

# **Brunel Medical School**

## **Admissions - Frequently Asked Questions**

**2022/23 entry**

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**Brunel Medical School  
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**Brunel**  
University  
London

**Brunel Medical School**

# Application Process

## What is the overall application process?

The Brunel Medical School (BMS) MBBS programme is currently open to international students only, it is our aim to open our admissions to home (UK) students at the earliest opportunity. We accept applications via UCAS or directly through our website. Our direct applications are open throughout and will remain open until all Medicine places have been filled.

Due to a high level of demand, we encourage you to make your application as early as possible. This may increase your chances of an early interview and, if successful at interview, an early offer.

## A brief overview of the application process

### **Stage 1: Initial application assessment by Brunel University's Admissions Team**

An initial assessment of applications (including those via UCAS and those made directly to Brunel) will be made by the Brunel Admissions Team. Applicants who meet the general requirements and minimum entry requirements for admission have their application advanced to Stage 2

### **Stage 2: Application assessment by BMS Selection Panel**

Applications will be assessed by the BMS Selection Panel, who will review the personal statements and the references against pre-determined criteria. Applicants with satisfactory personal statements and references will be ranked according to BMS academic ranking criteria.

Applicants who meet the criteria but are not invited to participate in the earlier interviews may be placed on an interview waiting list and invited to a later interview series.

### **Stage 3: Virtual Multiple Mini Interviews (vMMIs)**

There will be 3 series of vMMIs taking place in **December 2021, February 2022 and March 2022**. An additional series of interviews may take place later in the cycle if places are still available. The highest ranked applicants from Stage 2 will be invited to interview. vMMIs will be a series of 6 mini-interview stations, each designed to assess an attribute, blueprinted to Good Medical Practice. Candidates are marked on their performance in each of the 6 stations and their final score will be the sum of those marks.

### **Stage 4: Offers**

After each vMMI series, applicants will be ranked according to their performance and offers will be made to the top-ranked candidates. Applicants who are not selected for offer but who performed well will be ranked and

placed on an Offer Waiting List. Offers will be made in rank order to Offer Waiting List applicants if a vacancy becomes available.

### Stage 5: Post-offer requirements

Offers will be made conditional on meeting both academic and non-academic requirements. A deposit of £10,000 is required within 6 weeks of the receipt of offer and will secure your place on the MBBS course, subject to other requirements being met. All conditions of your offer will be on your offer letter and your My Applications Portal (this is a webpage where your application will be stored once it is submitted, you will be able to access your application documents, see updates on your application and access your offer letter).

## What should I include in my application?

### Submission of application

- ❖ Applications are assessed against both academic and non-academic criteria so please make sure your application has all the required documentation on submission. Missing documents will slow down the process. Key parts of the application are:
  - Predicted or achieved grades from your highest qualification*
  - Personal statement*
  - Reference*
  - Any English qualification you currently have, if you do not yet have one this is fine but it will be a condition of your offer if progressed*
- ❖ Your personal statement is an important document which you are expected to write on your own. We shall be looking for indications that the statement is personal, true and written in a way that only you could write. You should demonstrate how your experience, skills and attributes are relevant to the core attributes and values expected of medical students.
- ❖ If you are currently in education your referee should be an academic in your school or college. If you are no longer in education your referee should be a manager or colleague who can speak about you and how you possess the core attributes needed to study Medicine. The reference cannot be written by a family member or partner. We may contact your referee if more information is needed.
- ❖ More information on what to include in your personal statement and reference is on page 8 and 9.
- ❖ If applicable, please put on your application information on any disability so we can provide extra support at your vMMI if required. Disability information will not hinder your application in any way, nor will it be used in the decision-making process. Further, only selected administrative staff will have access to this information and it will not be made available to the academic selection staff within the BMS Admissions Team.

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## Are my GCSEs considered in the ranking process? Is it just my academic qualifications that are used for the selection process for interview?

**BMS does not currently use GCSEs as part of the ranking process, however you will need to meet the GCSE Math's requirement of grade C (or equivalent).**

Your predicted/achieved academic qualifications are used in the selection process and your personal statement and reference will be reviewed against pre-determined criteria.

## Can I apply to 4 UK Medical Schools via UCAS and then apply to BMS directly? Or should I include BMS in my 4 UCAS choices? Is there any advantage?

You can apply directly or via UCAS, that is up to you! Neither option gives an advantage over the other, you are ranked based on your academic qualifications.

Your application will be processed via UCAS when you become unconditional, so if you already have a UCAS account with choices these will need to be released to add BMS.

## Can I apply if I'm under 18?

We normally require applicants to be 18 by the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2022.

## What does the interview look like?

### **Interview process**

Applicants who successfully make it through assessment from the BMS Selection Panel will be asked to attend a Multi Mini Interview (MMI). For the 2022 admissions cycle these will be conducted online via Zoom.

Candidates will take part in 6 scenario-based mini interviews over an hour to test different attributes for becoming a doctor. There will be nothing you need to prepare but we recommend you do some research online about the MMI process and have a practice with your friends and family.

Some things to be aware of before the interview:

- ❖ No applicant will be made an offer without an interview
- ❖ All applicants invited to interview must complete a criminal conviction disclaimer - this will be available on your eVision application portal as soon as you have completed an application. If you do not complete this before your interview you may not be able to attend
- ❖ Applicants are ranked after each series of interviews (December 2021, February 2022 and March 2022). Applicants with the highest score are made offers, those who performed well but were not selected for offer will be put on an Offer Waiting List and those who do not meet the cut-off score will be rejected
- ❖ Those on the waiting list may be made an offer later in the cycle depending on available places

## Are there any other requirements except my grades and English language?

### Professional course requirements

- ❖ All successful applicants must complete the required occupational health checks that are detailed on your offer letter, which will include immunisations and a medical questionnaire. These need to be completed before and during registration.
- ❖ As this is a professional course there are other requirements you will need to complete before registration. This will include a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and a Criminal Record Declaration form and we will check your name against the excluded students database with more information - (**Fitness to Practise concerns arising during Admissions process | Brunel University London**). These must be completed before registration.
- ❖ More information on professional course requirements such as immunisations can be found on our dedicated webpage - **Professional course requirements | Brunel University London**

### Deposit

- ❖ Offer holders are required to pay a £10,000 deposit to secure their place on the programme (subject to meeting other conditions) 6 weeks after the initial offer is made

# Unconditional offers – what next?

## Preparing for Medical School and the UK

Once you have your unconditional offer there is so much to think about! We have detailed some things below that might be helpful to start preparing.

### **Accommodation**

Choosing the right accommodation is very important and you should research this once you have received your offer.

All students are guaranteed accommodation for the first year of the course. When you are unconditional you can make an application for your accommodation through the website.

We strongly recommend you choose accommodation on campus. All of our halls of residence are less than a 10 minutes' walk from our teaching, sport and social facilities.

Our accommodation comprises of a single bedroom, free WI-FI, a shared communal kitchen and laundry facilities. Nearly all our on-campus rooms are ensuite.

All halls have an electronic door system and CCTV, and for peace of mind we have a 24-hour security team.

For more information on accommodation and how to reserve your room please visit the accommodation page - [Accommodation | Brunel University London](#).

Please note that first choice accommodation is not always guaranteed.

### **Pioneer Facebook group**

All applicants who have paid their deposit will be invited to join a BMS Pioneer group on Facebook. This will give you the chance to meet other students, ask any questions, find out about the school and the staff who will be teaching you, see videos on teaching subjects and to get any helpful pre-reading material for the course.

Those who do not have or do not use Facebook please let us know and we can look at sending you this information.

### **Visa application**

Once your offer is unconditional a Confirmation of Acceptance to Study (CAS) will be issued 3 – 6 months before the course start date.

We recommend you read up on the government rules for getting a Student Visa to study in the UK, the UK Government website provides lots of advice on applying for your visa - [Student visa - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

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You will not be able to register or start your course without a valid Student Visa - if your visa is delayed or you are unable to start we may have to delay your course.

Please read carefully the documents you will need to provide to the UKVI - Brunel University London have no control over the UKVIs decision to offer you a visa or not and you must tell us immediately if your visa is refused.

### **Clubs and societies**

Brunel University London offers a large number of clubs and societies for students to join to help make friends, continue your hobbies or to feel closer to home.

All information on societies is here - <https://brunelstudents.com/societies/>

All information on sports clubs is here - <https://brunelstudents.com/sportsclubs/a-z/>

# Personal Statement

Your personal statement is an important document which you are expected to write on your own. We shall be looking for indications that the statement is personal, true and written in a way that only you could write. You should demonstrate how your experience, skills and attributes are relevant to the core attributes and values expected of medical students (Medical Schools Council, 2019).

Please note that if you refer in your personal statement to a disability or health condition, this will not have an impact on the selection decisions made.

Your personal statement should include the following:

- ❖ Why you want to become a doctor and how your experiences have motivated you to study medicine.
- ❖ Work experience, with dates; this should include a caring or service role, such as paid employment for a healthcare organisation, volunteering for a community organisation or caring for a family member. Focus on what you have gained from these activities in terms of your personal development and insights into a caring profession
- ❖ Demonstration of a realistic understanding of the role of a doctor; this may be achieved through reflection on direct observation of healthcare, with dates (also referred to as 'shadowing' or 'clinical work experience'). We recognise that the opportunities for this type of work experience may be limited, and particularly challenging during the Covid pandemic. As an alternative, you may give an account of your exploration of available information and how this has contributed to your understanding of the role a doctor.
- ❖ Evidence of your leadership, teamwork and communication skills. You should provide examples of activities and roles you have undertaken (this may be at school, college or in your local community), with dates.
- ❖ Interests and achievements beyond your studies - life is not just about studying. These could include enterprise, socialising, travel, sports, the arts or any other activities that are important to you. Reflect upon the impact of these activities on your personal development and work/life balance and consider how they may enhance your contribution to medical school and/or university life.
- ❖ Evidence that you have a realistic understanding of the demands of medical school, and of a medical career, in particular the physical, organisational and emotional demands.
- ❖ Any extenuating circumstances you have faced, and how these have been overcome.

# Reference

This document provides guidance on your reference. Your reference will be used in the selection process as one of the criteria used in selecting for interview. Your referee must not be a family member. Please note that we may seek further information from your referee if clarifications are required or if the information provided is incomplete. **We encourage you to share this guidance with your referee.**

If you are currently in school or college your referee should be a head teacher, head of year, form tutor, or a designated individual in your institution. If you are in university or you have completed a university qualification, your referee should be an academic supervisor.

We recommend that your referee is familiar with the core attributes and values expected of medical students (Medical Schools Council, 2019). Your referee should state how long they have known you and in which capacity. They should state whether **the information contained in their reference** relates to conversations with a third party, or are first hand accounts. Description of the referee's organisation are not generally useful. **However**, descriptions or achievements that may be relevant in a medical school context are welcome, as well as comments on the qualities you will bring to the medical school.

The areas for which we require information are:

- ❖ Academic ability commensurate with the requirements of a medical school.
- ❖ Ability to work hard under pressure.
- ❖ Ability to maintain a mature and responsible approach to work and a sustained work-life balance.
- ❖ Attributes of conscientiousness, integrity, humility, kindness and empathy.
- ❖ Ability to work in teams and to communicate effectively.
- ❖ Commitment to, or a passion for a medical career and medical studies.

In addition to the above, the reference should include any extenuating circumstances which may affect (or have affected) your academic performance or any other aspect of the information contained within your application.

Brunel Medical School takes dishonesty during the admissions process very seriously, and any evidence of dishonesty in relation to your reference or personal statement may result in your application being rejected or an offer of a place being withdrawn.

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# Are there scholarships available?

Five scholarships are being awarded for September 2022 entry. Two scholarship offers were made to applicants who applied before March 2021 and the other three will be made to applicants who apply after the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.

The scholarship is worth £6000 per academic year over the five-year course (total of £30,000).

## Scholarship process

- ❖ Applicants interviewed in the December, February and March vMMIs, and who have been offered a place, will be ranked in order of their performance and the 10 – 15 highest ranked will be invited to a scholarship interview
- ❖ Scholarship interviews will be held in June 2022 and will be conducted online
- ❖ Scholarship invitees will be asked to prepare a short presentation on a subject provided by the BMS Admissions Team followed by a short question and answer style interview
- ❖ The top three performing interviewees will be offered the scholarship
- ❖ *You cannot apply for the scholarship, you will be invited based on performance at interview*

Scholarship holders will be expected to represent the Brunel Medical School as ambassadors throughout their time at the University and to participate occasionally in various activities to help promote the School. This might include hosting tours of the campus and its facilities, providing support at Open Days, participating in social media, videos/photography and other marketing activity as required. Our ambassadors are expected to lead the organisation of student social events and the formation of our inaugural Medical Student Society.

You can find more information on our scholarships on our dedicated webpage - [Scholarships | Brunel University London](#)