University of Birmingham Medicine Admissions
2019-20 Multiple Mini-Interviews

Update November 2019: Some changes have been made to the design of our stations this year. All other aspects of our process described here are unchanged.

From those who apply, approximately 100 candidates are invited to attend for interview. This selection is based on the information provided on the UCAS application and UCAT results. Interviews will take place in December. There are seven stations, five of which are interview stations, plus two calculation stations.

Interview Stations
Each interview lasts for 6 minutes, with 2 minutes preparation time outside the station to read information relating to that topic. At each station one interviewer will discuss the topics. That person will assess your performance except at the Role Play (Social Setting) station where there may be two assessors, who will collaborate in scoring. For some of your stations, an observer may be present but this person will not participate in any aspect of the process.

Please note that, in the MMI format, seven applicants will enter the interview room simultaneously. Your starting station will be assigned at the time of registration after which you rotate around the different stations in order. The format allows 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 (within different contexts); perspective-taking (empathy); self-insight; ethical reasoning; ability to evaluate information and define priorities; and, accurate manipulation of numerical data.

Note: Our station design is under continual evaluation. We have adapted some of our stations but have kept the design within the range of formats described on our website previously. Below are the stations we will use in 2019-20.

Calculation Stations
You will have 6 min to complete the task at each of these two stations. When you arrive at the station you are not allowed to start until advised. You will be asked to undertake simple mathematical calculations involving data that has clinical relevance. The mathematical skills that are being tested are at GCSE level and below. The sophistication of each task is to recognise which piece or pieces of data need to be manipulated at a particular stage and to recognise the precise mathematical approach that needs to be applied. There will be a number of stages in the calculations and to recognise the order in which these are performed is important too.

Critical Thinking:
You will be presented with a topic relevant to health care but you are not expected to have prior clinical knowledge. You must identify the issues that are of particular relevance to this topic. You should also present rational arguments for possible appropriate courses of action in attempting to resolve the inherent challenges.

Role Play: Interaction in a Social Setting:
This role play station gives you a chance to show how comfortable and confident you are meeting a new person, and having a short conversation covering issues of substance. It will be important to give appropriate advice in managing the situation. In the role play, you will be interacting with a university student. The student role will be taken by a member of our medical cohort. You'll be provided with a brief paragraph to explain the context of the conversation, and then how it runs depends on how you respond to the student prompts.

Motivation and Insight into Medicine:
You will be asked to discuss specific aspects of your work experience; in particular, those experiences where you had some role in providing care or support to vulnerable individuals. We will be interested in your reflections and what insights you gained from your work experience and from observation of healthcare professionals (please note that this does not have to be doctors).

Dealing with personal and ethical challenges:
You will be provided with a scenario relating to potential challenges faced by doctors. You have the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of the personal qualities important for coping in a demanding career and also provide an assessment of your own capabilities in dealing with challenge.

Role Play: Interaction in a healthcare setting:
Your skills in communication are important throughout the interview process (especially the other role play station) but in this station you will be engaging with one of the role players used for training and assessing healthcare students. You are expected to interact with the role player as if the situation is real. The role player will be assuming a specified role. Your skills in establishing an effective rapport whilst dealing effectively with the challenges that will be presented to you will be assessed.

Outcome of interview:
The decision whether an offer is made is based on the interview performance data as well as a score derived from your SJT result from UCAT. A total score will be derived as follows:

Component	Contribution to total score
Interview station scores ($\times 5$)	One seventh for each
Mean score of 2 calculation stations	One seventh
UCAT SJT result	One seventh

Therefore, the maximum score for each component will be the same. The following scoring system will be applied to the SJT result:
    Band 1 = Maximum
    Band 2 = 2/3 of maximum
    Band 3 = 1/3 of maximum
    Band 4 = 0

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). Applicants will be ranked by the total score and, approximately, the top 50 applicants within this rank will be made an offer, except under the following circumstance:
    It is likely that we will set a minimum performance standard for each station, except the calculation stations. This standard will be well below the average score. An applicant who does not reach the minimum standard for one or more stations may not receive an offer irrespective of the overall interview score.

We expect to communicate the majority of decisions by the end of January.

Applicants with Disabilities
If you are invited for interview and your disability means that you would benefit from an adjustment to our interview process, we may be able to accommodate this with our extra time interviews. We have a set number of places for this adjusted process. We extend all interview timings by 25%. For

example, each interview station will allocate 2.5 min reading time and 7.5 min interview time. At the appropriate stage you will be informed of the process for you to follow to receive this adjustment. We must advise that we not do offer any other significant adjustments to our process; though we can, of course, make simple adjustments like the colour of the paper and the font for the reading material.

Guidance to prepare for interviews:
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. Within all of this you must evaluate your own capabilities for providing care. Again, opportunities to engage in discussion of these issues must be taken.