

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 E2022 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.

COURSE/PROGRAMME:

How many places are there available on the Liverpool medicine programme? Routinely, there are 280 Home places and 23 EU/international places available on the A100 programme. For entry in 2021, approximately 60 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: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/medicine/study-with-us/undergraduate/admissions-information/>. 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 usually 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. The School of Medicine does consider contextualised data when processing applications. Currently we do not make reduced offers, but further details can be found at: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/contextual-data/>

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 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. 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](#)

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

As a result of the COVID pandemic for entry into 2022, we will take your best GCSE scores for 2020 & 2021, as we are aware that students had the right to resit their GCSEs if they were unhappy with the Teacher Assessed Grades awarded.

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My predicted A-level grades might not be AAA. Will this affect my application? For entry to E2022, 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.

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. 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 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 [here](#).

However, you may also wish to consider your suitability for the University of Liverpool's Foundation to Health and Veterinary Studies programme, 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 one of our approved Access courses. 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, 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 A Level resits? Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we normally only consider an 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. Please note that for E2022, we are awaiting further details of the Autumn Exam Series, so we cannot yet comment as to whether these will be considered as first-sit or resit examinations.

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, 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 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.

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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.

There are two types of IELTS examination, IELTS academic and IELTS UKVI academic. Which IELTS examination should be taken by international students for Medicine A100? Either IELTS academic or IELTS UKVI (academic) is acceptable for VISA purposes.

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:

<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:

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 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.

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.

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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 E2022 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.

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 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? 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.

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 E2022 departmental supplement 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.

What was the minimum UCAT score for applicants invited to interview in the last admissions cycle? No information on E2021 is available, but for Home/EU applicants a competitive score in the 2018-19 admissions cycle was 2420; the score in 2019-20 was 2400.

GRADUATE:

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/score 4, 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](#).

GAMSAT:

All graduates applying to the A100 programme 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? The GAMSAT score required for applicants applying to A100 is determined on an annual basis. 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, but please note that competition between applicants will affect the cut-off score.

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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 E2022 Departmental Supplement.

How many interviews do you offer? The number of interviews varies annually but for E2021 we offered approximately 2200 interviews, which included approximately 140 international invitations. For E2022, the number of interviews required is unknown as it will depend on the quality of applications made.

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 are likely to be conducted online using a semi-structured format. It is expected that interviews will commence in December 2021 through to February 2022, but details will be confirmed on our website.

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 we have had to make a reduced number of offers for E2021, as we are expecting grade inflation due to the use of Teachers Assessed Grades, and medical schools have been given clear instruction not to exceed the targets set by the government. Therefore the numbers of offers we made was approximately 400 for E2021. 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 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.

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.