



Medicine

Full details about the course are available from

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/medicine

Brief details of the course

Selwyn medical students spend three years studying pre-clinical courses before proceeding to the clinical part of the course. All students who are successful in the pre-clinical part will continue their studies in the Cambridge Clinical School.

Medicine at Selwyn

Selwyn offers a unique pre-clinical experience; we take seriously the need to ground tomorrow's doctors in basic science studies with a clinical context. Our first year tutorials are conducted by Teaching Fellows who are also experienced clinicians in Hospital Medicine and Surgery.

All lectures and practical work are organised by the University and take place on or near the Downing Site in the centre of Cambridge, where the Departments of Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Pathology, Pharmacology, and Experimental Psychology are situated.

The College arranges tutorial sessions (supervisions) which take place in groups of 3-4 students for an hour a week in each subject. Written work is presented for comment by the supervisor and there is an opportunity to clarify topics from lectures. Supervisions are arranged by the Directors of Studies in Medicine, who also offer study support – including advice on what courses to take and how to approach them.

In the first year all University medical students take courses which cover human anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and medical genetics, together with 'Preparing for Patients and Professional Practice' – a course which lays a foundation for later clinical studies. In the second year the courses cover reproductive biology, neurobiology, pathology, pharmacology and psychology.

In their third year most medical students study a single subject in depth, such as Neuroscience or Pathology. Nearly all subjects include a research project or a literature dissertation. Alternatively medical students can undertake a more general course by combining parts of two single subject courses, together with a Special Subject.

University examinations are taken at the end of each academic year. Parts IA and IB are taken at the end of the first and second years, respectively, and the 2nd MB is part of these examinations. We offer continued support and teaching throughout the clinical part of our student's studies.

The Teaching Fellows

The Director of Studies in Medicine is Dr Roddy O'Donnell (supervisor in physiology); Consultant in Paediatric Intensive Care, Addenbrooke's Hospital). Dr John Benson (Consultant Breast Surgeon at Addenbrooke's Hospital) directs clinical studies. Dr Charlotte Summers, University Lecturer in Critical Care Medicine (Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine, Addenbrooke's Hospital). Other College Fellows who take supervisions with medical students are Dr Robert Whitaker (Anatomist and retired Surgeon), Dr Stewart Sage (Reader in Cell Physiology), and Dr Michael Taussig (Pathology).

Subject requirements

We have strong preference for candidates with three science/maths subjects at A-Level: one of these must be Chemistry.

Most applicants have at least three science/mathematics A-Levels. Please note that in the past three admissions rounds, 98 per cent of applicants for Medicine offered three or more science/mathematics A-Levels and, of these, 30 per cent were successful in obtaining a place. Of the two per cent of applicants who offered only two science/mathematics A-Levels, six per cent were successful in gaining a place.

Interviews

Prospective candidates can expect three interviews, two of approximately 25 minutes and one of 10-15 minutes. One interview is designed to find out about your interests and your motivation for the course, your practical experience with people, and your ability to cope with biological problems. The second subject interview will focus on your scientific understanding and your ability to reason. The general interview is with the Admissions Tutor (Sciences). This is designed to learn about your activities outside your proposed field of study and the maturity of your approach towards academic work.

BMAT

All candidates applying to Cambridge to read Medicine are required to sit Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT) which is taken in schools and colleges on a specified date in November, and it lasts two hours. The BMAT is used to assess scientific aptitude, not fitness to practise Medicine. Rather, it will focus on scientific abilities relevant to the study of Medicine and is one of several elements in the selection process. It may be used, as one of several factors, to select for interview.

The BMAT does not require special teaching or preparation, and is intended to test ability and fundamental relevant understanding rather than advanced factual knowledge. It is helpful if candidates have familiarised themselves with the nature of the BMAT and attempted a few practice questions. Please note that it is the candidates responsibility to enter themselves for the test. Full details of the BMAT test are available at

www.admissionstests.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/adt/bmat

Finding out more and Open Days

Medicine will be represented at the Cambridge Open Days on 4 and 5 July. See the insert in our prospectus about this and other open days at Selwyn. Full details are also available on our website.

Please note that Medical students must be at least 18 years old by the start of Lent Term (January) in their first year of study.