

Medical Programme

Medical School Preparation Programme

2024/2025



MPW has been helping students get into Medical School since 1973. We have over 50 years of expertise in preparing university applications for these prestigious courses.

Since 1973, we have grown into one of the UK’s leading groups of independent sixth-form colleges. Now we prepare hundreds of students aged 14-20 for exam success in a broad range of subjects at GCSE and A level and our relaxed, collegiate atmosphere and small class sizes provide excellent preparation for life at university.

Applying to Medical School

First of all, let’s be honest. No matter how much preparation a student is given, he or she has to be an excellent candidate to be offered a place to study Medicine. Only around 40% of applicants for Medicine are successful in gaining places and the common entry requirement for most UK universities is a minimum of AAA at A level. Becoming a successful doctor requires many skills as well as strength in academia, and it is the job of the admissions staff to decide who is the most suitable at interview.

How can MPW help?

We like to feel that we can add the ‘gloss’ that can make the difference between success and failure. A Medical School application comprises several elements and Admissions Tutors view each student’s entry in the round. Predicted or actual grades at A level or equivalent, performance in specialist tests set by the universities, school references, the personal statement and performance at interview are all reviewed carefully before a candidate is offered a place or rejected.

MPW London’s Medical School Preparation Programme covers four main areas:

- a personal statement review service
- interview practice with a real doctor
- expert tuition to prepare for specialist tests
- dedicated lecture series to cover topical issues

Aspiring medics at MPW are automatically enrolled onto our preparation programme free of charge. It is available to external students for a fee.

MPW’s Medical School Preparation Programme is also suitable for students applying to read Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine at university.

Studying Medicine in the UK as an International Student

Medicine is a highly competitive degree programme requiring both excellent grades and advanced English language skills. Each UK medical school admits a small number of international (non-EU) students each year amounting to around 7.5% of the total annual student intake.

International students studying at MPW benefit greatly from the Medical Preparation Programme. MPW tutors are experts in their field and have vast experience of supporting medical school candidates throughout the application process. MPW has an excellent record in placing students on specialist degrees in Medicine or related subjects, such as Dentistry.



“There is a true joy in qualifying as a doctor. All of the hurdles of getting into medical school and the midnight oil burnt to pass the countless exams are behind you, and for the first time in your life you have the honour of putting the initials ‘Dr’ in front of your name. It’s better than being knighted.”

Dr John Wright, Director of Clinical Governance & Operations Medical Director,
Bradford Royal Infirmary

MPW’s Medical School Application Support

Personal Statement

Your personal statement needs to convince admissions tutors that you are worthy of an interview, which is essential because most medical schools only issue conditional offers after their admissions panel have met you. Only 15-25% of Medical School applicants will be invited to interview: make sure you are one of them!

Plan your personal statement as you would an essay. Make it logical. Make sentences short and to the point. You have 4,000 characters and you need every one. Split sections into paragraphs, covering each of the necessary topics. Think about answering the following questions.

- What interests you about medicine and why?
- Why do you want to be a doctor?
- What have you done to investigate the profession and how has that led you to this vocation?
- What did you learn from your work experience?
- What do you do apart from studying and why is this important to you?

Over the years, we have often been asked to give an opinion on the quality of a student’s personal statement. Our tutors read around 350 personal statements every year, so they have a wealth of experience to call on in assessing what makes a good one. When you’ve finished your first draft, we can provide you with feedback on its strengths and weaknesses. We will offer guidance on what might make the statement more compelling and how it could be improved.

Our Personal Statement Review costs **£135**



“Students carefully draw on excellent guidance from the college’s careers programme to successfully tailor applications for their desired univeristy courses.”

ISI Inspection Report, 2022



Aptitude tests

Most universities require applicants to sit aptitude tests as part of the application process. These include the UCAT and BMAT tests. Experience shows that students can benefit from familiarity with these tests: learning the techniques required to approach questions effectively; and awareness of the sort of questions to expect. Practising past papers and time management are crucial preparations for that all-important test day. We liaise with industry experts to provide focused tuition on the tests themselves including analysis of those spikier questions.

Please contact us for more information.

UCAT (the University Clinical Aptitude Test)

The UCAT has been adopted by 31 universities as part of their admissions procedure. It is designed to ensure that students have the mental capabilities, attitude and professional conduct required for a career in the medical field.

There are five sections to the UCAT which are based on the set of skills that Medical (and Dental) Schools believe are vital to be successful as a medical practitioner:

1. Verbal Reasoning
2. Decision Making
3. Quantitative Reasoning
4. Abstract Reasoning
5. Situational Judgement

The test lasts two hours and candidates can take it between 8 July and 26 September 2024.

Interviewers will be looking for evidence of general interest in and enthusiasm for your chosen subject and the motivation to work hard.

Why is preparation important for medical interviews?

The interview may be the crucial factor in distinguishing between candidates with similar results. It also enables candidates to make a case if their academic profile is strong but is equalled or bettered by other applicants. You need to prepare thoroughly – you will not get a second chance if you do not perform well and the more you practise, the better your chance of success.

Although you will be nervous, try to relax and enjoy talking to the interviewer – they are busy people and the fact that they have given up their time to meet you suggests that they want to offer you a place. Make it easy for them to do so!

What sort of questions could you face at interview

Questions often tend to be open ended, so there will be no ‘correct’ answer. There might be some incorrect ones though! Try the below:

- *Why should we choose you over the other candidate outside?*
- *Should smokers be treated on the NHS?*
- *What makes a good doctor?*
- *When you saw doctors using the MRI scanner on your work experience, what were they looking for?*
- *Tell me about a medical article you have read recently that has interested you.*
- *What do you know about treatment for cancer?*
- *What are the main problems facing the NHS at the moment?*
- *Should you withdraw life-prolonging treatment from a terminally ill patient?*
- *It says on your UCAS statement that you enjoyed*
- *Reading about X – what was it in particular that you learnt from that?*

At the interview, you need to prove that you can:

- listen effectively;
- absorb facts and ideas presented to you and assess their relevance;
- respond to problems and criticisms; and
- present arguments in a logical, clear manner.

Some of the most difficult questions often involve an ethical dilemma. With these types of questions, the interviewers are interested in whether or not you have understood the relevant issues, rather than in your opinion. Think about the background to the question, explore both sides of the argument, back-up your points with examples from your reading and finally draw a tentative conclusion.

How will MPW mock interviews help you in the real thing?

Practice makes perfect. As you familiarise yourself with the list of commonly asked questions, your responses will become smoother and more fluent. Our experienced tutors have spent years coaching students for these crucial interviews and know how to get the best from applicants, what an admissions tutor is looking for and the key points that any student might need to improve on. We also work with an external team of doctors to make sure that key medical issues or scientific questions can be asked, and we provide the sort of atmosphere that a student will encounter at interview.

How does the MPW interview process work?

Interviews are held by senior staff and external experts (usually practising doctors) at MPW in London and last for up to 40 minutes, after which verbal feedback is given as well as a written report.

Fees for MPW mock interviews

One mock interview session with written report: **£240**

Further mock interviews can be arranged for an additional fee.



For More Information

The Medical Programme is organised by **Simon Horner, Head of Science**, who can be contacted at:

Mander Portman Woodward

90-92 Queen's Gate
London SW7 5AB

Telephone: **020 7835 1355**
Email: **simon.horner@mpw.ac.uk**

Medical School Admissions Calendar

14 May 2024

UCAT account creation open

18 June 2024

UCAT booking opens

8 July 2024

UCAT testing starts

19 September 2024

UCAT account creation closes (booking deadline)

26 September 2024

Last sitting of UCAT

15 October 2024

UCAS application deadline

November/December 2024

Successful candidates invited to interview

By Mid-January 2025

Decisions announced to candidates



LONDON 020 7835 1355

90-92 Queen's Gate
London SW7 5AB

london@mpw.ac.uk

BIRMINGHAM 0121 454 9637

16-18 Greenfield Crescent
Birmingham B15 3AU

birmingham@mpw.ac.uk

CAMBRIDGE 01223 350158

3-4 Brookside
Cambridge CB2 1JE

cambridge@mpw.ac.uk

www.mpw.ac.uk
