We use cookies to ensure that we deliver the best user experience of our website. If you would like to, you can change your cookie settings at any time. Continue

# Medicine and Surgery MBChB

Studying Medicine and Surgery at Birmingham is a first-class opportunity to develop the skills you need to become a medical practitioner. In 2013, the results of the National Student Survey (NSS) showed that 92% of our students were satisfied with the overall quality of this programme. Right from the start, you'll experience the practice of healthcare in the community with a fortnightly attachment to a general practice, allowing you to see how your studies translate into clinical practice.

Academically able with a natural aptitude for science, you'll have a strong interest in human affairs, a concern for the welfare of others, a flair for communication and the desire to make a real difference. You'll also need a lot of drive to complete this demanding degree course. Throughout your time with us, you'll be treated as an individual and we'll encourage you to develop and explore your own professional interests.

The University of Birmingham is ranked 7th in for Medicine in the UK according to the **Complete University Guide (http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings?s=Medicine)** .

**Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham has been awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14 (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)**

## Course fact file

**UCAS code:** A100

**Duration:** 5 years

**Places Available:** 345 (We have up to 316 Home/EU places available and 29 Overseas places available)

**Applications in 2012:** 1800

**Typical Offer:** A*AA. Candidates should have predicted AAA including Biology and Chemistry (NB. Human Biology is acceptable as an alternative to Biology) (**More detailed entry requirements and the international qualifications accepted can be found in the course details (?OpenSection=EntryRequirements)** )

**Start date:** September

## Contact

Admissions Tutor: **Dr Austen Spruce (/staff/profiles/cem/MSE/spruce-austen.aspx)** **t:** +44 (0)121 414 6888
**e: medicineadmissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk (mailto:medicineadmissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk)**

If you have any other queries please write or email to:

Admissions Tutor
Medical School
The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TT

We prefer a letter or email rather than a telephone call.
The Admissions Tutor will be available for individual consultation during Open Days.

**Follow us on Twitter (http://twitter.com/unibirm_MDS)**

**Contact us on Facebook (http://facebook.com/collegemds)**

## Details

The Birmingham Medicine and Surgery course is an integrated modular based programme designed to give you the essential knowledge and background to begin to work towards your own career goals.

**Outcome of the course**

At the end of the undergraduate course you will receive your MBChB degree, which is a *primary medical qualification* (PMQ). Holding a PMQ entitles you to *provisional registration* with the General Medical Council, subject only to its acceptance that there are no Fitness to Practise concerns that need consideration. Provisionally registered doctors can only practise in approved *Foundation Year 1* posts: the law does not allow provisionally registered doctors to undertake any other type of work.

To obtain a Foundation Year 1 post you will need to apply during the final year of your undergraduate course through the UK Foundation Programme Office selection scheme, which allocates these posts to graduates on a competitive basis. So far, all suitably qualified UK graduates have found a place on the Foundation Year 1 programme, but this cannot be guaranteed, for instance if there were to be an increased number of competitive applications from non-UK graduates.

Successful completion of the Foundation Year 1 programme is normally achieved within 12 months and is marked by the award of a Certificate of Experience. You will then be eligible to apply for *full registration* with the General Medical Council. You need full registration with a licence to practise for unsupervised medical practice in the NHS or private practice in the UK.

Although this information is currently correct, students need to be aware that regulations in this area may change from time to time.

### First and second years

Your first two years are largely taken up with modules on the structure and function of the human body. You will learn how each system is controlled and is able to respond to the demands of everyday life and how they are affected by disease and medical treatments. Much of the anatomy is learned in small-group sessions, including substantial experience of prosection.

You will learn about the psychology and sociology of health and illness and how the health of whole populations, as well as of individual patients, is assessed. You will also be introduced to some of the key issues in biomedical ethics, for example genetic engineering.

In each year, you will spend ten days in the community with GPs and patients, linking biological and behavioural theoretical learning to clinical situations with real patients. Plus, you will have the opportunity to select areas of study for yourself so that you can pursue topics that interest you.

### Third year

You will be based in our partner Teaching Hospital Trusts to further develop your basic clinical skills in taking a good clinical history and examining patients, as well as studying the communication skills needed for effective patient-doctor relations. You'll also learn about common diseases and how to diagnose and manage them, and continue your theoretical work on pathology, pharmacology, public health and epidemiology.

### Fourth and fifth years

You will now move onto clinical attachments in medical, surgical and other specialities such as Cardiology, Neurology, Psychiatry, Bone and Joint Disease, Oncology, Ear, Nose and Throat and Peri-Operative Care. You will also do further attachments in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics and General Practice. During the Final year, you will be able to bring all of your learning and skills together through the Acutely Ill Patient attachment, as you prepare to become a medical practitioner.

Elective studies: Two months in the spring of the fourth year are allotted to full-time studies of your own choice, either in a department of the Medical School or at another centre in Britain or, as the majority of students choose to do, abroad. You may choose to consolidate your knowledge in a subject you've already studied, gain further experience of clinical practice or perhaps undertake your own clinical research project.

These are a selection of the **various locations (http://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?msid=211716370811198948059.0004a911dafe9fe9876db&msa=0)** that our students have visited as part of their electives.

### Training in Research

As a doctor you will be expected to keep up-to-date with the latest developments in medicine but we need clinicians to take a lead role in bringing these about. This course gives you the opportunity to learn research skills that you can use in your career to enhance and develop clinical practice. You can develop these skills in substantial depth during an intercalated programme.

### Intercalated Programmes

If you attain a good standard in examinations you may wish to take advantage of the excellent breadth of internationally competitive research within the Medical School through an in-depth study of chosen topics for one year. Several different intercalating programmes provide the opportunity for engaging in novel research work in either basic or applied medical research. This can happen after your second, third or fourth year of study. Programmes available involve either laboratory- or community-based research. You will learn to analyse and interpret medical research data and, importantly, undertake your own novel and substantial research project. The skills that you will acquire will allow you to contribute to the development of evidence-based clinical practice. You then return to complete the MBChB programme.

**View information about the intercalating programmes. (http://www.mds.bham.ac.uk/ug/intercalated/)**

### Admissions Process

Each year we receive many applications for every place available and it takes a long time to study these applications carefully. You should not be concerned if you do not hear anything from us until some months after you have submitted your UCAS form.

In deciding who to invite for interview, academic excellence is not the only criterion. It is equally important to demonstrate that you are well-motivated towards a career in medicine and able to show evidence that you will be able to acquire the values of the NHS (including, working together for patients, respect and dignity, commitment to quality of care), through people-focused work experience or volunteering.

It is essential that you provide evidence of an understanding of working in a healthcare environment. The types of experience that we value include voluntary work in a nursing home, care home,hospice or hospital volunteer. We do not rank applications on the amount of experience that has been obtained except that we do expect that the time spent is indicated and that it is more than a two or three half days. Shadowing of doctors is not required and, though it has its benefits, we prefer active involvement.

We recognise that extracurricular involvement in areas outside of healthcare can supplement the development of the broader qualities required of a potential doctor. We especially appreciate non-academic experiences that take place outside of school (such as a job in a customer-focused role). Your activities should be on-going and involve significant interactions with a broad range of people in a responsible capacity.

If invited for interview, candidates may be asked to provide details of their work experience placements.

### The Interview

From those who apply, approximately 1150 candidates are invited to come for interview. This selection is based on the information provided on the UCAS application. Interviews take place between November and March.

Interviews are organised in a multiple mini-interview format. You will participate in six separate, short interviews, lasting 6 mins each. This will allow you to start afresh at each mini-interview. A range of your personal attributes relevant to studying medicine will be assessed by means of different tasks. Interview stations are designed to assess aspects such as: motivation for medicine; communication; self-insight; ethical reasoning; data interpretation; ability to evaluate information and identify relevant aspects.

To find out more about each stage of the interview process, **download our MBChB interview information document (/Documents/college-mds/courses/undergraduate/Medicine-and-Surgery-MBChB/Web-info-Interview-5-year-2014.pdf)**.

### Outcome of Interview

The decision whether an offer is made is based primarily on the interview performance data. We will not re-review academic information in making the decision unless absolutely necessary (e.g. if there are a number of applicants on the same interview score). The scores for each station are used to calculate an average score(simple arithmetic mean), which is used to rank all applicants. We expect to make about 700 offers and these applicants will be identified according to the rank order (we do not define an acceptable overall score). It is likely that we will continue to set a minimum performance standard for each station (which will be well below the threshold for the average score). If this is not met than an offer may not be made even if the overall score is above threshold.

Please note that there is no advantage to attending an interview early. We will analyse the interview scores soon after the first set of interviews in November and December. Those applicants with a mean score in the top 50% (approximately) will receive an offer. Those with mean scores in the bottom 20% (approximately) will be advised that their applications are unsuccessful. The remainder of the interview candidates will be informed of our decision in March following analysis of all interview data when the precise threshold score can be defined.

Preparation for interview and indeed for study on a medicine programme is aided by engaging in frequent discussions with friends and family about medical issues appearing in the news and media. You should also use your time on work experience effectively by gaining insight into the demands placed on staff, the problems they encounter and the strategies that they employ to handle difficult situations as well as the benefits they obtain from caring for people and working in teams. Again,opportunities to engage in discussion of these issues must be taken.

### Visiting the Medical School

Candidates who are interviewed are offered a conducted tour of the Medical School and the University campus by current medical students. If you can, it is a good idea to visit the University prior to application on one of the University Open Days held each June and September. Details are given in the University prospectus.

### Review of Admissions Decisions

If you wish to question the decision that has been made, please refer to **Section 6 (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/university/legal/admission-students.pdf)** of the Code of Practice for Admission of Students to the University of Birmingham.

## Why study this course

With five-and-a-half million people in the West Midlands area, you'll be studying in the country's largest health region. By choosing Birmingham, you will also benefit from an interdisciplinary programme taught by renowned academics whose expertise spans the full breadth of medicine. For example, Birmingham is one of Europe's pre-eminent centres for clinical trials. We also provide outstanding support for our students and involve them in developing the best learning experience. You will find excellent learning resources and a student-centered, participatory style of learning, together with the opportunity to focus your study on your chosen interests and career goals.

The Medicine and Surgery programme benefits greatly from the very active research environment at Birmingham. The College of Medical and Dental Sciences, of which the Medical School is part, has a research income in excess of £50 million per annum, with several major centres focusing on areas that are at the forefront of medical science, including cancer, diabetes, stem cell biology, immunity and inflammatory disease, infection, cardiovascular science and ageing.

In the last Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) much of this research was rated as internationally excellent and world leading, with most of the remainder being internationally recognised. Notably, Birmingham has the first Cancer Research UK Centre, and was named as the leading cancer studies centre outside London, second only to the Institute of Cancer Research (RAE 2008).

## Modules

**Year 1**

The following must be taken:

**Basic Life Support (/undergraduate/courses/med/mbchb-modules/bls.aspx)** (0 credits)
Cellular Communication, Endocrinology and Pharmacology (10 credits)
Community Based Medicine I (10 credits)
Digestive System (10 credits)
Doctors, Patients and Society (10 credits)
Introduction to Respiratory Medicine (10 credits)
LC Year 1 Integrated Problems (10 credits)
Learning Medicine (10 credits)
Molecules to Man (10 credits)
Muscles Joints and Movement (10 credits)
Neurones and Synapses (10 credits)
People, Patients and Populations (10 credits)

Regional Anatomy I (10 credits)
Year 1 Student Selected Activity: Academic-led and self-directed activities (0 credits)

**Year 2**

The following must be taken:

Brain and Behaviour (10 credits)
Cancer: Causes To Cures (10 credits)
Cardiovascular System (10 credits)
Community Based Medicine 2 (10 credits)
Decision Making (10 credits)
Health Services (10 credits)
Infection, Immunology and Haematology (10 credits)
LC Year 2 Integrated Problems (10 credits)
LI Reproduction, Endocrinology and Development (10 credits)

Regional Anatomy II (10 credits)
Renal System (10 credits)
Year 2 Hospital Preparation Course (10 credits)
Year 2 Student Selected Activity: self-directed learning activities (10 credits)

**Year 3**

The following must be taken:

Epidemiological Methods (10 credits)
Public Health and Epidemiology Project SSM2 (10 credits)
Clinical Sciences 1 (20 credits)
Community Based Medicine III (10 credits)
Integrated Medicine and Surgery (80 credits)

Choose one of the following:

Student Project 2: Pattern B (20 credits)
Student Project 2: Pattern A (20 credits)

**Year 4**

The following must be taken:

Clinical Core 3 (130 credits)
Conference Poster Presentation (10 credits)
LH Elective Preparation (0 credits)
Learning and Teaching (10 credits)
Year 4 Career Exploration (0 credits)

**Year 5**

The following must be taken:

Clinical Skills Passport (0 credits)
Ethical/Legal Issues in Practice (10 credits)
Immediate Life Support (0 credits)
LH Clinical Core 4 (120 credits)
LH Elective & Report (0 credits)
Learning Priorities (0 credits)
Patient Information Leaflet (SSM) (10 credits)
Prescriber's Licence (0 credits)
Year 5 SSA Project (0 credits)

This is the module list for 2012, but the programme continues to evolve and you should check the website regularly for any changes for next year.

## Fees and funding

**Standard fees (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/fees/standard)** apply
Learn more about **fees and funding (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/feesandfinance/loans.aspx)**

When you apply for the course, it is important that you also take into account living costs and that you will have sufficient funds to finance the full duration of your studies. Please also note that during the last three years of the programme you will be required to be in attendance for most of each year and the costs of subsistence and travel will accordingly be much greater.

**Scholarships**
Learn more about our university **scholarships and awards (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/feesandfinance/funding/index.aspx)**. The MBChB programme does not offer any additional scholarships.

## Entry requirements

**Number of A levels required:** 3

**Typical offer:** A*AA. Candidates should have predicted AAA including Biology and Chemistry (NB. Human Biology is acceptable as an alternative to Biology)

**Required subjects and grades:** Typical offer: A*AA. Candidates should have predicted AAA including Biology and Chemistry (NB. Human Biology is acceptable as an alternative to Biology)

**General Studies:** not accepted. Critical Thinking is also not accepted. Other non standard subjects may not be accepted. Please contact us for advice.

**Please note that, currently, Birmingham is not in the UKCAT Consortium and does not use the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) or any other admissions test. However, we are considering introducing an admissions test for applications received in 2015 for 2016 entry.**

**Because of the competition, meeting the academic requirements described below does not guarantee that you will receive the offer of an interview. Good evidence of motivation for the profession as well as additional and significant non-academic activities is also necessary.**

**A Levels:**

All A2 modules of three subjects must be undertaken in Year 13.

- Chemistry and Biology (or Human Biology) required
- General Studies and Critical Thinking not accepted. Other non standard subjects may not be accepted . Please contact us for advice.
- If third subject is Physical Education, Theatre Studies, Dance, Art or Music, a fourth subject not in this list is required at AS.
- Mathematics: A student studying a single Mathematics A Level must follow a curriculum that involves the study of three modules (including C3 and C4) in Year 13 and each of these modules must contribute to the final A Level Mathematics result. The following applies to students who also study Further Mathematics:
    - We will consider a module combination that leads to an A Level in Mathematics and an AS Level in Further Mathematics after two years of study (Years 12 and 13).
    - Three modules must be studied in Year 13. Only one of these can be from the following list: M1, S1, D1 and FP1. The module results may contribute to either the Mathematics A Level or the Further Mathematics AS Level.
    - An offer will be based, in part, on achieving A/A* in A Level Mathematics and A in AS Level Further Mathematics.
    - This does not circumvent the policy not to consider Mathematics and Further Mathematics as separate subjects offered at AS Level (end of Year 12) as described below.

**AS Levels:**

- Certificated as well as non-certificated results must be provided (the latter could be included in the reference)
- Preference will be given to those applicants who offer AAAA, achieved by the end of the first year of A level study. Mathematics and Further Mathematics will not be considered as separate subjects.
- Where this qualification is not available (for example, Cambridge PreU), applicants will not be disadvantaged

**GCSE's:**

- Preference will be given to those applicants offering A* grades in Mathematics, English and Science subjects. Integrated Science (double certificate) is acceptable as an alternative to single sciences
- Overall GCSE performance will be considered

### Use of School Contextual Data

A proportion of those invited for interview will be identified, in part, using the school contextual data provided by UCAS, as described below. Applicants who meet the contextual threshold for either A Level or GCSE will be considered. If the contextual threshold is met for only one qualification, the standard requirements (described

above) will apply to the other.

Applicants selected using contextual data who pass the interview will receive an offer of AAA.

**A Levels**

- Contextual measure: QCA points per A level subject
- Threshold (maximum): 230 points (used for 2014 entry)
- AS level requirements: AABB (minimum)

**GCSE's**

- Contextual measure: Percentage of students who achieve 5 A*–C grades, including English and Mathematics
- Threshold(maximum): 85% (used for 2014 entry)
- Grade requirements: A in English, Mathematics and Science/s (minimum)

The thresholds for each aspect of contextual data may change according to the level of competition. Our prioritywill be to keep the contextual threshold for A Level and the minimum grade requirements (GCSE and AS) unchanged.

The use of these data is designed not to overlap with the criteria that apply to consideration of an applicant under the University's widening participation scheme, **Access to Birmingham (A2B) (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/a2b)**

**Cambridge Pre-University Diploma**

- D3, D2, D2 from three subjects, including Biology and Chemistry
- If Global Perspectives and Research is not offered, a fourth subject at AS level must be studied in Year 12.

**Scottish Certificate of Education**

- Highers: Five subjects at grade A including, Chemistry, Biology, Maths and English.
- Advanced Highers: Three subjects including Chemistry and Biology must be offered (grade requirements: AAB)

**International Baccalaureate**

- Higher level: Chemistry and Biology and one other approved subject
- Subsidiary level: The subjects must include English and Mathematics if not offered at the higher level
- Minimum of 36 points (excluding core points) must be attained, with at least Grade 6 in each HL subject and a minimum of 5 in the rest.
- If relevant, you must provide results from the Middle Years' Programme

**Graduates**

- Achieved or predicted first or upper second class degree from a UK-based institution (normally). Very good results from school examinations (in appropriate subjects - see above) are required because you are in competition with school-leavers.
- Life Science graduates may be eligible for our **graduate-entry course (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/med/medicine-grad-entry.aspx)** . Qualified dentists who have completed MJDF/MFDS and who wish to pursue a career in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery may be admitted to the second year of this course if spaces are available.

**Access Courses or Foundation Programmes**

We do not consider either of these qualifications.

## International (including EU) students

Applicants must have excellent written and spoken English. Please note that the university's **standard English language requirements (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/requirements/international/index.aspx)** are minimum standards, which maybe raised through competition. As a minimum, the English language IELTS must be 7.0 in each component.

**European Union applicants**

There are a number of factors that determine fee status but EU Nationals may be considered as'home' students for fee-paying purposes (see below). Because UK-based applicants are selected on the basis of results in each of two national qualifications (for example, A levels and GCSEs), candidates from outside the UK must offer examination-based qualifications that are equivalent to these.Some examples are below:

**Irish Leaving Certificate**

Grade A in six subjects including Biology, Chemistry, English and Mathematics. The same standard applies in the Junior Certificate.

**European Baccalaureate**

Overall score of 85%, with a minimum of 85% in the sciences, to include Chemistry and Biology as full options.

We require that qualifications are not broad-based and are obtained through assessment of performance in formal, national examinations. For guidance, the following qualifications are not acceptable on their own without, for example, A-levels. These include: French Baccalaureate (including OIB); German Abitur; Greek (including Cypriot) Apolytirion; Italian Esame Di Stato; Lithuanian Brandos Atestats; Netherlands "Voorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs" (VWO) Diploma; Polish Matura; Romanian Baccalaureate; Swedish Slutbetyg från Gymnasieskolan (School Leaving Certificate).

**International applicants**

We have up to 28 places available for students who are assessed as international for fee-paying purposes. For more information on fee status, please visit **www.ukcisa.org.uk (http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/)**

Accepted qualifications include:

**Australia. Tertiary AdmissionRank (ATAR), Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER), or equivalent:** An overall score of 99.6. Relevant subjects must be offered at excellent grades.

**Canada. Grade 12 High School Diploma:** A minimum of 85% in each of six Grade 12 subjects, including Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and English. The same performance must have been achieved in Year11.

**Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination CAPE):** Grade 1 in three subjects, including Chemistry and Biology. Top grades in Secondary School Certificate must have been achieved also.

**Hong Kong Diploma:** The grade requirements are: 5*, 5 in Chemistry and Biology (any order); 5 in Mathematics and English; Minimum of 4 in all other subjects.

**India*:** Standard XII: Overall score 85%, including Biology and Chemistry with 90% in one of these (minimum requirements). Standard X: 85% in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics, with preference to applicants with 90% in Biology and Chemistry (minimum requirements). (*ISC, CBSE, Maharashtra Boards)

**United States:** Combined SAT1 score of 1950. Three AP subjects at grade 5, including Biology, Chemistry and another Group A subject.

Please note that the following qualifications are **not** accepted: Pakistan - Higher Secondary Certificate.

More information about international entry requirements are provided **here (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/requirements/international/index.aspx)**. Please be aware that the academic qualifications described within these pages may **not** be acceptable for medicine entry. You must contact the Admissions Tutor by email to ask about qualifications not listed above.

## Additional Information

Applicants should enter details of all their qualifications on the relevant section of the UCAS form. Incomplete applications may not be considered.

**Mature Candidates:** The School welcomes applications from mature candidates, but will take account of the length of undergraduate and postgraduate training which has to be undertaken. In addition, we expect that no more than four years has elapsed since the most significant and relevant qualification.

**Second time A levels:** Second-time applicants are considered only in exceptional circumstances. Only those who have achieved less than our standard offer by a small margin the first time round may be considered if there are persuasive mitigating circumstances.

**Taking a year off:** Approximately 10% of our students have taken a gap year and applying for deferred entry will in no way jeopardise your chance of an offer. If you intend to do this we recommend that the year is used to broaden your experience either by working, travelling, voluntary service or some other activity. We do not necessarily expect it to be in a field directly related to medicine.

**Repeat medicine application:** We will not consider anyone whose application to Birmingham medical school has been rejected previously following interview. Otherwise, we will consider those applying for medicine for a second time. This fact is often not apparent until interview but, even at this stage, an applicant must provide good evidence that their application is stronger.

**Transfer from another degree programme:** We do not consider applicants who are studying medicine or any other degree programme. As indicated above, we will consider applicants who are studying on a different degree and are in their final year.

## Non-academic offer requirements

All accepted candidates will be required to complete a health declaration form, and some may be contacted by an Occupational Health Physician where appropriate.

The UK Government Health Authorities require that all medical students must be screened to ensure that they are not carriers of the hepatitis B virus. All applicants who accept an offer must:

- undertake a screening blood test for Hepatitis B
- if negative, they must start a course of immunisation
- thereafter provide certified evidence of these

Prospective students are strongly advised to take the blood test in good time.

The UK Government Health Authorities recommend that all medical students should be offered screening for a number of blood-borne viruses (Hepatitis C and Human Immunodeficiency Virus as well as Hepatitis B). You should be advised that any health care worker who is infected with any of these viruses (or who cannot prove that they are not infected) is not able to undertake exposure prone procedures when qualified (which are defined as 'those invasive procedures where there is a risk that injury to the worker may result in the exposure of the patient's open tissues to the blood of the worker.'). The MBChB Course at Birmingham is a non-Exposure-Prone Procedure course, so students with Hep C and/or HIV will not reflect any risk to patients during the course. Therefore, students who are positive or decline the offer of a blood test will still be permitted to continue on the programme. Although, medical students may engage in exposure-prone procedures on a voluntary basis (for example, during their elective). If this is the case, students are required to be screened.

For further information about these requirements, please see: **Medical and Dental Students: Health clearance for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV and Tuberculosis. (http://www.medschools.ac.uk/Publications/Pages/Health-clearance-for-HepatitisB-HepatitisC-HIV-and-Tuberculosis.aspx)**
The College of Medical and Dental Sciences will reimburse students with financial hardship for up to £200 of the cost of their vaccinations. If you are eligible for an award under the National Scholarship Programme (i.e. qualify for at least one of the state benefits associated with Free School Meals entitlement, classed as a Care Leaver or with a household income of £16,190 or less), you are advised to obtain receipts for any health checks that you have had to pay for. Once you commence study at the University of Birmingham, you may then apply for reimbursement from the College, up to the cost of £200.

Students will be required to complete a successful Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check before admission to the programme.

All students are required to sign the **Fitness to Practice Code of Conduct (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-mds/courses/undergraduate/Medicine-and-Surgery-MBChB/CodeofConduct-MBChB-2013-14.pdf)** prior to entry, details of which will be forwarded with an offer letter.

Medical students are expected to attend the entire course, which includes some evening and weekend work.

### Opportunities for candidates with disabilities

We take a positive view of what candidates with disabilities can achieve as future medical professionals and take seriously our obligation to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that all students with disabilities can successfully complete their studies. All applicants will be assessed up to and including the interview on the basis of the criteria outlined above regardless of any disability. All students, including those with disabilities, have to be able to meet the competency thresholds set by the GMC. If you declare a disability we will invite you to work with us to explore how best we can support your studies.

## How to apply

Apply through UCAS at **www.ucas.com (http://www.ucas.com/)**
Learn more about **applying (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/apply)**

Please note that Birmingham is NOT in the UKCAT Consortium and does NOT use the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) or any other admissions test.

## Key Information Set (KIS)

Key Information Sets (KIS) are comparable sets of information about full- or part-time undergraduate courses and are designed to meet the information needs of prospective students.

All KIS information has been published on the Unistats website and can also be accessed via the small advert, or 'widget', below. On the **Unistats website (http://unistats.direct.gov.uk)** you are able to compare all the KIS data for each course with data for other courses.

The development of Key Information Sets (KIS) formed part of HEFCE's work to enhance the information that is available about higher education. They give you access to reliable and comparable information in order to help you make informed decisions about what and where to study.

The KIS contains information which prospective students have identified as useful, such as student satisfaction, graduate outcomes, learning and teaching activities, assessment methods, tuition fees and student finance, accommodation and professional accreditation.

### Related links

**Medicine Brochure 2013-2014 (/Documents/college-mds/course-flyers/Medicine-Brochure-2013-2014.pdf)**

**Student Profile - Christopher Jones (/university/colleges/mds/undergraduate/Chistopher-Jones-Student-Profile.aspx)**

## Learning and teaching

As a Birmingham student you are part of an academic elite and will learn from world-leading experts. At Birmingham we advocate an enquiry based learning approach, from the outset you will be encouraged to become an independent and self-motivated learner, qualities that are highly sought after by employers. We want you to be challenged and will encourage you to think for yourself. So in your first semester, you'll spend time learning how to access for yourself the considerable learning resources of the Medical School, including our extensive library and information technology-based material.

Your learning will take place in a range of different settings, from scheduled teaching in lectures and small group tutorials, to self-study and peer group learning (for example preparing and delivering presentations with your classmates).

Much of the student selected component uses enquiry based learning , a form of active, student led, learning which asks students to find answers to problems through their own research rather than simply being given information and memorising facts. This learning style is supported by a personal mentoring system and is beneficial because it develops team work and also provides vital skills required to practice as a doctor in a lifelong learning environment.

Throughout your five years, your learning opportunities will take a variety of forms: lectures, seminars, tutorials, laboratory work, practicals, bedside demonstrations, clinical experience and a small component of problem based learning (PBL). We always take care to adapt our methods to the subject matter, offering, for example, role-play and video feedback on patient–doctor communication.

To begin with you may find this way of working challenging, but rest assured that we'll enable you to make this transition. You will have access to a comprehensive support system that will assist and encourage you, including personal tutors and welfare tutors who can help with both academic and welfare issues, and a **formal transition review (https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/transitionreview/index.aspx)** during your first year to check on your progress and offer you help for any particular areas where you need support.

A significant part of your learning experience will take place during clinical placements; these are structured to allow you the maximum number of contact hours with patients as this experience is vital to your learning. You will also have regular time with your clinical tutors as part of your placement experience where feedback on the development of your clinical skills and knowledge base is given in small groups. This form of learning is in addition to your formal structured teaching sessions (i.e. lectures, bed-side teaching etc).

Our Academic Skills Centre also offers you support with your learning. The centre is a place where you can develop your mathematical, academic writing and general academic skills. It is the centre's aim to help you to become a more effective and independent learner through the use of a range of high-quality and appropriate learning support services. These range from drop-in sessions with support with mathematics and statistics based problems provided by experienced mathematicians, to workshops on a range of topics including note talking, reading, writing and presentation skills.

**Some positive comments from the 2012 National Student Survey (NSS) are listed below:**

*"The Birmingham course incorporates both practical and theory elements to provide a great starting point for future employment."*

*"Very intellectually stimulating, with a lot of clinical experience."*

*"Very good IT and studying facilities in the Medical School."*

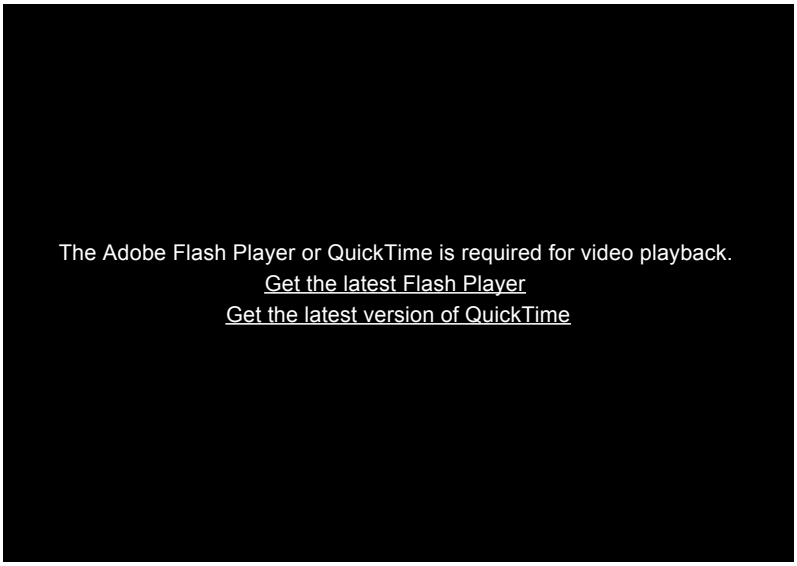
*"The teaching on placements is fantastic; staff are encouraging and keen to teach."*

*"Enthusiastic tutors and staff. Lovely campus and great Medical School."*

### Meet our lecturers

**Meet our lecturer - Dr Jamie Coleman, Senior Lecturer on the MBChB programme (/schools/cem/staff/meet-jamie-coleman.aspx)**

### Learning settings




**Laboratory-based practical work** is an integral part of our Medical and Surgery programme, delivering important transferable skills and giving you the experience of practical work that is essential for your future career.

**Lectures** take place in our theatres which, as well as the traditional whiteboard and pen, are equipped with the latest technology, including facilities to show movies, animations and graphics, to record lectures and to interact with 'ask the audience' style electronic voting systems.

**Seminars and small-group tutorials** run alongside the lecture course, addressing any individual problems you may have and allowing you to consolidate scientific and professional lecture material.

**Problem-based learning** sessions encourage you to discuss and analyse clinical scenarios and learn to define and understand the physical, psychological and social components of medical problems.

**Self-directed study** is an essential part of the programme and demonstrates your commitment to, and enthusiasm for, your subject and for the learning that will continue throughout your professional career.

**E-learning mechanisms** include WebCT, Wiki podcasts and our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE); an excellent tool for supporting our academic courses, allowing you to share thoughts on assignments with other students via the discussion group facilities, giving access to learning materials 24 hours a day and allowing you to submit your work electronically.

**Enquiry Based Learning (EBL)** is a group activity which requires you to work in a team, with a variety of assessment methods; in either a group or individually, by written reports and sometimes as a presentation. Based on techniques used in research-led organisations like the University of Birmingham, EBL gives you a research-orientated approach to a problem and helps you to gain essential skills that are highly valued by employers.

## Our facilities

The College of Medical and Dental Sciences houses state-of-the art facilities to support a range of teaching, learning and research activity.

Our facilities ensure that students receive the best possible learning experience by working in a modern environment. Among our most recent developments include a refurbishment of the Medical School foyer, Barnes library and Wolfson Centre for Medical Education.

Explore our facilities and take a tour by moving around our 360-degree panoramas:

ERROR:

Adobe Flashplayer 10.1 (or higher) or a
HTML5 Browser with CSS 3D Transforms or WebGL support are required!

## Assessment methods

Studying at degree-level is likely to be very different from your previous experience of learning and teaching. You will be expected to think, discuss and engage critically with the subject and find things out for yourself. We will enable you to make this **transition (https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/transitionreview/index.aspx)** to a new style of learning, and the way that you are assessed during your studies will help you develop the essential skills you need to make a success of your time at Birmingham.

You'll be assessed in a variety of ways, and these may be different with each module that you take. You will be assessed through coursework which may take the form of essays, group and individual presentations, laboratory-based work (depending on your chosen degree) and formal exams.

During your first year you will undergo a **formal 'transition' review (https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/transitionreview/index.aspx)** to see how you are getting on and if there are particular areas where you need support. This is in addition to the personal tutor who is based in your school or department and can help with any academic issues you encounter.

At the beginning of each module, you'll be given information on how and when you'll be assessed for that particular programme of study. You'll receive feedback on each assessment within four weeks, so that you can learn from and build on what you have done. You'll be given feedback on any exams that you take; if you should fail an exam we will ensure that particularly detailed feedback is made available to enable you to learn for the future.

## Employability

> I certainly didn't foresee myself pursuing a career involving both clinical and basic science and can honestly say that if I hadn't had the opportunity to try laboratory work at university I would never have considered it."
> Helen Marie Parry, MBChB, 2006
>
> To find out more about our graduate employability, view our **Career Profiles (/university/colleges/mds/alumni/our-alumni/undergrad-profiles.aspx)**.

Preparation for your career should be one of the first things you think about as you start university. Whether you have a clear idea of where your future aspirations lie or want to consider the broad range of opportunities available once you have a Birmingham degree, our **Careers Network (/undergraduate/careers/careers-network.aspx)** can help you achieve your goal.

When you have graduated with your MBChB and completed your two foundation years, you'll be in a position to apply for posts in your own chosen specialisation. For most of our graduates, these are hospital and primary care posts in the NHS, but there are also opportunities in laboratory-based disciplines such as pathology, or in research. Some doctors move into more commercial fields such as the pharmaceutical industry, politics, or medical journalism and the media. Whichever direction you choose to go in, your training here gives you a first-class springboard.

**View a video of Helen Parry, MBChB Graduate and Core Medical Trainee Level 2 (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWLPywS-6M4)**, talking about her time studying at the University of Birmingham and how the skills she gained helped her build a career in medicine. Also have a look at our **alumni profile page (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/mds/alumni/alumni-profiles.aspx)** to see what some of our students have gone on to do after completing their programme.

Your Birmingham degree is evidence of your ability to succeed in a demanding academic environment. Employers target Birmingham students for their drive, diversity, communication and problem-solving skills, their team-working abilities and cultural awareness, and our graduate employment statistics have continued to climb at a rate well above national trends. If you make the most of the wide range of services you will be able to develop your career from the moment you arrive.

Another advantage you will have as a Birmingham student is access to our unique careers guidance service where, if you make the most of the wide range of services, we will be able to help you develop your career from the moment you arrive.

Our unique careers guidance service is tailored to your academic subject area, offering a specialised team (in each of the five academic colleges) who can give you expert advice. Our team source exclusive **work experience opportunities (/undergraduate/careers/work-experience.aspx)** to help you stand out amongst the competition, with **mentoring (/generic/internships/mentoring/index.aspx)**, global **internships (/generic/internships/index.aspx)** and placements available to you. Once you have a career in your sights, one-to-one support with CV's and job applications will help give you the edge. In addition, our employer-endorsed award-winning **Personal Skills Award (PSA) (/undergraduate/careers/psa.aspx)** recognises your extra-curricular activities, and provides an accredited employability programme designed to improve your career prospects.

We also offer voluntary work which complements your studies by helping you gain practical experiences in occupational settings while contributing back to society. This can bring new skills that will be useful throughout your future and can make a positive impact on your learning whilst at university. Volunteering enables you to develop skills such as communication, interpersonal skills, teamwork, self-confidence and self-discipline all of which can be transferred into your studies.

Find out more about **Careers Network (http://www.as.bham.ac.uk/careers/index.shtml)**.

## Professional accreditation

Our graduates are entitled to provisional registration with the General Medical Council, with a licence to practise, subject to demonstrating to the GMC that their fitness to practise is not impaired.

91% Students agreed staff are good at explaining things

To see more details and compare with other courses

Visit

UNISTATS
Official data collected by HEFCE

© University of Birmingham 2014