



University of
Central
Lancashire
UCLan



Thinking of applying to study medicine?

What can you do to help build the knowledge and skills required to strengthen your application?

uclan.ac.uk/schools/medicine

We understand that people make career choices at different times in their lives. Whenever you make that choice, pre or post 16, this leaflet will give you some tips and resources to help you get on your way.

Pre-16

- Start to find out about medical and healthcare careers. There are many careers out there, find the one that is the best fit for your skills and attributes.
- Make sure that you talk to your school teachers when you are looking at options for GCSE, and choose the subjects that are required by medical schools. Use the [Medical School's Council \(MSC\)](#) webpage to check which GCSE and A Levels are required. You can search the site to specifically look for the qualifications that you are interested in.
- Take part in music, sports, clubs and societies. Participating in, and keeping up with activities that interest you can help you to show attainment, commitment and goal-setting, as well as a healthy balance of school work and hobbies.
- Become involved in school mentoring and buddy programmes, if any are available. If there isn't one in your school currently, why not talk to the teachers about starting one?
- Help support elderly neighbours or relatives as part of learning more about caring roles. This also provides experience for applying for roles in care homes and other care organisations later on.
- Become part of the community through a youth group or community centre.



Post-16

- Attend open days at the universities you're considering from Year 12: compare location, facilities, transport, accommodation, course structure and entry requirements. Compare costs of living and transport home.
- If you have recently decided to study medicine you will need to confirm that the A Levels you are doing will be accepted by the universities to which you are applying.
- Use your pre-16 experiences as evidence to apply for jobs or voluntary work in a variety of settings, such as:
 - Care homes
 - Pharmacy
 - Charity shops or charities
 - St John's Ambulance or Red Cross
 - Volunteering at school
 - Shadowing a GP
 - Taking part in a hospital trust work experience programme
 - Jobs in other sectors in a team, or public-facing setting such as shops
 - Volunteering for community initiatives

COVID restrictions make finding jobs and experiences more difficult but there are still opportunities available; such as taking part in free online courses and experiences like [UCLan's Pathways to Medicine programme](#) or the [Royal College of GPs Observe GP programme](#). The Medical School's Council (MSC) also provides a guide to COVID-19 work experience. Some communities collect for Food Banks or are looking for volunteers to support those who cannot leave their homes due to COVID restrictions etc. Look at the GMC and BMA websites to research the expectations of a medical student and doctor.

Whilst it is better if you can demonstrate an obvious link between the experience you have and the skills required to be a doctor, we understand that this can be difficult. You therefore need to be able to reflect on your experience and have examples of supporting people where you demonstrated the skills required: such as caring, supporting people's decisions etc.

- Continue with your extra-curricular clubs and activities as this demonstrates commitment and a healthy work/life balance.
- Check to see if the course you're interested in requires an aptitude or situational judgement test. You may need to apply to sit the [UCAT](#) or [BMAT](#) the summer before application. You do NOT need to take a course for this, free resources are available.
- Keep a diary of experiences to include in your personal statement; reflect on your experiences, motivation and skills.

Useful websites

Pre-16

Find the career that is the best fit for your skills and attributes:

healthcareers.nhs.uk

Check which GCSE and A Levels are required:

medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/making-an-application/entry-requirements

Post-16

Check which A Levels are accepted by different medical schools:

medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/making-an-application/entry-requirements

Take part in a programme such as UCLan's Pathway to Medicine:

uclan.ac.uk/schools/medicine/pathways-to-medicine-programme

Hospital trust or online work experience programme:

elht.nhs.uk/working-us/work-experience

rcgp.org.uk/training-exams/discover-general-practice/observe-gp.aspx

Look for alternative experiences online, within your community, or in your schools supporting other students.

Start working on your personal statement and reflect on your experience, motivation and skills. For guidance or to book an advice session with one of the team at the University of Central Lancashire, visit:

uclan.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/medicine-mbbs

Further information about studying at the University of Central Lancashire:

uclan.ac.uk/schools/medicine

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