

Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine Applications



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Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine applications follow a distinct process. At Woldingham we are committed to providing exceptional support for students considering these routes. This includes preparation for application tests, advice on crafting the UCAS personal statement, and interview preparation and practice.

While fully supporting each student's ambition to apply, we know that such applications are very competitive and so we try to ensure that applications are kept in perspective; even the strongest applicants might not ultimately end up being offered places.

In the Lower Sixth there are meetings during the autumn term. This is to introduce the expectations of medical schools and to discuss the necessity for work experience and volunteer work. Students are encouraged to keep up to date with relevant current affairs and to research individual subjects to present to peers and the Med Club.

In the summer term these sessions run weekly, become more specific and cover a range of topics, including:

- The different teaching styles of the universities.
- The entrance tests required by the different universities.
- The different weightings each university gives to the data used to assess pupils.
- The UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT).
- The BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT).

We then move on to cover ideas needed for UKCAT and for interviews, including ethical considerations; we also consider Good Medical Practice (2013) published by the GMC.

We also host an externally-run Preparation for UKCAT course and further extensive work is done on preparation for UKCAT and personal statements. Advice and help is also given to those wanting to take the BMAT examination.

There is a focus on ensuring that all pupils have found suitable work experience. Towards the close of the academic year, students will meet with the Head of Science to draw up a bespoke summer holiday plan, involving a balance between work experience, volunteering, and preparation for the UKCAT and BMAT. We also encourage and discuss wider reading for academic enrichment.

In the autumn term of Upper Sixth, time is initially spent analysing the UKCAT/ BMAT results and refining the selection of universities accordingly. Individual help is given in crafting a personal statement. Once application forms have been submitted, the focus shifts to interview preparation. This involves group sessions, one to one interviews with senior members of staff and with current doctors, MMI practice and an externally-hosted MMI course run at the school.

What is UKCAT?

This is the UK Clinical Aptitude Test and is required for entry into a medical or dentistry degree course at many British universities. It is a computer-based test taken at an external venue. The test can be taken between July and October, usually before or in the Upper Sixth.

The test is multiple choice and split into five sections:

- Verbal Reasoning
- Decision Making
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Abstract Reasoning
- Situational Judgement

Scores are given as a number between 300 and 900 for the first four sections, however Situational Judgement is split into Bands 1-4, with one being the highest.

What is BMAT?

The BioMedical Admissions Test is a test for applicants to Medicine, Biomedical Science and Dentistry at certain universities. At present these include: University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, University of Oxford Medical School, University College London, Lancaster University, University of Leeds, Keele University, Brighton & Sussex Medical School.

It is a two-hour pen and paper test divided into three sections:

- Aptitude and Skills, which tests problem-solving, understanding arguments, and the ability to analyse data and make inferences.
- Scientific Knowledge and Applications, which requires the ability to apply scientific knowledge and mathematical skills.
- Writing Task, which tests the ability to select, develop and organise ideas as well as the ability to communicate effectively in writing and to present ideas clearly and concisely.

The test can be sat at one of two sessions in September or November. However, it is only possible to sit the test once in each academic year. Sitting the test in September means that pupils have their results before their UCAS form is submitted.

Most pupils will sit UKCAT before returning to school in the September of their Upper Sixth and will take the BMAT examination in the September sitting. Pupils wanting to study Veterinary Medicine will not need to sit any tests, apart from those intending to apply to Cambridge which requires the university's specific pre-interview assessment.



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