At the University of Birmingham we are committed to supporting students from under-represented groups in the West Midlands to access a university education and to progress to professional careers like Medicine.
A medical profession that represents the population it serves is important, not only for the health of the nation, but also for social mobility. We know that it is not academic ability that is unevenly distributed in society but that there is inequality in opportunity.

It is our aim that our Widening Access to Medicine activities will help to level the playing field. By supporting students, with the aptitude and ability to succeed, to raise their aspirations and develop the skills to make a successful application to Medical School, we hope they will go on to become the next generation of doctors.

YEARS 10 & 12

Your Future Your Choice
Health Professions Summer School – This 2-night, 3-day residential event will give pupils the opportunity to experience academic workshop sessions and exciting social and general development activities. We think it will give them a taste of what it is like to be a student at University and hopefully raise their aspirations for a university education and professional career.

Year 10 Insight Day: Medicine
This one-day activity aims to raise the aspirations of Year 10 students to study at university and to pursue a career as a Doctor. Our staff and students will welcome pupils to the University of Birmingham campus and to the Medical School for a day of workshops and activities which will give them an insight into life as a medical student and a doctor.

Year 12 Routes to the Professions: Medicine
R2P offers students intensive and invaluable support to help them prepare for an application to medical school throughout Year 12 and Year 13. The programme features five elements with activities on campus and supported via electronic resources:

1. Getting In – support for applications, admissions and work experience
2. Getting To Know – increasing knowledge of the medical profession
3. Developing the skills – activities to help students develop the non-academic or soft skills required to study and pursue a career in Medicine
4. Being in a team – working with and supporting other R2P participants
5. Getting support – interaction with medical student and clinical mentors

Entering it’s 5th year, R2P is a flagship Widening Access to Medicine programme which has featured prominently as a case study in the Medical School’s Council publication, A Journey to Medicine: Outreach Guidance, and has successfully supported many students into Medicine and other Healthcare-related degree programmes.

Follow us on Twitter at: @UoB_R2PMed

Masterclasses
This programme gives students the opportunity to experience what it is like to learn at a selective Russell Group University. Covering a wide range of biomedical science and healthcare-related topics the Masterclasses offer pupils a chance to apply their school subject knowledge to current research and healthcare issues.

Academic Enrichment Programme
The AEP provides gifted and talented students from groups currently under-represented within higher education to secure a place at a research-led institution like the University of Birmingham. A residential summer school lies at the core of the AEP and gives students the opportunity to live in University halls of residence and gain an insight into life as a student while attending lectures, workshops and lab sessions on medicine and healthcare-related areas.
CASE STUDY

Name: Marta Kohls
Programme: Routes to the Professions: Medicine
Role: Student

What difference has the programme made for you?
The most important thing that this programme did for me was prepare me for medical school. It gave a real sense of what it is like being a medical student and also allowed me to ask plenty of questions to my mentor. This combined with the visit to the lectures was the most amazing experience I could imagine and was truly the deciding factor that made me realise that medical school is for me. I still see the impact that R2P had on me, I was confident where everything was at the medical school and more confident that the learning style of Birmingham suited me.

CASE STUDY

Name: Shayan Ahmed
Programme: Routes to the Professions: Medicine
Role: Graduate

What difference has the programme made for you?
I had the privilege of spending six years at the university and it was the A2B scheme that helped me get on the right path.

I’ve always been ambitious, but when you’re at college with a desire to become a doctor, it seems a long way off and an extremely difficult distant dream. As well as helping financially, A2B offered me first-hand valuable experience into the process of getting into Medical School. The last six years have been the best years of my life so far, and I have achieved so much in my time here.

Dr Shayan Ahmed was recently featured in one of the universities ‘Birmingham Heroes’ campaigns, appearing on posters sited around campus and beyond alongside fellow Medical Heroes Dr Rima Dhillon and Dr Joe Alderman.

‘Very informative and interesting. Gave me a new perspective.’

Y12 MASTERCLASS ATTENDEE

‘By meeting the clinical mentors I gained a real insight into the qualities needed to be a doctor.’

R2P PARTICIPANT
YEAR 13

Access to Birmingham – A2B is a sector-leading widening access programme that has been supporting students to enter higher education since 2000. To apply for A2B, students must be recommended by their 6th form or Year 13 teacher and must meet several criteria (see www.birmingham.ac.uk/a2b).

Successful A2B applicants will receive two offers to study Medicine from the University of Birmingham, the standard offer (A*AA) and an alternative A2B offer (ABB) three grades below the standard offer. For alternative and additional academic requirements please see the A2B website. In order to receive the alternative A2B offer students must complete the A2B module, which is designed to help students make the transition from school to university and includes online study support, mock interviews and the completion of an academic assignment set and supported by a university tutor.

Birmingham Widening Access to Medical Sciences (BWAMS)
BWAMS is a student-run charity and MedSoc society that promotes medical sciences university courses to students from state schools who may not believe that this path is open to them. Our student society members go into schools to talk about our courses and deliver some fun practical-based sessions with stethoscopes and tendon hammers. We find this really enthuses the students who may not have even thought about going to university in the first place. The student volunteers are from a variety of our courses including Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biomedical Sciences, Nursing and Physiotherapy. Get in touch if you are interested in a BWAMS session.

Teachers and Career Advisors Conferences
We regularly run events to keep Teachers and Careers Advisors up to date with our widening access to medicine activities and admissions criteria. It is our aim to help school and college staff to support their students to raise their aspirations and make successful applications to Medical School. Information about upcoming events will be posted on our website www.birmingham.ac.uk/MDSOutreach

CASE STUDY

Name: Liam Barrett
Programme: Routes to the Professions: Medicine
Role: Mentor

What difference has the programme made for you?
I have been involved with Widening Access to Medicine since joining the University. As an A2B student myself, I thought it was important to help like-minded others to achieve their dream of gaining a place at medical school.

It is the first time that I have been able to formally mentor students. It was both a rewarding but at times challenging process. I have been very lucky to have had the platform to pursue both academic and non-academics interests at medical school and it has been a pleasure to share these experiences, listen to and work with future budding medics. I have made the most of every opportunity available at the university and it is exciting to be able to be a beacon of support for those going through the difficult and stressful process of gaining a place at medical school.

I have completed four years of medical school and I am now taking a year out to complete a BSC in ‘Urgent and Emergency Care’.

‘Content was excellent – covered everything we need to know and presentations were high quality.’
HEAD OF 6TH FORM

Other activities

Mini-Medical School
Designed for pupils in Year 11 considering applying to study Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and other healthcare professions, the 10-week course is fun and informative. It provides a scientific background to improve students understanding of the human body, the different roles of healthcare professionals and health issues facing us today. We offer funded places for this programme for students from under-represented groups. Look out for details on our website.

LEARN MORE
You can find out up-to-date information on all our activities at www.birmingham.ac.uk/MDSOutreach