

## 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 E2024 A100/A101 Departmental Supplements to the Admissions policy prior to placing an application for entry in the next admissions cycle. These policies provide details of how your application will be processed. Any changes made to our policy as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic or other events which are outwith our control will be reflected on our website.**

**All applicants are advised to check our web-site immediately prior to placing an application**

### **COURSE/PROGRAMME:**

**How many places are there available on the Liverpool medicine programme?** For E2024 it is expected that there will be 279 home places and 23 EU/international places available on the A100 (5-year) programme. 30 places are expected to be available via the A101 (4-year) graduate entry programme. For entry in 2024, approximately 40 of the A100 places have been reserved for 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 [website \(Link\)](#).

Our Departmental Supplements 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](mailto:mbchb@liverpool.ac.uk)

**What GCSEs do you look for?** For our 5-year A100 programme we require GCSEs in nine subjects usually attained by the end of Year 11 which must include: English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Core & Additional Science, combined or triple science is usually 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. The School of Medicine usually considers contextualised data when processing applications. Further information can be found in our A100 Departmental Supplement to the Admissions policy and detail of contextual offers can be found on our [website \(Link\)](#). Please note that special consideration in the decision making process does not guarantee an interview, offer or contextualised offer for the programme.

**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, combined or triple usually 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 should always submit an online form and upload evidence of school achievements (such as a subject/grade transcript) from Years 10/11. This is already taken into consideration when processing 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. We cannot 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 [Admissions requirements \(liverpool.ac.uk\)](#)

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

As a result of the COVID pandemic for entry into 2023, we considered the best GCSE scores for 2021 & 2022, as we are aware that students had the right to resit their GCSEs if they were unhappy with the Teacher Assessed Grades awarded. As students sat GCSE examinations in 2022 we will not routinely be considering GCSE resits when assessing applications. However we can consider individual circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

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**My predicted A-level grades might not be AAA. Will this affect my application?** For entry to E2024, we will not be using predicted grades. This is in line with recommendation from the Office for Students. We will, however, check that you meet the subject requirements for our programme.

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

[Guidelines for applicants offering IB](#)

**Will applicants with teacher assessed grades be considered differently to those who have sat A-level examinations?** Teacher Assessed Grades are considered to be equivalent to A-level grades if awarded in 2020 or 2021. We expect that the majority of applicants applying to the A100 programme for entry in 2024 will have sat full examinations.

**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 recognise that an extended project may enhance the skill set of an applicant in relation to enhancing independent learning or appropriate knowledge. 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. Usually a minimum of 12 points at GCSE would be required, and an offer of ABB (2 grade reduction from typical offer) is likely 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 [Admissions requirements \(liverpool.ac.uk\)](#)

**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 see the university's web-site for information on contextual data. Please see [website \(Link\)](#)

**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 one of our approved Access courses which meet our stated criteria. Information regarding our GCSE requirements and which Access courses we would consider can be found [Admissions requirements \(liverpool.ac.uk\)](#).

However, you may also wish to consider your suitability for the University of Liverpool's Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions (Medicine route) programme, which, if completed successfully, provides you with direct entry to year 1 of the A100 course: [Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions \(Medicine\) \(Year 0\)](#).

**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 one of our approved Access courses. Information regarding our GCSE requirements and which Access courses we would consider can be found [Admissions requirements \(liverpool.ac.uk\)](#).

However, you may also wish to consider your suitability for the University of Liverpool's Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions, which, if completed successfully, provides you with direct entry to year 1 of the A100 course: [Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions \(Medicine\) \(Year 0\)](#).

**Do you accept A Level resits?** We normally only consider a resit application if you achieve a minimum of ABB grades at first sitting. Applicants who are re-sitting any examinations are expected to complete the applicant online form, which is available on our website from September. Any offers made to resitting applicants will 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

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support this. Each case will be considered individually and without prejudice, but please note that a declaration of extenuating circumstances does not mean that your application will necessarily be successful.

**NB: Please note that as we are aware that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the education of many students and we do not usually require applicants to submit an online form for this reason.**

**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. Please note that EU applicants are now considered within our International pool and thus there are limited places available:

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 10/11 transcript, via our applicant on-line form by October 15th, so that an equivalent GCSE score can be determined.

**Must the IELTS requirements be met on the first attempt or are re-sits accepted?** We can consider IELTS resits. Proof of meeting the English Language qualifications must be held in our office by the time of A-level confirmation each year. The admissions team will be happy to advise students of this date each year and applicants are advised that we will be unable to consider English Language qualifications that are submitted after this date.

### **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](#) (Link).

Information that is typically provided via 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:

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. 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 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](#) (Link) to study medicine during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus no minimum work experience is specified when applying to Liverpool although experience in customer facing and caring roles can be very informative in the development of your skill set.

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**Do you have to do medical work over summer?** No medical work is required to be undertaken over the summer break. We would like you to arrive refreshed and ready for your studies, but we would not deter you from wanting to gain further insight and experience of healthcare practices.

### UCAT:

**What is your UCAT cut off score?** UCAT cut off scores vary from year to year. For E2021 we used a different approach to UCAT, but for E2024 we recommend you consult our Departmental Supplement. For Home/EU applicants a competitive score in the 2018-19 admissions cycle was 2420; the score in 2019-20 was 2400; the score in 2021-22 was 2620 and for 22-23 was 2660. The international UCAT score for E2023 was 2770.

**Do I need to sit an admissions test to apply to Liverpool Medical School?** All new non-graduate applications to the A100 programme are required to offer the [UCAT admissions test](#) undertaken in the year of application.

**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 the A100/A101 programme 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?** 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](mailto: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.

**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 published annually in our Departmental Supplement to the Admissions Policy. It is expected that you will consult our E2024 departmental supplement when they are available and before submitting an application.

**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.

### GRADUATE:

The A101 (4-year) graduate entry programme will re-open for the receipt of applications in September 2023, for entry in 2024. Applications should be submitted via UCAS and applicants will be required to offer a valid GAMSAT score (<https://gamsat.acer.org/>). The A101 programme will accept applicants from home students only. Graduates with home status can apply to both the A101 and A100 programme but applicants are advised to consider the financial implications of a graduate applying to the A100 programme (See below). Please also read the relevant A100/A101 Departmental Supplements prior to placing an application.

International graduates should apply to the A100 programme only, should consult the A100 Departmental Supplement to the Admissions policy and contact us at [mbchb@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:mbchb@liverpool.ac.uk) should they require advice on the equivalency of their qualifications

### **What help is available to fund me as a graduate?**

Information relevant to funding your study can be found at <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/considering-or-university/financial-support-university>; <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/student-loans-company>; <https://www.medicmind.co.uk/medicine-ucas-guide/how-is-graduate-entry-medicine-funded/> and NHS Bursary Funding for Medical and Dental Students 2022-23 ([nhsbsa.nhs.uk](https://nhsbsa.nhs.uk)). Applicants are advised to consider the financial implications prior to placing an application.

### GAMSAT:

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

**I am a graduate applying to the A100 programme. What GAMSAT score will I require?** Please consult our A100 Supplement to the Admissions policy for guidance.

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### A100 programme - interviews:

**How do you decide who gets an invite to interview?** The top scoring applicants in the relevant admissions tests who also meet our minimum academic criteria are likely to be those invited to interview. Please see our E2024 Departmental Supplement.

**How many interviews do you offer?** The number of interviews varies annually but for E2021 and E2022 we offered approximately 2100-2200 interviews, which included approximately 140-150 international invitations. For E2023 we interviewed approximately 1835 home applicants and 124 international applicants.

**If I receive an interview when will it be?** Due to COVID-19 we have needed to re-assess our interview processes. Following a period of on-line interviews, for E2024 we hope to return to face-to-face MMI interviews for home applicants and on-line MMI for those holding international status. Details will be confirmed on our website but interviews are expected to be in January/February 2024.

### A101 programme – interviews

The interview format and questions is expected to be similar to those delivered for the A100 programme. We intend to offer approximately 120 interviews for the A101 programme.

### 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. Reduced offers for the A100 programme were made for E2021 through to E2023. The need to do this was related to the COVID pandemic and government directives on student number control. The number of offers expected for next year have yet to be determined, but are likely to be significantly increased.

**Do you consider deferred applications?** We do consider deferred applications, but only for Home applicants to the A100 programme. 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 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 for E2024) 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.

**Does the 332 places for this year include students receiving deferred entry offers from last year?** Yes this is the case. Every year we have deferred applicants for our programme.