

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

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Manchester Conference for Advisers and Teachers

Dr Austen Spruce

Entry requirements for medicine: Selection for interview

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Studying Medicine

- Two different degree programmes
 - 5-year
 - School-leavers
 - 5-10 graduates accepted each year
 - Graduate entry (4-year)
 - Life science degree

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5-Year Programme: Selection Process

- 334 places; 2,500 applicants
- National data: 8,000 places; 21,000 applicants
- Conversion rate (percentage of applicants who accept an offer) – 50%
- So, make 750 offers
- Interview 1,150

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5-Year Programme: Selection for Interview

- Using UCAS data
- Academic results
- Personal statement (not scored):
 - Evidence of commitment to medicine
 - Evidence of involvement in society
- Reference – Confirmation of aptitude; identification of concerns or extenuating circumstances
- Aptitude tests - UKCAT/BMAT not used
- Contextual information used to select proportion of interview candidates

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5-Year Programme: Academic Profile

- GCSEs (standard requirements):
 - Preference for A* in Science (all), Maths and English (Language or Literature)
 - We expect that at least most applicants with grade A in one specified subject will be considered
 - Overall GCSE performance may also be considered
- International Baccalaureate – 36 pts
 - Biology and Chemistry at Higher Level
 - Core points not included in offer

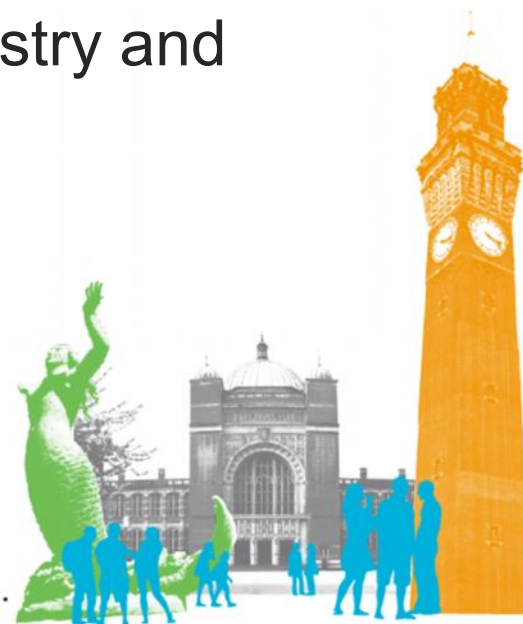
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5-Year Programme: Academic Profile

- AS-levels: used for selection
 - Final result at end of year 12 (not unit marks)
 - Standard requirement: AAAA
 - Certificated and non-certificated results required
- A2-levels:
 - Standard offer: A*AA (including Chemistry and Biology) – three subjects in Year 13
 - A* in any subject
 - No advantage with four A-levels

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5-Year Programme: Widening Participation

- ❑ Access to Birmingham (A2B) / Realising Opportunities
 - Criteria for assessing disadvantage
 - If applicants meets criteria for partner university, will be considered the same as A2B
 - Academic thresholds relaxed:
 - GCSEs –accept mostly A's
 - AS – accept ABBB
 - Offer: AAA

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5-Year Programme: Widening Participation

- Contextual data
 - Used to identify fixed cohort of interviewees
 - Average school performance at GCSE and A-level
 - Thresholds in 2013-14: GCSE (85 %); A-level (230 pts)
 - Requirements in relevant qualification relaxed (still competitive)
 - Separate (non-overlapping) mechanism to Access to Birmingham

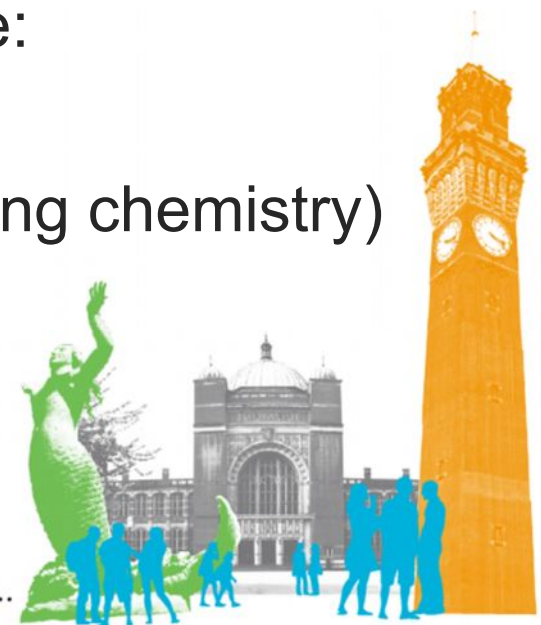
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Graduate Entry Medicine: Selection

- 40 places; 500+ applicants; Interview c.100
- Academic requirements:
 - Very good degree in life science: 1st – high 2i
 - A-level grades: Threshold – BBB/ABB, including Chemistry
- Graduates considered for 5-year course:
 - 2i degree classification (any subject)
 - AAA at A-level (two sciences, including chemistry)

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The interview and getting the right work experience

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Work Experience

- Evidence of commitment to a “public servant” role
 - Health care experience: Long-term; caring for vulnerable people
 - Direct clinical observation not required
 - Paid work may also be relevant
- Investigate the career
 - Information from news media

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The Interview

- Multiple Mini-Interviews: 1-to-1 discussions
- Six stations – 6 min at each
- Assessed Characteristics and Format:
 - Communication – via role play with medicine student
 - Motivation and insight – work experience
 - Ability to understand and interpret data – presented with e.g. graph from real study
 - Resilience and honesty and compassion – consider challenging situations
 - Ability to analyse an issue and construct rational arguments to justify a decision in relation to:
 - Debate topic
 - Ethical scenarios

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Decisions

- Interviews held from November – early March
- Early communication of decisions to those with interview scores at high and low ends of distribution
- Candidates with mid-range scores will be held in reserve until after completion of all interviews

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Finally.....

- Medicine websites:
- 5-year programme:
 - www.birmingham.ac.uk/medicine
- Graduate entry programme:
 - www.birmingham.ac.uk/graduatemedicine

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