



# brighton and sussex medical school

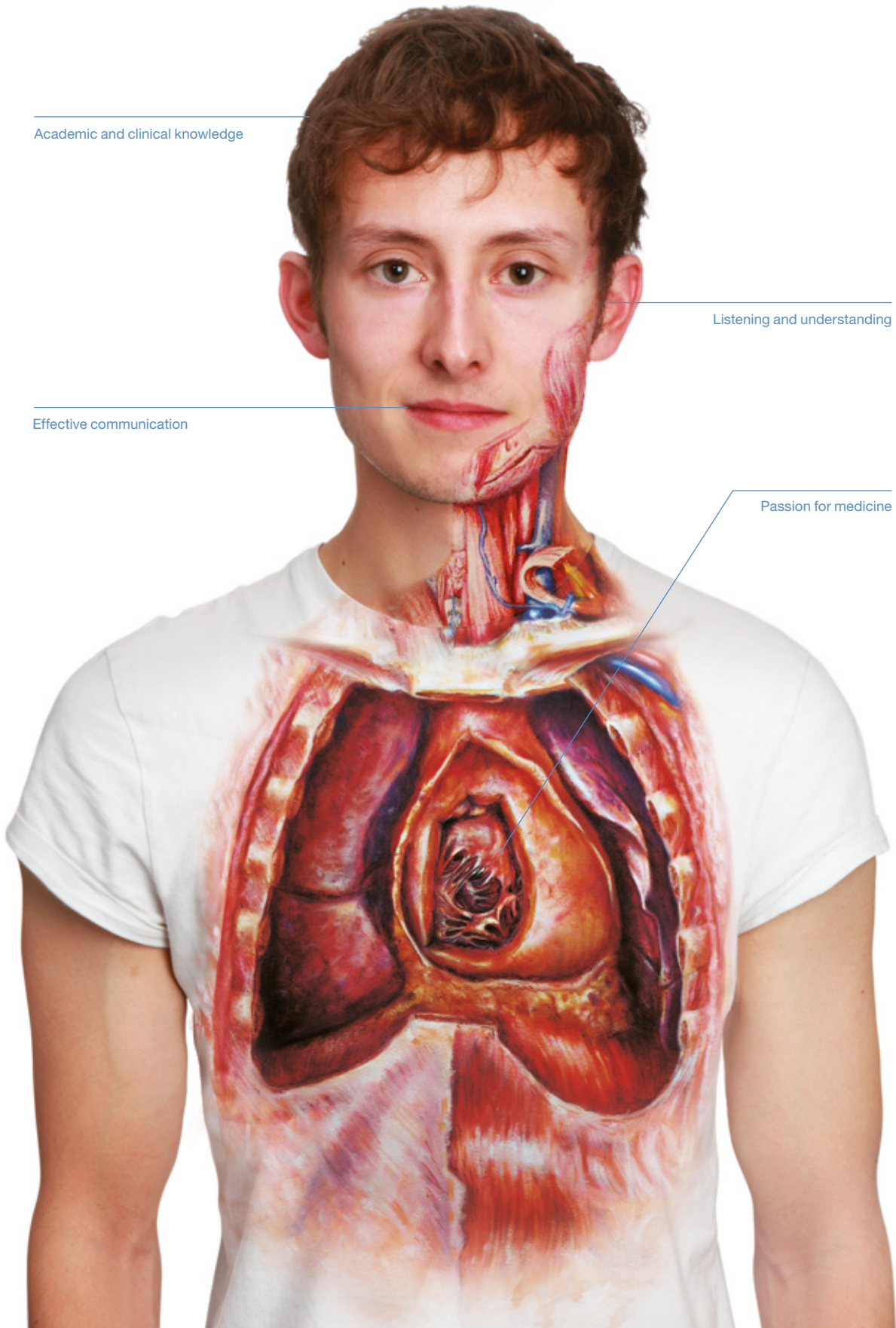
Undergraduate Prospectus 2013

Academic and clinical knowledge

Listening and understanding

Effective communication

Passion for medicine



# What BSMS offers you



University of Brighton



University of Sussex

## The benefit of two universities in the same city

BSMS students are students of both the Universities of Brighton and Sussex and have equal access to the academic and recreational facilities of each. The campuses of both universities are next to one another.

See pages 5, 12, 15, 20 and 22 to find out more about the benefits of being part of both universities.

## Entry requirements

A-levels: A grades in three subjects, including Biology and Chemistry.

Scottish Highers: 370 points from 18 units with both Biology and Chemistry at minimum Advanced Higher A grade.

International Baccalaureate: 38 points with 18 points in three Higher level subjects with both Biology and Chemistry at minimum grade 6 at Higher level.

These are the essential academic entry requirements, see page 34 for more detail.



### Early clinical experience

Our integrated degree combines academic knowledge and clinical experience from year 1.

See pages 4–7 for more about our degree programme.



### A student-centred approach

We place a great emphasis on a student-centred personal learning experience. Students are encouraged to comment on modules formally and informally, so the course is continuously improved.

See pages 10–13 and 19 for more about the BSMS experience.



### Cadaveric dissection

Cadaveric dissection is a key part of the degree from year 1, giving you a real understanding of human anatomy which will enhance your learning experience, while developing professionalism skills and respect for the anatomical donor.

See page 10 for more about our teaching methods.



### BSMS students as researchers

Research features significantly in the curriculum. We believe your decision-making must be informed by up-to-date clinical evidence. You will have the opportunity to engage in primary research. We also encourage students to participate in local, national and international research and publish where possible.

See pages 14–17 for more about BSMS research.



### Wide variety of teaching and learning methods

Our broad range of teaching and learning methods includes lectures and small group work, peer-to-peer learning and self-directed, problem-based learning. This means that whatever aptitudes you already bring to your studies, you can be sure of developing a range of additional skills throughout your degree.

See pages 10–13 for more about our learning methods.



### Very satisfied students

BSMS students have consistently registered high levels of satisfaction in the National Student Survey. In 2011, BSMS received scores of 95% for overall satisfaction – the highest level for any higher education institution in the country.

See page 8 to find out what our graduates think about BSMS, and throughout this prospectus for the views of our current students.

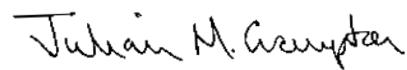


# Welcome

The Universities of Brighton and Sussex are immensely proud of how successfully the medical school has developed as it heads towards its second decade. The first BSMS graduates have now progressed through foundation programmes to specialty registrar training at hospitals and in GP practices across the UK.

The medical school's research reputation has also developed significantly. In areas such as biomedical science, neuroscience, cancer treatment and infection, we are looking to make a rapid and real difference to people's quality of life.

We are committed to high academic and professional standards, as well as to meeting the needs of students as individuals. We welcome you in considering BSMS.



Professor Julian Crampton  
Vice-Chancellor, University of Brighton



Professor Michael Farthing  
Vice-Chancellor, University of Sussex

I am delighted that you are considering a career in medicine. It is a demanding profession but one which repays the hard work and dedication it involves through the rich variety of careers it offers. This is combined with the satisfaction of making a positive contribution to society.

Our mission is to help you to become a competent, caring and compassionate physician, a doctor who is really in touch with patients and their families. To do this, BSMS offers a truly distinctive and innovative programme that prepares its doctors for the future, and which provides you with the skills you will need to practise in any one of the many branches of medicine.

Our programme is designed to introduce you to patients at the earliest stages of your training, to help you to develop your interpersonal and communication skills and to provide you with a solid foundation in science that will stand you in good stead whichever branch of medicine you decide to follow.

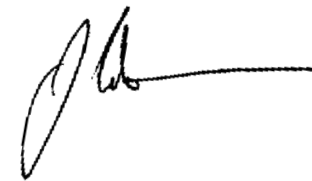


BSMS is a small school and we are proud of the fact that this gives us the opportunity to build a close relationship with you. You will have an academic tutor and student support coordinators throughout your degree, reflecting our commitment to providing personal support for our students.

As BSMS is a partnership between the Universities of Brighton and Sussex, you will have access to the academic and recreational facilities of both universities. The two universities have adjacent campuses situated in beautiful parkland near Brighton – the city by the sea. You will find that the friendly and diverse nature of campus life is shared by the community at large; Brighton is a relaxed but lively place.

For me, the practice of medicine has been a challenge, a privilege and hugely rewarding. It offers great opportunities, responsibility and enormous satisfaction.

If you feel you have the qualities we are looking for, we would welcome your application. We look forward to you studying with us.



Professor Jon Cohen  
Dean

# What our students say

“ I’ve really enjoyed how friendly the people are. It’s quite a small medical school, so you get to know everyone pretty quickly. The course has been really integrated. Our lectures are combined with a lot of clinical and dissection work – so it’s been really good. ”

Esmie Warne, Year 1



[www.bsms.ac.uk/esmie-warne](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/esmie-warne)

“ I enjoy studying at BSMS because I feel there is a friendly atmosphere and the staff are really approachable, particularly in the small group sessions. It means that you feel more comfortable to ask questions, which makes the learning a lot easier. ”

Abigail Brown, Year 3



[www.bsms.ac.uk/abigail-brown](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/abigail-brown)

“ The emphasis on small group teaching has really benefited my development through my five years at BSMS. It starts with dissection and module tutorials in year 1, to working in small teams on the wards. You get regular feedback from others along the way. ”

Ben Chatterton, Year 5



[www.bsms.ac.uk/ben-chatterton](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/ben-chatterton)

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“At BSMS, students adopt an integrated approach to their learning. An emphasis on the scientific basis of medical practice at the earliest stages of study ensures our students start to develop the skills necessary to attain future clinical excellence.”

*Professor Darrell Evans, Associate Dean*

# Preparing you for medicine

Our five-year medical degree, awarded jointly by the Universities of Brighton and Sussex, leads to the qualification of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (BM BS).

Our degree programme is designed to help you become a highly competent, strongly motivated doctor, committed to the highest standards of clinical practice, professionalism and patient care.

By the time you graduate, you will have developed the knowledge, professional and key personal skills and attitudes necessary to pursue a successful professional career.

**Left:** Anatomy demonstrator, Jigna Patel, answers a question from a student during a first year anatomy class in the dissection laboratory. Learning at BSMS is an interactive experience with many opportunities to ask questions.

## How is the degree organised?

### Phase 1: years 1–2

In the first two years, your academic and clinical studies will be based primarily at both Brighton and Sussex university campuses at Falmer. The purpose-built teaching facilities for medicine at Falmer provide a modern anatomy laboratory, tutorial and seminar rooms, lecture theatres, clinical science laboratories and IT resource suites. Fully equipped consultation rooms, identical to those used in GP surgeries and hospital out-patients departments, provide a setting in which to learn history taking and examination.

These are sited close to a clinical skills training area which also houses an advanced patient simulator, computer-controlled to represent normal and abnormal physiology and a realistic response to drugs.

The academic year is organised into three terms of approximately 10 weeks each. About 25% of your learning at this stage will be clinically based and will include gaining experience in primary care and community medicine, and in different out-patient settings in the School's partner hospitals.

You will carry out two individual family studies – in year 1 with a family looking after a new baby, and in year 2, by observing a patient with a chronic illness. You will start to develop clinical skills in history taking, physical examination, diagnosis and effective communication with patients.

At the same time, you will study the normal and abnormal functioning of the human body using a system-based approach. You will complete a series of integrated modules, which cover the core biomedical and psychosocial sciences that every doctor must know, together with student-selected components (SSCs) that allow you to undertake individual studies and explore selected topics in depth, informed by the latest research.

Weekly clinical symposia, focusing on specific medical problems or diseases, emphasise the importance of problem solving and the integration of clinical and scientific

information from different disciplines. There is an emphasis throughout on small group teaching, with most year 1 and 2 classes, other than core lectures and symposia, in normally groups of eight or 16 students. You will be supported by an academic tutor throughout phase 1.

### Phase 2: years 3–4

Years 3 and 4 are based at the Audrey Emerton Building, the Education Centre at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton. The centre provides comprehensive learning facilities, including a fully stocked medical library, computer suites, a clinical skills training area, teaching rooms for large and small group study and a top floor restaurant with panoramic sea views.

You will undertake a variety of clinical placements, mainly at the Royal Sussex, County Hospital but extending into other NHS hospital trusts and primary care settings.

The teaching year is now extended to about 45 weeks, with short breaks at Christmas and Easter and a longer break in the summer.

Year 3 starts with a five-week course introducing you to clinical medicine as it is practised in secondary care. At the heart of year 3 are four eight-week, ward-based attachments in the teaching hospitals of the University Hospitals NHS Trust. These attachments are in medicine, surgery, reproductive and child health, mental health and elderly care.

During these years, a balance between clinical and academic studies is maintained. You will consolidate your increasing clinical experience with your understanding of the underlying clinical, social science and public health issues. Weekly teaching sessions on the scientific basis of medicine throughout year 3 provide an opportunity for you to build on the core knowledge gained in years 1 and 2. You will learn about cutting-edge developments in areas such as genetics, immunology, infectious diseases and therapeutics. You will be supported by a clinical academic tutor for years 3 to 5.





You will also extend your experience through several short attachments in specialist areas selected from a range of options. You can choose to deepen your understanding in specific areas already covered in your main attachments, or to broaden it to include topics such as complementary medicine or humanities. Recent options have included genetic blood disorders, how to investigate patients with infection, doctor-patient communication and the neuropsychology of ecstasy. Your selections may also include research internships.

You will maintain an individual portfolio that will become an important element in the assessment of your progress and will help you reflect on how your personal strengths are developing along with your clinical skills and experience.

Year 4 starts with an eight-week clinical elective, offering you the opportunity to experience medical practice in a cultural and clinical setting completely different from your training hospitals. Recent destinations have included India, Cambodia, Peru, Jamaica, Australia and the Solomon Islands.

During this year you will also undertake a rotation of clinical placements in the specialist subjects of musculoskeletal medicine and surgery; ophthalmology and ear, nose and throat (ENT) medicine; infectious diseases, HIV/genito-urinary medicine, and health protection; dermatology; oncology, haematology and palliative care; and neurology and neurosurgery. There will also be a year-long module dedicated to primary care and population medicine.

A major component of year 4 is an individual, in-depth research study. You will join a BSMS, University of Brighton or University of Sussex research team with whom you will undertake a personal research project throughout the year on a topic of your choice. In the spring of Year 4, you will be able to apply for Academic Foundation Programme posts.

### Phase 3: year 5

Year 5 provides intense clinical and professional preparation for your first year in practice after qualification. As a student assistant you will spend 24 weeks undertaking clinical attachments in two different regional locations which include Chichester, Eastbourne, Hastings, Haywards Heath, Redhill, Worthing and Brighton.

Attachments will involve joining small clinical teams in medicine, elderly care, surgery, obstetrics, gynaecology, paediatrics, general practice and mental health, where your learning will be based on a close involvement with routine clinical cases, acting as a member of the clinical team with the foundation doctors.

Central to your study will be the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients presenting to these different areas of practice. After the first series of placements, lasting 16 weeks, you will be given a period of guided revision leading to the first part of your finals examination in January. This is followed by a second clinical rotation of eight weeks, and a one-week course in emergency medicine.

After a further period of guided revision, you will take the second part of the finals examination, beginning at the end of April. This is followed by the preparation for practice block, where you will get more teaching and experience on how to be most effective as a foundation doctor. This will be followed by a short period of student-selected clinical experience, and shadowing the foundation doctor in the post you will be taking up.

Learning throughout year 5 is supported by a 24-week seminar programme and a web-based e-learning module enabling self-assessment and guidance in a wide variety of clinical and professional topics. Throughout the year, you will develop your clinical skills through patient contact and by using clinical skills laboratories and simulators.

### Foundation year training

Although the first year of registration can be taken anywhere in the country, most BSMS graduates choose to stay in the Brighton or Sussex area where they can take advantage of the postgraduate training and support offered by the School.

**“ I love studying at BSMS. Because it is small, you get to know everyone in your year and everyone knows you, but equally importantly, the staff know you, and this means you are supported academically and personally. If you want a medical school that takes the best part of a traditional course and integrates it with a modern way of teaching medicine, then I would come to BSMS. ”**

*Tim Jackson, Year 5*



[www.bsms.ac.uk/tim-jackson](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/tim-jackson)

First year study at BSMS includes experience of clinical and community health settings to complement the range of lectures, seminars and symposia.

**Top left:** BSMS students observe surgery taking place in the operating theatres at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.  
**Top right:** A student is advised by Dr Majid Hafezparast at a symposium on the Human Genome Project.

## Knowledge, skills and attitudes

### During your academic studies and clinical training you will gain knowledge and understanding of:

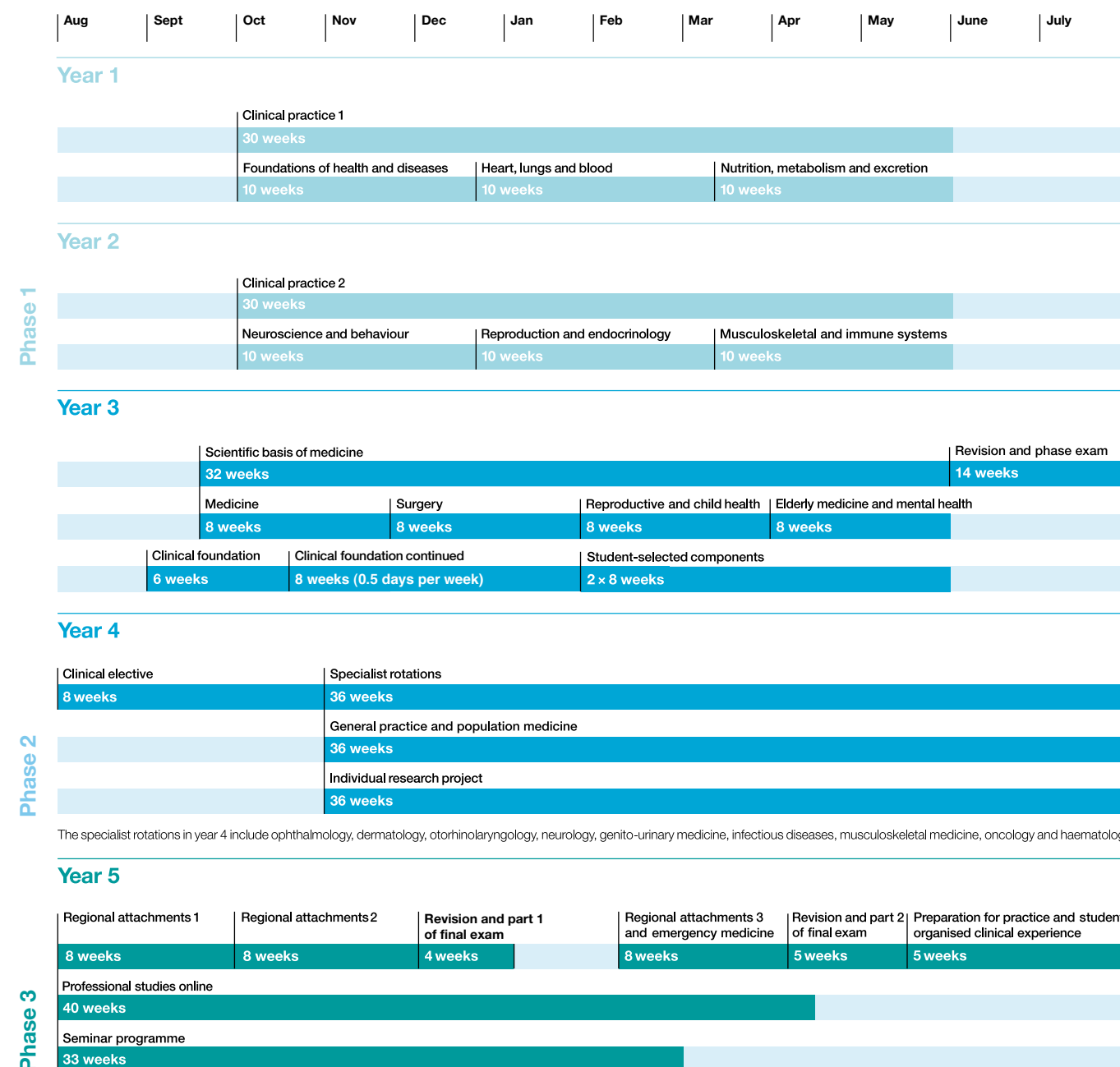
- the fundamental medical sciences
- the structure and function of the healthy human body and how it alters in disease
- pregnancy, childbirth, development and ageing
- the causes, patterns, treatments and outcomes of common medical conditions
- the principles of population and environmental health, showing the wider determinants of disease and the impact of ill health on society
- the principles of health promotion, disease prevention and therapy
- human relationships in the context of the family, community and culture in health and disease
- the organisation and provision of healthcare in the UK
- the ethical and legal responsibilities of doctors.

### You will develop the skills to:

- take an accurate and detailed medical history
- identify the clinical signs of disease
- use a patient's history and clinical examination to reach a diagnosis
- design an appropriate treatment plan
- carry out specified clinical procedures with confidence
- deal safely with medical emergencies
- listen to and work in partnership with patients, relatives and carers across a range of organisational settings, in order to make shared decisions about the maintenance or improvement of the patient's health
- make effective use of laboratory and other diagnostic services.

### As your academic and clinical knowledge progresses, you will also develop:

- an understanding of your responsibility for lifelong self-education
- the habit of critically evaluating your professional performance
- an awareness of the need to involve patients and their relatives in decisions about their treatment and care
- the critical use of scientific evidence for medical practice
- a recognition of the need for you to work as part of an effective multiprofessional team
- the judgement to recognise when you have reached the limits of your own knowledge or skills and need to seek assistance.



Regional attachments in year 5 include placements in medicine and elderly care, primary care, mental health, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics and special study components. Please note that this diagram is based on the curriculum for 2011-12 and is therefore subject to change by September 2013, visit [www.bsms.ac.uk](http://www.bsms.ac.uk) for more information.



“ Everyone is focused on you and making sure you get the best out of your education and your experience. They want to make sure that you are going to be the best doctor you can be, whether that is support academically or clinically, or in terms of personal and pastoral care, the set up there is really excellent to help you on your way. It is also a very exciting place to learn medicine – and happy students are more likely to become happy doctors. ”

*Dr Aiofe Canavan, Graduate 2008  
Specialty Registrar Anaesthetics  
[www.bsms.ac.uk/aiofe-canavan](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/aiofe-canavan)*

## Fit to practise

Since opening in 2003, Brighton and Sussex Medical School has produced over 460 new doctors who now work in hospitals across the UK. They are equipped with the knowledge and skills to practise the challenging and varied role of the modern doctor. In 2018, this could be you.



“ The early clinical experience I got during the first and second years really prepared me for life as a junior doctor. When you are faced with a problem on the wards, you at least have an idea how you can relate the science and the anatomy to an actual problem. The anatomy teaching is very dissection-led and has inspired me to train as a surgeon. ”

*Dr Samuel Whitaker, Graduate 2009  
Anatomy Demonstrator, BSMS  
[www.bsms.ac.uk/samuel-whitaker](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/samuel-whitaker)*

BSMS graduates, Dr Aiofe Canavan and Dr Samuel Whitaker having now completed their foundation programme are now progressing their medical careers.





“ At BSMS the learning environment is supportive and welcoming, from the academic staff right through to the clinical and support staff. You are encouraged to develop your academic and clinical skills through a variety of different teaching methods right from the outset. This early practical and clinical involvement has allowed me to integrate into the clinical environment and learn to become part of the healthcare team. ”

**Tom Perrin, Year 3**  
[www.bsms.ac.uk/tom-perrin](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/tom-perrin)

# Developing you as a doctor

At BSMS, our emphasis is on small group academic and clinical teaching. We help you develop into an excellent doctor by offering a range of teaching and learning methods, including cadaveric dissection and e-learning, which means students with a range of different skills can all gain from the course. We believe in supporting you with relevant technology and learning resources, so you can realise your potential, from PCs to content for your smartphone. All this leads to high satisfaction with BSMS recording 95% overall satisfaction by final year students in the 2011 National Student Survey – the highest score for a single higher education institution in the UK.

**Left:** Third year student, Tom Perrin is checking on the condition of a young outpatient at the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital, Brighton. BSMS students get clinical experience from the first week they arrive, building their confidence for time on the wards and clinics in their third year.  
**Right:** Fifth year students are being assessed on their development in the BSMS clinical skills unit, which recreates a realistic clinical environment.



**The BSMS learning method**

Traditional lecture-based learning is supported by a skills-based and problem-solving approach, with group sessions and strong IT support. BSMS is a small and personal medical school and our emphasis throughout the degree is on small group academic and clinical teaching. Teaching methods include practical classes in our anatomy and biomedical science laboratories, seminars, guided individual study, clinical skills practice and clinical symposia. We practise cadaver dissection as a part of the course from year 1, so you can get a real understanding of human anatomy to enhance your learning experience. Along with other IT-based learning, MRI, CT and x-ray images are uploaded digitally from the Royal Sussex County Hospital and used in interactive sessions. All these methods are supported by regular tutorials.

Individual patient studies, in which you relate clinical findings and treatment to the underlying clinical and social sciences for your patient portfolio, develop your understanding of the practice of medicine.

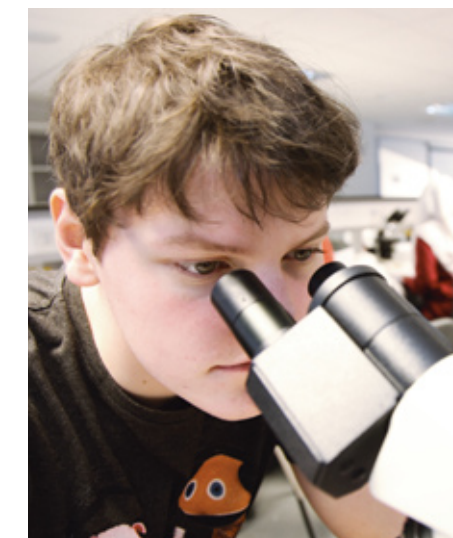
“ At BSMS, we are encouraged to be individuals as we become a doctor of the future. On the academic side, we are really supported in any field of medicine we are interested in. We have a great social and student life as well as excellent teaching. ”

**Soram Patel, Intercalating, Medical Sciences with Management**



[www.bsms.ac.uk/soram-patel](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/soram-patel)





**How will my progress be assessed?**

BSMS has an integrated curriculum designed to develop your knowledge, academic and clinical skills, and professional approach throughout the degree, and the variety of assessment methods used reflects this.

Individual module assessments vary from short answer and extended matching questions that assess knowledge and understanding, to the practical assessment of communication and clinical skills, and case presentations.

Formal assessments occur throughout the programme. Each includes elements that test the integration of your clinical experience with your understanding of the underlying biomedical, clinical and social sciences. These include the reports from your family studies, your patient portfolio and your research project.

A range of other assessments are also conducted during the programme, primarily to guide you in your learning.

Your personal development portfolio, recording the skills and experience you have gained, will also form part of your assessment, in line with General Medical Council recommendations.

**IT resources**

Today's doctors need to be confident and skilled in the effective use of information technology. Your degree will include training in computer literacy, information management, maintaining electronic patient records and the principles of bioinformatics.

Computing services staff provide IT training, from beginners' courses to specialist software tuition, and advice is also available online, at help desks and by phone. Wherever you are during your course – on campus or on clinical placement – you will never be far from a computer.

The university libraries are well equipped with PCs and there are several large clusters of computers around the campus which can be used for word processing, presentations, graphics, spreadsheets and statistics.

All computer clusters, including those at clinical sites, have access to the BSMS network, so that you can log in to campus information sources, such as the library catalogues and medical school electronic learning resources, as well as to the internet. You will also have access to the dedicated BSMS IT suite, during your clinical studies, to PCs in the teaching hospital libraries and the various regional centres supporting year 5 placements.

You will receive a BSMS email address and will be able to access important reference material from all study locations on and off site. The universities' own websites ([www.brighton.ac.uk](http://www.brighton.ac.uk) and [www.sussex.ac.uk](http://www.sussex.ac.uk)) keep you in touch with university events.

There is Wi-Fi coverage on both university campuses and at the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

A web-based online learning programme will continue to develop your understanding of the clinical sciences during your regional attachments.

At BSMS, we see IT as a tool which enables and promotes effective learning and healthcare delivery to patients. As part of our Mobile Medical Education programme, we have Dr Companion software to put on your smartphones or the option of PDA if you require. The software is issued to all third, fourth and fifth year students.

These are equipped with a suite of medical reference material including the British National Formulary, BMJ Clinical Evidence and several Oxford Handbooks, all in full text to produce the resource best suited to your needs.

**Libraries**

In addition to the two large university libraries at Falmer, further libraries are located at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, at the Sussex Education Centre in Hove, at the Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath and at other partner hospitals. These libraries cater for the needs of both students and staff. Libraries are well equipped with a full range of library materials (printed and electronic), study spaces, individual and group workrooms and computer suites, and offer extended opening hours.

You will be provided with help in using the libraries throughout your time at BSMS, including induction sessions, information skills teaching and individual advice on locating source material. The School's web-based electronic learning environment, studentcentral, provides access to online learning, teaching and administrative materials. This facility enables lecturers to post presentations online so that students can use these as a reference resource.

Leaflets and self-help guides are also freely available and enquiries and information service teams can provide on-the-spot help in using electronic information sources.



**The intercalated degree**

Subject to performance, you may be offered the opportunity to undertake an intercalated BSc degree. This is currently taken between the third and fourth year of your BM BS studies, but may be subject to change. You can choose to join BSc students studying for a range of degrees including Biochemistry, Biomedical Sciences, Experimental Psychology, Medical Neuroscience, Molecular Genetics, Molecular Medicine and Pharmacological Sciences. There are also masters degrees available in Global Health and Public Health.

An intercalated degree provides an opportunity to study an area of interest in greater depth and is particularly valuable for those who are considering a career in certain clinical specialties or in academic medicine.

**What happens after I finish my degree?**

Your degree in medicine will equip you with both the knowledge and the clinical and personal skills you will need to progress to the next stage of your training – the first year of foundation training. This will be undertaken in hospitals within the south-east region served by BSMS and throughout the UK. Wherever you do foundation jobs, you will have close educational supervision and continue with your portfolio. This will include BSMS-supervised postgraduate training to guide you through to full registration.

Successful completion of your first postgraduate year will qualify you for entry to the Register of Medical Practitioners held by the General Medical Council.

The student-organised clinical experience modules in year 5 will give you an insight into areas of clinical practice not covered in the core curriculum and prepare you for a wide variety of career opportunities, including general practice or specialisation as a hospital consultant.

“ BSMS is an intimate medical school with a strong sense of community and a welcoming atmosphere from your first day. From the approachable and experienced faculty, to the innovative curriculum and high quality facilities, BSMS is a special place to study medicine. ”

*Simon Hall, Year 4*



[www.bsms.ac.uk/simon-hall](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/simon-hall)

**Above/opposite:** Visits to GP surgeries and interactive classes, from peer-to-peer learning to symposia, where you take the floor, are just some of the ways you learn. BSMS also has excellent laboratory and library services. All students get the opportunity to pursue their own interests in a research project.



## Making your mark

At BSMS, you will have the chance to join in with pioneering staff research and develop projects of your own. You could conduct your study at the local hospital or research lab, or use your elective placement to explore developments in medicine across the world – and you might even find your name in print.

“ Getting the opportunity to work within a large research team is both rewarding and interesting. Even if you have had no previous lab experience, the staff and other students provide a lot of support. I am currently investigating the ability to transfect myeloma cell lines by electroporation as a basis for future work looking into possible therapeutic avenues for patients with multiple myeloma for my individual research project, which is a module in the fourth year at BSMS. ”

*Steph Gounaris-Shannon, Year 4*  
[www.bsms.ac.uk/steph-gounaris-shannon](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/steph-gounaris-shannon)

Dr Chris Jones, BSMS PhD graduate, advises student Steph Gounaris-Shannon on her research project. BSMS has a range of laboratory and research facilities to support students in developing their year 4 research projects.



# Making a difference

BSMS is evolving a focused research programme of international standing. We believe that tomorrow's doctors should be fully involved in shaping the future of health care through cutting-edge research. We believe in giving our students up-to-date clinical evidence to inform their learning and decision making. We also encourage students to participate in local, national and international meetings.

From trials on new forms of chemotherapy targeting brain tumours, to investigating genetic resistance to tuberculosis, BSMS research has an international impact: 80% of it was internationally recognised in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise.



## Your participation in research

You could participate in research as early as year 1 within your student-selected component (SSC). In your fourth year, you will spend one-and-a-half days per week on your research project. You might choose to join groups in laboratories, hospitals or the community. You will graduate with enhanced teamwork, research methodology, technical and interpretive skills, and might take an intercalated degree in a biomedical subject along the way or choose to stay on as a postgraduate researcher after your foundation training.

You are challenged with developing an original hypothesis, designing an appropriate, feasible methodology, obtaining a favourable ethical approval, carrying out the research and analysing the data.

## Student success in research

**Sam Bailey** investigated restaurant staff's knowledge of food allergy, supervised by Professor Helen Smith. The findings showed significant lack of awareness of allergy amongst all food handlers. When the research findings were published in *Clinical and Experimental Allergy*, they were reported by newspapers and magazines around the world.

**Thomas Batty's** research into inflammatory pain mechanisms in the laboratory of Dr Andrew Dilley formed a major part of a publication in the *Journal of Neurophysiology*.

**Sarah Cappleman** and **Rebecca Smith's** study looking at different methods to assess malnutrition in patients with colon cancer was presented at the International Society of Geriatric Oncology in Paris.

**Josephine Cashman's** study of concomitant medication use in patients with metastatic cancer with Dr Alistair Ring was published in *Supportive Care in Cancer*.

**Natalie Cox** and **Claire Bowmer's** work with Dr Alistair Ring on health literacy in women with breast cancer was published in the journal, *Clinical Oncology*.

**Ian Holdebeke's** research into the development and repair of tendons in the laboratory of Professor Darrell Evans resulted in a best prize poster at the National Medical Student Research Conference in London.

**Lyudmila Kishikova's** research into inhibitors as a therapy for multiple myeloma in the laboratory of Dr Tim Chevassut and Dr Helen Stewart led to a presentation at the British Society of Haematology meeting in Edinburgh and a publication in *Experimental Haematology*.

**Samantha Parker's** research into factors associated with smoking cessation in male manual workers, with Dr Anjum Memon, led to a poster presentation at the first Welsh Public Health Conference in Cardiff, organised by Public Health Wales and the Welsh government.

**Soram Patel** presented her research with Dr Martin Ford, Dr Stephen Holt and Professor C Rajkumar into whether blood vessels supplying the brain stiffen at the same rate as the other blood vessels of elderly patients with chronic kidney disease at a British Geriatric Society meeting.

**Chrishanthi Thambyrajah** conducted research into positive growth in patients with head and neck cancer in remission, supervised by Dr Carrie Llewellyn, which resulted in a 2010 publication in the *Journal of Psychosocial Oncology* and a poster presentation at a London meeting.

**Joanne Wade** investigated the barriers to conducting examinations for oral cancer in general practice, supervised by Dr Carrie Llewellyn and Professor Helen Smith, which resulted in a publication in *Family Practice* in 2010 and an oral presentation at the Society of Academic Practice Conference (SAPC).

## Facilities

You will have access to state-of-the-art facilities. The Medical Research Building has lab facilities for about 50 scientists, as well as specialist equipment such as molecular biology facilities, tissue culture labs, advanced microscopy equipment and a flow cytometer. The Clinical Imaging Sciences Centre houses an MRI scanner and a 64-slice PET-CT scanner, used for research in neuroscience and oncology as well as for diagnostic scanning. The Clinical Investigation and Research Unit is a 10-bed facility for carrying out clinical studies in physiology and therapy.

## Our researchers

Please see below for a selection of our researchers who teach on the degree programme.

### Professor Jackie Cassell BMBCh, MD, FFPH

*Chair in Primary Care Epidemiology*  
**Research:** Epidemiology of sexually transmitted infections; electronic patient records.  
**Teaching focus:** Epidemiology and research methods, health protection and individual research projects.

### Dr Dennis Chan BSc, PhD, MB, BChir, MD, FRCP

*Senior Lecturer in Neurology*  
**Research:** Memory disorders, dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, neurodegenerative disorders, neuroimaging.  
**Teaching focus:** Higher cortical function, memory and memory disorders, neurodegenerative diseases, dementia.

### Dr Timothy Chevassut MA, BMBCh, MRCP, MPH, FRCPath, PhD

*Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant in Haematology*  
**Research:** Translational research aimed at improving outcomes for patients with leukaemia. Characterisation of the leukaemia stem cell and identification of novel therapies to take forward into clinical trials.  
**Teaching focus:** The physiology of blood and clinical haematology.

### Professor Jon Cohen MSc, MB, FRCP, FRCPath, FRCPE, FMedSci

*Professor of Infectious Diseases and Dean of the Medical School*  
**Research:** Clinical and scientific studies on severe sepsis and septic shock.  
**Teaching focus:** Infectious diseases, both in the early years of the curriculum and during the clinical rotation.

### Professor Hugo Critchley MBChB, DPhil, MRCPsych

*Chair in Psychiatry*  
**Research:** The control of emotional and motivational behaviour, focusing on how brain and body interact to influence subjective experience, behaviour and physical health.  
**Teaching focus:** Emotion; neuroscience; psychosomatic medicine; adult expression of neurodevelopmental disorders; brain imaging.

### Professor Kevin A Davies BA, MB BS, MA, MD, FRCP, MRCP

*Foundation Professor of Medicine; Head of the Division of Clinical Medicine*  
**Research:** Immunopathology and clinical management of systemic lupus erythematosus and related autoimmune diseases.  
**Teaching focus:** All aspects of clinical medicine – specialist interests include inflammatory rheumatic disorders, SLE and the pathological basis of autoimmunity.

### Professor Darrell J R Evans PhD CBiol FSB FRMS FHEA

*Professor of Developmental Tissue Biology, Associate Dean*  
**Research:** Musculoskeletal tissue development and repair; communicating with different audiences; advancing anatomical education.  
**Teaching focus:** Anatomy, developmental biology, styles of teaching and communication.

### Professor Bobbie Farsides PhD

*Professor of Clinical and Biomedical Ethics*  
**Research:** Ethical issues relating to healthcare, especially antenatal screening and testing, reproductive technologies, palliative care and issues around death and dying.  
**Teaching focus:** Medical ethics.

### Professor Pietro Ghezzi PhD

*RM Phillips Chair of Experimental Medicine; Head of the Division of Clinical and Laboratory Investigation*  
**Research:** Mediators of inflammation (cytokines) and their pharmacological modulation with anti-inflammatory or neurotrophic factors. Role of protein oxidation/reduction in the pathogenesis of inflammation and autoimmunity.  
**Teaching focus:** Pathogenesis and immunopharmacology of inflammation.

### Dr Inam Haq MBBS, MRCP, MD

*Head of the Medical Education Unit*  
**Research:** Methods of student learning and factors affecting this; musculoskeletal manifestations of hepatitis C.  
**Teaching:** Director of Undergraduate Studies.

### Dr Martin Llewellyn PhD, FRCP, DTMH

*Senior Lecturer in Infectious Diseases and Therapeutics*  
**Research:** Pathogenesis of Gram positive infection, in particular the role of superantigen exotoxins; genetic basis for predisposition to infectious disease.  
**Teaching focus:** Clinical infectious diseases.

### Dr Nick Medford PhD, MRCP, MRCPsych

*Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry*  
**Research:** Functional MRI to explore the neural basis of emotional experience. Particular interest in self-awareness, depersonalisation and related phenomena.  
**Teaching focus:** Clinical neuropsychiatry and conceptual issues relating to it.

### Professor Somnath Mukhopadhyay MD, PhD, FRCPath

*Chair in Paediatrics*  
**Research:** The gene-environmental interactions that regulate eczema and asthma in childhood.  
**Teaching focus:** Overall lead for undergraduate child health teaching. Special interest in developing a student-selected component with a focus on international child health.

### Dr Sarah Newbury PhD

*Reader in Cell Biology*  
**Research:** Gene regulation with particular focus on RNA stability and microRNAs; understanding the molecular mechanisms underlying stem cell renewal, cell movement, growth and differentiation; translational research with a focus on biomarkers in cancer.  
**Teaching focus:** Genetics, cell biology, developmental biology, gene regulation.

### Professor Melanie Newport PhD FRCP MRCPCH

*Professor in Infectious Diseases and Global Health*  
**Research:** Genetic regulation of immune responses and susceptibility to infectious disease, infant immune responses to vaccination, mycobacterial infection, susceptibility to podoconiosis (non-infectious geochemical elephantiasis).  
**Teaching focus:** Infection and immunity: from basic science to clinical medicine, global health integrated into the undergraduate curriculum.

### Professor Chakravathi Rajkumar MBBS MD PhD FRCP

*Charles Hunnisett Foundation Chair in Elderly Care and Stroke Medicine*  
**Research:** Geriatrics mainly focusing on the process of ageing, hypertension, prevention of c. difficile infection and heart failure.  
**Teaching focus:** Elderly care and geriatric research.

### Professor Peter Schmid MD, PhD Foundation Chair of Cancer Medicine

**Research:** Cancer, with particular focus on breast and lung; development of novel cancer therapies; translational research with a focus on cancer epigenetics.  
**Teaching focus:** Breast cancer, lung cancer, molecular biology of cancer, and communication with cancer patients.

### Professor Helen Smith BM BS, MSc, DM, MRCP, FFPHM

*Chair of Primary Care; Head of the Division of Primary Care and Public Health*  
**Research:** Evaluation of new technologies in Primary Care, focusing particularly in allergy, sexual health and dermatology.  
**Teaching focus:** Undergraduate teaching of Public Health and General Practice.

### Dr Michael Tarzi MA, MD, MRCP, FRCPath

*Senior Lecturer in Immunology and Honorary Consultant Clinical Immunologist*  
**Research:** Allergic disease with an emphasis on fundamental differences between responses to allergens in allergic and non-allergic individuals.  
**Teaching focus:** Basic and clinical immunology.

### Dr Karen Walker Bone BM, FRCP, PhD

*Senior Lecturer (Honorary Consultant) in Rheumatology and Clinical Academic Sub-Dean*  
**Research:** HIV and rheumatic disease, epidemiology of rheumatic diseases, occupation and disease, rheumatoid arthritis and the foot, compliance with treatment for osteoporosis, side effects of steroids, epidemiology of coronary artery stents in France and the UK.  
**Teaching focus:** Individual research projects (year 4), rheumatology.

### Dr Harry Witche PhD Senior Lecturer in Physiology

**Research:** Arrhythmogenesis, arrhythmia, hERG, long QT syndrome, ion channels, potassium channels, drug safety, non-verbal communication, body language.  
**Teaching focus:** Physiology, neuroscience and behaviour, and cardiac arrhythmias.



“ Student support staff are on hand throughout a student’s time at BSMS, to help them achieve their full potential at the School whatever difficulties they may face. We offer advice and a supportive space for people facing a range of problems, whether personal, financial or health-related, and can refer you on to expert services if needed. ”

Sue Johnson, Student Support Coordinator



# Supporting you to succeed

Medicine is a demanding course physically, intellectually and emotionally and during your five years here you may experience problems with which you need help. But there is no need to struggle alone.

We aim to provide you with a friendly, supportive environment in which to learn and we have put in place a group of academic and clinical staff so that, in every aspect of your course, you will be supported by a team of specialist tutors.

The Medical School will do its best to provide you with a friendly, supportive environment in which to learn and develop – academically, professionally, socially and personally.

BSMS has a student support team to ensure you receive all the help you need. Medical facilities and counselling services are also available.

So, if you encounter personal pressures such as family worries, social difficulties or study problems, you can seek help from a whole range of professionals.

### Academic tutors

Your academic tutor will be your academic advisor throughout your first two years, encouraging you to set your own learning goals and advising you on your academic progress. She or he will lead your weekly tutorials during term 1 and ensure that you develop the necessary study skills.

In year 3 you will be allocated a clinical academic tutor who will provide ongoing academic support. They will help you talk through the difficult clinical and ethical issues that every aspiring doctor encounters, and if necessary, act as your advocate.

### Subdeans

Clinical subdeans are on hand at each training hospital to provide you with advice and guidance during your year 5 clinical attachments away from the main medical school.

### Student support team

Our three student support coordinators are dedicated, non-academic staff available to each year of study, for you to discuss any problems that may affect you – personal issues, financial difficulties, health issues and more. They offer confidential listening and advice, and can help alleviate any impact on your studies. They can also identify specialist support if necessary, and put you in touch with other support services in the universities (see below). Working closely with the academic Director and Deputy Director of Student Support, they ensure that students’ welfare is addressed in all aspects of School life.

### Student representatives

Each year BSMS students elect student representatives. These are current students from all years who sit on key committees that influence life at BSMS and liaise with staff on their fellow students’ behalf. Through these representatives, the views and concerns of students are heard and they can participate in the School’s decision making.

### Financial support

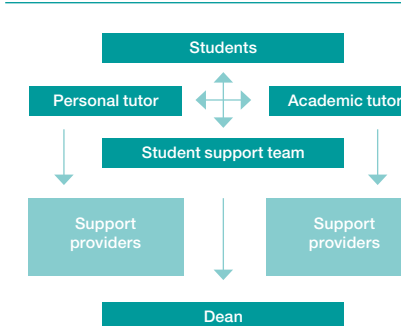
The University of Brighton’s Student Advice Service offers useful information and advice on applications for additional sources of income (Access to Learning Fund) and advice on money management. Please also see page 30 for information on financial support specific to BSMS.

### Disability and learning support

We welcome applications from students with disabilities. Services providing advice, guidance and personal and academic support are available to you. These include individual and group learning support for students with dyslexia and specific learning difficulties. See [www.brighton.ac.uk/disability](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/disability) for further information.

### Health services

The universities’ medical centres provide medical care under the NHS and there is also access to a dentist and pharmacist. All students are required to register with a local GP.



### Students’ unions

Both universities’ students’ unions run a full range of political, environmental, leisure and social activities. They also offer a range of clubs and societies which represent, support and promote the interests of students from different faiths and backgrounds. Staff are also available who can offer trained advice and representation on issues from money and health to housing. (Please also see page 23.)

### Personal counselling

The personal counselling services provide a safe, confidential environment for students to discuss worries and concerns with qualified and experienced counsellors.

### Chaplaincies

Support and friendship are offered by the universities’ chaplaincies which aim to help students – of any faith or none – to enjoy and enrich their time here. The chaplains organise group activities and worship, they can put students in touch with local churches and interested groups and are also available for confidential advice or consultation.

### Childcare facilities

Both university sites offer limited childcare provision. Since places cannot be guaranteed, crèche and nursery applications should be made at an early stage. See [www.brighton.ac.uk/childcare](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/childcare) and [www.sussex.ac.uk/childcare](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/childcare).



# A home from home

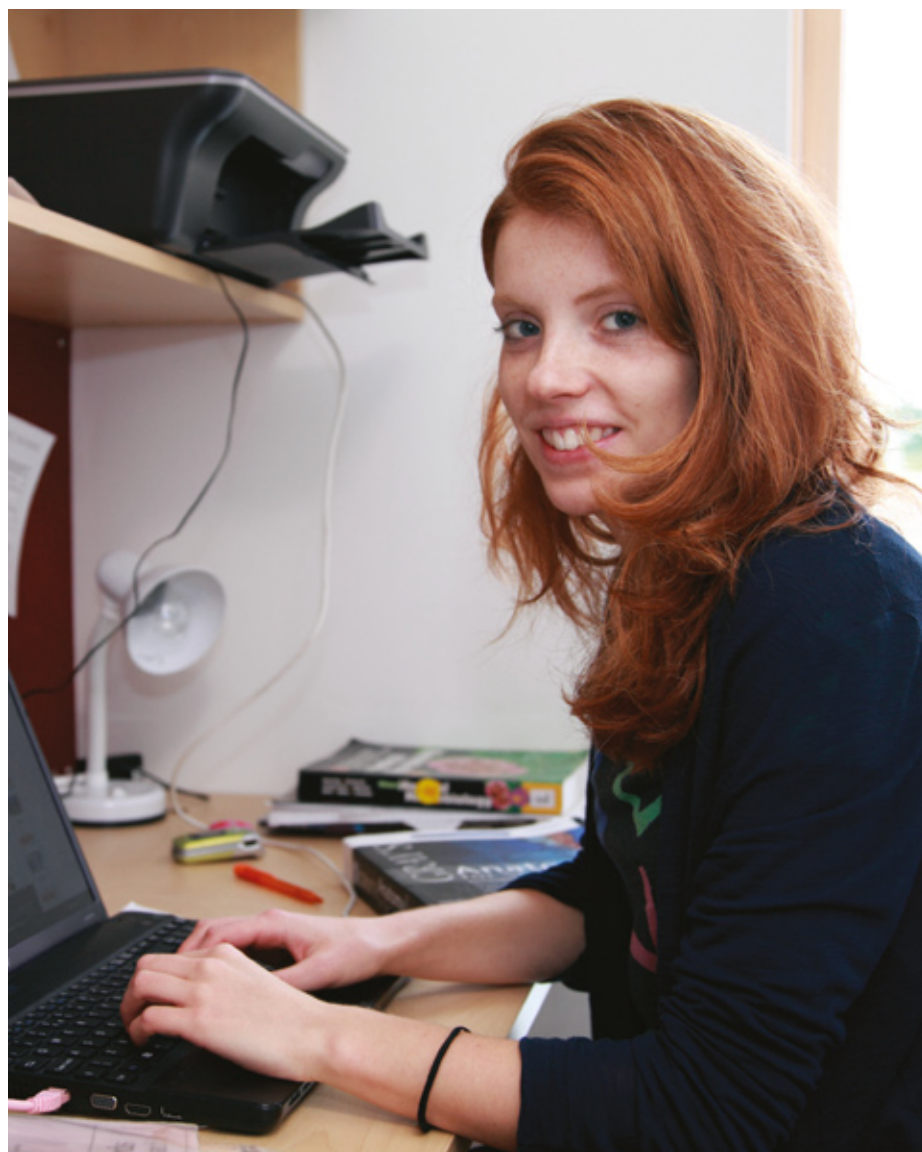
Medical students are guaranteed accommodation at Falmer for the first year. However, you must make BSMS your first choice when confirming places with UCAS, and return your university residence application form by the first week of August 2013.

“ I chose to live on Sussex campus because I wanted to integrate more with non-medics as well as medics. I love living here – it’s where the main bulk of students live, and it’s the location of the student bars and Co-op shop. It’s also on the site of the Medical School teaching building, so less walking and more of a lie-in! ”

*Harrison Banks, Year 1*



[www.bsms.ac.uk/harrison-banks](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/harrison-banks)



## Applying for accommodation

Accommodation is provided by both the University of Brighton and the University of Sussex and the allocation of campus accommodation is shared evenly between the two universities.

When you apply for accommodation you do so via the University of Brighton accommodation office, even if you wish to stay on the University of Sussex campus. This needs to be done by the first week of August 2013. Contact +44 (0)1273 644100 or email [accommodation@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@brighton.ac.uk) for more information.

Those applications for University of Sussex residences will be passed to the University of Sussex accommodation office for processing and they will be in touch with you once you have applied to finalise places.

## At Falmer

At the University of Brighton, you will normally be placed in Paddock Fields residences, visit [www.brighton.ac.uk/accommodation/halls](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/accommodation/halls) to find out more information.

University of Sussex accommodation could be at any of the eight residences on the University of Sussex campus see [www.sussex.ac.uk/residentialservices/index.php](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/residentialservices/index.php) for more information, or contact +44 (0)1273 678220.

**Left and above:** Northfield residences, University of Sussex.  
**Top right:** Paddock Field residences, University of Brighton.

At Falmer you will be part of a lively, stimulating and cosmopolitan student community, living alongside people from all over the world who are studying a wide range of subjects. Most accommodation is in single study bedrooms, many of which have en suite facilities. There are also a few shared rooms and family flats (University of Sussex only), as well as housing designed for students with disabilities.

All accommodation is self-catering, with cooking facilities provided in communal kitchens. If you don't plan to cook, you can buy anything from a sandwich to a three-course meal on campus, all at reasonable prices. Depending on the campus in which your accommodation is located, you will have access to grocery shops and catering outlets, a launderette, a newsagent, a bookshop, high street banks, libraries, a post office and sports facilities.

## In Brighton

After year 1, you will live off-campus in Brighton. The city has several areas which are particularly popular with students and there is a wide range of rented accommodation available.

Help with finding a suitable place to live is available from the universities' accommodation services: see the websites.

In years 3, 4 and 5, hospital accommodation is provided for on-call duties, where required.

## Regional attachments

During year 5, you will undertake attachments at different regional hospitals. Alternative accommodation is provided for you at those centres not easily reached from your Brighton base.

“ Based on the Brighton campus, Paddock Field is only 10 minutes walk from the Medical School teaching building on Sussex campus and is next to where clinical skills sessions take place. The facilities in ‘Paddocks’ are excellent, and the large kitchen/living space allows us to have a communal atmosphere and an area for entertaining. I chose to be catered and have found the standard of the food provided to be exceptional! There is never a dull moment in ‘Paddocks’, and I do not regret my decision to live here for one moment. ”

*Sarah-Jane Harris, Year 1*



[www.bsms.ac.uk/sarah-jane-harris](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/sarah-jane-harris)



# Join the club

As a BSMS student, there are plenty of activities for you to do when you are not studying. With clubs and societies from two students' unions, whatever your interest, there will be a club or society on campus for you. These are a great way to get to know people, outside your year group, and many societies have a thriving social programme besides their main activities.

“ BSMS MedSoc is a democratic student organisation which is run by the students in our school solely for the benefit of the students in our school. We run an extensive programme of student social events (including our very own action-packed Freshers' week) along with a broad range of societies and sports teams. We are a very friendly and inclusive bunch and we look forward to welcoming you to BSMS with great relish! ”

James Lovett, Year 2  
BSMS MedSoc President



[www.bsms.ac.uk/james-lovett](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/james-lovett)



Above: As a BSMS student, there is plenty to get involved in. Raise some funds for charity through one of the fun events organised by the RAG team, join a sports team, and there are, of course, the MedSoc socials.



### MedSoc

At the centre of student social life is BSMS MedSoc. It works with both students' unions to organise teams and social events specifically aimed at medical students, such as balls, cabarets, talks and charity marathons. You'll be able to find out exactly what's on offer at the freshers' fairs at the start of the year.

Here are some of the clubs and societies that you can join:

### Societies

- Art Society
- BrightWAMS
- Ethics and Debating Society
- Friends of Médecins Sans Frontières
- GP Society
- Journalism Society, including the *Murmur* (student newspaper)
- Medico Chirurgical Society
- Medical Christian Union (MCU)
- Medsin
- Music Society and Choir
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society
- Paediatric Society
- Psychiatry Society
- StopAIDS
- Surgical Society
- Theatre Society, including the *Medic Revue*
- ZambiaLink

### Sports

- Athletics
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Football – Men's
- Football – Women's
- Hockey (mixed)
- Netball
- Rugby
- Snowsports.

Email [president@bsmsmedsoc.com](mailto:president@bsmsmedsoc.com) to find out more about MedSoc.

### Raising and giving

RAG (raising and giving) plays a huge role in the BSMS social calendar. Affiliated with MedSoc, the society puts on exciting events through the year in the hope to raise money for our four charities:

- St Peter and St James Hospice
- Sussex Beacon
- Over the Wall
- Blond McIndoe Research Foundation.

### Other clubs and societies

Clubs and societies focusing on the performing arts are popular on both campuses. There are numerous choirs, choral societies, bands and orchestras, dance societies and drama clubs, catering for all tastes from the traditional to the avant garde.

If you are creative, there'll be something for you too, from life drawing to design, pottery, photography and creative writing. You might decide to test out your circus skills, improve your chess or learn how to make films.

Or you can join a society to support a cause, such as Médecins sans Frontières, Amnesty International or humanitarian aid projects around the world. Nearer to home you can become involved in a community action group or sign up at the on-campus volunteer bureau.

If you can't find a society that's just right for you (unlikely but possible) you can start one of your own. All you need is a good idea that you think will interest other students.

To find out more about both students' unions visit [www.ubsu.net](http://www.ubsu.net) (University of Brighton) and [www.ussu.info](http://www.ussu.info) (University of Sussex).

### Entertainment on your doorstep

Campus cafes, pubs and bars, each with their own individual atmosphere, are popular meeting places for evening socialising. Whether you want a fun night out, cheap cocktails, live sports on TV or a quiet coffee, you will find somewhere to suit your needs and your pocket. The students' unions organise several major events during the year, including freshers' and summer balls, and big-name bands and DJs are also regular visitors to the campus.

### Sport

Whether you want to keep fit, dance or are into serious sport, there are excellent sports facilities at Falmer including:

- sports halls
- fitness rooms
- dance studios
- squash and tennis courts
- soccer and rugby pitches
- floodlit artificial turf pitches
- sauna
- over 50 dance and movement classes per week
- lifestyle studio offering a sports injury clinic, sports massage, acupuncture, reflexology and beauty therapy.

### Sports clubs

Student sports clubs, ranging from gymnastics to rugby, offer opportunities for serious participation.

They include a number of watersports clubs which benefit from Brighton's seaside location. Clubs provide coaching and instruction and take part in British Universities' Sports Association (BUSA) competitions as well as local Sussex leagues.

Both universities have a good record of success at competition level in a range of team and individual sports.

BSMS has also established its own sports teams, enabling students to represent the School and continue playing sport throughout the demanding clinical years. The rugby club competes in the National Association of Medical Schools (NAMS) league and plays friendlies against local universities and clubs during the season. In summer, the main focus is sevens, including the NAMS sevens tournament. The netball club plays in NAMS matches throughout the south, as well as playing against local teams. Other teams include football, badminton and hockey.



# Out and about

The energy of the arts and cultural events, restaurants, shopping and clubs is balanced by the laid-back vibe, and you'll find you can really be yourself. The Sussex countryside surrounds the campus and city, with its historic villages, hiking trails and range of events, that offer something for all.

“ Brighton and its surrounding area is an amazing place to study. It offers the energy of a big city whilst still keeping the quaintness of a traditional seaside town. The city is well known for its diversity and offers some great nightlife. We are very lucky to have access to the beautiful South Downs, which are a valuable escape from the demands of our academic work. In the summer, the seafront is both vibrant and has great facilities. In short, studying here is a pleasure.”

Sarah Brodie, Year 2



[www.bsms.ac.uk/sarah-brodie](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/sarah-brodie)

## Well placed

BSMS is placed over two campuses at Falmer, just four miles from central Brighton (Brighton Pier). You can easily get to the centre of Brighton by train (nine minutes), bus (30 minutes), or car (10 minutes). Your studies for years 3 and 4 will be based around the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Kemp Town, Brighton. There are student saver tickets for buses, and Unizone tickets for trains (see page 31).

## Eating out

With over 400 cafés and restaurants to choose from, Brighton & Hove has more restaurants per resident than any town or city in the UK outside of London. There's food for all tastes and budgets: Mexican, Chinese, Greek, Japanese, Indian, vegetarian, seaside fish and chips, and more.

The North Laine area, very popular with students, is full of relaxed bistros and comfortable cafés. When all the shopping gets too much, you can treat yourself to an all-day fried breakfast, detox at one of the juice bars or just relax with the papers over a coffee.

Later on, you might visit the Marina and look out over the harbour lights as you eat. Or head for an all-night café, such as Buddies on the seafront. With constant activity in the town centre, you'll never be short of somewhere to buy a post-club snack.

## Shoppers' paradise

The only question is where to start! There's everything here. All the familiar high street names are gathered under one roof in the Churchill Square shopping complex, while the bohemian North Laine area buzzes with specialist shops selling everything from second-hand records and clothes to bric-a-brac and wholefoods. Exploring the winding streets of the Lanes, the old fishing village from which Brighton developed, you'll find antique shops, jewellers, antiquarian booksellers and exclusive fashion outlets. If your bags are still light enough for you to walk along the seafront, you'll pass all the beachfront artists' studios along the way, and there are also weekend car boot sales, arts and craft shows, street traders and seaside markets.

## Arts, culture and events

Brighton & Hove has a rich, dynamic cultural life and the city attracts many professional artists and performers. Brighton Dome, the Theatre Royal, the University of Brighton's Sallis Benney Theatre and many smaller venues provide a wonderful diversity of live entertainment including pre-London productions. There are two multiscreen cinemas as well as the Duke of York's and Cinematheque, which specialise in showing art-house films.

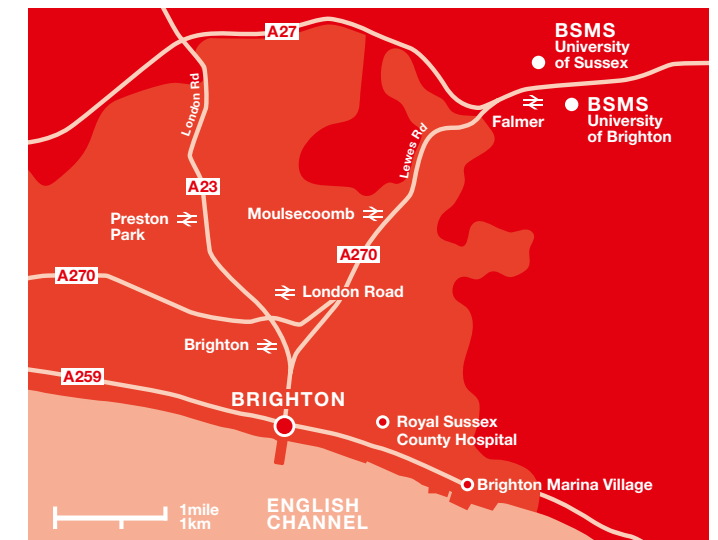
The city boasts an impressive number of museums and galleries. The main centres are the Brighton Museum and Art Gallery and the renovated Hove Museum and Art Gallery. There are numerous exhibitions at the Regency Town House, and museums devoted to subjects such as fishing, toys and penny slot machines.

The November fireworks, the winter solstice parade and the summer carnival keep the pace going all year, while in August the Brighton & Hove Pride festival attracts visitors from around the country. The highlight of the Brighton & Hove cultural year is the Brighton Festival. Held in May, England's brightest and biggest arts festival showcases every kind of art and performance, traditional and radical, and offers events all over the city, many of them free.

## Pubs and clubs

The city has over 300 pubs and wine bars, from quiet traditional drinking places to subterranean dives and chic café bars. Increasingly popular are the pre-club bars where DJs attract a lively crowd. And there are plenty of entertainment venues, such as the Latest MusicBar, or the Komedia café bar, which specialises in alternative comedy, theatre and live music as well as playing host to the annual comedy festival in October.

Brighton has a reputation as the clubbing capital of the south coast and there are dozens of clubs to choose from, whatever music you're into. Big-name DJs are attracted to the scene and many London clubs bring specialist nights down to the seaside.



## Music for all

Brighton's major venue for classical music is the Dome, home to the Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra. The Brighton Centre stages major rock and pop gigs, and the world-famous Glyndebourne Opera House is just a few miles away.

In the summer, Brighton entertainment moves outside, with concerts and mini festivals in the city's Preston Park and in Stanmer Park which lies next to the universities' Falmer campuses. You won't be short of chances to get involved.

## Sports scene

In addition to the excellent sport facilities on campus (see page 23), there are plenty of sporting opportunities in Brighton & Hove: two swimming pools, five golf courses, water sports, greyhound and horse racing, go-karting, tenpin bowling and numerous dance classes where you

can learn anything from flamenco to line dancing. You can play basketball, volleyball or pétanque on the seafront, or skate along the promenade on hired rollerblades.

Major sporting events held locally include international cycle races, the British Windsurfing Championships, the Brighton Marathon and international tennis tournaments. Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club (the Seagulls) have a new stadium next to the University of Brighton campus. Sussex County Cricket Club, the Brighton and Hove rugby football clubs, Brighton Bears Basketball team and Sussex Thunder American Football team all have their home grounds in the area.

## The countryside

When you need a break from the bustle of the city, all you have to do is step off campus. The beautiful South Downs, offering picturesque villages, acres of farmland and

country walks, including the South Downs Way, are literally minutes away from Falmer and easily accessible wherever you live in central Brighton.

Out and about in Sussex there are historic towns such as Lewes, Chichester and Arundel, abbeys and castles, vineyards and cider farms, vintage cars and steam trains, lakes, rivers and reservoirs. You can walk, cycle or horse ride along peaceful lanes and trails, play golf, go fishing or, if you're looking for adventure, you can hang-glide, canoe, windsurf or parasail.

## Further afield

For an evening in the capital, London is just an hour's journey away. Heading abroad? There's easy access to Gatwick Airport (30 minutes away), Heathrow Airport (two hours by coach), several south coast ports serving continental Europe, and the Channel Tunnel.



# GP visits, dissection and the MedSoc social. **Mario Amato** writes about a week in the first year.



## Monday

Monday mornings start at 9am over at the Medical School on the Sussex side, nice and early. A brisk walk over with my flatmates makes sure we're fresh to start the week. Today we start with a lecture from Professor Evans about the development and growth of the skeleton. I enjoy Professor Evans' lectures – he is always enthusiastic, and his vibrant presentations really help when learning the various aspects of anatomy. His quiz 'Question of Anatomy' on the Studentcentral intranet, is fun and a great revision tool. In the afternoon we have lectures on infection and immunity. After lectures I head back to Paddock Field with my flatmates. 'Paddocks' is a great place to be with lots of fellow medics, and I really enjoy being able to experiment in the kitchen and cook different meals for myself. After making a stir fry, I look over the lecture notes from the day to help all the new information sink in.

“ Today we are examining the intercostal muscles and removing the chest wall. After the initial unease I had from the first session, this week I find having the familiarity really helps me – I am even the first one in the group to use the bone saw! Dissection is so useful for our anatomy learning – you really get a sense of where everything is and how it fits together, while seeing that the human body isn't just like you see in the textbooks. The anatomy team guides you through the process and helps you with any problems you may have. ”



## Tuesday

Tuesdays are our clinical days. They start on the Brighton side which means I can get out of bed about 10 minutes before I'm due there – another advantage of staying in Paddock Field. We have a lecture on drug action before breaking up into our smaller groups to discuss substance misuse case studies.

In the afternoon I go to visit the GP surgery with my two partners. We accompanied the health visitor on a visit to the family of the newborn baby and speak to the mother about her experiences of the pregnancy. After that we return to the surgery where we sit in on consultations. It's really useful experiencing consultations at such an early stage – BSMS is great for integrating clinical work into the course.

Tonight is Medic Mayhem night – the biggest social event of the MedSoc calendar, where all five years and also foundation year doctors assemble to take on the bars and clubs of Brighton. After going to various bars we arrive at Revolution where we party on into the small hours!

## Wednesday

On Wednesday I have a bit of a lie-in as I'm not due until 10am for my academic tutorial – probably a good thing after Medic Mayhem last night! Academic tutorials are really useful – the tutors are there to guide you with your work and help you with any problems.

Wednesday afternoons are always free for sports, but as tennis is on Thursdays I take the opportunity to look over anything I'm unsure about from the lectures of the week so far, and do a bit of work on a presentation on Aspirin that I'll be giving to my academic tutor group next week. In the evening I cook a nice big bowl of pasta and relax with my flatmates.

**Left:** Symposium in the Medical School teaching building.

**Above:** Observing a patient with Dr Patrick Reade at his GP surgery in Henfield.

**Top right and right:** Practical session in the BSMS dissection laboratories.

## Thursday

This morning we have a symposium on the Human Genome Project; really interesting as I didn't know that much about it beforehand. Symposia are a series of lectures often followed by a group task or discussion. In the short break between lectures, I dash to Falmer Bar where I treat myself to nice cooked breakfast with a flatmate.

On Thursday afternoon we have our second dissection session. Today we are examining the intercostal muscles and removing the chest wall. After the initial unease I had from the first session, this week I find having the familiarity really helps me – I am even the first one in the group to use the bone saw! Dissection is so useful for our anatomy learning – you really get a sense of where everything is and how it fits together, while seeing that the human body isn't just like you see in the textbooks. The anatomy team guide you through the process and helps you with any problems you may have.

As tennis is cancelled due to rain, I head to the gym which is less than a five-minute walk from



the flat. Paddock Field residents get a really good discount for the year's membership – great for a student budget. Afterwards, I don't feel like cooking so I defrost a meal kindly made by Mum – I'm not completely independent just yet!

## Friday

Friday mornings begin with the optional 'Dazed and Confused' drop-in sessions for IT and library help. This gives me a chance to have another lie-in before some more lectures on infection and immunity – today learning about lymphocytes and inflammation.

In the afternoon I head to a practical class where we have a go at Gram staining to identify various bacteria.

After a busy week, I look over what needs to be done over the weekend before sitting down to watch a film with my flatmates. The weekends are usually quiet in the flat which proves useful for catching up on sleep and getting lots of work done.





# 8am ward rounds, assisting in operations and cricket training.

## Amna Ghafoor writes about a week in the third year.

### Monday

During third year we rotate between six different specialities – medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, elderly medicine and psychiatry. I have started on the surgical rotation that consists of four weeks attached to a vascular firm and then four weeks with a general surgery firm at the Royal Sussex County Hospital. Being on the wards every day is fantastic as we get to spend much more time with patients and learning the ins and outs of working in a hospital.

The day starts at 8am with the 'vascular business rounds' – a multidisciplinary meeting in which the surgeons and radiologists discuss how best to manage certain patients. After the meeting, a ward round is held and each consultant checks on his or her patients. On a Monday the ward rounds are shorter and so we have the opportunity to speak to some of the patients afterwards, take a history and also examine them.

After lunch spent with friends learning all about their mornings, we head over to the outpatients' department where our firm consultant's clinic is held. This is a great learning opportunity as we get to clerk patients and present them to the consultant.

“ In the afternoon we bleep the surgical house officer on-call and meet him in A&E. Spending the evening in A&E is a fantastic experience. We get stuck in straight away clerking patients, accompanying them to their x-ray or ultrasound investigations and formulating treatment plans. I also get to observe some emergency surgery. At around 9pm, the patients that have been admitted from A&E are handed over to the night team. ”



### Tuesday

This morning I have a multidisciplinary teaching session in A&E. I start by joining a consultant and F1 (junior doctor who has recently graduated) on a ward round to speak to patients that have been kept in overnight. Once a plan has been formulated for each patient, I get the chance to get some more hands-on experience and take blood from some of the patients!

I meet up with some of my friends for lunch and then spend a couple of hours on the ward. During this time I get the chance to accompany some of the patients to their MRI or CT scans. I then head home and look up some of the more common conditions and treatments I have seen during the day.

In the evening, we all dress up as someone or something medically related and head into town for one of the best nights out in the BSMS social calendar – Medic Mayhem.

**Left and above:** Discussing how to best manage a patient with radiologists and consultants.

**Top right:** Examining a patient on the vascular ward.

**Above:** Observing surgery by Mr Yusuf and the surgical team in the main theatres, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

### Wednesday

On Wednesday morning we have lectures on the Scientific Basis of Medicine (SBM). These build on the science we have been taught in the first two years and aim to aid our understanding of some of the conditions we see in the hospital. However, before the lectures start, I head up to the ward to see some of the patients that are being operated on during the day. This gives me the chance to take a history from them and ask permission to attend their operation.

Once the SBM lectures are complete, I head up to theatre to change into scrubs and observe the anaesthetists and surgeons at work. At times, we are given the opportunity to scrub-in and get a closer look at what the surgeon is doing.

If the firm consultant does not have an operating list on Wednesday, we have the afternoon off to do our own thing. Generally, students at both universities are also free on a Wednesday afternoon so many clubs and societies schedule training or meetings on Wednesdays. I have cricket training with the University of Sussex Women's team on Saturday so use my free Wednesday afternoons to relax with friends and catch up with some work.

### Thursday

Another early start this morning with a lecture in Sussex House at the hospital. These lectures address the more general aspects of surgery and this morning we were taught about the perioperative assessment of a patient. I spend the rest of the morning at a vascular clinic, clerking and presenting patients to the registrar.

Just before lunch a vascular fellow lectures us on a clinical aspect of either vascular or gastrointestinal medicine. Today I have brought a packed lunch with me so I meet some friends in Southpoint common room at the hospital to eat and catch up.

We have an afternoon of student-led seminars and I have been assigned to present this week. This is a great opportunity for us to present to the students on our rotation and discuss some of the common problems seen in surgery.

### Friday

I am on-call today but must attend a symposium in the morning. Two consultants talk to us about colorectal conditions and their treatment. Although we learn about the surgical treatment of the conditions, it is also interesting to hear about the pharmacological and non-medical treatments too.

In the afternoon we bleep the surgical house officer on-call and meet him in A&E. Spending the evening in A&E is a fantastic experience. We get stuck in straight away clerking patients, accompanying them to their x-ray or ultrasound investigations and formulating treatment plans. I also get to observe some emergency surgery. At around 9pm, the patients that have been admitted from A&E are handed over to the night team. I head home, looking forward to the weekend!



# Money can be a concern when going to university. A benefit of studying at BSMS is that both universities have help and advice to offer.

From 2012, new UK and eligible EU undergraduate BSMS students will be charged £9,000 per year, and the BSMS partner universities have received government approval for this.

BSMS students will be able to apply to the University of Sussex First-Generation Scholars scheme designed to support students whose parents haven't been to university, as well as those from low-income families. Please note that BSMS students will not be eligible to apply for the University of Brighton scholarship scheme as well.

In addition to the First-Generation Scholars scheme, we also expect to provide scholarships for academic merit, the details of which shall be available on [www.bsms.ac.uk/undergraduate/applying/fees-and-finances/](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/undergraduate/applying/fees-and-finances/)

This support from the University of Sussex will be additional to the loans and grants available to students directly from the government.

## Range of financial support

Under the new arrangements introduced by the UK government, tuition fees for undergraduate degree programmes will continue to be set by each university. To assist new full-time home/EU students studying for their first degree, a range of financial support has been announced by the UK government:

- You don't have to pay for your degree programme yourself up front.
- You can get a loan to cover the cost of your tuition, which you only start to pay back when you are earning over £21,000 a year.
- Repayments will be made each month and will be a fixed percentage of income over £21,000, over a period of up to 30 years.

In addition, other financial support is available to students from England to help with living costs:

- Loans and grants are available to help with costs such as food, accommodation and travel, depending on personal circumstances and household income.

- A loan of up to £5,500 will be available if you live away from home and study at Sussex.
- A loan of up to £4,375 will be available if you live with your parents.
- If your household income is up to £25,000 you will be entitled to a full grant of £3,250, which you don't have to pay back.

- If your household income is between £25,000 and £42,600 you would be entitled to a grant of between £3,250 and £50, which you don't have to pay back.

Students who normally live in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland will receive financial support for university from the Scottish government, the Welsh Assembly government or the Northern Ireland Executive (as appropriate).

## University of Sussex First-Generation Scholars

To enhance the statutory financial support available directly from the UK government, the University of Sussex will launch an innovative First-Generation Scholars scheme from 2012. The scheme is designed to provide additional support measures to students receiving UK government grant funding, ensuring the University continues to attract and support talented individuals, irrespective of background.

The First-Generation Scholars scheme is innovative in the way that it offers students support, both before and after university as well as during their studies. It includes:

- Free summer schools for students to help them prepare for transfer to university.
- Direct means-tested financial support to students of at least £1,000 a year while they study at Sussex – plus £2,000 first-year fee waiver or the equivalent in rent reduction (approximately £50 per week) to help students live on campus.

- A work-study programme to help students earn money while studying.

- One-to-one study skills, careers/leadership and personal development coaching.
- Funded placements to help students gain work experience.
- Three years' aftercare for students when they finish their studies to help them into a graduate career, including funded graduate internship opportunities.

## Eligibility for the scheme

The scheme is available to all students who are the first in their family to go into higher education, as well as those who are from low-income families. The direct financial support elements of the package are means tested.

Students receiving UK government grant support will be entitled to financial support via the scheme and to support as many low-income students as possible on the scheme, we have set the financial threshold at the highest level – ie all those with a family income of up to £42,600.

The University's scheme and support package was approved by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) in July 2011.

Applicants for 2012 entry therefore have access to clear and timely information on tuition fees, bursaries and scholarships at Sussex to assist them in submitting their UCAS forms.

For more details of the financial support available from the UK government and the repayment of loans, refer to Directgov student finance.

**For the latest information on tuition fees, scholarships and bursaries for 2013 entry, please refer to the BSMS website: [www.bsms.ac.uk](http://www.bsms.ac.uk)**

Depending on your lifestyle, approximate expenses are as follows:

**Rent:** University Halls: £80 to £140 per week, (based on 2011–12 figures) in university halls depending on type of accommodation, and whether you are catered or non catered. Halls includes electricity, heating, water rates and the internet where available. If you are in catered halls you will also need to budget for the cost of food at weekends and during holidays.

**Private accommodation:** £350–400 per month, (based on 2011–12 figures). Rents for private accommodation do not include utility bills or insurance unless otherwise stated in your contract. Contracts are generally for six or 12 months. You will need to buy a TV licence if you want to watch TV and budget for utilities, food and travel.

**Utility bills:** (Water/electricity/gas) £105–120 per month, unless included with rent. You may share these costs with your housemates.

**Additional costs:** These following costs are based on information provided by University of Brighton student ambassadors on their typical costs in 2010:

- **Telephone:** (national and local calls) £5–10 per week.
- **Food/housekeeping:** £40 per week.
- **Local travel:** Bus (Student Saver): £10 per week; £100 per three months; £300 per year; train (Unizone–unlimited travel between Falmer, Preston Park and Lancing): £13 train per week; £50 per month, £149.80 train per three months.
- **Personal belongings insurance:** £6 per month.
- **Books/stationery:** £30 per month.
- **Clothing:** £45 per month (including smart clothes for working with patients).
- **Socialising/leisure:** £70.
- **Miscellaneous (healthcare, etc):** £4.

You should add the one-off costs of buying a stethoscope (approx. £50) and travel, accommodation and living expenses for your fourth year clinical elective, where costs will vary depending on where you choose to go. (A number of bursaries are available to support electives.)

When you live off-campus, you may find it useful to have access to a computer with a broadband connection, to use BSMS learning resources.

A rough guide is to have about £8,000 available for the October to June academic year, including vacations, plus tuition fees.

At BSMS we seek to provide opportunities for our students to earn money where we can. Students are paid to assist with admissions and open days for example, and other jobs are available from time to time.

The University of Brighton's Careers Service and the University of Sussex's Careers and Employment Centre are experienced in helping students find part-time or vacation work, whether on campus or in the local area. From the third year onwards, it is anticipated that the demands of the course will be incompatible with those of paid employment. You should therefore not rely upon an income from this source in the latter years of the course.

The University of Sussex Students' Union offers online financial advice and trained advisors – see [www.ussu.info](http://www.ussu.info). An NUS Extra card will get you discounts in many shops, cinemas, museums and galleries, and on national and local bus and train travel.

The two universities' welfare services also offer information and advice on applications for additional sources of income (Access to Learning Fund) and advice on money management and debt counselling.

## Useful websites

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning) and [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk), particularly the Department of Health's 'Financial Help for Health Care Students' section. Meanwhile UCAS has a budget calculator to enable you to start planning.

## International students

Please see page 32.

“ During my first year, there were times when I questioned my ability to cope with the demands of medical school. I was surprised to receive a scholarship and the Dean's Prize, both of which have boosted my self-confidence and made me realise that I am capable of becoming a doctor. ”

*Sophie Banks, Year 2, 2011–12 University of Brighton Merit Scholarship prize winner*



[www.bsms.ac.uk/sophie-banks](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/sophie-banks)

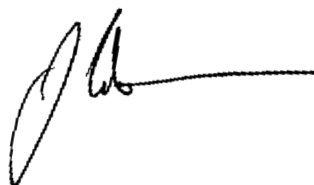


Above: The 2011–12 scholarship prize winners each received £1,000 from the University of Brighton in recognition of their achievements in their studies.



BSMS and the two universities provide an array of student support, academically and socially, and the universities have dedicated international offices to advise those coming from abroad.

It will be a pleasure to welcome you to BSMS. As one of the UK's smaller medical schools, we have created a supportive and welcoming environment in which students from a wide range of backgrounds have flourished. Global health is a particular strength of the School.



Professor Jon Cohen  
Dean

#### Why study at BSMS

You will study for a UK primary medical qualification recognised by the General Medical Council (GMC). You will work alongside an enthusiastic faculty dedicated to excellence in teaching and breaking the boundaries of medical research. As part of a small year group, you will receive personal attention from your tutors and small-group teaching to ensure you get the best education possible.

Seminars will be complemented by your work in labs and lectures, where you will undertake group work, dissection and research projects to give you the skills you will need as a doctor. Right from the start, you will also meet patients in the community and on the wards, developing your clinical skills.

Based on reportedly the sunniest campuses in the UK, you will have the tranquil Sussex countryside and picturesque villages minutes from your door. Brighton's beach and vibrant social scene are four miles away; Gatwick is half an hour away by train and London is an hour's train journey away.

#### Admissions

You need to apply through UCAS, the UK's central application processing organisation, by 15 October 2012 to enter BSMS in October 2013. You are welcome to attend one of our summer open days, when you can tour the campuses, chat to students and staff and explore the facilities. If offered an interview, you are encouraged to attend this at BSMS, although arrangements may be made to carry this out via video link at a British Council office (see [www.britishcouncil.org/home-contact-worldwide.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/home-contact-worldwide.htm) for a list of locations).

#### Qualifications

Please see page 34 for a list of the most common entry qualifications. The admissions office will be happy to advise if you have alternative qualifications. There is a minimum requirement of IELTS 7.5 overall, with at least 7.0 in each section.

#### International partnerships

We have an ongoing partnership with the International Medical University in Malaysia, which sends undergraduate students to BSMS each year. These students join us at year 3 until they graduate in year 5. For more information visit [www.imu.edu.my/partner-about-overview.html](http://www.imu.edu.my/partner-about-overview.html)

“ When I first came here, it was a massive change, but I found that I settled in quite easily, and a lot of it is due to the friendliness of the staff. We are all medical students, whether coming from school or degree, we are all in the same pool. Brighton is quite cosmopolitan; any international student would fit in well in Brighton. You get early clinical exposure, it's a small class size, teaching is brilliant, the anatomy is exceptional. It is a friendly atmosphere, so come to BSMS. ”

*Kishan Moosai, Year 4  
from Trinidad and Tobago*



[www.bsms.ac.uk/kishan-moosai](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/kishan-moosai)



#### Finance

Fees were £23,678 per year in 2011–12, fixed for the duration of the course, giving you a certainty of future costs. You need to ensure that you have the means to cover the cost of your fees and other expenses for the whole five years before you begin your course. The University of Brighton offers over 40 international scholarships based primarily on merit, which were worth a £4,000 tuition fee reduction per year for new, full-time entrants. In addition, international students from year 2 onwards are eligible to apply for one of about 100 University of Brighton merit-based scholarships, worth £1,000 per year. (See also page 30)

To find out more, please visit [www.brighton.ac.uk/international](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/international) or email the international students' office: [international@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:international@brighton.ac.uk).

The information above is only a guide. As details of available financial help are liable to change and application deadlines vary, please check the universities' websites. You will be sent further details about how to access financial help once you have firmly accepted the offer of a place at BSMS.

#### Support

Advice ranging from immigration procedures to cultural information about the UK is available on the two university websites, so that you will feel well prepared when you arrive. Falmer is easily accessed by bus and train, whether you have arrived in the UK by air, sea or land. Providing you return your housing application form by the deadline, you will be guaranteed on-campus accommodation, for the first year only. The week before term starts will be full of opportunities to meet local and international students from the two universities, through parties, walks, shows, balls and much more organised by the international orientation advisors.

You will meet your clinical academic tutor and the student support coordinators, who will be your first points of contact if you experience any difficulties settling in. You will get to know your way around BSMS and have time to explore the campuses and Brighton.

See pages 18 and 19 for more details on student support.

#### Links

##### Applying to BSMS

If you have any questions about your application, please email [medadmissions@bsms.ac.uk](mailto:medadmissions@bsms.ac.uk) or call +44 (0)1273 643528.

You can apply online using the UCAS website: [www.ucas.com/students/nonukstudents](http://www.ucas.com/students/nonukstudents)

**The British Council**  
[www.britishcouncil.org/learning-study-in-the-uk.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-study-in-the-uk.htm)

##### International offices

The Universities' international office websites are at: [www.sussex.ac.uk/international-support](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/international-support) and [www.brighton.ac.uk/international](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/international) If you have specific queries, please contact [international@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:international@sussex.ac.uk) or +44 (0)1273 678422 for the University of Sussex, or [international@brighton.co.uk](mailto:international@brighton.co.uk) or +44 (0)1273 642409 for the University of Brighton.

##### Campus and Brighton & Hove information

If you are unable to visit us, you may find the following links useful:

[www.sussex.ac.uk/residentialservices](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/residentialservices)  
(find out more about the University of Sussex residences and take a 360-degree virtual tour).

[www.brighton.ac.uk/livinghere](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/livinghere)  
(click on the virtual campus tours link to see a video of the Falmer campus of the University of Brighton).

[www.visitbrighton.com](http://www.visitbrighton.com) and [http://tourism.brighton.co.uk](http://http://tourism.brighton.co.uk) for information about the nearby city.

**UK life**  
[www.educationuk.org](http://www.educationuk.org)

“ It is a very interesting course – we're very integrated. From the first two weeks of medical school, you get to go into GP clinics and you get to meet real live patients, and work with healthcare professionals and meet real people. The best thing about BSMS are the students and staff. BSMS is a good medical school for international students, and a qualification from the UK is widely recognised. It's got a lot to offer the international students. ”

*Lin Mo, Year 4  
from China*



[www.bsms.ac.uk/student/lin-mo](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/student/lin-mo)



# We are looking not only for academic ability but also for the personal qualities that people need and expect in a good doctor.

## We expect our students to become committed and compassionate practitioners who are really in touch with their patients.

The prime qualities you must possess are the ability, the commitment and the personal qualities necessary to become an excellent doctor. In assessing your application, BSMS admissions team will be seeking evidence of:

- Academic achievement and potential.
- A realistic attitude to medical training and clinical practice.
- A commitment to caring for others.
- The ability to communicate and work effectively within a team.
- The ability to appreciate other people's point of view.
- A willingness to accept responsibility.

Please note that BSMS may verify references and records of work experience and you will be asked, if called for interview, to bring with you documentary evidence of any work experiences undertaken.

BSMS is part of the UKCAT consortium and will expect all applicants to sit the UKCAT test prior to application. The UKCAT scores are used by different consortium members in different ways. BSMS has always taken particular care to account for both academic and non-academic factors in considering whether to make an offer of a place, and we are broadly satisfied that our application procedures are effective at selecting students from a wide range of backgrounds and with all of the attributes that Tomorrow's Doctors will need. We are interested to see what additional information we might gain from the UKCAT scores, and so we will be using the UKCAT results selectively and with care in informing the judgements of our admissions assessors in making offers to individual students. This is because the UKCAT test is relatively new. An above average UKCAT score is likely to be an advantage but a lower score is not necessarily a disadvantage if outweighed by other factors in your application as a whole.

As evidence of the necessary literacy and numeracy, you must have qualifications in English and Mathematics equivalent to at least GCSE grade B, or an IELTS score of 7.5 or above with at least 7.0 in each section if English is not your first language and you do not have a GCSE grade B. You will also need a higher qualification from the following list.

### A/AS-levels

Most standard offers for entry to BSMS are conditional on gaining A grades at A-level for all three subjects, following the study of at least four subjects to AS-level. Both Biology and Chemistry must have been studied to A-level and passed with a minimum A grade. We do not specify the nature of the third A-level subject but it should be noted that neither General Studies nor Critical Thinking are acceptable at any level. BSMS reserves the right to make alternative offers where appropriate.

### Scottish Highers

You will normally need either three Advanced Highers or two Advanced Highers plus two Highers. You must have studied both Biology and Chemistry to Advanced Higher level and have passed both with an A grade. Most standard offers are now conditional upon gaining 370 UCAS points from 18 units.

### The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

BSMS welcomes candidates who have successfully completed an Extended Project, recognising the effort that they have expended and the valuable skills and knowledge that they will have gained. However, we are looking for breadth of experience in our future doctors and so, other than under quite exceptional circumstances, we will still require candidates to have studied a minimum of four subjects to A/AS-level (taking at least three of them to A). Candidates who are otherwise strong, but who have not had the opportunity to do an Extended Project will not be disadvantaged.

### Irish Leaving Certificate

Normally you will need to pass the Irish Leaving Certificate with grades AAAAAA. Both Biology and Chemistry must be passed at A1 level.

### International Baccalaureate

We very much welcome applications from students who have taken, or are taking, the International Baccalaureate Diploma. You will normally need to pass the International Baccalaureate Diploma with 38 points overall, including at least 18 points in three Higher Level subjects. You must have studied both Biology and Chemistry to Higher Level and you should have a minimum of grade 6 in both of these subjects.

### Advanced diploma

In our opinion, none of the new Advanced Diplomas introduced in 2008 have sufficiently strong Biology and Chemistry content to meet our general admissions requirement.

### Other equivalent qualifications

A wide range of other academic qualifications equivalent to A/AS-levels, Advanced Highers and the International Baccalaureate are also welcome. If you are intending to offer such qualifications, please check on the BSMS admissions webpage for advice on their eligibility and the grades expected. If you have any further queries, contact the BSMS admissions office.

### Graduate entry

Applications from graduates are welcomed. You should hold, or expect to hold, a first or upper second class honours degree and be able to demonstrate an adequate knowledge of Biology and Chemistry – equivalent to A grade pass at A-level in both. This may be achieved through having studied these subjects to A-level or through relevant degree modules. As a graduate entrant you are assessed on your recent achievement and do not have to satisfy other academic entry requirements (ie you are not required to have AAA at A-level). You should however note that the integrated nature of the BSMS degree in medicine does not normally allow advanced entry to a different year of the programme. If you hold (or expect to hold) a first or upper second class honours degree but do not have the necessary knowledge of Biology and Chemistry, you are invited to consider entry via the Access to Medicine route. If offered an interview, you may be asked to supply a transcript of your degree results.



## Entry requirements

A-levels: A grades in three subjects, including Biology and Chemistry.

Scottish Highers: 370 points from 18 units with both Biology and Chemistry at minimum Advanced Higher A grade.

International Baccalaureate: 38 points with 18 points in three Higher level subjects with both Biology and Chemistry at minimum grade 6 at Higher level.

*These are the essential academic entry requirements, see page 34 for more detail.*

### Access to Medicine

The Universities of Brighton and Sussex share a commitment to, and a strong record of achievement in, the education of mature students. BSMS seeks to extend this commitment to mature entry to medicine. Access to Medicine courses are an effective way for mature entrants who lack either a sufficient academic record or an adequate knowledge of biology and chemistry to gain a qualification acceptable for entry into medical school. A pass at distinction level is normally required.

We advise those considering the Access to Medicine entry route to investigate carefully the success record of the courses to which they apply. Successful courses are likely to have selective entry policies, to require intensive full-time commitment to study and to have a differentiated outcome (eg a pass with distinction or a percentage mark).

A Sussex-based Access to Medicine course is offered by Sussex Downs College, Lewes, developed in partnership with BSMS. This course offers the possibility of linked BSMS places for appropriate candidates. The curriculum includes Biology to A-level standard, Chemistry to above AS-level standard and a range of subsidiary subjects including Health Psychology, Medical Ethics, Mathematics, Physics, IT and Study Skills. The course runs from September to June each year and applications should be made no later than the May/June of the year prior to the year of intended entry to medical school. For details contact Sussex Downs College: tel: 01273 402222, or visit [www.sussexdowns.ac.uk](http://www.sussexdowns.ac.uk)

There is also a well-established Access to Medicine course offered by West Anglia College, King's Lynn. For more details visit [www.col-westanglia.ac.uk](http://www.col-westanglia.ac.uk)

### International students

If you are a student from outside the UK or EU, please see page 32. Please note, there is a minimum requirement of IELTS 7.5 overall, with at least 7.0 in each section.

### Fitness to practise

The General Medical Council outlines the requirements which doctors and medical students must meet in order to be fit to practise their profession (please see [www.gmc-uk.org/education/undergraduate](http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/undergraduate)).

Graduates are eligible for provisional registration with the GMC with a licence to practise, subject to demonstrating to the GMC that their fitness to practise is not impaired.

BSMS welcomes a diverse range of applications, reflecting the whole of society. Potential applicants with a disability might consider seeking advice from local medical practitioners about what a career in medicine entails. They are encouraged to discuss the reasonable adjustments which they would require to complete the course with a disability advisor prior to application ([www.brighton.ac.uk/disability](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/disability)).

All offers of places to study medicine are conditional upon a satisfactory health record and health assessment being carried out, in addition to a requirement that students comply with viral screening as requested by the Department of Health (see the health page in the A-Z list at [www.bsms.ac.uk](http://www.bsms.ac.uk)).

Applicants should be aware that medical students and doctors who are discovered to have, or who later acquire, an infectious condition that threatens the wellbeing of patients may be required to discontinue their training or practice. If such unfortunate circumstances arise or are discovered after admission, BSMS will advise students of the options open to them.

Students should also be aware that enhanced-level criminal record checks are necessary for all medical school entrants and that some convictions are incompatible with medical training and practice. BSMS may share information about students' fitness to practise with other bodies as necessary to ensure patients' safety.

### Student charter

The charter outlines the responsibilities of both the medical student and BSMS, covering such topics as good medical practice, student representation and quality of education. If you accept a place at BSMS, you will be required to sign a copy of this document, which is available on our website, as a condition of entry.

Please note that entry requirements are liable to change. For the latest information please consult our website at [www.bsms.ac.uk](http://www.bsms.ac.uk)

Do you qualify? Read more about how to apply on page 36.



## How will my application be processed?

Your application must be submitted through the UCAS system ([www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)). This allows a maximum of four applications to UK medical schools. Applications must reach UCAS by 15 October 2012.

BSMS expects to have at least 128 places for new UK/EU entrants, and up to six places for new international (non-UK/EU/Channel Islands) entrants, in October 2013.

UCAS institution code name:

**BSMS**

UCAS institution code:

**B74**

Course code:

**A100**



### Open days

We plan to run open days on 27 June, 4 July and 22 August 2012, giving you the opportunity to look around, meet students and staff and ask questions. For confirmation of dates, further details and to book online, please visit the BSMS website at [www.bsms.ac.uk](http://www.bsms.ac.uk)

### Coming to interview

The admissions day programme consists of:

- short presentations about BSMS, the curriculum and the admissions process.
- A formal 20-minute semi-structured interview.
- A student-guided tour of the Falmer campuses (including accommodation).

Parents or friends are welcome to attend the initial presentation and the campus tour, but are not permitted to sit in on the personal interview.

Interviews and other activities take place throughout the day and may run as late as 5pm.

If offered an interview, non-UK students are encouraged to attend this at BSMS, although arrangements may be made to carry this out via video link at a British Council office (see [www.britishcouncil.org/home-contact-worldwide.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/home-contact-worldwide.htm) for a list of locations).

More information is available at [www.bsms.ac.uk/undergraduate](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/undergraduate)

### Useful websites:

Brighton and Sussex Medical School: [www.bsms.ac.uk](http://www.bsms.ac.uk)

University of Brighton: [www.brighton.ac.uk](http://www.brighton.ac.uk)

University of Sussex: [www.sussex.ac.uk](http://www.sussex.ac.uk)

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust: [www.bsuh.nhs.uk](http://www.bsuh.nhs.uk)

General Medical Council: [www.gmc-uk.org](http://www.gmc-uk.org)

NHS Business Services Authority for information on NHS bursaries and other medical student finance: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students.aspx](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students.aspx)

### Steps in the BSMS admissions cycle

#### Step 1

Admissions office reviews applications. Ineligible applications are identified.

#### Step 2

Qualifying applications are passed to admissions assessors who consider all the academic and non-academic information available to them from the UCAS form. They then recommend priority candidates to the BSMS admissions board for interview. Each application is considered independently by multiple assessors.

#### Step 3

Admissions board decides which candidates should be offered interviews.

#### Step 4

Interviews are held at BSMS and are normally completed by March.

#### Step 5

Interview panel members make individual recommendations to the admissions board. The admissions board decides which candidates should receive offers.



If you can't find the answer you need, please contact:

**BSMS Admissions Registry, Checkland Building, Falmer Campus, University of Brighton BN1 9PH**

**T +44 (0)1273 643528**  
[medadmissions@bsms.ac.uk](mailto:medadmissions@bsms.ac.uk)

For general information on studying at the Universities of Brighton or Sussex visit [www.brighton.ac.uk](http://www.brighton.ac.uk) and [www.sussex.ac.uk](http://www.sussex.ac.uk)

### December 2011

Brighton and Sussex Medical School makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all information in this prospectus. However, at the time of going to press some finer points of curriculum planning and other school procedures remain under development. Any further developments will be shown on the Medical School's website: [www.bsms.ac.uk](http://www.bsms.ac.uk)

In accepting any offer of a place you consent to incorporation of this notice as a term of contract between you and the Medical School. All students are required to abide by the regulations of the University of Brighton and the University of Sussex, which are available on request.

Designed by Blast: [www.blast.co.uk](http://www.blast.co.uk)

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### See [www.bsms.ac.uk](http://www.bsms.ac.uk) for directions

#### Distance from BSMS:

Central London (Victoria Station): 53 miles / 1 hr 25 min drive / 1 hr 07 min train  
Gatwick Airport: 30 miles / 36 min drive / 55 min train  
Heathrow Airport: 68 miles / 1 hour 35 min drive / 2 hr 05 min train  
Central Brighton: 4 miles / 10 min drive / 9 min train

### Open day dates

27 June, 4 July and 22 August 2012  
These dates may change; please see the website for details.

### Application deadline 15 October 2012

#### Term dates 2013–14

##### Autumn term:

16 September–11 December 2013  
(Induction week will begin for first years on 14 September 2013)

##### Spring term:

8 January–11 April 2014

##### Summer term:

12 May–13 June 2014

For more information visit the website at [www.bsms.ac.uk](http://www.bsms.ac.uk)

This prospectus is also available as a pdf at [www.bsms.ac.uk/undergraduate](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/undergraduate), and a larger printout is available upon request.





At BSMS, we're looking for exceptional people who want to have what it takes to become well-rounded, compassionate, pioneering doctors... and we have what it takes to get you there. As we enter our second decade, we welcome you to join us.

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Telephone +44 (0)1273 643528  
medadmissions@bsms.ac.uk  
www.bsms.ac.uk

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**Front Cover: Simon Hall**, Year 4 student and artist, drew the anatomical artwork. His work in this field has developed through student-selected components and the student art society. He has displayed work in BSMS events at the Brighton Festival Fringe and also contributed to the Brighton Science Festival. See page 13 for Simon's view on BSMS.

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**Mario Amato**, Year 1, see page 26 for his typical week as a first year.

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**Amna Ghafoor**, Year 3, see page 28 for her typical week as a third year.

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**Tim Jackson**, Year 5, see page 6 for his views on studying at BSMS.

**Mario Amato**, Year 1

**Amna Ghafoor**, Year 3

**Tim Jackson**, Year 5

