

APPLYING TO MEDICAL SCHOOL

The first port of call for general guidance:

<http://bma.org.uk/>

Then contact the medical school websites directly and UCAS

Other sites including mentoring for medical school (WAMS – Widening access to medical school)

<http://www.brightjournals.org/>

It has to be carried out through your local medical school ie the Peninsular Medical School:

Our e-Mentoring Scheme provides an opportunity for students in years 10 to 13 at schools in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset to discuss not only the application process but also the teaching and learning experiences of medical students enrolled on the BM,BS programme. For more information please contact : student-support@pcmd.ac.uk or call 01752 437337/332

UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT)

The UKCAT is a test for medical school entry in the UK. It is used in the selection procedure for 26 of the UK's medical schools to help universities select entrants from among the many highly-qualified students who apply to study medicine.

The UKCAT is not a test of knowledge but focuses on testing attributes considered to be valuable for healthcare professionals and aims to ensure that applicants selected to medical school have the most appropriate mental abilities, attitudes and professional behaviours required for new doctors to be successful in their careers.

- **Verbal reasoning** - assesses candidates' ability to think logically about written information and to arrive at a reasoned conclusion.
- **Quantitative reasoning** - assesses candidates' ability to solve numerical problems.
- **Abstract reasoning** - assesses candidates' ability to infer relationships from information by convergent and divergent thinking.
- **Decision analysis** - assesses candidates' ability to deal with various forms of information, to infer relationships, to make informed judgements, and to decide on an appropriate response, in situations of complexity and ambiguity.
- **Non-cognitive analysis** - identifies the attributes and characteristics of robustness, empathy and integrity that may contribute to successful health professional practice.

Further information, including the list of medical schools requiring this test can be found on the [UKCAT website](#)

Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT)

The purpose of the BMAT is solely to provide an assessment of candidates' potential in an academically demanding undergraduate biomedical degree, and not their fitness to practice medicine or veterinary medicine - which universities will continue to assess in other ways. The test is designed to be challenging, in order to discriminate effectively between able applicants for university courses, including those who may have achieved the highest possible grades in school examinations.

BMAT is a subject-specific test taken by applicants to Cambridge, Imperial College London, Oxford and University College London medical schools.

BMAT is a two-hour pen and paper test which covers:

- Aptitude and skills
- Scientific knowledge and applications
- Writing task

Further information can be found on the [BMAT website](#)