

Medicine Information Sheet for entry in 2016

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. These pages will help you work that out, but there's no better way to find out for sure than by gaining insight of medical practice by seeing it in action and talking to those who provide healthcare. 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.



Medicine at Oxford

The 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.

Despite recent expansion, the Medical School at Oxford remains relatively small, allowing students and staff to get to know one another and benefit from a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

The standard course (A100)

We have retained a course with distinct pre-clinical and clinical sections that includes studying towards a BA Honours degree in Medical Sciences.

Applicants are initially admitted to the pre-clinical section of the course. Entry to the Oxford Clinical School is competitive; however, currently a joint admissions scheme (under review) is in place with the Universities of Cambridge and London to ensure that all suitably qualified Oxford pre-clinical students will be allocated a clinical school place within the scheme. The majority of students continue their clinical training in Oxford. Upon successful completion of clinical training and the award of the BM BCh degree, subsequent years are spent on Foundation and Specialist Training programmes.

The Pre-clinical stage

Applicants 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. There are clinical demonstrations in hospitals, and students make 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 one of five 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.

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 special two-year transition phase covering both 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. See www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/medicine for further information.

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 pre-clinical 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 University.

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 extra-curricular 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 knowledge computer-based assessments • Four written papers • Satisfactory practical record
First BM Part 2 - Terms 4 -6	
Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied physiology and pharmacology • The nervous system • Principles of pathology • Psychology for medicine • Patient and Doctor course 	Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three core knowledge computer-based assessments • Four written papers • Satisfactory practical record
Final Honour School in Medical Sciences - Terms 6–9	
Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option (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 	Assessment <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
To progress to clinical training, at the end of Term 9 students take: Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of Clinical Anatomy 	Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three computer-based assessments

Progress to Clinical training

In December of the third year, students must apply to be accepted by a clinical school. Currently a joint admissions scheme is in place with the medical schools of London University to ensure that all suitably qualified Oxford pre-clinical students will be allocated a clinical school place within the scheme. Of those who choose to apply to the Oxford Clinical School, about 85% have been successful in recent years. Upon completion of the clinical stage of the course, the subsequent years are spent on Foundation and Specialist Training programmes.

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.

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2016.

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU	£9,000	£0	£9,000
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,000	£0	£9,000
Overseas	£17,555	£7,135	£24,690

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 2016:

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU	£9,000	£0	£9,000
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	c. £25,150 (Figure still an estimate, to be confirmed by the Islands governments.)	£2,933	c. £28,083
Overseas	£31,005	£2,933	£33,938

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.

- 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 www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/oxford-support/funding-for-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.

- 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 www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/oxford-support/funding-for-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 £970 and £1,433 per month in 2016-17. 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	£265	£298	£2,384	£2,673
Accommodation (including utilities)	£469	£667	£4,221	£6,002
Personal items	£119	£244	£1,073	£2,187
Social activities	£60	£107	£539	£960
Study costs	£36	£73	£314	£661
Other	£19	£44	£197	£410
Total	£970	£1,433	£8,727	£12,894

17 November 2015