Brunel Medical School

Frequently Asked Questions

2025/26 entry

September 2024. V2.1
Brunel Medical School
Authored by: Clare Purdy

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Application Process

What is the overall application process?

The Brunel Medical School's (BMS) Medicine MBBS is open to UK/home and international applicants.

UK students must apply via UCAS.

Due to high 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. Personal statements and references will also be reviewed at this stage against pre-determined criteria as described below. 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 are reviewed by the Brunel Medical School Selection Panel.

Applicants are then ranked according to applicants' UCAT/GAMSAT scores. Students will the highest UCAT/GAMSAT scores will be invited to interview until all interview slots are filled.

Applications without UCAT/GAMSAT
Applicants who have not obtained a UCAT or GAMSAT score in the year preceding the year of entry will have their personal statements and references reviewed and will be ranked based on achieved or predicted academic grades.

The highest ranked applicants will be invited to interview once all passing UCAT and GAMSAT applicants have been interviewed, and if there are any Medicine places still available.

Stage 3: Virtual Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs)
There will be several MMI weeks taking place throughout the year**.** The highest ranked applicants from Stage 2

will be invited to interview. MMIs will be a series of 6 mini-interview stations, each lasting 5 minutes and 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 MMI series, applicants will be ranked according to their interview final score and offers will be made to the top-ranked candidates. Applicants who are not selected for offer but who performed well will be placed on an Offer Waiting List. Offers will be made in rank order to Offer Waiting List applicants when a vacancy becomes available.

Stage 5: Post-offer requirements

Offers will be made conditional on meeting both academic and non-academic requirements. A deposit is required for international applicants no later than 06 June 2025 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 on your My Applications Portal (this is a webpage where your application will be stored once it is submitted. The Portal gives you access to your application documents, to your offer letter and to the latest updates regarding your application).

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 academic qualification, with transcripts if available*
  - *Personal statement*
  - *Reference*
  - *UCAT/GAMSAT certificate or UCAT/GAMSAT Number*
  - *Any English qualification you currently have. Meeting the English requirements 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 expect the people writing or contributing to your reference to have known you for a period of 6 months or more so that they will have had time to evaluate your qualities. We will require the reference to have been written within the year of application. 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 9 and 10.

- If applicable, please put any disability information in your application information so that the school can make reasonable adjustments to facilitate the interview process. 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. It will not be made available to the interview assessors or to the academic selection staff within the BMS Admissions Team.

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 if you are an international applicant. **UK applicants must apply through UCAS**. Direct and UCAS applications are pooled together and treated in the same way.

Direct applications will be processed via UCAS when your offer becomes unconditional, so if you already have a UCAS account with a choice of offers, you will need to forgo other offers if you wish to retain the offer from Brunel Medical School.

Can I apply if I'm under 18?

We normally require applicants to have reached the age of 18 by registration.

What does the interview look like?

Interview process

Applicants who successfully make it through to the BMS Selection Panel and those with a sufficiently high ranking UCAT/GAMSAT score will be asked to attend a Multi Mini Interview (MMI). These will be conducted online via the Practique software web-portal. You will not need to download any app or software, but you will

need a laptop or tablet computer and reliable access to the internet.

Candidates will take part in 6 scenario-based mini interviews lasting approximately one hour overall to examine different attributes for becoming a doctor. You do not need to study for the interview as we shall not be asking academic questions, but focus on your response to a variety of hypothetical scenarios. You may find that learning about the MMI process online is useful, and you may wish to practice your interview skills with friends or family. More information about MMIs.

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, February and March). 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 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

- International offer holders are required to pay a deposit to secure their place on the programme (subject to meeting other conditions) by June 2025*.

**dependent on date of offer, if you receive an offer please check your offer letter*

Unconditional offers – what next?

Preparing for Medical School and the UK

Once you have decided to accept your unconditional offer to study Medicine in Brunel Medical School, there are a number of important issues that you need to address. Some of these are listed below, and the sooner you deal with them, the smoother the process will be. Do not leave these issues to the last minute as you may jeopardise your place in Brunel Medical School.

Accommodation

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

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 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 en-suite (private bathroom).

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.

At present the Brunel University on campus accommodation does not cater for students coming with partners or families. We recommend using rightmove who can help find student friendly accommodation - https://www.rightmove.co.uk/student-accommodation.html, there is a whole range of flats and houses in the

local area for all different types of needs.

Visa application

For international students, 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). You will not be able to register or start your course without a valid Student Visa - if your visa is delayed, you will not be able to start the 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 with their hobbies or discover new ones, or feel closer to home by meeting other students from your part of the world.

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

All information on sports clubs is here - https://brunelstudents.com/activities/sportsclubs/joinaclub/

How much should I budget for living expenses each month?

When applying for your Student Visa you will need to show that you can afford living costs of £1,334 for each month of your course.

Roughly students should budget between £845 - £975 per month depending on their lifestyle.

Do I have to pay the full year's tuition at once or can I pay in instalments?

Payments are made throughout the year.

Early Payment Discount

All students who are responsible for paying their own course fees in full, and who pay the full amount of fees due at or before their scheduled date of registration, may receive an early payment discount of 2% on the net course fee i.e after the application of any other discounts to which they may be entitled

General course information

Has the MBBS course received approval from the General Medical Council?
The GMC is the professional regulator for UK Primary Medical Qualifications, and will quality assure Brunel's 5-year Medicine MBBS course with the goal of approval to award Primary Medical Qualifications. We are working closely with them to ensure our medical education and training will prepare you to deliver high-quality care throughout your career. The GMC has started this process and will follow the first cohort from registration to graduation, taking the form of a year-by-year review of our learning and training environments.

During this period of close review, the GMC requires all new medical schools to have a contingency school to partner with the new school and provide regular support. The University of Buckingham Medical School is Brunel Medical School's contingency school.

Brunel Medical School has gained General Medical Council (GMC) approval to recruit students starting from 2022 entry.

The list of UK Medical Schools under GMC review can be found here.

I am not planning to stay in the UK after graduating from Medical School. What support do you offer to help me qualify as a doctor?

Brunel Medical School's Careers Advisor will guide you from the start of your medical studies, whether you intend to enter the UK Foundation Programme or return to your home country after graduating. We will help you in researching and understanding the requirements for practicing medicine in your country. We will work with you to identify additional resources and support you may require to meet the requirements.

We recommend you research your own country's requirements before confirming your place with Brunel Medical School.

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 be a maximum of 1000 words and 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 of 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 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 an 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. We expect the people writing or contributing to your reference to have known you for 6 months or more so that they will have had time to evaluate your qualities. The reference must be written within the year of application. 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 is 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 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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Selection Process

Stage 1 – Initial assessment

An initial assessment of all the applications is made by the Brunel Admissions Team. Personal statements and references are checked at this stage to make sure they meet the requirements. Applicants who meet, or are predicted to meet, the general requirements and minimum academic requirements advance to Stage 2.

Stage 2 – Application review

1. Applications are reviewed by the Brunel Medical School Selection Panel.
2. Applications are then ranked according to students' UCAT scores. Those who so far meet the entry requirements, and, who have the highest UCAT scores will be invited to interview.

Applications without UCAT/GAMSAT

Applicants will have their personal statements and references reviewed and will be ranked based on achieved or predicted academic grades.

The highest ranked applicants will be invited to interview once all passing UCAT/GAMSAT applicants have been interviewed, and if there are Medicine places still available.

Stage 3 - Multiple Mini Interview (MMI)

Information on the MMI can he found on the Interviews web page

Our first set of interviews are taking place in late 2024. There will be further sets of interviews throughout the year. If required, a final set of interviews will take place in summer 2025. Interviews will be granted to the highest ranked students.

Stage 4 - Interview ranking

Candidates are ranked according to the total score obtained at MMI (with no pre-determined requirement to pass a minimum number of stations). Candidates' MMI scores are presented to the Admissions Committee and a cut score is agreed, based on past and current cohort performance.

Applicants with a total score lower than the cut score are rejected.

Applicants reaching the cut score are offered a place or added to the Offer Waiting List, according to the number of available places.