

ADMISSIONS POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD MEDICAL SCHOOL

The University of Sheffield wishes to operate a transparent, evidence-based admissions policy to the medical courses A100 and A104.

No discrimination, positive or negative, based on gender, age, disability, racial or ethnic origin, school type or family background will be applied to any candidate. The evidence pertaining to selection of medical students is considered to be strong in respect of A level success and character traits, and less strong in respect of UKCAT score. Candidates will be selected through a complex process, which emphasizes personal qualities as well as academic achievement.

All applications will be first considered for academic achievement. A minimum of 6A at GCSE is necessary for pre-A level candidates. In addition, Candidates who are sitting A levels will require to declare their AS level grade and module scores, even if the policy of their school is to delay certification. A minimum of ABBB at AS (A1) level is required. If these grades have been achieved at AS level, the A2 teacher prediction is likely to be AAA. Chemistry is a compulsory subject at both A1 and A2 levels. Candidates from schools which do not certificate AS level scores in Y12 will not be disadvantaged as long as they declare their AS module level UMS scores.

On UCAS Apply, A Level candidates MUST declare their individual module UMS scores in the box marked “Other” adjacent to the module information. Candidates MUST also declare A1 level grades, and module grades, in the appropriate boxes, if certificated.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

GCSE; 6A

AS (A1); ABBB including chemistry. Module scores required for all candidates

A2; AAA including chemistry, applications not accepted from students on degree courses except in their final year.

Bachelors; 1st class or GPA 3.6

Candidates who are re-sitting A level modules are considered only on grades already achieved. Candidates with A2 level results will be considered if they are not registered on a degree course.

All applicants will have taken the UKCAT examination. The University of Sheffield considers that the evidence for using UKCAT as the primary determinant in medical school admission is not strong. Therefore, all applicants scoring above 2400 (600 average, approximately 50th percentile) in the UKCAT, who meet the other academic criteria, will be considered.

Applications that meet these academic criteria will be longlisted, and considered for personal qualities from the personal statement, the teacher's report, and, for successful applicants, the interview.

Personal qualities that the University of Sheffield are interested in are listed alphabetically, and in no particular order of importance, in the box. These qualities include characters, talents and abilities. This list is not intended to be exhaustive and we recognize that there are many other qualities that may benefit the future professional. We consider it unlikely that any individual possesses every one of these, and other desirable qualities, and do NOT advise candidates to treat them as a checklist.

We wish to review the personal and teacher statements for evidence of such qualities, in order to build a personal profile of the candidate, and we will further explore these areas at interview. It is important to highlight evidence rather than to engage in a form of false modesty. It should also be clear that truth-telling is a vital component of professional behaviour, and we will view any untruth or significant exaggeration very seriously.

Candidates who were longlisted on academic criteria will be ranked in 5 grades, A-E. We expect to shortlist the highest rated 600 (approximate) candidates for interview, which will take place between October and March of the application year.

PERSONAL QUALITIES (alphabetically)

Concern for others
Conscientiousness
Courage
Determination
Diligence
Flexibility
Humility
Initiative
Leadership
Long-term commitment
Orderly organisation
Public performance
Responsibility
Self-directed study skills
Time management
Trustworthiness

And potentially many others

All offers to study medicine will be contingent on the achievement of grades AAA at A2 level, or a 1st class bachelor's degree, with the exception of participants in the Sheffield widening access scheme SOAMS. (see note below) All offers will be based on successful interview. Offers (and rejections) will be sent out within four weeks of the interview. If neither an offer or a rejection is received, your application is still on the shortlist, and is pending a decision. We would encourage you to accept or decline your offer as soon as you have reached a decision.

A104 course

Applications will be considered on similar grounds to the A100 course for A level and first degree candidates. Applications from non-traditional backgrounds and non-conventional qualifications are encouraged, and will be considered on their merits. Applications from students who are doing science A levels with compulsory subjects omitted will not be considered unless there are exceptional mitigating circumstances.

SOAMS and disturbed learning schemes.

Students applying from the SOAMS scheme will have completed all requirements of the programme. This will secure an interview for admission, but does not guarantee an offer.

The usual offer to successful interviewees will be ABB. Candidates with validated disturbed learning criteria will be judged individually.

Alternative qualifications

Candidates studying for the International Baccalaureate or Pre-U will be assessed academically on GCSE score or equivalent. The offer for successful candidates will be 37 at IB or 516 points (D3 Diploma) for pre=U.

Candidates with Scottish Highers or Advanced Highers results will be considered on the basis of those results. Generally we require AAAAB on 5th year Highers, and successful candidates will receive a conditional offer of AA for Advanced Highers.

Candidates following the Irish Leaving Certificate will need to obtain grades AAAAAB.

Candidates with a bachelor's degree will have achieved a 1st class honours or GPA 3.6.

Candidates in the final year of a bachelor's degree should have shown this level of performance consistently in their earlier years, and any offer will be conditional on achieving this level.

Shortlisting

There is strong evidence that the characters and abilities tabled are independent of cultural background and gender. There is also emerging evidence that they may be independent of social class.

We believe that the only workable review of the personal and teacher statements are a global rating, emphasizing that the reviewer is trying to judge good character and abilities in a way that does not discriminate by social background and community orientation.

A	evidence of outstanding character, talents and abilities	20%
B	evidence of significant character, talents and abilities	20%
C	evidence of suitable character, talents and abilities	30%
D	not much evidence of suitable character, talents and abilities	20%
E	doubtful character, talents and abilities	10%