

The Interview

The interview itself is a formal though friendly process and lasts 20 minutes. The interview panel comprises two (occasionally three) interviewers. About half of the interviewers are practising clinicians. Interviews will take place in individual rooms. The interview is not a test of your academic knowledge. The purpose of the interview is rather to assess your potential as a medical practitioner and to provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to think critically and with insight on a range of topics related to a career in medicine.

Candidates will ordinarily be given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the University and the Medical programme that is on offer.

The interviewers appreciate that some candidates will be nervous and will of course make allowances for this. The interview panel, in addition to forming an overall impression of the student, will be assessing in particular the following areas:

- **Ability to communicate.**
Communication skills are essential to the practice of almost all aspects of medicine. We expect candidates to be able to express their ideas clearly and coherently and to be able to follow a reasoned argument. Just before your interview you will be asked to read a short article on a medically related topic. This will only take about 10 minutes. The interview panel will then ask you questions about the article. They will be assessing your comprehension and ability to summarise as well as communication skills.
- **The St Andrews course.**
The panel will expect the candidate to have a general understanding of our course - details of which can be obtained from our website. In particular, we expect candidates to be aware of the way in which we deliver the Medical programme and to have an opinion on its appeal to them, its advantages and limitations.
- **Previous experience.**
The interview panel will be interested in how you have prepared yourself for entering into a medical career. They will be keen to know what you have gained from work experience in a medical or 'caring' environment or indeed some other environment that you feel has been relevant in preparing you for a career in medicine.