



UNIVERSITY OF  
LEICESTER

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LEICESTER MEDICAL SCHOOL

# A199 Medicine with Foundation Year MBChB (6 years)

Frequently asked questions  
(2023 Entry)



# Entry requirements

## Q: What are your academic entry requirements?

A: We accept a variety of qualifications.

For those with predicted or achieved A levels we require BBB in Chemistry OR Biology and one other science from: Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Maths or Psychology. We will consider ABC as long as the C is in the third subject.

We require English Language, Maths and Double Science or Chemistry and Biology GCSEs at grade C (5) or above.

We also accept International Baccalaureate, Scottish Advanced Highers and BTEC extended National diploma in Applied Science.

Full entry requirements can be found on our website:

[www.le.ac.uk/medicine-foundation](http://www.le.ac.uk/medicine-foundation)

## Q: What are the widening participation requirements?

A: This course is only available for students who meet the widening access requirements which can be found on our Medical School website:

[www.le.ac.uk/medicine-wp](http://www.le.ac.uk/medicine-wp)

Applicants must meet all our essential criteria alongside one or two other criteria depending on the individual circumstances.

## Q: Do I have to live in any particular part of the UK to apply for this course?

A: There will be 35 places available. Up to 25 places are open for students who have been resident for at least 2 years prior to application in the East Midlands while studying A levels or BTEC.

A further 10 places will be available for students applying from anywhere within the UK.

## Q: Is the course open to International students?

A: No, this course is only available to students living in the UK.

## Q: I am a mature student, am I able to apply?

A: The A199 course is only available school leavers or those who have completed their schooling within two years of the start of the course

## Q: I have previously attended university in either the UK or overseas, am I able to apply?

A: The A199 course is not open to applicants who have previously attended higher education.

## Q: Do you require UCAT or BMAT?

A: We are part of the UCAT consortium and require all applicants to complete the UCAT.

**Q: Do you have any English Language requirements?**

A: We require a grade 5 (c) in GCSE English language as a first language. If you do not have UK GCSEs and your first language is not English, we may accept IELTS of 7.5, with at least 7.0 in each component.

**Q: Does having a 4<sup>th</sup> A/AS level or EPQ improve my chances?**

A: In general no, as our requirement is 3 A levels. However, if you are in a borderline group pre or post interview this may count in your favour.

**Q: Do you make contextual offers?**

A: Applicants will only be considered if they meet all our widening participation criteria. You can find out more information on contextual data at the following link:

[www.le.ac.uk/medicine-wp](http://www.le.ac.uk/medicine-wp)

**Q: What if I miss my offer on results day?**

A: If you have made us your FIRM choice, and if we still have spaces on results day, then we may consider you.

**Q: How long do I have to be resident in the East Midlands to be eligible for one of the 25 Scholarship places on the course?**

A: You must have lived in the East Midlands for the two years prior to starting the course and are due to complete or have recently completed your A levels/BTEC/IB (completion

should be no longer than two years prior to the start of the course).

**Q: What do you consider the East Midlands?**

A: Please see our website for the exact locations eligible for the scholarship places.

<https://le.ac.uk/medicine/study/foundation-year/entry-requirements>

Either that or all of the following:

- Leicestershire
- Rutland
- Derbyshire (including DE13-DE15 representing Burton and surrounding areas)
- Nottinghamshire
- Northamptonshire
- Lincolnshire (excluding North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire)
- Peterborough and surrounding areas (Postcodes PE1-PE9)
- Rugby, Bedworth, Nuneaton, Atherstone and Coventry (Postcodes CV1-CV13 and CV21-CV23)

# Selection for interview

## Q: How do you score applications?

A: We score applications based on your academic achievements as well as your UCAT score. 50% of the marks will be for academic achievement and 50% for your UCAT score\*.

For an up to date scoring document please visit our website:

[www.le.ac.uk/medicine-scoring-foundation](http://www.le.ac.uk/medicine-scoring-foundation)

## Q: What was the score required last year to get an interview?

A: The scores required for interview vary each year due to a number of factors and there is no pre-determined score you must achieve in order to be invited to interview. Admissions statistics can be found on our website: [www.le.ac.uk/medicine-stats](http://www.le.ac.uk/medicine-stats)

“We score applications based on your academic achievements as well as your UCAT score.”

## Q: Do you have a cut off for the UCAT?

A: We do not have a cut off as the scores vary each year, However our scoring UCAT caps those in the bottom two deciles. We do not consider applicants with Band 4 in the UCAT Situational Judgement Test. Please visit our website to see the scoring document: [www.le.ac.uk/medicine-scoring-foundation](http://www.le.ac.uk/medicine-scoring-foundation)

## Q: Do you look at personal statements?

A: We do not routinely read personal statements. They may, however, be used in borderline or tie breaker situations either pre or post interview. If used, we look for your ability to reflect on the experiences you have gained.



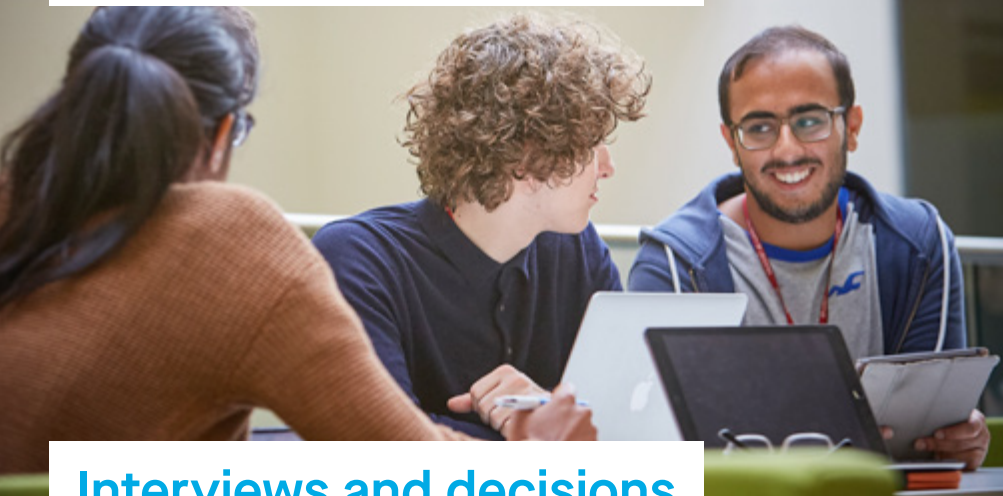


**Q: Do you have a minimum work experience requirement?**

A: We do not have a minimum duration of experience or require you to have shadowed a doctor. We do expect you to know about the career and we think that many life experiences offer personal and professional development opportunities relevant for a medical career. We are more interested in what you have learnt from your experiences i.e. your ability to reflect. We are aware that, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all candidates will have had their ability to get clinical experience limited, so will equally value online opportunities or community volunteering.

**Q: Am I at a disadvantage if I am predicted BBB compared to students predicted ABB or AAB?**

A: No. This would not put you at a disadvantage. We score students using achieved GCSE or A levels (or equivalents). It is this score alongside your UCAT score that determines interview chances. We only ask you are predicted or achieved BBB.



## Interviews and decisions

### **Q: What is your style of interview?**

A: Our interviews use the Multiple Mini-Interview (MMI) style, and consist of individual mini-interviews or 'stations' which can assess your:

- Verbal communication
- Written communication
- Listening
- Compassion, respect and dignity
- Emotional intelligence
- Problem solving
- Motivation
- Ethical Judgment

### **Q: When are interviews?**

A: Interviews are planned for December, January and February\*. Dates are released via our website nearer the time.

### **Q: When will I hear if I have got an interview/offer?**

A: See our timeline on the following page, it gives key dates and actions within the application cycle.

### **Q: What should I wear for my interview?**

A: You do not need to wear a suit. We would suggest you wear a smart shirt or blouse and trousers or a skirt.

### **Q: How can I prepare for my interview?**

A: We do not think there is any need to attend courses. We would suggest practising answering questions relating to your personal statement and current topical developments; and thinking about the values and personal qualities stated in the NHS Constitution.

\* Dates and format may change depending on the Covid-19 pandemic.

# Application Timeline

## 1. Open days

Join us and chat with staff and our current medical students about their experiences here at Leicester!

You can find dates of our open days at this website: [www.le.ac.uk/open-days](http://www.le.ac.uk/open-days)

## 2. UCAS medicine deadline (15 October)

Applications are scored according to their categories.

- Predicted A levels or equivalent
- Achieved A levels or equivalent
- Widening participation requirement
- Residency within the UK

## 3. UCAT scores added (November)

UCAT scores are added to academic score. UCAT (Pearson Vue) releases test results early November.

## 4. Eligibility Questionnaires distributed (November – December)

Questionnaires are sent to those where further evidence is required in order to ensure eligibility for the course.

## 5. Multi mini interviews (December – February)

Applications are ranked and top scorers start to receive interview invites to Multi Mini Interviews. Medicine with Foundation Year applicants are typically interviewed in February.

## 6. Interview scores ranked (February – March)

Interview scores are ranked, and top scoring applicants start receiving offers.

We aim to make decisions on all applications as soon as possible.

Please remember that the Foundation Medicine course is restricted to 35 students in total per year of which 25 places are open for students who have been resident in the East Midlands while studying A levels or BTEC. A further 10 places will be available for students applying from anywhere within the UK. This means competition for places will be high, like all medical degrees.

## 7. Offer holder days (March – April)

Offer holders have the opportunity to visit the campus and experience taster lectures as well as take part in our online offer holder experiences.



## General queries

### **Q: How many places do you have?**

A: There will be 35 places available. Up to 25 places are open for students who have been resident in the East Midlands while studying A levels or BTEC. A further 10 places will be available for students applying from anywhere within the UK. This course is not open to international students.

### **Q: Do you accept A level resits?**

A: Candidates who attain BBC or BCC at first sitting can apply with predicted B grades in their resits.

### **Q: Because of Covid-19 I want to resit Year 12. Is this allowed?**

A: Since all students are in the same situation then Covid-19 per se would not be considered a reason to resit year 12.

### **Q: Do you consider deferred applications?**

A: Yes. Applicants are not treated any differently however, it should be noted that applicants must be within two years of completing A levels (or equivalents) when commencing the course. We prefer to know sooner than later. If you do not request deferral on your UCAS application, you must let us know by 1 April that you wish to defer. This is because of our number cap and need to get our offer numbers correct.

### **Q: Will applying for mitigation harm/hinder my application?**

A: Not at all. If your mitigation has not been accepted then it makes no difference at all. You are treated like any other applicant. If it has been accepted then you may be awarded extra academic points. If you have submitted



all your evidence before our deadlines the admissions tutors will have communicated their decision to you in advance.

**Q: I have mitigating circumstances; how do I inform you of this?**

A: If you have any mitigating circumstances you would like us to consider then you need to email us at **medfound@le.ac.uk** preferably including your UCAS number. Please note we will not accept academic results below our minimum even with mitigation. Resits will need to be undertaken.

Mitigation must be submitted by 15 October. If you submit your mitigation by 1 September then you will receive a decision by an Admissions Tutor before the UCAS Deadline. However, if you submit your mitigation after 1 September we will be unable to provide you with a decision before the UCAS deadline i.e. you will not know whether we have accepted it or not.

Each mitigating circumstances submission is subject to the discretion of an Admissions Tutor and/or Admissions Group, therefore an immediate decision cannot be given over the phone.

**Q: I have a health condition/specific learning condition (e.g. dyslexia), will it have an impact if I declare this on my UCAS form?**

A: When it comes to scoring and selection for interview absolutely not.

If you are invited to interview we will ask for evidence so that we can ensure you have the right support/adjustments at interview. If you have a health condition and are subsequently made an offer, although all offers are subject to a satisfactory Occupational Health screen, you may be asked to have a formal Occupational Health assessment to ensure that you can meet the outcomes of the course and to assess any support or adjustments you may need (please see the HEOPS website [www.heops.org.uk/guide.php](http://www.heops.org.uk/guide.php)).





## Course queries

### **Q: How is the course taught?**

A: You will study four modules; Introduction to Biological Sciences, Exploring Psychology, Introduction to Medical Sciences and Medicine: The Patient. For some modules you will be taught alongside students taking the foundation year for Biological Sciences but you will also have some teaching specifically for medicine. The focus of the foundation year is very much on helping you to develop your study skills. We also give you experience of meeting patients and help develop your ability to reflect on the role of empathy and compassion in patient.

### **Q: When, and into what year, do I transfer to the 5-year MBChB course?**

A: After successful completion of all assessments in the Foundation year,

students will transfer to Year 1 of our 5 year MBChB course (A100) to begin in September 2023.

### **Q: Am I guaranteed to go into the first year of Medicine?**

A: Providing you meet the progression criteria of the foundation year (achieve 70% in your assessments) you will automatically progress to Year 1 of the MBChB course and will be taught alongside all other medical students. You will not have to be interviewed or sit the UCAT again. If you do not achieve 70% or above in this year you may be offered the chance to move onto a Biological Sciences course at the University of Leicester, providing you meet the progression criteria for Biological Sciences.

**Q: Can I transfer to a different medical school after my Foundation year?**

A: No, the Foundation year is bespoke for our medical degree course at Leicester and so progression to the 5 year MBChB can only occur at Leicester.

**Q: Will I get a clinical experience during the Foundation year?**

A: Yes. The Medicine with Foundation Year includes a variety of clinical placements, including GP, Psychiatry and Palliative Care. In addition, you are given a patient to visit as part of your experience in the Foundation Year.

**Q: Will I get a cadaveric dissection experience?**

A: There is no dissection in the Foundation Year but as part of the course Medical there are sessions in the Dissection Room to introduce you to Anatomy.

**Q: What will my exams look like?**

A: They are different for each of the four modules but include SBA (single best answer), MCQ (multiple choice) and short answer questions, alongside essays, presentations, posters and OSCE (Observed Structured Clinical Exam).

**Q: Will I get an iPad like the 5-year MBChB students?**

A: Yes, all students on the Foundation year will receive an iPad during their induction to the course, which you can then use for the entire six years of your medical degree.

**Q: Can I intercalate my degree?**

A: We actively encourage either iBSc or iMSc (the latter can only occur after year 3). You may also choose to intercalate at another institution.





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**Leicester Medical School**

University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester, LE1 7RH, UK

t: +44 (0)116 252 2969  
e: [med-admis@le.ac.uk](mailto:med-admis@le.ac.uk)  
w: [www.le.ac.uk/medical-school](http://www.le.ac.uk/medical-school)



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