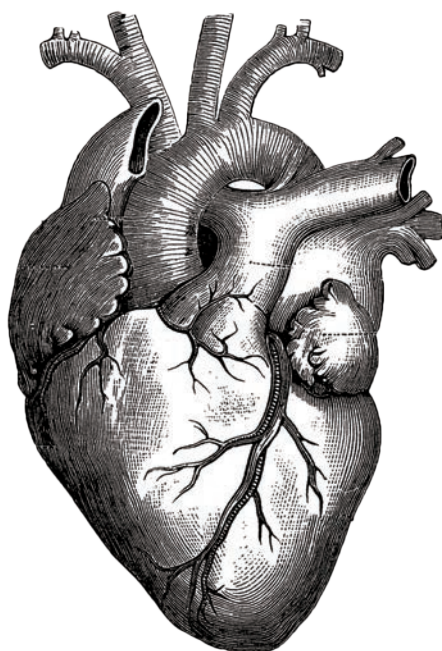


# Studying Medicine at Edinburgh

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THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
Edinburgh Medical School

Undergraduate opportunities 2022  
[www.ed.ac.uk/medicine](http://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine)

# Studying Medicine at Edinburgh

**Our six year Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) degree will equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to become a Foundation Year 1 doctor.**

Medicine at Edinburgh offers a modern, innovative curriculum designed to prepare you for contemporary medical practice.

Our aim is for you to graduate as a competent, ethical and reflective doctor, with the care of patients as your first concern.

You will graduate as an excellent communicator and team player, prepared for complex and uncertain situations, equipped for ongoing personal development, and trained for high professional achievement and leadership.

As such, you will have a deep understanding of medical research and evidence-based medicine, which will be useful whatever career path you follow.

You will be especially well-equipped to pursue an academic career in medicine, where ongoing practical involvement in research, as a physician-scientist, is paramount.

 **Outcome of the course**





# Course structure

Our curriculum is ambitious, with an ethos of respect and support for our students, and a programme which is responsive to feedback from students and staff. We work with the General Medical Council to ensure we meet professional standards.

Clinical elements are included from day one, and from Year 4 teaching is mainly clinically-based.

As the programme progresses, assessment is closely linked to clinical practice, and you are given formative feedback on your performance during each year to develop and extend your understanding.

You will undertake a series of modules across year-long courses which are based on biomedical knowledge integrated with the body systems, patient presentations and diseases.

## Years 1 and 2

In your first two years, you will study the biomedical modules, both year-long modules of 'Research and evidence-based medicine, Knowledge to clinical practice', 'Socio-ethical medicine' and 'Professional skills' and also a range of biomedical modules each semester.

You will learn practical clinical skills such as resuscitation and interviewing patients, and develop your clinical reasoning and decision making skills.

The teaching methods include online and in-person lectures, tutorials, workshops and group work, community projects, GP-based



teaching and student-selected components or projects on a range of topics from the clinical to the non-medical.

## Year 3

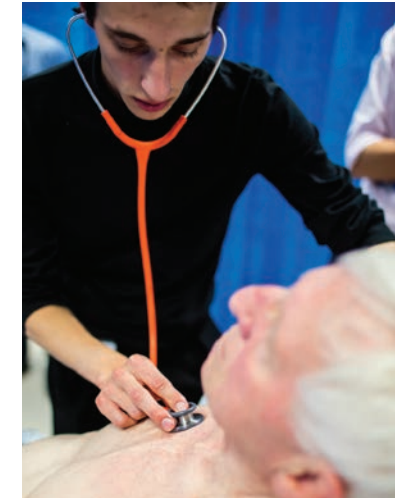
In Year 3, you'll take on a whole new challenge, beginning an academic year of full-time, research-based study, leading to a Bachelor of Medical Sciences Honours degree. This means, upon graduation, you will receive both a MBChB and your research-based BMedSci (Hons) degree.

The programmes on offer include biochemistry, neuroscience, pharmacology, psychology, sports science medicine, zoology and many more.

## Years 4, 5 and 6

In Year 4, you will study all aspects of clinical medicine and healthcare. You will also develop your practical experience through placements in hospitals and general practice.

In Year 5, you will be integrated into teams on



hospital wards and community practice. Also you will complete an individual research project in partnership with a clinical tutor.

In your final Year 6, you will apply your learning from previous years, with an emphasis on developing practical skills and knowledge of senior general and acute medicine and surgery. During your Assistantship you will have the opportunity to assist a junior doctor and, under supervision, undertake some of the duties of a Foundation Year 1 doctor.

## Electives

After your final exams, there is also a six week 'elective' period, where you will have the opportunity to gain further experience of a speciality you are considering for your future career or clinical research.



# Teaching

## Support

The medicine degree programme has a Student Wellbeing team who can meet with any student in need of help and advice.

Clinical Tutor Associates, who are doctors completing their speciality training, also offer individual tuition tailored to your educational needs during the clinical years, Years 4, 5 and 6.

## Teaching methods

You will be taught through a combination of both in-person and online lectures, tutorials, problem-based learning, laboratory work, project work, clinical placements and peer-learning projects.

The student-selected components in Years 1, 2 and 5 offer flexibility and choice throughout the curriculum.

## Assessment

Assessment methods include in-course assessments, clinical examinations, knowledge tests covering the whole year curriculum, group projects and professional skills.

# Facilities

Edinburgh Medical School is located in the Chancellor's Building, Edinburgh Bioquarter, which is beside the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh hospital. The building offers lecture theatres, seminar rooms, a clinical skills centre, library and computing facilities.

The Medical Education Centre at Western General Hospital also has a clinical skills



training area, library and computer rooms.

In Year 1 and 2, you are mainly taught at the University main campus in George Square and at the Old Medical School, Teviot Place.

In Year 3, your intercalated programme could be based on any of the University campuses depending on your choice of subject.

In Years 4, 5 and 6, clinical teaching also takes place in three teaching hospitals in Edinburgh, in community GP practices, and in hospitals across other areas of Scotland.



# Why choose Medicine at Edinburgh?

- Edinburgh Medical School is one of the most prestigious schools of its kind in Scotland and has been influencing the world of medicine for centuries.
- Our Medical degree (MBChB) spans six years, including an academic year of full-time, research-based study in Year 3.
- Our international reputation in research is first-class, with the University of Edinburgh rated fourth in the UK for Research Power in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF).
- We place a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary working. Our larger College has five major research institutes, each with more than 500 staff and postgraduates. Each institute is home to inter-related centres, led by internationally-renowned scientists.
- Edinburgh is a picturesque, historic place to study, which is consistently voted one of the most beautiful cities in the world.
- Edinburgh Medical School has a global student community, with people from all over the world coming to study with us.



# How to apply

Applications must be submitted through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Applications can be submitted from 1 September to 15 October for the following September's intake. We cannot consider applications after this deadline.

You need to meet our standard academic entry requirements and have also sat the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) – see page 15.

Your academic grades (achieved and predicted) and your UCAT total will be scored, with separate scoring of the situational judgement test.

Approximately 650 applicants will be invited to attend an Assessment day. Following Assessment days, decisions will be made by the Admissions executive, and you will be informed of the outcome by the end of March.

Deferral requests will be considered on a case by case basis prior to application but cannot be guaranteed. Contact the Admissions Team for further advice.

If you are currently undertaking a qualification which is not yet completed, we require predicted grades in order to consider your application. Find out more here:

**Edinburgh Medical School - predicted grades**

Those who have experienced extreme extenuating circumstances should ask their academic referee to evidence this within the academic reference or provide this information to the Admissions Team separately at the time of application.



## Useful contacts

### Admissions Team

Email: [futurestudents@ed.ac.uk](mailto:futurestudents@ed.ac.uk)

**Undergraduate admissions contacts**

### Student Disability Service

+44 (0) 131 650 6828

Email: [disability.service@ed.ac.uk](mailto:disability.service@ed.ac.uk)

**Student disability service**

### UCAS

UK: 0371 468 0468

Outside UK: +44 330 3330230

Email: [enquiries@ucas.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@ucas.ac.uk)

**UCAS**

### UCAT

+44 (0)161 855 7409

**UCAT**

### Widening Participation

+44 (0)131 651 1755

Email: [wpteam@ed.ac.uk](mailto:wpteam@ed.ac.uk)

**Widening Participation**

# Academic requirements

In order to be considered for a place, you firstly need to check whether you meet our standard academic requirements, which we outline below for SQA, GCE, UK degrees and IB qualifications, with links to the website for other qualifications.

All examination grades must be achieved in the first attempt (no resits permitted whatsoever). You will not be eligible if you have just started or are midway through a degree in the academic year in which you apply. All recent and updated study must have been completed within three academic years prior to the beginning the programme.

## SQA

Qualification	Breakdown
National 5s	B grades or above in Chemistry, Biology, English and Mathematics Best 6 grades are scored
Highers	AAAAB by end of S5, to include Chemistry and two of Biology/ Human Biology, Mathematics or Physics (only one of Biology or Human Biology will be considered). Best 5 Highers are scored including three required subjects.*
Advanced Highers in S6	2 Advanced Highers at grades BB (no specific subject requirements) Offers are conditional on S6 performance

\* For some applicants, this combination at S5 Higher is neither possible nor appropriate. Students who meet the grade requirements in S5 but are missing one or more of the required subjects may take the missing Higher subject(s) in S6, along with the required Advanced Highers.

## GCE

Qualification	Breakdown
GCSEs	6/B or above in Chemistry, Biology, English and Mathematics* Best 8 grades are scored, including required subjects
GCE A levels (in one set of exams)	AAA including Chemistry and one subject from Biology/Human Biology, Mathematics and Physics. Only one of Mathematics or Further Mathematics and one of Biology or Human Biology will be considered. Best 3 A levels are scored including the two required subjects

\* Double Award combined sciences or equivalent at Grade BB / 66 may replace GCSE grades in sciences. Additional Applied Science and Applied Science will not be accepted.

For a list of approved subjects, see:

 [Scottish qualifications - approved subjects](#)

 [A levels - approved subjects](#)



## International Baccalaureate

Qualification	Breakdown
IB	Overall score of 37 points (including TOK and EE) including 667 at HL in Chemistry and at least one other science subject. Biology should be taken to at least SL  You must also provide evidence of a qualification at minimum National 5 grade B or GCSE B or equivalent in Mathematics and English Language if these subjects do not form part of your IB diploma.  If you are using English/English Language (A or B) at SL as part of the English language requirement, you must obtain Grade 5. Both Mathematics streams: Analysis & Approaches and Applications & Interpretation are accepted at SL grade 5.

## Widening access offers

If you have experienced certain barriers that might make it more challenging for you to achieve our standard entry requirements, then we want to take this into account.

We give extra consideration to those eligible for a widening access offer, as well as considering some widening access applications based on our minimum – as opposed to our standard – academic entry requirements. More details can be found here:

 [Widening access](#)

The University's Widening Access offer policy – and an explanation of eligibility – can be found here:

 [Widening access offers](#)

## Graduate applicants

Qualification	Breakdown
Science-based degree	UK 1st class or 2:1 Honours degree, or its international equivalent in a Biology; Chemistry; Mathematics or Physics-based subject.
Non-science based degree plus school leaving qualifications	We also consider other subjects at same degree level as above but must be supplemented with SQA Higher/GCE A Level in Chemistry at grade B; HL Chemistry at grade 5 within the IB; or accepted international equivalents.

Please note: we are not able to consider transfers into our MBChB programme nor are we able to consider those who previously commenced the study of medicine elsewhere then subsequently terminated their studies. For more information, visit:

 [Graduate and mature applicants](#)

## Mature non-graduate applicants

Applicants over the age of 21 years will be assessed on their school leaver qualifications, with the same standard entry requirements as for school leavers. They will require to provide evidence of updated science knowledge.

We do accept some Access courses which you will find details of here:

 [Access courses](#)

Please contact the Admissions Team for any other queries.



# International applicants



International applicants are assessed in the same way as all other applicants. If shortlisted, for interview, they will be invited to attend the Assessment day.

If unable to attend, they will be offered an online/virtual interview but attendance in Edinburgh on Assessment Day is recommended if at all possible.

Successful applicants are usually required to pay a deposit of a third of a year's fees in order to reserve their place. Applicants requesting a refund for any reason within 14 calendar days after the payment date will be refunded in full. Refund requests received more than 14 days from the payment date will only be considered if the applicant fails to meet the conditions of offer.

Please check our Student Administration website for further guidance on visas:

 [Student Immigration Service](#)

## Frequently asked questions

**I am currently doing military service in my country and am not expected to finish until after the course starts. Can I still apply and just enrol late?**

No. You need to have finished any military service before the start of the course (preferably before September). You can apply for deferred entry for one year only in this scenario.

**If I have a reference or document in a language other than English, will it need translating?**

Yes, these documents must be certified by a professional translator.

**Will it make any difference if I have already studied in the UK?**

There may be implications on how much time you have left available to you to study in the UK and the level of study you can undertake. For further details, visit:

 [Student visas - Gov.uk](#)

**Will I need an English Language qualification?**

Yes. All applicants, even those from the UK, require a recognised English language qualification. However, the list of eligible qualifications becomes more restricted if you require a visa. For more information, visit:

 [English language entry requirements](#)

**The qualifications I am taking are not listed in this booklet or on the degree finder – where will I find information on my country's requirements?**

You will find each country's requirements at this link under the Medicine heading:

 [Entry requirements by region](#)

# Your personal statement

Your personal statement provides you with an opportunity to tell us all about you!

While it will not be formally assessed, your personal statement will be essential preparation for you if you are successful in being invited to one of our assessment days. We advise you to consider the following factors when writing your statement:

## Personal qualities and skills

Examples may include empathy, interpersonal relationships and the ability to communicate.

## Evidence of career exploration

Evidence of a clear understanding of the realities of a career in medicine is sought. Examples include:


- work experience/shadowing with health professionals or in health promotion, for example, working in a nursing home and/or volunteering with disabled people
- talking with doctors and medical students
- attending a university open day and medical conferences/lectures
- reading/ watching/listening to medical-themed literature/digital content/articles.

We value quality of experience over quantity. We are looking for clear evidence of reflection on these experiences, showing us what personal lessons you took from them and using these to demonstrate an aptitude for medicine.

We understand that due to the Covid-19 outbreak, gaining experience will be extremely difficult.

The Medical Schools Council have provided guidance on how to gain relevant experience during the outbreak, while the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) have a free interactive video platform providing insights into the role of a GP and the wider primary care team:

 **MSC guidance**

 **RCGP - Observe GP**

## Non-academic achievements and interests

Medicine is a demanding subject and can prove stressful. It is important to maintain a healthy study/life balance and we look for evidence of outside interests.

Examples of these can include:

- involvement in community groups
- extracurricular school responsibilities
- leadership positions
- cultural, sporting, vocational and voluntary achievements
- interests and hobbies.

# University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

The UCAT was introduced in 2006 as part of the selection process for the majority of the UK university medical and dentistry schools.

If you want to study Medicine, you must take the UCAT before applying through UCAS. For example, if you are applying in September then you must take the test between July and September. There are test centres across the world listed on the UCAT website.

Without a UCAT score or exemption, your application will not be considered.

If you reapply to Edinburgh the following year, you must resit the test.

Please do not send your test results to us as we are advised of your score in November.

In order to ensure your results reach us directly from UCAT, we advise that you register for the test using your name as written in your passport.

## Exemptions

In order to be granted an exemption from taking the UCAT you must contact the UG Admissions Team prior to the 1st August in the year you will be applying. Exemptions will only be granted in extreme extenuating circumstances.

Applications without UCAT or where no prior exemption has been granted will not be considered.

## How do we use the UCAT?

The Selection Committee uses your UCAT

score to make a more informed decision about your application. We assess your total UCAT score and your performance in the Situational Judgement Test (SJT) section. A band 4 in the SJT is not accepted.

Once all the scores are received we rank them, divide the cohort into deciles (ten equal groups) and allocate a score.

We also allocate a score to your situational judgement banding. The points are then added to your total score to contribute towards your final ranking.

The total score an applicant achieved may be looked at again when final decisions are made and there are applicants with the same ranked score and limited places left to offer.

 **UCAT**

## Special educational needs

Applicants applying to Edinburgh who have sat any of the alternative versions of the test must be able to supply evidence to support this in the form of a medical diagnosis or report from an appropriately qualified teacher or specialist.

The evidence should include a statement on how much extra time the candidate has been allowed in examinations.



## Widening participation

Edinburgh Medical School fully supports the University's initiative to create a more diverse student population.

The central principles in selection remain that:

- selection decisions will continue to be based on the assessment of academic potential and aptitude for the respective professions
- by the declaration of transparent criteria, both academic and non-academic, applicants can be assessed fairly and equitably.

Therefore, we follow the University's Widening Access Offer Policy, and support the LEAPS and Reach initiatives, which seek to encourage and support applications from those from educational and social disadvantage.

More information about eligibility for support from LEAPS or Reach can be obtained from the Widening Participation team:

### **Widening Participation**

Further information about Widening Access Offers at the University of Edinburgh can be found here:

### **Widening access offers**

### **Care-experienced applicants to higher education**

Prospective students who identify themselves as having had local authority care experience in their UCAS applications will be provided with



information about the support systems available to them at the University.

With permission, contact will be maintained throughout the MBChB programme to ensure students are being appropriately supported.

More information about the University of Edinburgh support for care-experienced applicants and students is available here:

### **Support for students with care experience**

## Protecting vulnerable groups

As with all UK medical schools, applicants to the Medicine programme are required to complete a criminal record check.

The main purpose of this check is to ensure that medical students can safely have contact with vulnerable adults and children, which is a feature of many healthcare courses and professions.

The Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme is run by Disclosure Scotland.

The PVG scheme is an ongoing disclosure database that allows membership 'for life', which should cut down on the need to complete a detailed application every time a check is required.

Those parties who declare an interest in your membership will be notified if any new vetting information arises. Information is collected on a continual basis after PVG membership, thus ensuring that any new critical information can be acted on promptly.

All UK, EU and international applicants are

required to join the scheme. A Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check cannot be used in lieu of a PVG check.

Those who have not lived in the UK before must still complete a PVG application using their current home address but must also either obtain a Certificate of Good Conduct from their own country, or complete a self-declaration form. Guidance on this is provided within your offer pack.

The Admissions Office will advise on how to complete a PVG application once you have accepted your offer.

Find out more about the PVG scheme:

### **The PVG scheme**

### **Background to the PVG scheme**



# How we assess your application

Each application is assessed and scored independently by two selectors. We consider academic results, UCAT deciles and situational judgment test (SJT) scores.

If an applicant attains band 4 in the SJT, they will be rejected.

## Invitation to assessment day

Approximately the top scoring 700 applicants will be invited to participate in an assessment day.

Ordinarily, this would take place in person over a half-day at Edinburgh Medical School.

However, due to the current disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we are not in a position at present to confirm if we will be running face-to-face sessions or if some/all sessions will be undertaken remotely. Updates will be provided via our web pages.

The structure of the day is based on a consultation of clinicians and teachers in the medical school about the most important attributes we seek in our medical students.

These attributes have been selected from those published by the Medical Schools' Council:

### **MSC core values and attributes (PDF)**

In addition we highly recommend that you read the GMC document, Outcome for Graduates:

### **Outcome for graduates**

The day will involve four 'stations.' Each station will be scored independently by one selector.

You will be provided with more information

about the Assessment Day if you are invited to attend.

## Decisions following interview

Following completion of the Assessment Day, applications will be reviewed by members of the Admissions Executive and Admissions team.

The final score you attain will be based on the following: your academic score, UCAT decile and SJT band, as well as your interview score.

Each of these areas is weighted as follows:

Academic score (achieved and predicted):	25%
UCAT score (by decile):	17.5%
Situational judgement test (SJT) banding*	7.5%
Assessment day scores	50%

Applicants will be ranked, and offers made to the highest-ranking candidates, in each of the fee categories.

# The outcome of your application

Once all applications have gone through the selection process, we are then in a position to decide who is to be made an offer.

The number of students we can accept is controlled by the process of medical workforce planning that takes place in the Department of Health.

This in turn impacts on the number of places funded by the Scottish Funding Council and the number of places we have for students from other parts of the UK.

We usually make more offers than we have places as not all applicants accept their offer. All applicants should hear from us regarding the outcome of their application through UCAS.

## Successful applicants

Successful applicants will normally have conditions to meet. Offer holders are required to verify their achieved qualifications and obtain a satisfactory PVG scheme disclosure.

Applicants who still need to pass exams may also have academic conditions in their offer. Offers will only become unconditional once all conditions have been met.

If you are successful, you will receive an electronic offer pack.

If you select us as your Firm choice, you will also receive a PVG Scheme application form and we will request you to upload certified copies of certain documentation to your EUCLID portal.

These certified copies of your originals can

be certified by: British Council; embassy; official notaries; your school.

Once your application is unconditional firm, you will receive an electronic joining pack (from late July onwards) from our Medical Teaching Organisation.

On your arrival here, if you are coming from anywhere outside the UK or EU, it is important that you bring with you all the original certified copies of the documents we requested from you to produce to us here in person.

## Unsuccessful applicants

We are aware that many of our unsuccessful applicants would make suitable doctors. Sadly, due to the number of places we have, not everyone can obtain an offer.

However, we do offer the opportunity to obtain feedback.

All requests should be emailed to **[futurestudents@ed.ac.uk](mailto:futurestudents@ed.ac.uk)**

Feedback will be available to unsuccessful applicants on request. However, the feedback we can provide will be limited where an applicant did not meet our standard entry requirements.

## Student profiles



### Saloni Suhas More

**Year:** 2.

**Originally from:** Thailand and India.

**Favourite speciality:** Paediatrics.

**Societies and clubs:** WellMed, Musical Medics.

**The best thing about Edinburgh:** Everything is easily accessible – libraries, parks, cafés.

**Top tip for new students:** Give yourself time to adjust to the new pace of university life and be proud you have made it this far.



### Wesley McLoughlin

**Year:** 4.

**Originally from:** Born in Singapore and brought up in New Zealand, UK and China.

**Favourite speciality:** Endocrinology and Medical Research.

**Societies and clubs:** Royal Medical Society, Christian Medical Fellowship, Musical Medics.

**The best thing about Edinburgh:** Everything is a short walk away! And better, cheaper and friendlier than London.

**Top tip for new students:** Maintain balance – enjoy the university and the city. And learn to ceilidh ASAP – you'll love it!

## Other things to consider

### Is medicine right for you?

Medicine is a demanding but rewarding career choice. It requires a lot of work, from pre-application through to practising as a doctor.

You need to make sure that medicine is the right career for you.

### Fitness to practise

The University has a responsibility to ensure that students studying on a programme which involves practical training in a clinical environment and which leads to a professional qualification which is registered with a regulatory body are fit to practise.

Students are expected to display professional behaviour and are monitored under a low-level concerns reporting system.

Any issue raised will be considered by the Medical School Commendations and Concerns Panel. Students are expected to inform the Medical School of any issues which could mean that their fitness to practise is impaired.

Practising as a doctor requires high professional standards. Find out more from the GMC publication, Good Medical Practice, at:

 [GMC Good Medical Practice](#)

### Disability support

If you have been offered a place to study and have a disability, learning difference or health condition that may impact on your studies, please make contact with the University Student Disability Service and the Medical



School Student Wellbeing Team, to discuss your support needs.

The Medical School would make reasonable adjustments for students where the disability or condition would not prevent the student from fulfilling the required competencies to graduate.

Further information on our Student Disability Service can be found here:

 [Student Disability Service](#)

### Health checks and general fitness

The Department of Health requires all students admitted to the medicine degree to undergo viral screening for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV, and to be immunised against hepatitis B. This will form part of your induction. A positive result in any test will not necessarily prevent entry to the medicine degree but would need to be investigated further.

Further information on the fitness standards expected of medical students is available from the Higher Education Occupational Physicians/ Practitioners (HEOPS).

 [HEOPS standards \(PDF\)](#)



# Timeline

Applying and after you apply:  
[www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply](http://www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply)

University

Detailed UCAS Timeline:  
[www.ucas.com/ucas/events](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/events)

UCAS

Virtual undergraduate open day — JUN

**UCAT test must be sat (July-Sept) before making UCAS application**

Open Day (TBC pending Covid-19 disruption) — SEP — UCAS open for applications

Open Day (TBC pending Covid-19 disruption) — OCT — 15 October. Deadline for applying to Edinburgh Medical School (UK, EU/EEA and international)

Assessment days — DEC/JAN

Accommodation offers to unconditional offer holders begin — JUN — 30 June. Deadline for all achieved qualifications as stated on your UCAS form as well as supporting documentation and completion of PVG

**International baccalaureate results**

Joining packs will begin to be sent to Unconditional Firm applicants — JUL

**Scottish Higher results  
A Level results**

Welcome packs and arrival instructions sent out to students — AUG — Deadline for any remaining offer conditions must be met (certificates must be received)

Accommodation application deadline

Welcome Week  
 Reading lists available  
 Meet your Year 1 buddy — SEP — For international applicants, all original certified copies of documents to be produced in person to the UG Admissions Team





THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

This publication can be made available  
in alternative formats on request.

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**Contact**

For further information, please contact:

**E** [futurestudents@ed.ac.uk](mailto:futurestudents@ed.ac.uk)

**www.ed.ac.uk/medicine**

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336.

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the world**