



# Training to be a GP in Scotland

## Access to a Medical Degree – From UK School or UK Further Education (FE)

### Following completion of SQA Highers/ GCSE A Levels ;

MBChB –Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, 4-6 year degree course available at 5 Scottish Universities (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow & St. Andrew’s). Successful completion of MBChB, as a Primary Medical Qualification (PMQ), may allow for provisional registration with the GMC (General Medical Council) to practise medicine under supervision.

### Requirements

The entry requirements for each medical school can vary. All 5 medical schools in Scotland accept SQA Highers, usually at AAAAB or AAABB grades in S5 and SQA Advanced Highers at AB or BBB in S6. The specific entry requirements for each university, including other accepted academic qualifications, can be found at the respective medical school website:

University of Aberdeen School of Medicine and Dentistry : <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/smmsn/>

Dundee University School of Medicine: <https://www.dundee.ac.uk/medicine/>

Edinburgh University : <https://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine/edinburgh-medical-school>

Glasgow University School of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing: <https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/medicine/>

St. Andrews School of Medicine: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/medicine/>

### Standard Entry Requirements

Highers AAAAA or AAAAB incl. Chemistry and at least one other approved Science with 2 Advanced Highers (some variations between medical schools). Candidates must complete the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) and provide a personal statement. There are Widening Access Schemes (eg Gateway 2 Medicine Aberdeen University/NESCOL) that run pre undergraduate one year courses to develop candidates for medical degree entrance. In certain circumstances, standard entry requirements can be relaxed to the universities particular minimum entry requirements or allowable exam substitutions. Generally, the process is competitive and acceptance dependent on the number of student places available. Future fitness to practice is also considered and there are background disclosure checks carried out for applicants.

### Process (for 2022 admissions)

Sit the UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test) – UCAT Registration opens May 2021, first test dates are available from July 2021, with the last registration deadline in September and a last available test date in early October 2021. Candidates can sit online or at a test centre <https://www.ucat.ac.uk/>

University entrance applications are made through UCAS (University and Colleges Admissions Service) and must be done by mid October 2021 for 2022 University entry, the candidates UCAT score is also sent to Universities. Interviews and assessments with the medical schools take place between Nov 2021 and Mar 2022. Decisions are made by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and offers / conditional offers made between April to July 2022. Final placings are dependent on SQA results available in August 2022. Students commence University Medical School courses in late September 2022.

### Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA)

As well as completing a medical degree, undergraduates will also need to complete the new GMC Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA) process that will affect medical students graduating from 2024. Essentially graduates completing a PMQ will also need to pass both parts the MLA assessment as part of their degree. It involves an Applied Knowledge Test (AKT), and an assessment of clinical and professional skills, successful completion would gain a provisional license to practice medicine under supervision. This is necessary to move on to postgraduate medical training.

### Key dates (for Sept 2022 entry)

Applications Timetable		Resources	
Open	Closes		

Register for UCAT Test	05/2021	09/2021	UCAT – University Clinical Aptitude Test	<a href="https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/">https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/</a>
Sit UCAT test	07/2021	10/2021	BMA – How to become a doctor	<a href="https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/career/studying-medicine/becoming-a-doctor">https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/career/studying-medicine/becoming-a-doctor</a>
Applications for University course through UCAS		10/2021	Medical Schools in Scotland	Check individual websites for Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow and St. Andrew's Universities
University Interviews	Nov 2021	March 2022		
Offers	April 2022	July 2022		
Acceptance	April 2022	August 2022		

## Access to a Medical Degree - as a post graduate

### As a graduate from another discipline (not medicine)

MBChB –Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, 4-6 year degree course available at 5 Scottish Universities (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow & St. Andrew's). Successful completion of MBChB, as a Primary Medical Qualification (PMQ), may allow for provisional registration with the GMC (General Medical Council) to practise medicine under supervision. Graduate entry programme schemes can apply to this route.

### Graduate Entry Schemes

ScotGEM (Scottish Graduate Entry Medicine Scheme) [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/medicine/scotgem-mbchb/](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/medicine/scotgem-mbchb/) 50 places are available for a 4 year medicine degree and experience as a generalist practitioner in Scotland. The course is run through St. Andrews and Dundee Universities. Can be very flexible in course placement, locations in rural medicine.

HCP – Med (Healthcare Professional Medical Degree) <https://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine/edinburgh-medical-school/mbchb-for-healthcare-professionals/about-the-hcp-mbchb> . Places are available for experienced healthcare professionals to become doctors (Edinburgh University). Applicants must already be living and working in Scotland as a healthcare professional, be a qualified healthcare professional with a degree (1:1 or 2:1). The course runs with a part time element to start merging with MBChB for years 4 and 5.

### General Post Graduate Requirements

Must have a science or healthcare related degree at 1:1 or 2:1 (variations between medical schools). Not all first degrees are eligible and there are other requirements (eg Maths and English language proficiency)  
The candidate must complete SJT (Situational Judgement Test) (ScotGEM), UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test) and GAMSAT (Graduate Medical School Admissions Test), as well as providing a personal statement.  
Application process through UCAS, is the same as for school/ FE leavers.

### Process (for 2022 admissions)

Sit the UCAT, registration opens in May 2021, first test dates are from July 2021, and last registration deadline is in September 2021 with the last test date in early October.

Sit the GAMSAT (Graduate Medical Schools Admissions Test). Test dates are in March and September every year and registration opens in November (for a March test) and early July (for a September test)  
<https://gamsat.acer.org/register> . The test, predominantly multiple choice questions and problem solving exercises, assists in the selection of candidates for medical degrees, placing great emphasis on reasoning ability and critical thinking.

### Requirements for International Candidates

Applications are encouraged from overseas candidates and, as well as UCAT results and academic requirements,

there may also be the need to satisfy language requirements, particularly if English is not the candidate's first language. This may require satisfactory completion - to the University required level - of IELTS (International English Test System) or OET (Occupational English Test). As a non UK student, funding and student visas will need to be secured and in the case of EEA students, they will be affected by Brexit changes. See latest guidance through ; <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/international-doctors/studying-and-training-in-the-uk/studying-in-the-uk-and-your-visa> , <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>

University entrance applications are made through UCAS (University and Colleges Admissions Service) and must be made by mid October 2021 for 2022 University entry, the candidates UCAT score is also sent to Universities. Interviews and assessments with the medical schools take place between Nov 2021 and Mar 2022. Decisions are made by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and offers / conditional offers made between April to July 2022. Final placings are dependent on SQA and other results available in August 2022. Students commence University Medical School courses in late September 2022.

#### Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA)

As well as completing a medical degree, undergraduates will also need to complete the new GMC Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA) process that will affect medical students graduating from 2024. Essentially graduates completing their medical degree will also need to pass both parts the MLA assessment as part of the degree. It involves an Applied Knowledge Test (AKT), and an assessment of clinical and professional skills, successful completion would gain the provisional license to practice medicine under supervision. This is necessary to move on to postgraduate medical training.

#### Key dates for Sept 2022 entry

Application Timetable			Resources	
	Open	Closes		
Register for GAMSAT	Nov 2020	July 2021	GAMSAT	<a href="https://gamsat.acer.org/register">https://gamsat.acer.org/register</a>
Sit GAMSAT	Mar 2021 or Sept 2021	Twice a year, result valid for 2 years	UCAT – University Clinical Aptitude Test	<a href="https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/">https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/</a>
Register for UCAT	May 2021	Sept 2021	ScotGEM	<a href="https://www.scotlanddeanery.nhs.scot/trainer-information/scottish-graduate-entry-medicine-scotgem/">https://www.scotlanddeanery.nhs.scot/trainer-information/scottish-graduate-entry-medicine-scotgem/</a>
Sit UCAT test	July 2021	Oct 2021	University of Edinburgh – HCP Med	<a href="https://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine/edinburgh-medical-school/mbchb-for-healthcare-professionals/about-the-hcp-mbchb">https://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine/edinburgh-medical-school/mbchb-for-healthcare-professionals/about-the-hcp-mbchb</a>
Applications for University course through UCAS		Oct 2021		
University Interviews	Nov 2021	March 2022		
Offers	April 2022	July 2022		
Acceptance	April 2022	August 2022		

## Access to Postgraduate Medical Training

The UK Foundation Programme for training doctors, is an integrated programme consisting of two foundation years (FY1 and FY2), designed to provide trainees with defined practical skills, competencies, and sound knowledge of how to manage acutely ill patients. At the end of year one (FY1) students normally secure full GMC registration with a license to practice without supervision and at the end of the programme a Foundation Certificate of Completion (FCC). There are many different specialties to choose from and the area of medicine chosen will determine the length of training required before the doctor becomes fully qualified.

### Access to Postgraduate Medical Training

The process is administered centrally in the UK by the UK Foundation Programme Office (UKFPO) and foundation years are paid employment at a hospital trust or by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) with at least 6 (4 month) rotations of experience in different medical disciplines (one as a GP). The admissions process is undertaken online through the ORIEL system <https://www.oriel.nhs.uk/Web/Account/LandingPage>. ORIEL processes are changing for 2022, applications and new GMC Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA) process will affect medical students graduating from 2024. Graduates completing their PMQ (Primary Medical Qualification) will have needed to pass both parts of the MLA (Medical License Assessment) to gain the provisional license to practice medicine under supervision. The provisional license is normally granted for 3 years.

### Requirements for the UK foundation Programme

MBChB degree at 1:1 or 2:1, GMC provisional license to practice.

A Certificate of Completion (F1CC) is required to commence FY2.

### Process (for 2022 admissions)

UK undergraduates are nominated by their Medical School, their eligibility assessed and the application progressed by UKFPO. Graduates who graduated more than a year before the application or graduated from a non UK medical school will need to make their own stand alone application through ORIEL where eligibility will be checked. Applicants register for the Foundation Programme and are normally invited for interview and to sit SJT (Situational Judgement Tests). Offers are made and a matching process takes place to match applicants to the different training programmes. The start of training (and employment as junior doctors) commences during the Summer months.

### Key dates for 2022 entry

Application Timetable			Resources	
	Open	Closes		
Submit an eligibility application through applicants medical school	June 2021	Aug 2021	BMA – Employment & Career Advice	<a href="https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/career/applying-for-training/applying-to-the-foundation-programme">https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/career/applying-for-training/applying-to-the-foundation-programme</a>
Registration on Oriol system	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	UK Foundation Programme Resource and Guidance	<a href="https://foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/">https://foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/</a>
The national applications window opens for FP and related programmes	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	ORIEL System	<a href="https://www.oriel.nhs.uk">https://www.oriel.nhs.uk</a>
FP local short listing and interviews	Nov 2021	Jan 2022	Situational Judgement Tests	<a href="https://foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/faqs/situational-judgement-test-sjt-faqs/">https://foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/faqs/situational-judgement-test-sjt-faqs/</a>
Situational Judgement Test (SJT) 1 <sup>st</sup> test date	Dec 2021		Applying to UK FP 2021	<a href="https://healtheducationengland.sharepoint.com/UKFPO/Website%20Documentation/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2FUKFPO%2FWBSITE%20Documentation%2F1%20%2D%2">https://healtheducationengland.sharepoint.com/UKFPO/Website%20Documentation/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2FUKFPO%2FWBSITE%20Documentation%2F1%20%2D%2</a>
SJT 2 <sup>nd</sup> test date	Jan 2022			
Closing Date for FP	Feb 2022			

Preference				<a href="#">OHome%2FUKFP%202021%20Applicant%20Presentation%20%2D%20FINAL%2Epdf&amp;parent=%2FUKFPO%2FWebsite%20Documentation%2F1%20%2D%20Home&amp;p=true&amp;originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9oZWZsdGhlZHVjYXRpb25lbmdsYW5kLnNoYXJlcG9pbmQuY29tLzpiOi9nL1VLRIBPL0VWRUROYlJENjNCSXU3NWo2cGJ2OE5jQlRGeDZEeU5kZkVWdmFCRGdwMjRFRdWc_cnRpbWU9R3JERXBZRnYyRWc</a>
FP Primary List match to programme results	Apr 2022			
Pre-employment checks, confirmation of GMC license to practice, issue of employment contracts	May 2022	July 2022		
Commencement of 2022 UK Foundation Programme/Employment as a junior doctor	Aug 2022			

## Access to GP Specialty Training (GPST)

The purpose of the General Practice Specialist Training scheme is to produce a GP who is capable of working independently in Primary Care in a variety of settings. The training lasts 3 or four years and GP skills are acquired by a combination of clinical experience along with formal and informal teaching. Training will include at least 18 months working in a general practice and time spent as a hospital doctor. All posts are accredited and approved for GP training and the trainee will be employed by the practice or relevant health board during this period.

### Access to GPST Training

The process is administered centrally in the UK by the GPNRO (GP National Recruitment Office) using the Oriel recruitment portal. In Scotland, training comes under the Scottish Deanery and NES (NHS Education Scotland) and is organised into 4 training areas (North, East, West and South East). Typically in Scotland, there are around 70 indicative places available, 2 for Targeted GP vacancies.

### Requirements;

Full GMC registration with license to practice without supervision and a Foundation Certificate of Completion (FCC) of Post Graduate medical training. Other criteria are also used such as evidence of competence achieved in post graduate medical training and ultimately, the recruitment is competitive for a limited number of training posts.

### Process (for 2021/22 admissions);

Recruitment is usually undertaken in 2 rounds the first in November for a following August commencement and second, if necessary, round in February for commencement in the following February. Applications are made through the Oriel on the GPNRO website.

In Scotland there are also support schemes such as the Scottish Targeted Enhanced Recruitment Scheme (TERS) and the flexibility for Less than full time Training (LTFT) for candidates with other commitments.

### Resources

Scotland Deanery <https://www.scotlanddeanery.nhs.scot/trainee-information/gp-specialty-training/>

NHS Scotland Medical training - <http://www.scotmt.scot.nhs.uk/general-practice.aspx>

GPNRO Website - <https://gprecruitment.hee.nhs.uk/> (also for Scottish applications)

RCGP – MRCGP - <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/training-exams/discover-general-practice/qualifying-as-a-gp-in-the-nhs.aspx>

### Application Timetable

	<b>For Entry Aug 2021 (Round 1 of 21/22 Scheme)</b>		<b>For entry Feb 2022 (Round 2 of 21/22 scheme)(Likely Dates)</b>		<b>For entry Aug 2022 (Round 1 of 22/23 scheme)(Likely Dates)</b>	
	Open	Closes	Open	Closes	Open	Closes
Advert Appears	2 Nov 2020		Jan 2021		Oct 2021	
Applications open	5 Nov 2020	1 Dec 2020	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Nov 2021	
Invitations to MSRA (Multi Speciality Recruitment Assessment)	Dec 2020	Results Dec 2020	April 2021	Results May 2021	Dec 2021	Results Dec 2021
Invitation to Selection Centre Interview	4 Jan 2021	9 April 2021	June 2021		Jan 2022	
Selection Centre Interview	Feb/Mar 2021		July 2021		Feb 2022	
First Offers	12 April 2021		Sept 2021		April 2022	
Pre-Employment Checks	May 2021	July 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	May 2022	July 2022
Anticipated start date	4 Aug		Feb 2022		Aug 2022	

on the GPST programme	2021					
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## Access to GP Fellowships

GP Fellowships in Scotland are one-year posts in a range of locations across the country with a focus on Rural Practice, Health Inequalities and Medical Education. These posts are normally recruited to each Spring. The fellowships are post CCT (Completion Certificate of Training) continuing professional development and present a one year, paid, opportunity to work in rural Scotland and develop generalist skills. There are two types of Rural Fellowship - Standard and Acute Care, and are designed for doctors that have reasonably recently completed their General Practice Specialty Training (GPST) and have a continuing interest in experiencing remote and rural practice. Typically up to 10 Rural fellowships are available each year. There are fellowships under a standard model, an acute care model or a hybrid model. The learning and training are very much tailored to the needs of the applicant.

### Access to GP Fellowships in Scotland

Application to all Fellowship options is normally through the links available on the Scotland Deanery website <https://www.scotlanddeanery.nhs.scot/your-development/gp-fellowships/>. Note that during 2020, recruitment has been deferred, a consequence of the Covid emergency, but the Deanery is hoping to recruit again in early 2021.

### Normal Requirements (from 2019 programme)

Suitable applicants for the recruitment round have either to have completed ST3 (GP Specialty Training year 3) or have a CCT (Completion Certificate of Training) within the previous two years or expect to complete ST3 in 2020.

Completion of GPST with CCT and full GMC GP registration. Experience of working in the UK NHS. The recruitment process is organised by NHS Education Scotland (NES) with representatives from the local health boards on the interview panel.

### Key dates (for summer 2021 entry)

	Open	Closes	Resources	
Advert released	Mar 2021		NES – GP Fellowships	<a href="https://www.scotlanddeanery.nhs.scot/your-development/gp-fellowships/">https://www.scotlanddeanery.nhs.scot/your-development/gp-fellowships/</a>
Applications	Mar 2021	Apr 2021		
Interviews	May 2021			
Appointments agreed, contracts issued, needs assessment	June/July 2021			
Start work at base practice	August 2021			

*Disclaimer - Above processes are primarily for UK/ Scottish based students.*

*The above flowchart has been prepared from available published University, NHS, Scottish Government and UK Government Sources and is meant as a guide only, for more information check out the university web sites. SRMC/ NHS Highland / NHS Scotland shall have no liability for the accuracy of the information and cannot be held liable for any third party claims or losses of any damages. Version: 12/10/2020*