingham degree is respected by both UK and foreign employers and the employment record of our graduates is one of the best in the country. If you want to improve your career prospects further, you can speak to experts in our Careers and Employability Service, gain recognition for your extracurricular achievements through the Nottingham Advantage Award or set up your own business with the help of our EnterpriseLab.

## ...not-to-be-missed opportunities

Outside of lectures, the opportunities at Nottingham are numerous and varied. All our campuses have a strong community spirit and our Students' Union offers over 250 societies and sports clubs. It's through them that you can pursue an existing interest or take up something new with like-minded people, develop valuable skills and generally make your time at university as rewarding and memorable as possible.

## ...access to a dynamic city

The city of Nottingham is another rich source of entertainment. Its attractions include bars, boutiques, the Capital FM Arena, shopping centres, an arboretum, pubs, theatres, an ice skating rink, cafes, markets, mainstream and independent cinemas, two professional football clubs, nightclubs and a climbing centre. Finding 'your Nottingham' is an exciting part of student life.

## ...and options for exploring the world

If you're hoping to broaden your horizons further while at university, we have the connections to help you experience new cultures first-hand. As well as exchange opportunities at our campuses in China and Malaysia we have developed links to more than 320 partner universities in over 40 countries.

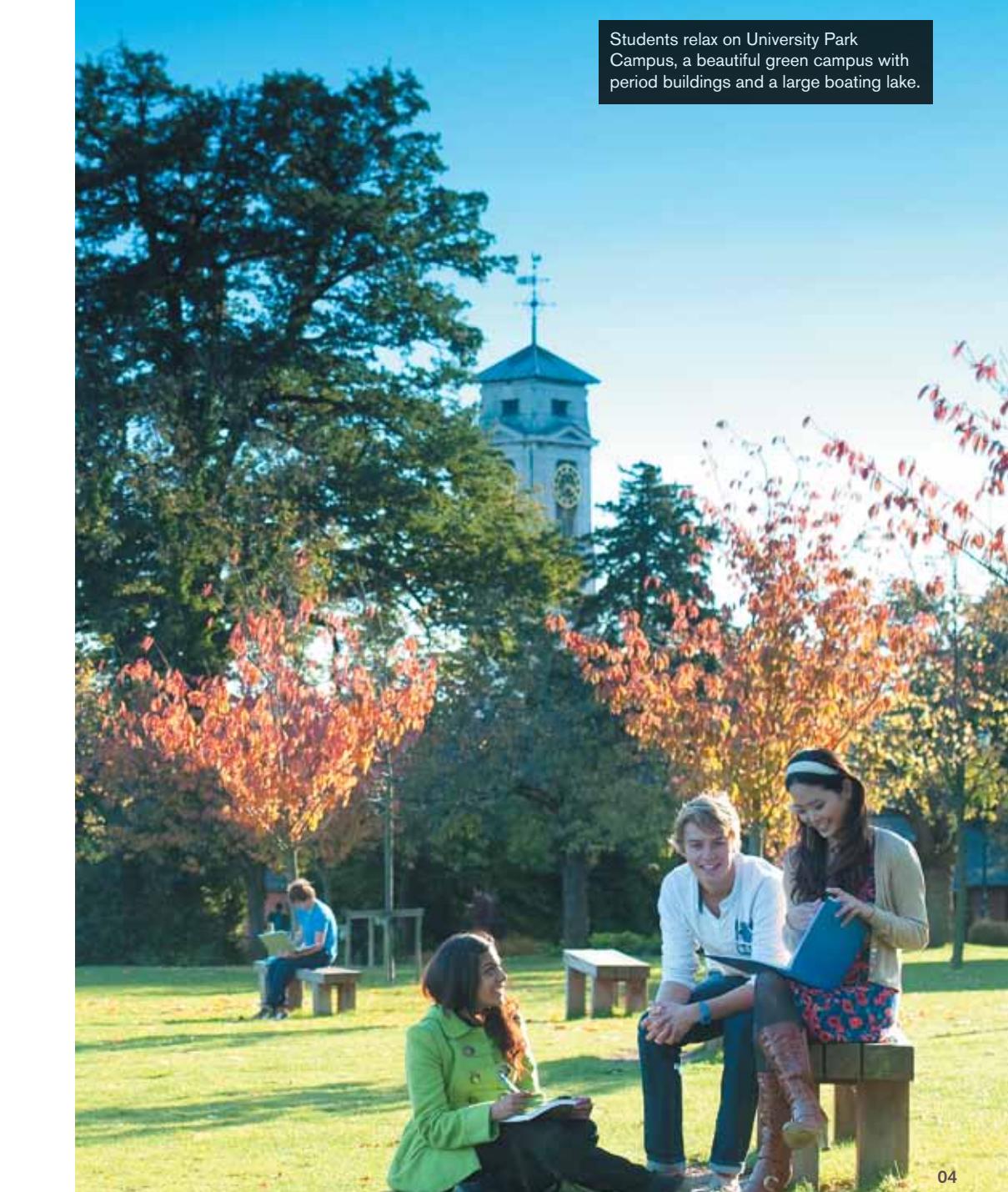
We hope this information has given you an insight into life at Nottingham and why so many students choose to study here. The next step is to book onto one of our open days, which take place in June and September. Attracting 35,000 visitors annually, these events are an opportunity to explore our campuses, chat to staff and current students and most importantly, get a feel for whether you will be happy here. To book your place, please see  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/opendays)

We look forward to showing you around.

You can download our lively and informative city guide from  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/downloads](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/downloads)

Information about city life is also available from  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/nottinghamlife](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/nottinghamlife)

Students relax on University Park Campus, a beautiful green campus with period buildings and a large boating lake.



# How will I study?

## Undergraduate (A100 and A108) and graduate entry (A101)

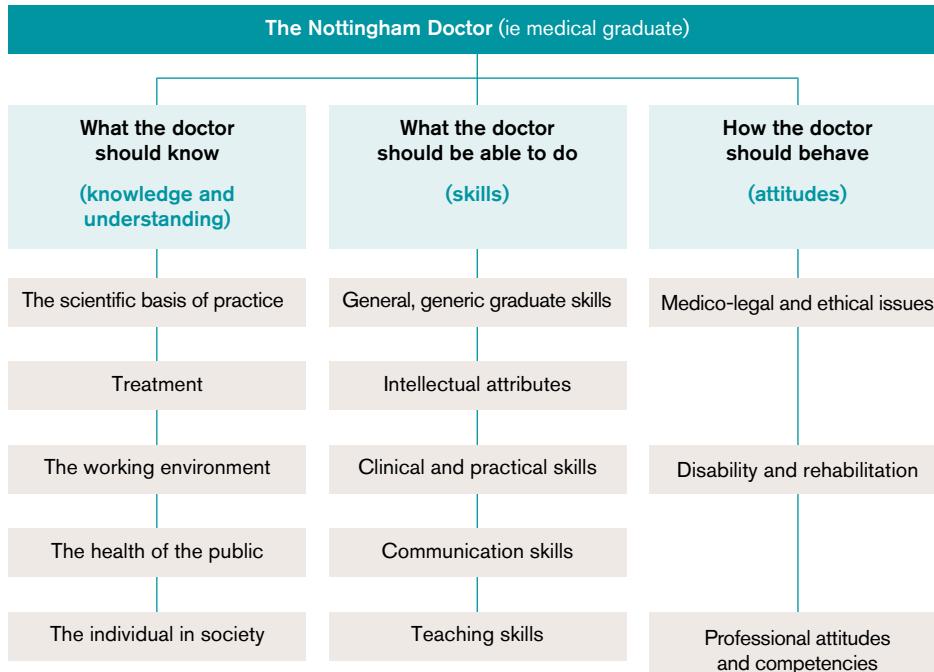
### Introduction

There are three routes at Nottingham by which medical students graduate as doctors – the five- and six-year undergraduate courses (A100 and A108) and the graduate entry four-year course (A101). On all three courses the educational objectives are the same, namely to acquire the knowledge, skills and behaviour to allow the graduate to practise as a new doctor on the

foundation training programme with the Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery (BMBS) degrees. In addition, all students on the five- and six-year courses obtain a Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMedSci) degree.

### Objectives of the medical course

These are a reflection of objectives as summarised by the General Medical Council (GMC):  
[www.gmc-uk.org](http://www.gmc-uk.org)



## Structure of the medical curriculum

### 6-year undergraduate course (A108)

#### Year 0

- Biological Molecules
- Body Structure
- Health, Behaviour and Society

### 5-year undergraduate course (A100)

#### Years 1 and 2 – semesters 1-4

- Basic Medical Sciences
- Clinical and Professional Development
- Some advanced biomedical science options in semester 4

### 4-year graduate entry medicine (GEM) course (A101)

#### First 18 months

- Problem-based learning (PBL) course
- Clinical and Professional Development

#### Year 3 – semester 5

- Research Project
- Research Methodology
- Advanced biomedical science options

#### First 18 months

- PBL course
- Clinical and Professional Development

### Year 3 – semester 6 (5-year course) and year 2 (4-year GEM course) Clinical Phase I

Clinical Practice (Medicine and Surgery) and Community Follow-up Project, Infection, Therapeutics

### Year 4 (5-year course) and year 3 (4-year GEM course) Clinical Phase II

Child Health, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Psychiatry, Health Care of the Elderly, Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Otorhinolaryngology, Special Study Module

### Year 5 (5-year course) and year 4 (4-year GEM course) Clinical Phase III

Advanced Clinical Experience (Medicine, Surgery, Musculoskeletal Disorders and Disability, Primary Care, Critical Illness) and Transition to Practice (Medical Assistantship, Elective, Preparation for New Doctors)

## Six-year course structure – year zero

The six-year Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery degree course has been designed to widen access to higher education for students interested in becoming a doctor.

When enrolled on the Foundation Year of A108 you will study all of the important elements of biology and chemistry required to subsequently make a success of your medical studies in years one to five. The delivery of topics in the 'biology' strand is quite different to that of A-level biology, with emphasis on human biology rather than other animal or plant species. In addition, you will cover key topics in health psychology and population health and have your learning set in a clinical context where appropriate. You will also receive study skills tuition. By way of a series of tutorials in the Medical Schools in both Derby and Nottingham, and meetings with your personal tutor, you will maintain a portfolio of personal and professional development, which is assessed and is continued as a theme in later years.

Compulsory modules studied in the Foundation Year: Biological Molecules; Biochemical Processes; Cells and Tissues; Body Structure; Human Genetics; Body Processes; Health, Behaviour and Society; Inorganic Chemistry; Organic Chemistry; Study Skills.

## Five-year course structure – semesters one to five

A five-year review of all medical courses is being carried out at present which may result in changes made to the structure after the printing of our literature.

### Course description

This five-year Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery degree course takes school-leavers to become practising doctors. Student-selected components allow the study of topics in depth.

In the first two years, basic medical science is taught as a series of modules organised into four concurrent themes.

- Theme A – Molecular and Cellular Aspects of Medicine ('The Cell')
- Theme B – Human Structure and Function ('The Person')
- Theme C – Health Care in the Community ('The Community')
- Theme D – Early Clinical and Professional Development ('The Doctor')

Integration of science and clinical practice starts at the beginning of the course. Through a series of lectures, seminars and visits to general practices and hospitals, you will be familiarised with patient contact and learn the principles of clinical history-taking and examination.

In the third year you will undertake a research project of your choice, leading to the award of a BMedSci degree. Following this, you will move into the Clinical Phases where you will rotate through a series of placements at major teaching trusts within the region (Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire) and in the community. In the fourth semester you will choose additional studies in advanced biomedical science from a range of options.

## Years one and two – semesters one to four

### Medical Science and Early Clinical Experience

During these two years, the following modules are undertaken: Structure, Function and Pharmacology of Excitable Tissues; Molecular Basis of Medicine; Public Health Epidemiology; Behavioural Sciences; Human Development and Tissue Differentiation; Early Clinical and Professional Development; Communication Skills; Human Development Structure and Function; Clinical Laboratory Sciences; Cardiovascular, Respiratory and Haematology; Renal and Endocrine Systems; Alimentary System and Nutrition; Applied Public Health; General and

Biochemical Pharmacology; Community Follow-up; Infections; up to two optional modules.

## Year three – semester five

### Research projects

You will undertake an integrated research-based project of your choice and receive a BMedSci at the end of your third year. During this supervised project you will learn to appraise scientific papers and to use research methods – transferable skills that can be applied in medical practice. The research is supported by a methods course showing how new knowledge is gained, how evidence is assessed and how hypotheses may be tested. In addition, there are a number of specialised discipline-based taught modules.

## Four-year (GEM) course structure – the first 18 months

This four-year course aims to widen access for a broader range of applicants than school-leavers with A levels. It is intended to build on the intellectual skills acquired by students who have undertaken a first degree. You will be based in a purpose-built medical school building at Royal Derby Hospital for the first 18 months of your course.

After these 18 months, you will then progress onto the Clinical Phases of the course (see below), combining with the students from the undergraduate course, and participating in the same modules/attachments at a variety of clinical sites in the East Midlands.

## The Clinical Phases (A100 and A101)

### Clinical Phase One

During this 17-week phase, students from both A100 and A101 undertake modules in Clinical Practice (Medicine and Surgery), Community Follow-up and Therapeutics. This period represents the start of intensive clinical teaching and experience.

Teaching is primarily carried out in small groups and includes attachments to clinical teams where you will gain experience in history-taking, examination and note-keeping.

### Clinical Phase Two

This 40-week period comprises integrated rotation in the following modules: Obstetrics and Gynaecology (including Clinical Genetics and Genitourinary Medicine); Child Health; Health Care of the Elderly; Psychiatry; Ophthalmology; Otorhinolaryngology (Ear, Nose and Throat); Dermatology; A Special Study Module.

### Clinical Phase Three

In your final year, you will undertake the Advanced Clinical Experience (ACE) course and the Transition to Practice (TTP) course as follows:

#### - Advanced Clinical Experience

- Medicine
- Surgery
- Musculoskeletal Disorders and Disability
- Primary Care (General Practice)
- Critical Illness

#### - Transition to Practice

- Medical Assistantship
- Elective Period of Study
  - This is an opportunity for you to gain insight into medical practice in a different setting or of a different type to that which you have experienced in your training. Some students choose to pursue a specific discipline in more depth, while others elect to go overseas to experience the differences in medical care in a different culture and society. A limited number of bursaries are available to cover travelling costs.
- Preparation and Shadowing Courses for new doctors
  - These courses take place at the end of the final year just before you start working as a new doctor in August. The main aim of this is to support the transition from student to foundation training as a new doctor.

**"What attracted me to medicine at Nottingham was that from day one you're with patients and you're interacting with them and dealing with their problems. They're always there, reminding you that you chose medicine for a reason and that's to help people."**

**Karrish Devan / BMBS Medicine (third year)**



Find out more about Karrish's experience at  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugvideos/karrishdevan](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugvideos/karrishdevan)

Karrish is practising performing chest compressions on a dummy, in the Clinical Skills Centre within the Medical School.



Scan the code to  
watch this video on  
your smart phone.



# Applying for a place

## Admissions information

Applicants must sit an admissions test for each of the three courses. The Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) is a requirement for A100 and A108. Information on registration, booking and taking the test can be found on the UKCAT website:

[www.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk)

The Graduate Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT) is required for the A101 course. All information on registration, booking and taking the test can be found on the GAMSAT website: [www.gamsatuk.org](http://www.gamsatuk.org)

The tests must be taken during the year you make your application through UCAS and can only be taken once during that year.

All applications must be made through UCAS. The deadline for UCAS applications for all medicine courses is 15 October 2012. Out of your five choices, you can only select four medicine courses. You can either use the other choice to apply to another degree course or leave it blank. Details of how we assess your application and the different stages of the process for courses A100 and A108 are in our admissions policy on pages 21-26. There is a separate admissions process for A101; please contact the Admissions Officer for that course:

t: +44 (0)1332 724 622

e: gem@nottingham.ac.uk

w: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/mhs](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mhs)

## Minimum academic requirements

### Six-year BMBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) with integrated BMedSci (Bachelor of Medical Sciences) with Foundation Year (A108)

This programme is open to students who are British citizens who have only lived in the UK and who do not meet the criteria for applying to the five-year (A100) course. Students applying for this course must meet the academic entry requirements as well as the other requirements shown below.

#### Entry requirements

##### GCSEs

- Minimum of 5 GCSEs; double science grade BB, or chemistry (if single sciences taken) grade B
- Biology, maths and English language grade C, other subjects grade C; if biology is not taken to A2 then grade B is required at GCSE

##### A levels

- Minimum of grades CCC at A level (A2), including chemistry (excluding general studies and critical thinking)

##### Extended project

While we appreciate the value of the extended project, we will not make it a requirement of any offer.

##### Other qualifications accepted

##### Scottish

- Minimum of 5 at Standard Level
- Grade 2 in chemistry and grade 3s in biology, maths and English language
- If biology is not taken to Advanced Higher, grade 2 is required at Standard Level
- Minimum of grades CCC in Advanced Highers, including chemistry

## International Baccalaureate

- Minimum total score of 24 overall with 444 at Higher Level including chemistry
- GCSE as shown above are required

## Welsh

- CC at A level to include chemistry
- Overall pass of the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma

## Vocational qualifications

- MMM at BTEC National Diploma (subjects considered on an individual basis)

## Access courses

- The school will consider on an individual basis applicants who have undertaken access courses

## Other information

Where possible, you must fulfil at least one criterion from group a and at least one criterion from group b.

If your GCSE profile meets the criteria for entry onto the A100 course – that is, you have achieved a minimum of six grade As to include biology, chemistry and physics (or science double award) and a minimum of grade B in maths and English language – you **MUST** have attended a school or college without a tradition of high academic achievement (see group a, right) **AND** meet at least one of the criteria from group b to be considered for the six-year course.

If you are unsure whether you meet any of the criteria for group a, then providing you meet at least two criteria from group b, your application will be considered. Careful consideration will be given to all applications.

## Group a

- Attending a school or college without a tradition of high academic achievement. In England, this means with an average A level performance below 770 per candidate.\*
- Living in a neighbourhood that is less advantaged in terms of income, education and other factors (we use a postcode tool to assess this).

\* Schools and colleges in other parts of the UK have different measures, but they are comparable. In Northern Ireland, all non-grammar schools as well as lower-performing grammar schools are included. Welsh schools with below-average performance are included. For Scottish schools we use the measure of progressions to higher education instead and include those schools with below-average progression. You can check your school's performance on the relevant websites.

## Group b

- Being a refugee or in care
- Being a first generation entrant to higher education
- Being in receipt of the Educational Maintenance Allowance or a means-tested benefit showing a household income of no more than £33,000
- Having special reasons for being based in the East Midlands
- Experiencing other disadvantages

## Five-year Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery with integrated Bachelor of Medical Sciences degree (A100)

### Entry requirements

#### GCSEs

- Minimum of 6 grade As to include biology, chemistry and physics (or science double award)
- Minimum of grade B in maths and English language
- Grade A at AS level physics can compensate for achieving grade B at GCSE

#### A levels

- Grades AAA at A level (A2), in biology, chemistry (or human biology) and a third subject (excluding general studies and critical thinking)

#### Extended project

While we appreciate the value of the extended project, we will not make it a requirement of any offer.

### Other qualifications accepted

#### Scottish

- Minimum of 6 grade 1s at Standard Level to include chemistry, biology and physics
- Grade 2 maths and English
- Grade A in Higher Level physics can compensate for achieving grade 2 at Standard Level
- Minimum of grades AAB in Advanced Highers: grade A in chemistry and biology and grade B in a third subject

#### International baccalaureate

- Minimum total score of 36 overall with 666 at higher level to include biology and chemistry
- At GCSE or equivalent level, 6 grade As to include biology, chemistry and physics (or the science double award); minimum of grade B in maths and English language

#### Cambridge Pre-U

- Minimum of D3 (Distinction) in biology, chemistry and a third subject
- At GCSE or equivalent level, 6 grade As to include biology, chemistry and physics (or the science double award); minimum of grade B in maths and English language

#### Irish

- Minimum of 6 grade As in Junior Certificate to include all sciences; grade B in maths and English language
- Minimum of 6 subjects in Irish Leaving Certificate; 5 grade As to include biology and chemistry, final subject grade B

#### Welsh

- Overall pass of the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma with AA passes in A level biology and chemistry
- At GCSE or equivalent level, 6 grade As to include biology, chemistry and physics (or the science double award); minimum of grade B in maths and English language

#### Degree

- At least a 2:1 degree in a science-related subject together with AAA at A level (A2) in biology (or human biology), chemistry and a third subject (excluding general studies and critical thinking)

#### International qualifications

- The school will consider on an individual basis qualifications taken by international students.
- These qualifications will need to be equivalent to our A level and GCSE requirements.

#### English language requirements

Medical students need to be fluent in English, both to understand the course and communicate with patients. If your first language is not English, you must take GCSE English language (or equivalent) with a minimum pass of grade B AND take one of the qualifications listed below:

British Council IELTS test	At least 7.5 (no less than 7.0 in any element)
TOEFL	TOEFL iBT 109 (no less than 22 in any element)

## Four-year Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (A101)

The four-year Graduate Entry Medicine course (A101) is for graduates holding a 2:2 degree or higher. This course is open to home, EU and international students. There is a separate admissions process for this course. For more information, please contact the Admissions Officer on +44 (0)1332 724 622, email [gem@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:gem@nottingham.ac.uk) or visit the website: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/mhs](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mhs)

**"I love the course. It's structured to support you in the transition from student to doctor and equip you with scientific knowledge and clinical skills."**

Katrina Sherlock  
BMBS Medicine

## General information

### Interim marks

You must declare all interim marks. These include AS grades, degree year and module marks (with module codes). If we require any further information we will contact you once we have your UCAS form.

### Questionnaire

After you have applied, you will receive a letter from us asking you to complete an online questionnaire. This gives you the opportunity to provide evidence that you have the attitudes and attributes that the General Medical Council (GMC) feel are important in the medical profession.

### Interviews

If you are invited for interview, you will have the opportunity to look around the Medical School and meet students currently on the course. We do not admit students without interview.

### Resit candidates

We only consider resit candidates if they have already applied to us within the present application cycle and there are genuine extenuating circumstances which have affected their performance at A level. Please contact our Admissions Officer for more details.

### Re-applications

If you apply one year and are not offered an interview, you can apply again another year. You will need to submit your application in the normal way through UCAS and sit the UKCAT again. However, it is worth noting that we do not reconsider candidates who have previously been unsuccessful after interview.

### Deferred entry

We welcome applications from students who want to defer entry until the following year and encourage candidates to use their gap year constructively and imaginatively. Your application for the A100 and A108 courses is not affected by your applications to other universities or courses.

### Graduates

If you are currently studying for a degree, you must be in your final year so you will have completed the degree prior to joining medicine. We will not consider your application if you leave a degree course without completing it.

### Late applications and clearing

As we receive such a large number of applications before the official closing date we do not consider late applications. If, by chance, there are any vacancies in August due to examination failures or late withdrawals, we only consider those candidates who applied to Nottingham but were unsuccessful earlier in the year. We do not enter the UCAS clearing system.

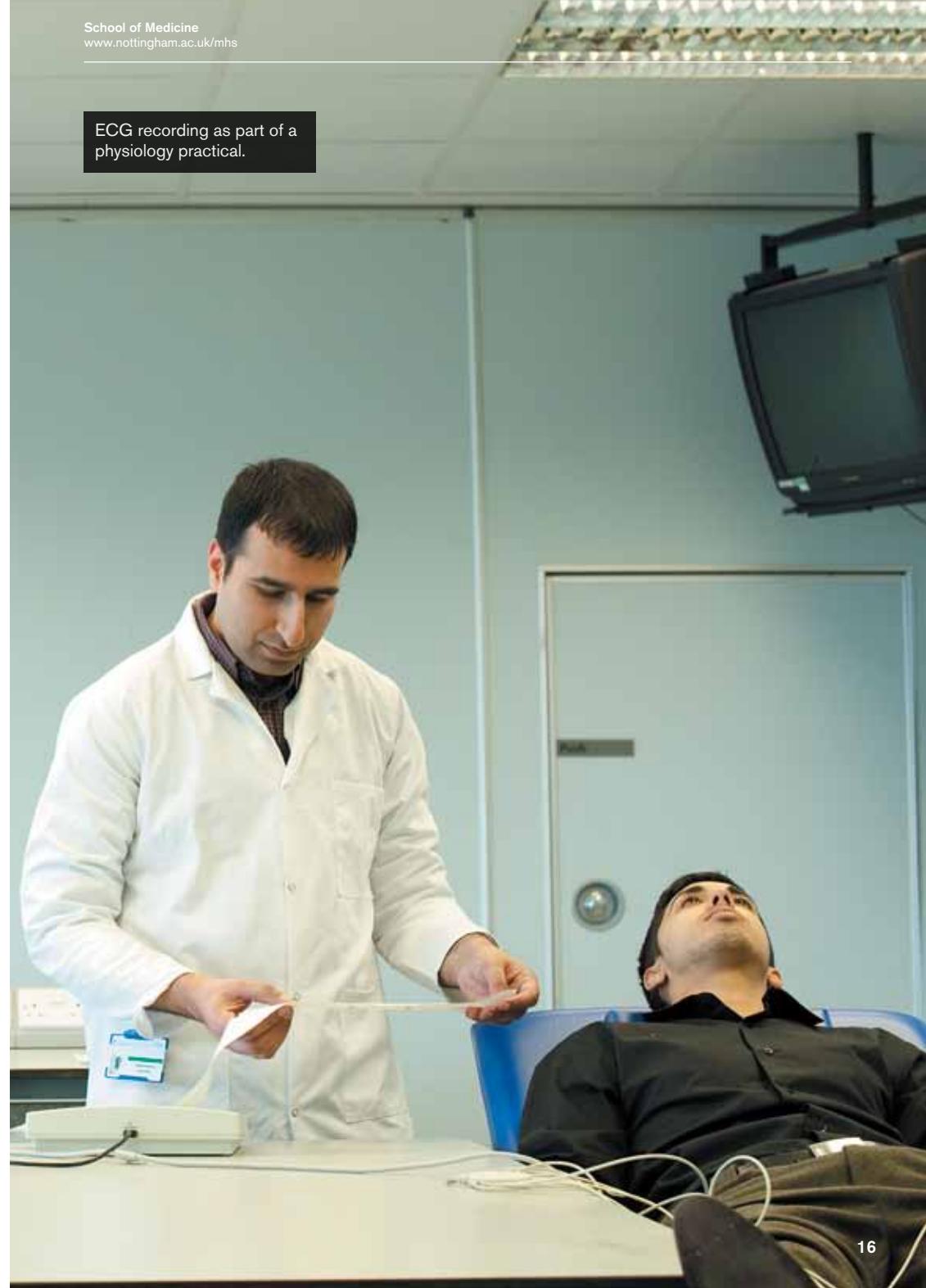
### International students

Applications from candidates eligible to pay fees at the international rate are considered using the same criteria as home students.

We usually offer places to 25 international students a year. Because of the high level of fees, as a condition of entry, international applicants need to provide a guarantee that sufficient funds will be available for the duration of the course. Course tuition fees for international students for 2012/13 are £16,570 per year for years one and two.

Years three, four and five will be set at the clinical rate applicable when you enter the clinical years. For guidance, the clinical rate for 2012/13 is £28,800 per year.

ECG recording as part of a physiology practical.





Carrying out blood vessel work on pulmonary arteries, splenic arteries and mesenteric vessels.

### English language qualifications for international students

Medical students need to be fluent in English, both to understand the course and communicate with patients.

If your first language is not English, you must take GCSE English language (or equivalent) with minimum pass of grade B, AND take one of the qualifications listed in the table shown on page 14.

### Mature candidates (21 or over on entry)

We will consider non-graduate mature applications from home and EU students. International graduates are also welcome to apply. There is no fixed upper-age limit, but we will consider the length of the course and the expected length of service after you qualify.

### Students with infectious diseases

Immunising medical students against the hepatitis B virus and testing their response protects both them and their patients against the risk of contracting hepatitis B in the healthcare setting.

Accordingly, the Medical School requires that all students receive a full course of immunisations against hepatitis B. The Medical School reserves the right to re-test any, or all, medical students for any of the markers of the hepatitis B virus, which includes a test to identify carriers of hepatitis B.

The Medical School also requires that all students are tested for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and hepatitis C. These tests can be carried out through the Occupational Health Service at the University.

There are no vaccines against either of these disorders, although specific treatment strategies would be offered. Students who are chronic carriers of hepatitis C or HIV are currently allowed to continue on the course and to qualify as a doctor. None of the activities students are required to undertake during their undergraduate training would place them or patients at risk.

However, students who demonstrate an interest in surgical specialties and wish to be more involved practically in surgical procedures may find restrictions placed upon them. Carriers of hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV may not be able to pursue a career in surgical and related specialities.

At the start of your course, you will be offered checks on your immunity and immunisations as necessary for other infectious diseases including tuberculosis, rubella and chickenpox.

All offers of admission to the Medical School are subject to the occupational health screening confirming you are fit to undertake the course.

### Students with mental health or behavioural difficulties

We ask you to inform us if you have been treated for mental illness, if you have been diagnosed as having a personality disorder or if you have deliberately harmed yourself. We also ask you to tell us if you are addicted to drugs, including alcohol.

## Criminal offences and other related matters

As a new medical student you will be required to have a criminal record check carried out prior to the commencement of your course. Consequently, you must advise us if you have received any convictions, cautions, warnings or reprimands, irrespective of the reasons. You must also tell us if you have been the subject of a child-protection investigation. Disclosure information will be handled and disposed of securely in compliance with the Code of Practice, the Data Protection Act and other legislation.

Failure to disclose information which directly relates to your fitness to practise will result in the termination of your medical course.

## Exemptions from parts of the medical course

The medical course at Nottingham is fully integrated and therefore we are unable to allow exemptions from any part of the course or from any examinations, even for students who already hold a related qualification or have completed part of a medical course elsewhere.

## Course transfers

Because of the integrated nature of the course, students are not able to transfer to the Medical School from other faculties within the University or from other universities.

## Career guidance

You will receive advice about your career options throughout the course.

## Pastoral support

You will be allocated a personal tutor for the duration of your course who will provide personal pastoral support.

## Postgraduate education

Following graduation with the BMBS degree, graduates are required to undergo a further two years of foundation doctor training. Full registration is granted by the GMC at the end of the first year of this training.

Non-British nationals graduating from UK medical schools are subject to work-permit restrictions.

**"I definitely made the right decision. At Nottingham there's an emphasis on teaching good scientific knowledge and a sound understanding of physiology and anatomy. Later on you can select the relevant bits and tailor it to what you're interested in."**

Assad Khan  
BMBS Medicine



Measuring a patient's blood pressure.

# Our admissions policy

**The University of Nottingham Medical School**  
(Arrangements to prevent unfair discrimination)

## 1. Introduction

We believe in the importance of ensuring our processes are free from unfair discrimination of any kind. Therefore we have based our guidelines on those prepared for St George's Hospital Medical School in consultation with the Commission for Racial Equality and Equal Opportunities Commission. These guidelines are consistent with The University of Nottingham Code of Practice on Admissions and Recruitment: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/recruitmentandadmissions/universityofnottinghamadmissionspolicy.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/recruitmentandadmissions/universityofnottinghamadmissionspolicy.aspx) Our admissions process is supervised by the Admissions Sub-Dean.

This document is revised annually and issued to those involved in all aspects of selection.

## 2. Achieving a fair and equal opportunities admissions policy

The following play no part in the A100 admissions process.

- Being from a medical background
- Being related to or an acquaintance of a member of the Medical School or University
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Age
- Religious or philosophical belief
- Marital or parental status
- Social background or class or school
- Ethnicity
- Country of origin (although only students who are deemed to have UK 'home status' are eligible to apply for a place on the six-year A108 course)

Records relating to applications to the A100 course will be kept for a limited time.

All applicants, whether successful or not, are able to access information contained on UCAS forms during the application period (from October to April/May the following year). All interview materials (including notes made by interview panels) remain confidential to the Medical Course Office; this information is not generally released to students as it would compromise the integrity of the semi-structured programme.

General statistical information is collated each year by the Admissions Officer. This anonymised data is used for analysis/planning purposes. Examples of data collated include unsuccessful and successful applicants, gender ratios and age of applicants. The University's Planning Unit will use applicant statistics in order to monitor its Widening Participation objectives.

## 3. Policy development and committees

The A100 and A108 Admissions Policy is defined at a local level by the Admissions Committee (chaired by the Admissions Sub-Dean). Staff involved at all stages of the admissions process are approved by the Admissions Committee. At least one member of the Admissions Committee is involved in each stage of the admissions process.

The Admissions Committee comprises:

- Admissions Sub-Dean
- Admissions Officer
- Clinical Sub-Deans
- Director of Medical Education
- Academic Admissions Lead – GEM
- up to 12 experienced and senior members of staff, representing a cross-section of specialties, ethnic backgrounds and balance of genders
- two lay members (currently head teachers from local schools)
- Dean of the Medical School (ex officio).

The committee meets before the start of each annual admissions session to review the preceding year's statistical data and discuss and agree the processes for the forthcoming session. A further meeting takes place midway through the session to review progress, discuss any issues and implement any policy amendments if necessary.

### Lines of communication to other committees

The Admissions Sub-Dean (A100 course) sits on and reports to the Curriculum Policy Group.

## 4. Basic entrance requirements

Guidance on home status (in determining whether students are eligible to pay 'home' and not overseas fees) is provided by the UK Council for International Education (UKCISA): see [www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)

Generally, those applicants who are eligible for home fees include:

- UK and EU citizens (or children of UK and EU citizens) who have been living in the European Economic Area (EEA) for the past three years for purposes other than full-time education
- citizens of another country who have 'indefinite leave to remain' or 'right of abode' in the UK and have been living in the UK for the past three years for purposes other than full-time education
- EEA national migrant workers (or the spouse or parent of a EEA national migrant worker) who have been living in the EEA for the past three years for purposes other than full-time education
- refugees or those who have been refused refugee status but have been granted either 'exceptional leave to enter or remain' or 'humanitarian protection'.

All applicants should check with the Medical Course Office whether they have 'home status' before applying for a place on the A100 or A108 courses.

There is no age limit for the A100 or A108 undergraduate medical courses. Age is not a barrier to entry at any stage although applicants should consider the length of the course and their expected length of health sector service upon graduation (including postgraduate training).

## 5. Overview of the admissions process

There are three phases to the selection process.

### Phase I – Initial application

Applicants apply via UCAS. All applicants are required to complete an online questionnaire for medicine.

The aim of the questionnaire is to look for non-academic characteristics we consider to be important in a medical career.

### - Communications and motor skills

- The ability to empathise and care for others
- Good communication skills (listening and speaking)
- Good hand-eye coordination, dexterity and precision of motor skills
- Personal attitudes and attributes
- Possession of the necessary self-motivation to pursue a medical career
- A caring ethos (compassion, tolerance, patience)
- A sense of social responsibility
- Self-confidence and self-reliance
- Good personal organisational skills and time management
- Ability to work in a team, integrate, cooperate and be flexible
- Personal attitudes and attributes
- Personality

- **Insight into medical career (appropriate realistic view of the role of a doctor)**
  - Having seen doctors in their working environment
  - Awareness of the positive and negative aspects of a medical career from talking to doctors
- **An insight into personal limitations**
- **Reasons for wanting to be a doctor**
- **Reasons for wanting to come to Nottingham to read medicine**
- **The final component of the questionnaire checks that there are no factors that might affect the applicant's fitness to practise as a doctor including:**
  - a disability (mental or physical) which might impair their ability to function as, for example, a foundation doctor
  - behavioural difficulties
  - addiction to drugs, including alcohol.

**An academic review then takes place to ensure all applicants meet the minimum requirements for admissions to the Medical School. Applicants who do not meet our requirements are not considered further for medicine, although may be considered for other courses at the University.**

The aim is to look for and score the following academic attributes which we consider to be necessary for a medical career.

- **Knowledge and scholastic ability**
- **Intellectual ability and style**
- **Basic numeracy**
- **Literacy, verbal skills and good knowledge of the English language**

#### **UK Clinical Aptitude Test**

All applicants are required to sit the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT), managed by PearsonVUE and administered by UKCAT. The UKCAT is available from July to October each year and takes place in PearsonVUE test centres around the world. A few countries are exempt and more details can be found on the UKCAT website: [www.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk)

Two versions of the UKCAT are available: standard UKCAT and UKCATSEN (Special Education Needs). The UKCATSEN is intended for applicants who are allowed additional time in written examinations and are able to provide proof. If you are unsure whether you are entitled to sit the UKCATSEN, please contact the UKCAT administration – details can be found on their website, above.

The results of your UKCAT are sent to UCAS to be matched to your university choices and then sent on to the universities you applied to.

#### **Identifying fitness-to-practise issues**

By awarding a medical degree the University is confirming that the graduate is fit to practise to the high standards laid down by the General Medical Council ([www.gmc-uk.org](http://www.gmc-uk.org)) in its guidance *Tomorrow's Doctors* (2009) and *Good Medical Practice* (2006). It is therefore important that those applicants who may have fitness to practise issues, either criminal- or health-related, disclose this information confidentially to the Admissions Officer as soon as possible. The UCAS form is therefore screened during Phase I for declarations of previous criminal convictions and health status.

#### **Criminal convictions and professional misconduct**

Where criminal conviction/s, which include police cautions, verbal cautions, reprimands, final warnings and bind-over orders, are revealed by a declaration on the UCAS application form, at interview or from a disclosure by the Criminal Records Bureau, the decision on whether or not to admit the student to the course is referred to the Admissions Sub-Dean and Director of Medical Education. If it is clear that the offence/s does not compromise fitness to practise it may be decided to allow admission to the course. Should the case be more serious, either the application for admission should be rejected or the case referred to the Fitness-to-Practise Committee. Applicants invited to interview are asked to declare any criminal convictions and any proceedings or findings against them by a professional statutory body. Any potential fitness-to-practise issues are considered as listed above for criminal convictions.

#### **Disability, special needs or medical conditions**

These are considered independently from the academic selection criteria and process. Consideration, together with any additional information, assessment or referral to Occupational Health is only carried out after the decision to make a conditional/unconditional offer on academic grounds.

#### **Phase II – Selection for interview (A100 and A108)**

Applicants who have met the criterion for Phase I are considered further. We believe strongly in carrying out a holistic review of applications. Therefore, at this stage, we score as many areas of your application as possible. Because of the diverse profile of our applicants, and to ensure your application is treated fairly, we will group your application with others of a similar profile and score accordingly.

So, for A100, if your academic profile consists of GCSEs and A levels, and you took the UKCAT test, we will score the following areas of your application:

- Highest eight GCSEs (including the three sciences or the science double award, maths and English language)
- Personal statement and reference
- Results from the online questionnaire
- Each of the four cognitive sections of the UKCAT (verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, abstract reasoning and decision analysis)

The scores from the four areas are totalled together (this covers most of our applicants).

If your academic profile consists of qualifications other than GCSEs and A levels, and you received an exemption for the UKCAT, then we will only score the areas which apply to your application.

Applicants with the highest total scores from all the different groups are invited for interview. We aim to interview around 800 applicants this year.

For information on how we select A108 applicants for interview, please contact the Admissions Officer:  
e: [medschool@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:medschool@nottingham.ac.uk)  
t: +44 (0)115 823 0000

### Phase III – Semi-structured interviews

The aim of this final phase of the selection process is to identify applicants who are academically able enough to cope with the course, are motivated towards a career in medicine, have insight into the implications of this career choice and who have or appear to have the potential to acquire the personal skills expected of medical practitioners. The interview will normally be conducted by two senior staff, one of whom will be a member of the Admissions Committee and will act as chairperson. The chairperson will introduce the interviewers to the applicant and try to put the applicant at ease.

The interview will last approximately 15 minutes and applicants will be questioned on these themes.

- Motivation
- Empathy

The interviewers will also form an opinion on:

- Communication skills
- Personality

Applicants are invited to ask questions at the end of the interview. After the applicant has left the room, the interviewers complete a report form. Decisions will be made on the basis of information gathered during the interview and the form will be scored accordingly. All relevant comments are recorded on the form.

**NO** weighting is given by the interviewers in an attempt to maintain or achieve a particular balance between gender, ethnic minority groups or any religious or social grouping.

On the basis of information written on the report form, the Admissions Officer and Admissions Sub-Dean will decide whether an 'offer' should be made.

Offers are conditional upon applicants achieving the following.

- **AAA (A100) at A level (including biology and chemistry) or CCC (A108) at A level (including chemistry). Excludes general studies and critical thinking, and equivalent qualifications.**
- **Graduates (A100) given conditional offers must achieve 2:1 in a science-related subject and AAA at A level as above.**
- **A satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check. Applicants are required to undergo an 'enhanced' CRB check; this will reveal the details of any cautions or convictions that the candidate has obtained.**
- **A satisfactory occupational health screening. The Occupational Health Team will assess each candidate individually to ensure the candidate is fit to undertake the course.**

For A100 medicine we have 221 places available for home and EU students and 25 for international students. For A108 medicine we have 10 places available for home students.

Students are not admitted onto the course without having had an interview.

Applicants will be advised of any decision via UCAS. All decisions will be made by the end of March.

It is not normal practice for the details of the assessment process to be communicated to the applicants, parents or teachers.

### Phase IV – Consideration of reasonable adjustments and any barriers to attainment of core competencies

#### Disability, special needs or medical conditions

Where a candidate has indicated that they have a disability, special needs or chronic medical condition the Admissions Officer will write to the candidate to request further information. Once received, this information will be looked at by the Admissions Officer and Admissions Sub-Dean, including consultation as for Phase I – (Criminal convictions and professional misconduct – page 24) and a decision made as to whether the candidate is able to fulfil the 'core competences' of the course and go on to be registered by the GMC. Where appropriate, appraisal of the candidate's ability to attain the core competences specified by the GMC (*Tomorrow's Doctors*, 2009) and advice will be sought from representatives of the Occupational Health Service. The outcome and recommendations will be discussed with the University's Disability Support Service and the candidate will be informed in writing as to whether it is appropriate to proceed with their admission.

### 6. Additional information

In addition, applicants should be aware of these admissions policies.

#### Deferred places

As a rule, the A100 Medicine course accepts applications for deferred entry.

#### Work experience

All applicants are expected to have experience of working or volunteering in a health-care related setting and, where possible, to have observed the work of doctors to ensure that they are making an informed choice about a career in medicine. It is highly unlikely that students with no work experience will be offered a place on the A100 or A108 courses.

#### Please note

The contents of this policy statement are neither an exhaustive nor an exclusive list of issues relating to the A100 or A108 admissions process. This policy is regularly updated and is subject to change.

For more information about our admissions policy, please see: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/mhs/undergraduate-courses/routes/medicine-ug/applicationprocedures/index.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mhs/undergraduate-courses/routes/medicine-ug/applicationprocedures/index.aspx)

**"In the first years of the course my favourite aspect was definitely clinical visits to the hospitals and GP surgeries as it gives you a chance to really feel like a medical student and trainee doctor."**

**Emily Pallister**  
BMBS Medicine

# Frequently asked questions

## How much are tuition fees?

At the time of printing, The University of Nottingham had announced plans to set undergraduate fees for full-time, home and EU students at £9,000 from 2013. Fees will not have to be paid upfront and the University will provide a generous package of bursaries to support home students from lower-income families. Around a third of Nottingham students will be eligible for one of our core bursaries, which offer up to £3,000 for each year of undergraduate study. For the latest information on fees, please see [www.nottingham.ac.uk/fees](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/fees) and for details of student support, please see [www.nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport)

For details of fees for international students, please see page 15.

## Will there be any bursaries available for 2013/14?

There will be bursaries for students from low-income families. For more details please go to [www.nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport)

## What accommodation will I have?

New first-year students who firmly accept their course place and return their accommodation application by 1 August are guaranteed a room in University accommodation. In the second year, many of our students choose to live in affordable private housing near to the campus. For more information visit [www.nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation)



Practising immediate resuscitation of a trauma patient using the ABC approach.



Students unwrapping a cadaver ready for a dissection practical.

# Visiting and contacting us

## Open days

The University holds four open days every year, usually on Fridays and Saturdays in June and September. These events are an excellent opportunity for you and your guests to explore the campus and put any questions you might have to current staff and students. Open days also include talks on student life, a support services fair and tours of the city. For more details, please visit [www.nottingham.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/opendays)

## Campus tour days

The University runs tours of University Park Campus on some Wednesdays throughout the year. For further information or to book a place on a campus tour day, please contact the Enquiry Centre on +44 (0)115 951 5559 or email [undergraduate-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk)

## Interview days

If you are invited to an interview, you will have the opportunity to talk to current students and take a guided tour of the Medical School beforehand.

## Other visits

Although the University campus is open to visitors all year round, and tours are organised regularly, we are unable to arrange alternative visits and tours within the Medical School.

## Contact us

**For further information, please contact:**  
Admissions Officer  
t: +44 (0)115 823 0000  
e: [medschool@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:medschool@nottingham.ac.uk)  
w: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/mhs](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mhs)

**For international student enquiries,  
please contact:**

International Office  
t: +44 (0)115 951 5247  
f: +44 (0)115 951 5155  
e: [international-office@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:international-office@nottingham.ac.uk)  
w: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/international](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/international)

You can also follow us through our social media channels, all of which can be accessed via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/connect](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/connect)



All information in this brochure was correct at time of print but is subject to change – for the latest information, please see [www.nottingham.ac.uk](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk)

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