

Liverpool Admissions Team Frequently Asked Questions

Medicine Admissions web-site: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/medicine/study-with-us/undergraduate/admissions-information/>

Please note all applicants must consult our E2021 Departmental Supplement to the Admissions policy. This policy provides full details of how your application will be processed. Any changes made to our policy as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, not already detailed below, will be reflected on our website.

COURSES/PROGRAMMES:

Liverpool offers two medicine programmes. Which one should I apply to? The A100 (5 year) programme accepts applications from a wide range of individuals including school leavers, graduates and mature applicants. The A101 (4 –year) programme is for applicants who offer a minimum of a 2:1 honours degree in an appropriate subject or who can apply with a degree award pending. The A101 programme does not have any places available for EU or international students.

How many places are there available on the Liverpool medicine programmes? There are 280 Home places and 23 EU/international places available on the A100 programme. 29 places are available for graduates on the A101 programme, 2 of these are ring-fenced for dentists applying to the OMFS route. For entry in 2021, approximately 50 of the A100 places have been filled with deferred entrants. This number is consistent with that seen in previous years.

Where can I find to out how to apply? Full details of our academic and non-academic criteria for our programmes can be found on our web-site. Our [Departmental Supplement](#) to the Admissions Policy can also be accessed from our web-site and provides details of how we process applications.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Do I need A-levels to apply? While the majority of applicants offer A-levels we consider a variety of other equivalent qualifications. Potential applicants are encouraged to check their qualifications against the advice on our web-site. If further advice is required please submit your enquiry, together with full details of your academic history (including qualifications taken, subjects studied and grades achieved), to our team at mbchb@liverpool.ac.uk

What GCSEs do you look for? For our 5 year A100 programme we require GCSEs in nine subjects attained by the end of Year 11 which must include: English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Core & Additional Science is an acceptable alternative to the three individual sciences. Minimum of grade B (score 6) is required in core subjects. A minimum score of 15 points from the best 9 GCSEs or equivalents is required.

I do not meet the minimum GCSE (or other academic) requirements. Would you advise me to apply anyway? Applicants who do not meet the minimum academic requirements are advised that their application is likely to be deemed unsuccessful. We cannot pre-judge applications but if applicants wish us to be aware of any extenuating circumstances which may have impacted on their academic progress, they are advised to declare them via our applicant on-line form, which can be accessed from our web-site from September.

Your web-site states that I need a minimum of 15 points from 9 GCSEs. I only have 8 GCSEs. Can I still apply? Offering 15 points from 8 GCSEs with our core subjects of English Language, Maths, Chemistry, Biology and Physics included (core & additional science can be accepted instead of individual sciences) is fine. If you were not able to sit 9 GCSEs and cannot offer 15 points, you should consider informing us via our applicant on-line form. International applicants rarely sit 9 GCSEs and this is already taken into consideration when processing international applications.

For the GCSE entry requirements, can English literature be used instead of English language? English Language GCSE is a requirement and one of the core subjects; it therefore must be offered at a minimum of Grade 6 or B. I am afraid that we could not consider an English Literature GCSE grade in place of this.

For the full GCSE and A level requirements for A100, please refer to the following guidelines:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/media/livacuk/schoolofmedicine/admissions/Guidelines,for,applicants,from,School,or,College,offering,A-levels,Entry,2021.pdf>

I do not offer the required GCSEs. Will you consider resits?

Your point score for GCSE attainment will be derived from GCSEs achieved in year 11. However if you were resitting a GCSE in year 12 we may be able to use the calculated grade if you met our minimum GCSE point score from the nine GCSEs we count and then you were using a GCSE resit (calculated grade) to allow you to meet our minimum criteria in a specific subject area. All individuals have the right to take GCSE examinations as a first-sit opportunity upon receipt of their calculated grades so we may be able to use them but we usually count GCSE performance at the end of year 11 and A-level achievement at the end of year 13

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Calculated GCSE grades achieved in 2020 will be considered to be equivalent to other GCSE grades which are awarded through examination.

I am an International/EU student and have not sat GCSEs. Can I still apply? Yes. Please check our guidelines for your country and the qualifications we accept before you apply:

Guidelines for [EU Qualifications](#)

Guidelines for [International applicants](#)

If you believe that you meet/are predicted to meet our criteria, you should upload your Year 11 transcript, via our applicant on-line form by October 15th, so that an equivalent GCSE score can be determined.

My predicted A-level grades might not be AAA. Will this affect my application? We do allow for a drop in one grade in one subject for predicted A-levels i.e. an application where predictions are AAB will still be considered. Similarly for applicants offering pending IB qualifications, an overall score of 34 points, with no more than a drop of 1 point in two subjects, will also be considered. Please note that should an offer be made to these applicants, it would be similar to most other A-level and IB students i.e. AAA or 36 points. Please click on the links below for further information on applying with A-levels and IB:

[Guidelines for applicants from School/College offering A-levels](#)

[Guidelines for applicants offering IB](#)

How do you decide who gets an invite to interview? Our process for invitation to interview has changed for admission to E2021. Applicants who meet our minimum academic criteria will be ranked using a combined point score derived from both GCSE grades and overall UCAT score. Please view E2021 [Departmental Supplement](#) for further details. Applicants with the highest combination scores will be invited to interview first.

I read on the web-site that applicants with higher GCSEs may be given preference when inviting people to interview. Is this true? The first stage of our application process is to identify the group of applicants that meet our minimum academic criteria. The minimum academic criteria will be dependent on the type of student you are, and the qualifications you offer. Please consult our guidelines to determine the criteria that applies to you. Most applicants applying for the A100 programme offer GCSEs and a suitable level 3 qualification, e.g. A-levels. Both academic potential and UCAT score will be ranked when deciding which applicants will be invited to interview. The process of how we rank applicants using UCAT and GCSEs is fully outlined in our [Departmental Supplement](#).

Will applicants with calculated grades be considered differently to those who have sat, or are sitting A-level examinations?

Calculated grades are considered to be equivalent to A-level grades and so we will consider your application based on the calculated grades declared. However applicants may choose to take A-levels. Both grades will stand and at Liverpool we would therefore use the best combined grades in decision making. Applicants who choose to take A levels, will be expected to be taking their exams at the autumn sitting, should these be available. However, please note that if you applied to us we may request clarification if you are sitting A-level examinations this coming autumn, or in summer of 2021.

I will be taking my exams in the autumn sitting. Will this affect my application? If you were made an offer to study Medicine at Liverpool for 2020, **and chose us as your CF/CI choice**, but did not achieve the grades required and are re sitting at the first available opportunity (for the majority of applicants this will be the autumn series of exams), your offer will remain the same for 2021 entry. However, you should email us (mbchb@liverpool.ac.uk) to confirm your decision and then re-apply to us via UCAS. You will not be required to re-sit UCAT or undertake another interview. However, if you choose to sit your exams in the summer, your original offer may be reviewed and grades expectation increased.

If you were not made a Liverpool offer to study Medicine, **or declined our offer**, and have decided to sit your exams this autumn, new applications will be considered equally alongside all other applications for 2021. If applying through UCAS you should note the date of these qualifications as pending and also note the date of the expected result. If there are problems arising with this, you should complete the applicant online form.

Is there any benefit to applicants offering four A-levels? Our typical offer is based on three A-levels and in the interest of fairness, our process is designed so that the ability to offer additional qualifications is not a factor which is considered when determining who is invited to Interview.

Do you consider the Welsh Baccalaureate? We do consider the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate as a third A-level, which needs to be offered alongside A-levels in both Chemistry and either Biology, Physics or Maths.

Is taking an extended project (EPQ) of value to applicants to the Liverpool programme? Our admissions team recognised that an extended project may enhance the skill set of an applicant in relation to enhancing independent learning or appropriate knowledge.

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However not all applicants are offered the chance to do these projects and they are equivalent in tariff to an AS qualification. For this reason the extended project will not usually be used as part of the Liverpool Admissions criteria.

As a Scholar/Realising Opportunities Group (ROG) student, would I get the same offer as other applicants? As a Scholar or ROG, the minimum academic requirements differ from non-Scholars or ROGs. A minimum of 12 points at GCSE would be required, and an offer of ABB would be made, should you be successful at interview. The A grade would need to be in either Chemistry, Biology, Physics or Maths. For full details, please click [here](#).

Do you consider contextual data when inviting to interview? Special consideration may be given to applicants who meet the agreed criteria for the university's policy on contextual data for fair access during selection for interview and when making offers. Please click [here](#) for details.

I'm a mature applicant with only GCSE qualifications. Applicants not offering A-levels may wish to consider if they are eligible to enrol in a locally approved Access course. Information regarding our GCSE requirements and which Access courses we would consider can be found [here](#).

However, you may also wish to consider your suitability for the University of Liverpool's Foundation to Health and Veterinary Studies programme (Year 0), which, if completed successfully, provides you with direct entry to year 1 of the A100 course: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/foundation-to-health-studies-year-0/overview/>

I do not have any Science A-levels. Can I be considered for the course? Applicants without the required Science-based A-levels may wish to consider if they are eligible to enrol in a locally approved Access course. Information regarding our GCSE requirements and which Access courses we would consider can be found [here](#).

However, you may also wish to consider your suitability for the University of Liverpool's Foundation to Health and Veterinary Studies (Year 0), which, if completed successfully, provides you with direct entry to year 1 of the A100 course: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/foundation-to-health-studies-year-0/overview/>

Do you accept resits? Usually, if you are resitting A-levels, we normally only consider your application if you had achieved a minimum of ABB grades at first sitting. However, this year, applicants have received calculated grades and all applicants will have the right to sit examinations when re-scheduled, therefore the requirement of ABB as a minimum will not apply to these applicants. At Liverpool, applicants who are sitting exams, at their first opportunity (usually the autumn examination series) following the receipt of calculated grades are not considered as resit applicants. Applicants who through their own choice decide to re-take examinations at the summer exam series will be considered as resit students, and may be made a higher than typical offer should one be made. All applicants who are genuinely re-sitting any examinations should complete the applicant online form, which will be available on our website from September. Any offers made to genuine resitting applicants would usually be higher than AAA e.g. A*AA

Do you consider extenuating circumstances? If so, how do I let you know about them? If an applicant has had their study or examinations interrupted due to circumstances beyond their control, such as illness or bereavement, they should complete the applicant online form, which will be available on our website from September. This is an opportunity for us to be informed as to what the circumstances are/were, how the applicant's study/exams have been affected, and upload any evidence the applicant has to support this. Each case will be considered individually and without prejudice.

NB: Please note that as we are aware that the study of ALL Year 12/13 students has been interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we do not require applicants to submit an online form for this reason.

PERSONAL STATEMENT/WORK EXPERIENCE:

What do you look for in a personal statement? Although we don't use the personal statement in deciding who gets invited to interview, we do expect each personal statement to be an accurate reflection of what each applicant has done to prepare themselves for the reality of being a student doctor. We would advise all applicants to consider how their experiences relate to the Core Values and Attributes outlined by the Medical Schools Council:

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/media/2542/statement-on-core-values-to-study-medicine.pdf>

The personal statement is likely to be explored at interview.

Are personal statements considered as part of the applications process? Your personal statement is likely to be considered as part of the interview, in assessing your non-academic attributes. Non-academic attributes valued by the School are listed on our guidelines at: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/medicine/study-with-us/undergraduate/admissions-information/> and include the following:

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1. health care career awareness and insight
2. caring for the community
3. a critical, coherent, and informative approach to written communication
4. the values that embody and underpin good healthcare practice

Do you have any tips for writing a personal statement? At Liverpool we don't use the personal statement in making the decision of who to invite to interview but can provide the following advice: The statement should be structured with good use of paragraphs and appropriate spelling, it should address the non-academic criteria of the medical schools you have applied to and it should demonstrate reflection and be evidence based. The aim is to avoid it being a tick list of where you have been rather than it being a reflective document that helps you demonstrate to the reader that you have health care awareness and insight and that you understand the role of the doctor and the core values and attributes needed for the career. You should aim to provide evidence to show that you have or are developing these attributes. It is advised that you consult the MSC resources that are signposted in our [Departmental Supplement](#) or go directly to access them from the web-site. The resources here will give further advice on personal statement & interview preparation. Personally I would avoid the use of quotes. They take up space in the statement and very few applicants reflect on them in a meaningful way. You should also make sure you do not break the confidentiality of anyone you might have had contact with during work experience.

If we haven't been able to get any work experience this year would you recommend doing online work experience courses?

Liverpool expects applicants to possess the non-academic attributes listed on their guidelines but are not prescriptive about the type of experiences that an applicant would use to provide evidence that they have/or are developing these. We would recommend potential applicants to make full use of the resources from the Medical Schools Council and to note the statement on the core values and attributes needed to study medicine and the guidance on gaining relevant work experience to study medicine during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/media/2636/guidance-on-gaining-relevant-experience-for-studying-medicine-in-the-time-of-covid-19.pdf>

Thus no minimum work experience is specified when applying to Liverpool.

UCAT:

What is your UCAT cut off score? Thank you for your interest in our programme. Unfortunately in response to the COVID-19 pandemic we have had to review our admissions process to ensure that we can complete it should there be a second wave of the virus. This means that for this year most applicants who are invited to interview will be awarded an overall score based on their GCSEs and UCAT performance. This year it means that all UCAT scores can be awarded some points but that there will be no cut-off as we have had previously. The whole process is explained in the A100 process video and in our [Departmental Supplement](#) to the admissions policy. You will find the latter on our web-site which you can access from the medicine booth welcome page or via <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/medicine/study-with-us/undergraduate/admissions-information/>

Do I need to sit an admissions test to apply to Liverpool Medical School? All new non-graduate applicants to the A100 programme are required to sit the [UCAT admissions test](#).

How would you recommend revising for the UCAT? Please consider using the information and guidance available to you on the UCAT website. Here you will find a number of resources that enable you to practise the different elements of the test, and advice from other students as to how they prepared. Please view their website: <https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/practice-tests/>

Graduates applying to our courses are required to sit the [GAMSAT test](#).

Due to unforeseen circumstances, I have been unable to sit the UCAT exam. Will this affect my application? UCAT are offering candidates the option to either attend a Pearson VUE test centre or sit an online test to undertake the UCAT exam. Should you have very specific circumstances that UCAT need to take into account, you should contact the UCAT office. Please see [here](#) for guidance from UCAT.

If you have been unable to sit the UCAT exam you should inform us, via email (mbchb@liverpool.ac.uk) as to why this was the case, with evidence that this has been discussed with UCAT, prior to placing your application.

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I meet the minimum academic criteria for your medicine programme. Can you tell me if my UCAT score is competitive? Details of how we use UCAT are outlined in our [Departmental Supplement](#) to the Admissions Policy. Both UCAT and academic potential are used together to identify the most competitive applicants.

Please note that there is a new process for using UCAT scores in relation to deciding invite to interview. Applicants who meet our minimum academic criteria will have their GCSE points trebled and combined with points awarded for their **overall** numerical UCAT score. Following ranking of the combined scores the top scoring applicants will be invited to interview first (please view **Admissions Process: A100 programme** PowerPoint presentation and [Departmental Supplement](#) for further details).

When assessing my UCAT score will you take the SJT into account? Yes. Applications from HOME students who have achieved band 4 in the SJT will be deemed unsuccessful. The SJT component of the UCAT test will **not be used** in assessing EU/international applications.

What was the minimum UCAT score for applicants invited to interview in the last admissions cycle? For Home/EU applicants a competitive score in the 2018-19 admissions cycle was 2420; the score in 2019-20 was 2400. Please note that there is a new process for using UCAT scores in relation to deciding invite to interview. Applicants who meet our minimum academic criteria will have their GCSE points trebled and combined with points awarded for their **overall** numerical UCAT score. Following ranking of the combined scores the top scoring applicants will be invited to interview first (please view our [Departmental Supplement](#) for further details).

GAMSAT:

All graduates applying to the A100 or A101 programmes will be required to sit the GAMSAT admissions test, information can be found [here](#).

What GAMSAT score do graduates applying to the A101 programme need to achieve to be eligible for an interview? The minimum GAMSAT score varies on an annual basis and is dependent on the number of A101 applicants who meet/exceed the minimum academic criteria, their performance in the admissions test, and on the number of available A101 interview slots. In previous years an overall score of 55 or 56 with no less than 50 achieved in any section has been considered to be competitive.

I am a graduate applying to the A100 programme. What GAMSAT score will I require? The GAMSAT score required for applicants applying to A100 is determined by comparison to the scores obtained from the A101 applicants. Please see the response above.

GRADUATE:

What qualifications do I need to be considered for the A101 programme? As a graduate applicant, you will need to offer an already achieved or pending 2.1 (hons) degree in a Bio-Science or Health Science subject, BBB grades at A-Level (or equivalent) to include Chemistry plus either Biology, Physics or Maths, and GCSE Maths and English Language at a minimum of Grade C, or equivalent. Please click on the [here](#) for further details:

What qualifications will I need to be considered for the A100 programme as a graduate? As a graduate applicant, you will need to offer an already achieved or pending 2.1 (hons) degree in a Bio-Science or Health Science subject, BCC grades at A-Level (or equivalent) to include Chemistry plus either Biology, Physics or Maths, and GCSE Maths and English Language at a minimum of Grade C, or equivalent. Please click [here](#) for our guidelines and further details:

Please note that if you do not offer a Bio-Science or Health Science degree there are different academic requirements of BBC at A-level. Please click on the link above.

What help is available to fund me as a graduate? As a graduate, funding should be carefully considered before applying and embarking on a further degree. Please visit the Student Finance page on the [GOV.uk webpages](#).

For graduates on the A101 programme there is extra financial help from [NHS bursaries](#).

Is the A101 course taught separately to the undergrad 5 year course or do we join in at year 2 with the undergrad course? The A101 course starts with a newly designed summer school which is designed to both rapidly bring you up to speed with core knowledge from year 1 A100 course, with a strong focus on case based application of this material, small group learning and lots of feedback - and opportunities to undertake practice assessment on Year 1 material. The idea is that we help you hit the ground running, and continue to support you as you settle into Year 2. We find that students on A101 find this a really helpful way of settling in.

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Students then learn alongside Year 2 A100 students, and remain integrated with them throughout the rest of the programme. We find it's a better way of benefiting from being part of the wider medical school community.

INTERVIEWS:

How many interviews do you offer? The number of interviews varies annually but in 2020 we offered approximately 1920 Home/EU interviews and 150 international interviews for the A100 programme and 120 interviews for the A101 programme. Please note that in response to the COVID-19 pandemic a different interview process will be used in E2021. For the A100 programme, the number of interviews required is unknown as it will depend on the quality of the interviewees. It is expected that we will offer about one hundred A101 interviews for the 29 places available.

If I receive an interview when will it be? Due to COVID-19 we have needed to re-assess our interview processes. To maintain the safety of our applicants, our interviews will be conducted online using a semi-structured format. It is expected that interviews will commence in December 2020 through to February 2021.

OFFERS:

What is a typical offer for the A100 programme? A typical offer is one of three A-levels (grades AAA), to include Chemistry together with either Biology, Physics or Mathematics and a third academic subject.

Do you make alternate offers? Offers of **A*AB** may be made but **A*A** grades must include Chemistry together with either Biology, Physics or Maths: and a B grade in the third academic subject. In fairness we may be able to offer alternate offers to those offering equivalent level 3 qualifications.

How many offers do you make for the Liverpool Programmes? This varies on an annual basis but typically, we make between 800-1000 offers for the A100 programme, and 35-40 offers for the A101 programme.

Do you consider deferred applications? We do consider deferred applications, but only for Home applicants to the A100 programme (i.e. not for EU or international applicants or A101 applicants). A100 applicants should indicate on their UCAS form if they wish to be considered for deferred entry to the programme. Requests for deferral submitted after the deadline for applications (October 15th) will be considered on an individual basis, but may not be granted, and applicants are advised that they should have no expectation of deferral if they have not specified this on their UCAS application.