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 international students.

How many places are there available on the Liverpool medicine programmes? There are 280 Home/EU places and 23 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.

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 will full details of your academic history (including qualifications taken, subjects studied and grades achieved), to our team at mbchb@liverpool.ac.uk

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.

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 Admissions Process: A100 programme PowerPoint presentation and E2021 Departmental Supplement for further details). Applicants with the highest combination scores will be invited to interview first.
I read on the website 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 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 from England, 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 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 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. Please note that if you have already applied to us for E2020 and are an offer holder, you will receive correspondence from us regarding your application.

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 Welsh Baccalaureate 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 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. 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.

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.
Liverpool Admissions Team Frequently Asked Questions

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 will receive 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 following the receipt of calculated grades are not considered as resit applicants. 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 students has been interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we do not require applicants to submit an online form for this reason.

UCAT:

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.

Graduates applying to our courses are required to sit the GAMSAT test.

Do you consider extenuating circumstances? If so, how do I let you know about them? Yes. Applications from HOME/EU 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 international applications.

When assessing my UCAT score will you take the SJT into account? Yes. Applications from HOME/EU 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 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 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/EU 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 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 Admissions Process: A100 programme PowerPoint presentation and 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.

How does the A101 course work alongside the A100 course? Graduates on the A101 course currently start with a three week Summer School of specific learning and teaching from mid-August, to help bring them up to speed and recap on knowledge before joining Year 2 of the A100 course in September. Graduates have dedicated additional teaching sessions with tutors throughout this year of study.

For further information about life as an A101 graduate student, please review the presentation – School of Medicine: A101 Graduate Entry Presentation

INTERVIEWS:

How many interviews do you offer? The number of offers 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 the interview process for next year has yet to be confirmed. 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. Our web-site will be updated when we have further information.

If I receive an interview when will it be? We usually interview in Liverpool during last week of January and first two weeks in February. However, due to COVID-19, we are currently re-considering how our interviews will be conducted, and when these will take place; we will update our website once a decision has been made.
Liverpool Admissions Team Frequently Asked Questions
Medicine Admissions web-site: https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/medicine/study-with-us/undergraduate/admissions-information/

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 may 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/EU applicants to the A100 programme (i.e. not for 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.

COURSE OPPORTUNITIES:

What opportunities are available for research on the course? Our students begin their research journey from Year 1 of the course with Research & Scholarship 1 (RS1), to promote their understanding and the value of research. This understanding develops further in Years 2 & 3 (RS2 & 3), culminating in the writing of a research proposal and undertaking a personal research study. For each of the RS modules, students are supported by an experienced academic or clinical supervisor. Please view the School of Medicine: Curriculum Overview: Years 1-2 presentation for further information.

Can applicants intercalate while on the medicine programme? Yes, at the end of third year there are opportunities for students to study for an honours degree or Masters. While the majority of applicants choose to intercalate in Liverpool some students do take the option to apply for courses in other institutions. Intercalation is voluntary. Please our website for further information.

Are there elective opportunities? Yes. Our student doctors spend 4 weeks at the end of 4th year on their elective. Our student doctors choose to do their elective in many diverse locations both in the UK and abroad. Each elective placement is required to undertake a risk assessment to ensure it meets the University’s standards of approval.

COURSE QUESTIONS:

What is a typical weekly timetable for Year 1 of the course? The first 6-7 weeks is a Foundation block of learning, which covers the fundamental principles that underpin medicine to give you a head start into the curriculum. Following this, every 3 weeks you will study a different body system. In a typical week you may have a mixture of lectures with some small group sessions or clinical skills, anatomy or communication sessions. There will be ‘free time’ in which you will be expected to prepare for sessions and consolidate your learning. Please view the Year 1&2 curriculum presentation for further information.

Are lectures recorded? Yes, all lectures are recorded so you can revisit them to aid with your revision and understanding. Usually, lecture slides are available prior to their actual delivery, to help you prepare for the session.

How are you assessed throughout the course? Assessment at Liverpool is much more than a measurement of your progress. Our aim is for assessment to support your understanding of what you have learned and consolidate your learning, throughout the year, not just at the end of each year. After each system block across the early years, you will have the opportunity to take a self-directed assessment to check on your understanding. Similar ‘assessment for learning’ opportunities are provided across the clinical years. At the end of each year there is an ‘assessment for progression’ that helps draw all of that understanding together, but you will already have had the opportunity to assess yourself against questions and learn from the feedback as you’ve gone through each part of each year. And we take a similar approach to clinical skills assessment; building in the concept of ‘structured clinical examinations’ from an early point, and offering several additional ‘assessment for learning’ opportunities in these. Students find this layering of expertise in the examination format, helps them feel well-prepared for important assessments in the later years of the course.
How much clinical exposure do you get in Year 1? In Year 1 clinical teaching on history taking and initial skills is given on campus to prepare students for placements in Year 2. A day in a community placement is usually timetabled in Semester 2 of Year 1.

Which hospital placements are students placed at? Here at Liverpool we are in a unique and privileged position to have access to a wide variety of specialist centres, such as Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital, Liverpool Women’s Hospital and Walton Entre for Neurology, as well as a great range of teaching hospitals and GP placements. Our students rotate around different placements to ensure they are provided with the breadth of experience required that allow them to meet the General Medical Council’s Outcomes for Graduates, and to become well-rounded doctors. Clinical placements begin in Year 2 of the course, with one week following each 3 week system block of study. Please view the presentation School of Medicine: Curriculum Overview: Years 1-2.

During Years 3, 4 & 5, exposure to clinical placements increases. Please view the presentation School of Medicine: Curriculum Overview: Years 3-5.

How are clinical skills taught? We have a fantastic Clinical Skills Resource Centre, which provides our students with the teaching and practise of relevant skills they will need for each year of study. Students can develop their confidence in these skills further by accessing the Learning Zone, which is open every weekday for the independent practice of examinations and clinical procedures, such as venepuncture (blood taking on models) and ECG (heart tracings) recordings and interpretation.

How is anatomy taught? The curriculum for the early years blends understanding of anatomy around teaching blocks on each body system and then extends this into understanding of radiology and specialist procedures in the later years. Our Human Anatomy Resource Centre (HARC) has been developed to support superb anatomy teaching for all our clinical disciplines. HARC teaching is supported by demonstrations and a recently increased ratio of tutors to students. Time spent in HARC is now also complemented by several online resources, including videos of detailed practical class instruction and a drop-in learning zone.

I understand that Liverpool used to be a Problem Based-Learning (PBL) course, could you tell me the difference between PBL and Case Based-Learning (CBL) please and does the course now contain more lecture led learning? Liverpool switched from a PBL mode of delivery to an integrated mode of delivery in 2014. This blends several hundred lectures, online resources and small group teaching to provide learning that suits a variety of learning styles. While PBL provided students with a case from which to make their own learning objectives, CBL provides our students with pre-determined learning objectives from a specific case. This helps them to know what to study and discuss with a small group of other students. These groups then come together in a slightly bigger group for a facilitated discussion. The facilitation for CBL is also different from PBL. CBL requires the facilitators to be clinicians or/and an academic who are specialists within the field of the case, so they can direct the group’s learning and answer case-related questions to help develop understanding at the level required.

How many people are in the small group teaching sessions? This depends on the type of teaching. Communication for Clinical Practice (CCP) teaching is in groups of 8. CBL is in groups of 15-20 and a few classes, e.g. students in clinical years having pre-placement teaching with specialists from the placement are in groups of 40.

How is Communication for Clinical Practice (CCP) taught? CCP is taught from Year 1 in small groups of approximately 8, and offers our students with the opportunity to practise their communication skills, using simulated patients (actors). Students are provided with feedback from their tutor following each interaction, to allow them to hone the appropriate skills required to support patients (and their families/loved ones) in a variety of clinical situations.

How do you know when to stop learning about a particular section of a topic in medicine? It’s about finding a balance; you can’t know everything. You will be guided by content in lectures, in case-based learning sessions and through reading. There are learning objectives that will help you focus on the key areas and level of knowledge you should be aiming for. It’s important to know enough about each topic to be able to discuss it with your peers in sessions, such as CBL, and to be able to understand your application of it during Clinical Skills, Anatomy and Communication for Clinical Practice sessions. As you progress through the course, this becomes easier to gauge.

How do students cope with the course workload? Planning your workload is important. Using a timetable to consider what you have coming up in the School, when to study and when to relax and do other things outside of Medicine helps with a good work/life balance. We encourage our students to take advantage of our University facilities and the many Guild societies that can help them pursue their hobbies, try something new and to make new friends.
Liverpool Admissions Team Frequently Asked Questions
Medicine Admissions web-site: https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/medicine/study-with-us/undergraduate/admissions-information/

What would you recommend we do from the beginning of the course that lots of people don’t realise they should adopt until later on? We would suggest a number of areas to help you both settle in and establish good practice for the rest of the course, but you are likely to discover others that work for you:

- Connect with students in higher years for guidance on their experiences and how they deal with them.
- Join societies to meet other students, from both Medicine and other courses, to develop a network of friends and opportunities.
- Develop your time management skills by creating a timetable to ensure there is space for study, work, exercise/hobbies and spending time with friends and family.
- Register with a Liverpool-based GP; in more normal circumstances you’ll be spending more time in Liverpool than you will at home.
- Check emails/School communications, at least daily to ensure that you’re up to date with what’s going on.
- Get to know your surroundings and explore the City – there’s plenty to enjoy!

How should students prepare for starting the course at Liverpool? Is there a reading list? For our offer holders, we would recommend that they concentrate on their Level 3 studies or degrees and maintain focus on achieving the grades they are hoping for. We will supply them with all the necessary information they need once they start the course. However, we are able to provide a reading list to offer holders who request this.

SUPPORT & WELLBEING:

Can you tell me about the Academic Advisor programme? All of our students are allocated an Academic Advisor (AA), with whom dedicated meetings are arranged to discuss their progress and welfare. In Years 1 & 2, you will have the same AA, who will be either a clinical or academic member of staff, and will be experienced in both welcoming students to the School of Medicine and knowledgeable of these academic years. As our students move in to their more clinical years of study, they will be allocated a practicing clinician as their AA.

What support is available to students, both from the School and the University? Our School is proud to offer its students a dedicated wellbeing team who will be happy to meet with you throughout the week to discuss any issues that you may have, without prejudice. Meetings can be arranged with a member of the team by phone, email or just drop in! Alongside this, we have an excellent relationship with the University’s central support team and can refer you to them for more specialised support, should this be required.

I’m classed as having a disability. Should I declare this? You are advised to declare your disability should this apply to you, to ensure that we are able to support you in the most practical way possible. The University’s Disability Advice and Guidance Team are here to offer support and understanding for all types of disability and may create an individualised support plan to be shared with the School of Medicine’s Disability and Dyslexia Contact. They will make contact with you to discuss how any plan could be implemented to support you with your studies.