

Medicine Information Sheet for entry in 2018

The practice of Medicine offers a breadth of experiences that it is impossible to find in any other subject. Every day brings different patients with different needs. It's a great choice for scientists who strive to understand and apply research findings to improve the lives of the patients in their care. It offers a meaningful career that is prestigious, secure and relatively well paid. However, practising Medicine can be arduous, stressful, frustrating and bureaucratic and it's not suited to everyone. You need to be sure that Medicine is the right choice for you. Studying Medicine because that is what is expected of you is never a good idea: make sure that your motives for choosing to do so are well reasoned.



The A100 Medicine course at Oxford provides a well-rounded intellectual training with particular emphasis on the basic science research that underpins medicine. We have retained a distinct three-year pre-clinical stage that includes studying towards a BA Honours degree in Medical Sciences, followed by a three-year clinical stage.

The Medical School at Oxford is relatively small, allowing students and staff to get to know one another and benefit from a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

The pre-clinical stage

Applicants for A100 are initially admitted to the pre-clinical stage of the course.

The first five terms of this course are devoted to the First BM. This addresses not only much of the science that underpins Medicine, but also the clinical problems that arise when systems fail. Students are introduced to the major systems of the body and study all aspects of their structure and function in health and also the principles of disease processes. Students are encouraged to develop an enquiring approach and to consider the experimental basis of the science in the course. Matters of clinical relevance are illustrated from the outset with students making regular visits to GP tutors.

The First BM is followed by a four-term BA Honours course (the Final Honour School) in Medical Sciences. Students specialise in an area of biomedical science selected from a range of options. They will become adept at working from primary research literature, and will be encouraged to think both critically and creatively. Students will gain in-depth knowledge of their chosen option, as well as advanced technical skills at the laboratory bench and in scientific data handling and presentation.

The Principles of Clinical Anatomy course, delivered at the end of the third year, is designed to teach students clinically relevant aspects of anatomy that will be of immediate use in their clinical years.

Location of teaching

Pre-clinical teaching on this course takes place in central Oxford, usually in buildings belonging to your college or department though sometimes in other venues. Most clinical teaching takes place in the hospitals and general practices in Oxford, but with an important element taking place in other centres in the Oxford Teaching Network, primarily in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Wiltshire and Northamptonshire. Accommodation is provided at no cost to students whilst on compulsory residential attachments based out of Oxford and essential travel expenses are reimbursed.

Teaching methods and study support

During the pre-clinical stage of the course, the college tutorial system is a central feature: students see their tutors and are taught weekly in groups often as small as two. This teaching can be tailored to individuals' needs and interests. Most University lectures, seminars and practical classes take place in the Medical Sciences Teaching Centre in the Science Area. Lecturers are drawn from Oxford's extensive preclinical and clinical departments, all of which have international reputations for excellence in research, and the courses are organised on an interdisciplinary basis so as to emphasise the interrelatedness of all aspects of the curriculum.

Research work

In addition to taking written and computer-based examinations, and submitting practical reports and an extended essay, students undertake a research project as part of their BA course. This will be in a field of interest to the student, and will offer valuable first-hand experience of scientific research. Students have the opportunity to undertake research in a laboratory from a wide range of departments within the Medical Sciences Division.

Fees Status

Please note that the number of international fee status medical students at each medical school in the UK is subject to a government quota: currently this is 14.

A typical weekly timetable

During the First BM, lectures and practicals occupy about half of the time, and the remainder is free for tutorial work, self-directed study and extracurricular activities. During the BA course, formal lecturing is kept to a minimum, and students are mostly free to pursue their research and to prepare for tutorials and seminars. Strong academic support ensures that students manage their time effectively.

First BM Part 1: Terms 1–3	
Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organisation of the body• Physiology and pharmacology• Biochemistry and medical genetics• Population health: Medical sociology• Patient and doctor course	Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three core computer-based assessments• Four written papers• Satisfactory practical record

First BM Part 2: Terms 4–5	
<p>Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied physiology and pharmacology • The nervous system • Principles of pathology • Psychology for medicine • Patient and doctor course 	<p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three core computer-based assessments • Four written papers • Satisfactory practical record
Final Honour School in Medical Sciences: Terms 6–9	
<p>Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option (currently one from: Neuroscience; Molecular medicine; Infection and immunity; Cardiovascular, renal and respiratory biology; Cellular physiology and pharmacology) • Research project • Extended essay • Principles of clinical anatomy <p><i>A full list of course options is available at:</i> www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/medicine/pre-clinical/structure</p>	<p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written papers • Submission of extended essay and research project write-up • Oral presentation of research project • Qualifying exam in Principles of clinical anatomy: computer-based assessment

The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after registration. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions.

Progress to clinical training

The A100 Medicine course is six years in duration. During the 3rd year of the course students will be invited to apply for entry to the Oxford clinical school and/or one of the medical schools of London University (University College London, Imperial, Queen Mary London, King's College London, and St George's London). All suitably qualified Oxford pre-clinical students will be guaranteed an offer from the Oxford clinical school should they choose Oxford as their first choice school or if they are unsuccessful in their application to a London school. Oxford students may apply to or may be allocated to a different Oxford college for years 4 to 6.

The Accelerated (Graduate Entry) Course (A101)

Graduates in experimental science subjects may be eligible to apply for the four-year accelerated course (UCAS code A101 BMBCh4). After a two-year transition phase covering basic science and clinical skills, the accelerated programme leads into the final two years of the standard course and to the same Oxford medical qualification as the standard (six-year) course. The four-year course is designed specifically for science graduates, and places a strong emphasis on the scientific basis of medical practice.

Fees

Oxford University is committed to recruiting the best and brightest students from all backgrounds. We offer a generous package of financial support to Home/EU students from lower-income households. (UK nationals living in the UK are usually Home students.)

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2018.

Fee Status	Pre-clinical tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU	£9,250	£0	£9,250
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250	£0	£9,250
Overseas	£18,620	£7,570	£26,190

Pre-clinical fees are charged in years 1, 2 and 3 of the standard course (A100) and in year 1 of the Accelerated (Graduate Entry) course (A101), although there are clinical elements of study throughout the Accelerated course.

Fees for the later years have not yet been confirmed but please note that these may be different from the pre-clinical fees. Clinical fees are charged in years 4 to 6 of the standard course (A100) and years 2 to 4 of the Accelerated (Graduate Entry) course (A101). As a guide, these are the annual fees for students who will complete the pre-clinical stage of their course and progress to the clinical years in 2018.

Fee Status	Clinical tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU	£9,250	£0	£9,250
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	c. £26,525 (Figure still an estimate, to be confirmed by the Islands governments.)	£0	c. £26,525
Overseas	£32,895	£3,112	£36,007

Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Medicine

Pre-clinical Medicine

In the third term of year 2 students who undertake a research project may wish to remain in Oxford after the end of full term to facilitate completion of their project. However, this extended residence in Oxford is not a requirement. Students should be aware that no financial support is available to help with any additional living costs during this time.

Clinical Medicine

Students in the Clinical School study for extended terms. You will need to budget for higher living costs in these three years, as you will be required to be in Oxford for longer than the standard terms. (See the likely range of living costs for an additional month in Oxford.)

- Year 1 – 40 weeks
- Year 2 – 48 weeks
- Year 3 – 48 weeks, including 10 weeks elective study (see below)

For more information about fees and funding for this course, please see Funding for UK/EU Medical Students.

Graduate Entry Medicine (A101)

Graduate Entry Medicine students study for extended terms. You will therefore need to budget for higher living costs, as you will be required to be in Oxford for longer than the standard terms. (See the likely range of living costs for an additional month in Oxford.)

- Year 1 – 30 weeks
- Year 2 – 40 weeks
- Year 3 – 48 weeks
- Year 4 – 48 weeks, including 10 weeks elective study (see below)

For more information about fees and funding for this course, please see Funding for UK/EU Medical Students.

Elective study

Each final year student has a period of 10 weeks for elective study within the overall 48 weeks of the course. (This is year 6 for A100 students, and year 4 for A101 students.) Your elective study may be conducted Oxford, elsewhere in the UK, or anywhere in the world provided the content of the placement is appropriate experience for medicine. Approval must be granted by the Director of Clinical Studies. A student who stays in Oxford for their elective would be expected to incur no additional costs apart from their living costs. Many students opt to travel outside the UK in which case the additional cost is on average around £3,000, but may be lower or higher depending on location (very occasionally a student has spent up to £9,000.) Students who have not completed the core training in clinical medicine may be required to follow a prescribed course of study in Oxford for all or part of their 10 week elective instead of arranging a placement. There are opportunities to apply for additional financial support which varies depending on the destination proposed. This support is usually around £300 to £500 towards travel costs.

Living Costs

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £1,014 and £1,556 per month in 2018-19. Undergraduate courses usually consist of three terms of eight weeks each, but as a guide you may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£258	£361	£2,318	£3,245
Accommodation (including utilities)	£536	£677	£4,824	£6,093
Personal items	£118	£263	£1,066	£2,364
Social activities	£41	£123	£369	£1,105
Study costs	£39	£85	£348	£765
Other	£22	£47	£202	£419
Total	£1,014	£1,556	£9,127	£13,991

When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2018-19, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

10 November 2017