Degree options in the Faculty of Medicine

**BSc (Single Honours Degree)**

Medicine

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**Entrance Requirements**

Obtaining the following grades will not guarantee you a place as we consider all aspects of every application, including the Personal Statement.

**SQA Highers**

AAAAAB, including Chemistry (A grade) and one other of Biology, Mathematics or Physics. These grades should normally be obtained at the same sitting. If Mathematics, Biology and English have not been passed at Higher Grade, each must normally have been passed at National 5 (A or B) or Intermediate 2 (A or B).

**No Direct Entry from Fifth Year:** If you are a Scottish candidate you will not be admitted in the academic year immediately following your fifth year at school. Offers made will be conditional and based on S6 programmes of study. Applicants must be studying three subjects in S6 and likely conditions required will be BBB in either Advanced Highers or new Highers.

**GCE Advanced (A2) Level**

AAA, at the same sitting, including Chemistry and one other of Biology, Mathematics or Physics. If Biology, Mathematics and English are not being offered at Advanced (A2) level, each must normally have been passed at GCSE grade B or better.

**International Baccalaureate**

38 points including, at Higher level, three passes at grade 6, including Chemistry and one of Biology, Mathematics or Physics and at Standard level, three passes at grade 6. If Mathematics, Biology or English are lacking at Higher level they must be offered at Standard level.

**HNC Applied Sciences ‘Pathway to Medicine’ at Perth College**

The School of Medicine has formed a partnership with Perth College whereby a small number of students following a specified pathway in the Higher National Certificate (HNC) Applied Sciences at Perth College will be eligible to join the medical programme at St Andrews. More information can be found on the School of Medicine webpages or from Perth College. T: 0845 270 1177 or E: pc.admissions@perth.uhi.ac.uk

Applicants presenting other qualifications are expected to have attained these at a level which is equivalent to that expected of applicants offering Highers, Advanced (A2) Levels or the International Baccalaureate.

Entrance Requirements can be found on the School of Medicine webpages:  
http://medicine.st-andrews.ac.uk/prospectus

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**UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT)**

Applicants to St Andrews, including international students, are required to sit the UK Clinical Aptitude Test. You should take this in the summer of the year in which you apply to Medicine. Further information is available at:  
www.ukcat.ac.uk and  
http://medicine.st-andrews.ac.uk/prospectus

Do I need previous knowledge of this subject? – No.

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**Contact for prospective applicants**

(including Entrance Requirements)

**UK/EU:** student.recruitment@st-andrews.ac.uk  
**Rest of the World:** international@st-andrews.ac.uk  
http://medicine.st-andrews.ac.uk

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**Non-Academic Entrance Requirements**

To be a successful applicant you must be able to show evidence of the following:

- Personal qualities such as empathy, good communication and listening skills, leadership skills and the ability to work in a team.
- A well-informed understanding of what a career in Medicine involves.
- A commitment to Medicine demonstrated by organising work experience or shadowing. Experience of working with ill or disabled people, preferably in a health care setting.
- Commitment to academic study, staying power, perseverance and intellectual potential.

In considering the commitment involved in becoming a doctor, the following webpages provide important guidance:

- General Medical Council, www.gmc-uk.org
- Medical Schools Council, www.medschools.ac.uk
- Scottish Doctor, www.scottishdoctor.org
“The facilities in the School of Medicine building are second to none and really accessible to students outside of scheduled classes. On top of that the lecturers are approachable and supportive and the personal tutor system means that there is always someone to go and ask if you’re unsure about part of the course or just university life in general.”

Abi (Ackleton, Shropshire, England)

**Features**

- Students graduate after three years at St Andrews with a BSc (Hons) degree in Medicine and then progress to a Partner Medical School to complete their training and to graduate with an MB ChB/MBBS.
- An excellent scientific foundation for clinical practice.
- Early, relevant clinical experience.
- A highly supportive educational environment.
- **Bute Medical Society** – an active medical students’ society representing medical and non-medical interests. Social functions include the Bute Ball and Bute Dinner.
- **Student prizes** – Heller Prize, Herring Prize and Kathleen Macdonald Prize for top projects in MD4002 topics; Gillingham Memorial Prize for top student in MD4003; 1972 Medical Graduation Prize for top student overall in Honours Programme.

**Facilities and resources**

A £45m purpose-built Medical and Biological Sciences building offering outstanding facilities for teaching, learning and research; fully integrated with key University disciplines including physics, chemistry, biology and psychology, offering an important new dimension to medical research and the training of new doctors.

**Programme structure**

Our medical degree programme is six years long; students graduating BSc (Hons) Medicine from St Andrews will progress to one of our Partner Medical Schools in Scotland (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow) or England (Barts in London, or Manchester) for the final three years. Applicants who are ‘overseas’ for fee purposes will progress to Manchester. The number of places available at each of our Partners can be found on our webpages, as can information about how to indicate, at the time of application, your preference for either England or Scotland: http://medicine.st-andrews.ac.uk/prospectus

**Teaching delivery**

We use a wide range of teaching and assessment methods, including lectures, laboratory-based practicals, small group tutorials and computer-based resources. Audio-visual technology is fully utilised, including a ‘state of the art’ video capture system which can be used for training and feedback purposes in the main teaching environments.

**What will I study?**

The School of Medicine at St Andrews offers an integrated curriculum within a strong clinical context. In addition to exploring the foundations of medical science, it encourages the development of the professional attitudes, ethical understanding and decision-making skills required by ‘Tomorrow’s Doctors’. The curriculum addresses the following core principles:

- **Competence** – understanding of the scientific basis of medicine.
- **Professionalism** – development of clinical skills, personal values and ethical awareness.
- **Reflection** – monitoring self-awareness and decision-making through the completion of a portfolio.
- **Independence** – encouragement of self-directed learning.

The teaching is designed to encourage the application of medical sciences to clinical problems. The clinical medical programme spans Years 1 to 3, running throughout the entire course. Clinical skills teaching takes place in simulated wards and examination rooms with communication skills being taught as an integral part of the course. Clinical experience is also offered in the form of patient contact through primary care initiatives in the community. Professionalism and patient safety are key components of the entire course.
Medicine (continued)

Indicative programme information

First Year
The medical course at St Andrews takes the form of an integrated spiral curriculum. In the first year of the course the modules Foundations of Medicine 1 and 2 emphasise the interrelationships between the pre-clinical sciences and form the first turn of the spiral. During subsequent turns of the spiral, topics will be revisited at a more advanced level and with increasing clinical application.

Foundations of Medicine 1
• Reviews fundamental aspects of molecular and cellular medicine.
• Gives a general overview of the structure and functions of the body systems from the microscopic to the macroscopic level.
• Introduces the history and philosophy of medicine.
• Gives a preliminary introduction to medical ethics and communication skills relevant to medicine.
• Uses clinical problems to develop an understanding of the levels of consciousness and the assessment of health status.
• Provides opportunities to speak to patients with chronic health problems in the Medical School environment.

Foundations of Medicine 2
This module continues the introduction of fundamental topics into the curriculum, including the principles of disease mechanisms and therapy, and the development of communication skills. The first body system (the musculo-skeletal system) is visited in detail. This module:
• covers the structure and functions of the cardiovascular, respiratory, renal, gastrointestinal and reproductive systems. The anatomy of the thorax and abdomen, pelvis and perineum will be studied by dissection.
• introduce the disease mechanisms and therapy of disorders pertinent to these body systems.
• use relevant clinical problems and clinical skills to provide a clinical context.
• integrate the ethical, moral and behavioural aspects relevant to these systems.
• provide a series of community attachments in primary health care settings.

Second Year
The Honours programme focuses in detail upon the normal function and dysfunction of specific physiological and psychological systems.

Medicine Honours 1 and 2
These modules form the second turn of the curriculum spiral taking an integrated approach to the scientific basis of medicine in Honours and build upon the material delivered in the first year. The modules:
• cover the structure and functions of the cardiovascular, respiratory, renal, gastrointestinal and reproductive systems. The anatomy of the thorax and abdomen, pelvis and perineum will be studied by dissection.
• introduce the disease mechanisms and therapy of disorders pertinent to these body systems.
• use relevant clinical problems and clinical skills to provide a clinical context.
• integrate the ethical, moral and behavioural aspects relevant to these systems.
• provide a series of community attachments in primary health care settings.
Third Year
Semester 1 of this year deals with the most complex integrative physiological systems (central nervous system and endocrine organs). During Semester 2 of this year there will also be a major Student-Selected Component and an Applied Medical Science module.

Medicine Honours 3
This module continues the strategy of the spiral curriculum by revisiting foundation knowledge and progressing to more complex systems. This module:
- provides in-depth coverage of normal structure and function of the central nervous system and endocrine systems. The anatomy of the head and neck will be studied by dissection.
- introduces diseases and possible therapies pertinent to these important control systems.
- presents case studies associated with the central nervous system and endocrine systems to highlight appropriate clinical skills for the identification of neurological and endocrinological disorders.
- integrates ethical issues and behavioural science with clinical medicine.
- provides hospital attachments.

Medicine Honours 4 (Student-Selected Component)
You will undertake a Student-Selected Component (SSC) in the form of a research project. The SSC will enable you to pursue an area of your own particular interest at an advanced level and further develop critical appraisal skills. SSCs will provide the opportunity for:
- developing an understanding of scientific methods.
- gaining competency in using literature searching methods.
- developing an inquisitive and questioning attitude and ability to apply rational thought processes.
- preparing a scientific research dissertation demonstrating critical thinking and analysis.
- giving an oral presentation on the research findings.
- developing reflective practice using a portfolio entry for a significant learning event.

Medicine Honours 5 (Applied Medical Science)
Knowledge acquired in the earlier parts of the curriculum will be consolidated. This course is taught primarily by clinicians (including Honorary staff) and case studies will be used extensively to direct student learning. This module:
- reviews clinical anatomy in preparation for later clinical training.
- gives you the opportunity to significantly advance your clinical and communication skills in terms of patient examination techniques and associated procedures.
- provides an opportunity for multi-disciplinary team working through a ward-simulation scenario involving other health professionals.
- develops your ability to recognise disease patterns and your clinical reasoning.

Typical methods of assessment
A prescribed level of performance must be achieved each year to ensure normal progression. The award of the BSc (Hons) Medicine degree requires that students possess a comprehensive knowledge of basic medical science and its clinical application, in readiness for the commencement of training at one of our Partner Medical Schools.

Application deadlines
UK and EU applicants must apply by 15 October and international applicants (i.e. non-EU) by 31 January.

Selection procedures
When assessing your application we shall take into account academic achievement (or predicted achievement), your UKCAT result and all the other information on the UCAS form.

There is considerable competition for places and so the academic qualifications indicated are considered to be the minimum Entrance Requirements and will not automatically guarantee the offer of a place. Further information on competitive entry is detailed on the School of Medicine's webpages: http://medicine.st-andrews.ac.uk/prospectus

Only those applicants who meet our UKCAT requirement, have a very strong academic record and obtain a positive assessment of their non-academic qualities and experience (see section on page 126) will be called for interview.

Disability
A disability need not be a barrier to becoming a doctor but those who have a disability will need to consider carefully what effect that will have on their capacity to function as a medical practitioner (fitness to practise).

In the first instance, if you have a disability (including dyslexia) or relevant health concerns, you should explore what support we can make available to you by contacting the University’s Disabilities Adviser in Student Services before submitting your UCAS application. See page 33.

Immunisation and other conditions of offer
For information about immunisation and other conditions of offer, such as satisfactory criminal record screening, please see details on the School of Medicine’s webpages: http://medicine.st-andrews.ac.uk/prospectus

Additional costs
You will have to cover the costs for a lab coat, protective glasses and a stethoscope. There are no other compulsory charges associated with our medical programme.

“Studying Medicine at St Andrews has given me the perfect balance of scientific knowledge and clinical experience that will help me to excel in my future career. Throughout my time here, the staff have been exceedingly helpful; they are always willing to make time to talk. Due to the fairly small year groups, it is really easy to get to know everyone on the course which makes it an even more enjoyable experience!”

Catriona (Glasgow, Scotland)