Medicine?

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Faculty of Medicine
Imperial College London
Medicine is Fun!

Imperial College
London
Why *not* do medicine?

- Not like TV (no glamour)
- Long training; always tested
- Hard work, long hours
- Not all patients are ‘nice’
- Dirty and unpleasant (e.g. handling body excretions)
- Violence
- Legal aspects
Medicine is **very** competitive

Applicants to places ~8:1

2400 for 280 places
all with the provisional basic entry qualifications
Types of Medical Course

• 5-year course (MB BS)
• 6-year course (includes BSc or BA)
• 4-year fast-track graduate entry
• MB BS/PhD programme (8-9 years)
• Universities overseas (consult GMC)
Choosing a course

• Which medical school?
  – Entry requirements
  – City v. Rural
  – Distance from home
  – Costs (e.g. accommodation)
  – University ‘prestige’ (added value?)

• Which type of course?
  – PBL or more formalised (or hybrid)
Sir Alexander Fleming Building
Graduate entry courses

- Second chance for medicine
- 16 GE now on offer nationwide
- Some (but not all) specify degrees in sciences

At Imperial College London
- Intake of 45 (7 for OS)
- Requirement: BSc (min 2.1) or PhD in biomedical and related sciences (e.g. biomedical science, bioengineering, etc.)
Alternatives to medicine

• Many, and can be just as exciting
  – Research (academic or business)
    • Biomedicine, bioengineering, biochemistry, pharmaceutical, etc.
  – Other healthcare professionals
    • Dentistry, podiatry, nursing, radiography, etc.
  – Other related professions
    • Medical journalism, editing, etc.
    • Management, etc.
Chosing a course

• Which medical school?
  – Entry requirements
  – City v. Rural
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  – University ‘prestige’ (added value?)

• Which type of learning?
  – PBL or more formalised (or hybrid)
Medical Education & Training in the UK

- Undergraduate/graduate programmes qualification
- 2 year foundation programme including 1 year Pre-registration House Officer leading to full registration
- Professional training Specialist registrar or GP trainee
- Consultant or GP
Charing Cross Campus
Career Options

- General Practice
- Hospital-based clinical practice
- Pathology - microbiology, chemical, histopathology, forensic
- Academic Medicine - research, education & clinical
- Industrial research & drug development
- Administration - WHO, EU, NHS

And plenty of others!
St. Mary’s Campus
What are we looking for?

• MEDICINE VERY COMPETITIVE

• Entry qualifications?
• Admissions test?
• UCAS form
  – Personal statement, school statement
• Interview?
The admissions process at Imperial

1. Entry Qualifications
2. BMAT
2. The UCAS form
3. Selection for interview
4. Conditional offer?

[Health form and CRB check]
ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

• For Imperial:
  • e.g. GCSE: minimum of 3A and 2B in English, Maths, Biology, Physics and Chemistry (Double Science can replace the individual sciences)
  • e.g. A/AS levels: AAAb
    – Or AAAC if all A levels

• A few other qualifications accepted, e.g. IB
1. BMAT

- 2h long
- 3 sections
  - aptitude
  - science
  - communication
- Numerous centres
- Taken in November

- For Imperial, top rankings across all three sections:
  - Next stage
THE INTERVIEW

• The purpose of your UCAS form (and admissions test score if relevant) is to get you an INTERVIEW

• The majority of interviewees will be offered a conditional place at that medical school

SO THE INTERVIEW IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHINE!
Getting the right work experience
It’s not just about convincing an admissions officer

Relevant work experience will

- Demonstrate your commitment to medicine.
- Demonstrate you appreciate what the job involves.

- BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY: It should help you decide whether you actually want to be a doctor.
Types of work experience

- Hospital
- Nursing Home
- Doctors
- Surgery
- Accessibility

[Images of signs for hospital, nursing home, doctors, surgery, and accessibility]
Other extracurricular activities

- Youth clubs
- Charity shops
- Academic tutoring and mentoring
- Duke of Edinburgh award scheme
- St John Ambulance training schemes
- Clubs, teams, orchestras, organisations
- etc.
How to use your varied experiences

• Use your experiences to provide evidence in your personal statement and your interview demonstrating how you meet the non-academic criteria of the medical schools you are applying to.

• For example, at Imperial we look for:
  – leadership,
  – teamworking,
  – community service
  – understanding of medicine as a career
So, Medicine?

• Give it serious thought
• Make your decision
• And if it is yes,

Then \ \textbf{GO FOR IT!}

(and consider Imperial?)