

MDV Information Evening

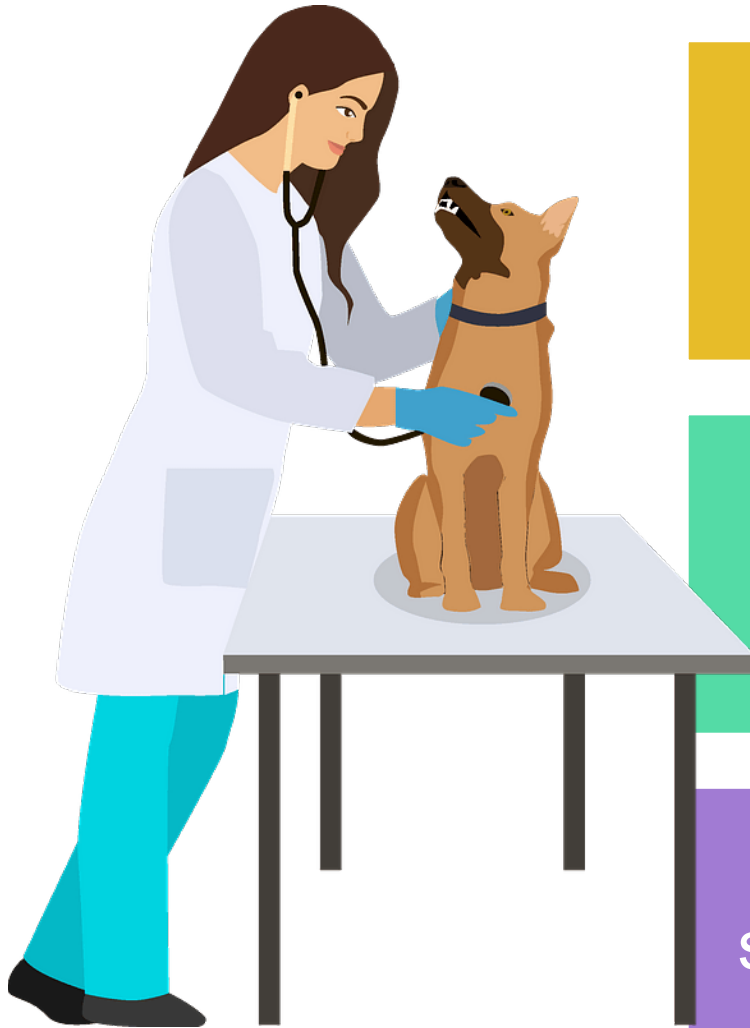
21st March 2024



**Altrincham Grammar
School for Girls**

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

What qualities are required for MDV?



Empathy

Motivation

Ethical
Awareness

A good team
worker

Intellectual
Curiosity

Communication
skills

Capacity for
sustained and
intense work

Problem-
solving

Honesty and
integrity

What are my chances?

Be realistic

Medicine / Veterinary Science / Dentistry are very competitive subjects to get into, so consider your predicted grades and think carefully about your chances of success.

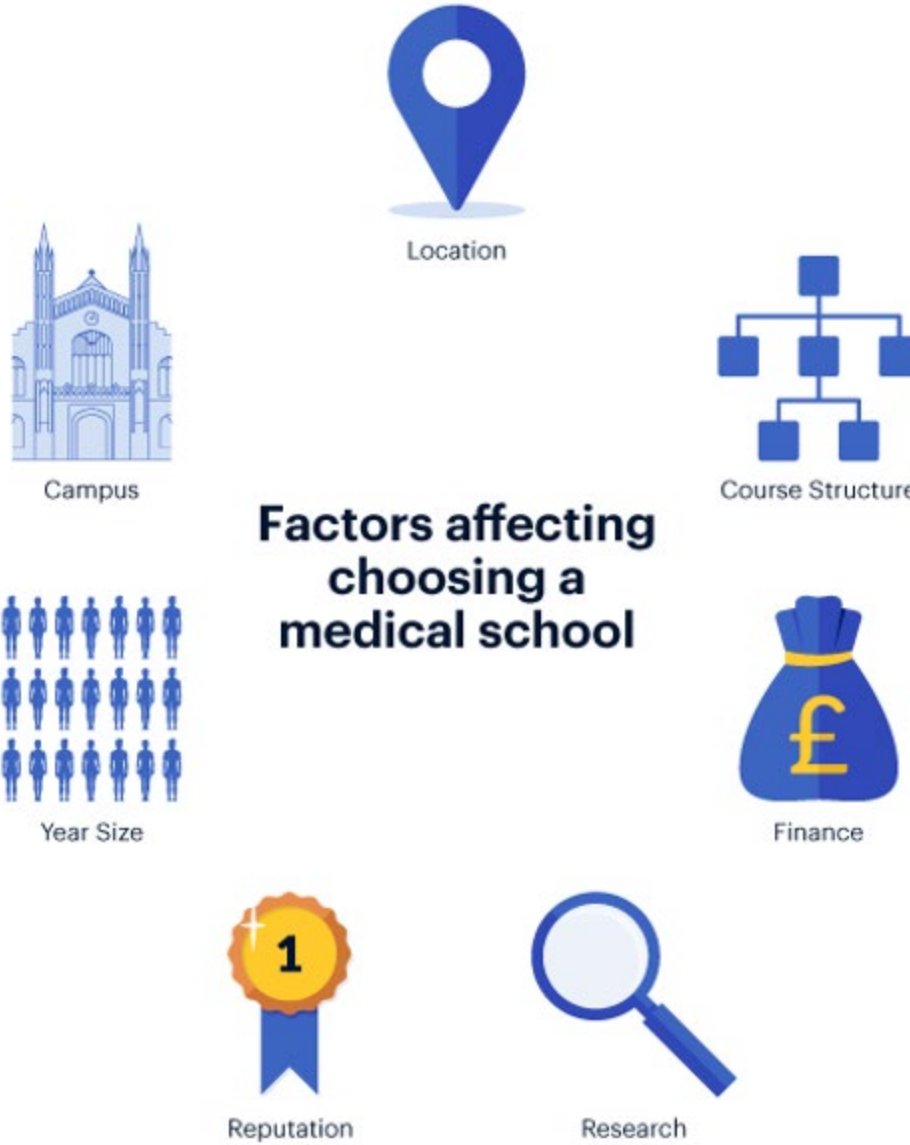
Applications per place are usually **one in ten**, with the vast majority of those applicants on track to achieve **AAB and better in their A Levels** or equivalent. A **40% chance of success** is a reasonable approximation. Many students do meet this criteria at AGGS.

If you want to pursue Medicine, use your fifth choice wisely. Choose a healthcare-related course or biology subject.

UCAS rules don't let you apply to five Medicine & Surgery courses.

All of the courses (MDV) are intense so consider how close or far away from home you would like to be.

Would you prefer to attend a university where class sizes are smaller so there is a greater familiarity between staff and students?



Are you more interested in a Problem-based learning approach?

Does the more traditional method of teaching appeal to you?

Do you want a course that places greater value on research?

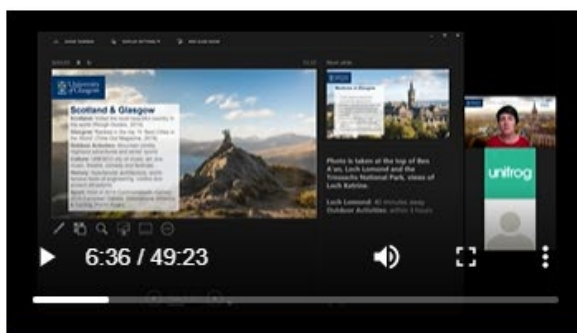
Exploring subjects

[< Back](#)

Listening to experts from the University of Leicester, Sheffield Hallam University and The University of Law.

Want to share with a student? [Share](#)

Want to share with a colleague? [copy url](#)



Applying to medicine For Students

Part of a series: [Applications masterclasses](#)

Medicine is incredibly competitive, every year in the UK only 9.5% of applicants are successful. Hear from four of the top universities to offer Medicine - Southampton, Glasgow, Edge and Keele – on how to put together a winning application.

Want to share with a student? [Share](#)

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Psychology and Neuroscience experts from the University of Lancaster and Lancaster University.

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Demystifying Architecture For Students

Part of a series: [Subject discovery](#)

Do you picture yourself designing an iconic building that will last generations? Or perhaps an eco-friendly house or a shopping centre? If so, architecture may be for you...

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A screen from our experts panelists from the New School, SCAD, University for the Arts and OCAD.

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Want to share with a colleague? [copy url](#)



Creative arts and design For Students

Part of a series: [Subject discovery](#)

Creative arts' covers a huge range of courses, from graphic design to jewellery and woodworking. If you have an eye for detail and enjoy being innovative, this subject area might be for you.

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Medicine

A broad understanding of how the human body works to diagnose, treat and manage medical conditions, with the opportunity to specialise in a particular area.

[Share](#)



[Back](#)



[Read Emma Shackleston's story](#) 

Hot topics

Antibiotic resistance

Will we live to regret our reckless use of antibiotics? What are the implications of their overuse for the future of our health? The antibiotic has been a lifesaver, stopping infectious diseases in their track but this great gift has come at a price. Now we are finding that bacteria is adapting leading to antibiotic resistance. Have we taken things too far this time? And can anything be done to reverse the situation?

Accident and emergency fees

With increasing pressure on GP surgeries, more and more people are heading to accident and emergency (A&E) with what, in some cases, are minor ailments. With the NHS at bursting point, is the solution to charge patients for accessing A&E services for non-urgent health problems? How do we define what is urgent and what is not? Do we all need to apply some common sense on the matter before taking up valuable A&E resource?

Cross curricular ideas

Biology

Biology is the study of living organisms, divided into many specialised fields that cover their morphology, physiology, anatomy, behaviour, origin, and distribution. The fields of medicine and biology frequently cross as science continues to develop new drugs and revolutionise complicated procedures.

Genetics

Genetics is the study of heredity, or how the characteristics of living things are transmitted from one generation to the next. The basic unit of heredity is the gene. Genetic engineering is a topic often under scrutiny whether that is genetically modified crops or the genetic engineering of a human embryo or animal. It raises some interesting ethical considerations as well as opportunities in medicine.

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/outreach-and-support/resources-for-teachers-and-students>

Medicine

Article

Five Innovative Use Cases for 3D Printing in Medicine

2020, USA, Non-fiction

Some exciting example of how 3D printing technology is being used across different healthcare fields.

[Read now](#) 

The Best Health Care System in the World: Which One Would You Pick?

Aaron E. Carroll, Austin Frakt, Craig Garthwaite, Uwe Reinhardt, Ashish Jha, 2017, USA, Non-fiction

A panel of economists run a 'tournament' comparing healthcare systems in Canada, Britain, Singapore, Germany, Switzerland, France, Australia and the US.

[Read now](#) 

The Role of Empathy in Medicine: A Medical Student's Perspective

Elliot M. Hirsch, Non-fiction

A medical student explains what empathy is and what it means in a clinical context.

[Read now](#) 

Book (fiction)

Cutting for Stone

Abraham Verghese, 2009, Ethiopia, India, USA, Fiction

Abraham Verghese wrote two memoirs about his life as a doctor before this novel, which tells the life of twin brothers born and raised in a missionary hospital in Ethiopia.

[Read more at goodreads.com](#) 

Doctor Zhivago

Boris Pasternak, 1957, Italy, Fiction

The story follows the fortunes of Yuri Zhivago, a young man training to be a doctor.

Personal Statements

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Your Personal Statement is due the first day back after the summer holiday.

NOTTINGHAM: Personal Statement score:
70%

*“We look for:
a realistic interest in
medicine;
relevant life skills;
a wide range of interests;
acts of altruism and voluntary
work;
communication and
interaction skills”*

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/university/personal-statements/medicine/medicine-personal-statements>

<https://universitycompare.com/personal-statement-examples/medicine/>

<https://www.unifrog.org/know-how/example-personal-statement-medicine>

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/ethics/medical-students/ethics-toolkit-for-medical-students/key-principles-of-ethics-for-medical-students>

Unique to the university e.g. Sheffield do not read the personal statement!



It is YOUR personal statement

- Look on the university page of the medical school you wish to apply for to see what they value in a personal statement.
- If you defer for a year check the university accepts deferred applications.
- Use your own words – they check for plagiarised statements.
- Your statement should be true and accurate

Work experience

Universities understand restrictions due to COVID - what do they accept?



Great importance is placed on charity work and volunteering, demonstrating compassion and selflessness.



Even better if this is in a medical environment e.g. a hospice



Paid work is also beneficial for demonstrating professionalism, sustained commitment, communication skills and organisation alongside studies



Keep a **diary**: skills observed (and preferably demonstrated in your daily life) and emphasise these in your application. Think about the core skills of the medicine/medicine related degrees.



The BMA has good advice on getting medical work experience.

Dos and don'ts

DO

- Start early – that means July
- Think about what your experiences evidence
- Get advice from many places
- Write the main body first
- **Demonstrate skills**

DON'T

- Wait until you have all your experience
- Try to put in everything you've ever done
- Keep changing it and end up with a dozen drafts
- Fret about the start and end

THIS IS GOING TO HURT



INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

ATUL
GAWANDE



BEING MORTAL

Illness, Medicine,
and What Matters
in the End

'Gawande's most powerful, and moving, book.'
Malcolm Gladwell

It's *personal* – you need to be fully aware of what you are writing and that they may ask you about it in interview

We can offer:

- Advice and workshop in July
- Sign ups from September to discuss your application further should you need it
- Add to your reference (in Tutor section)
- any experience that won't fit
- Proof-read a final draft

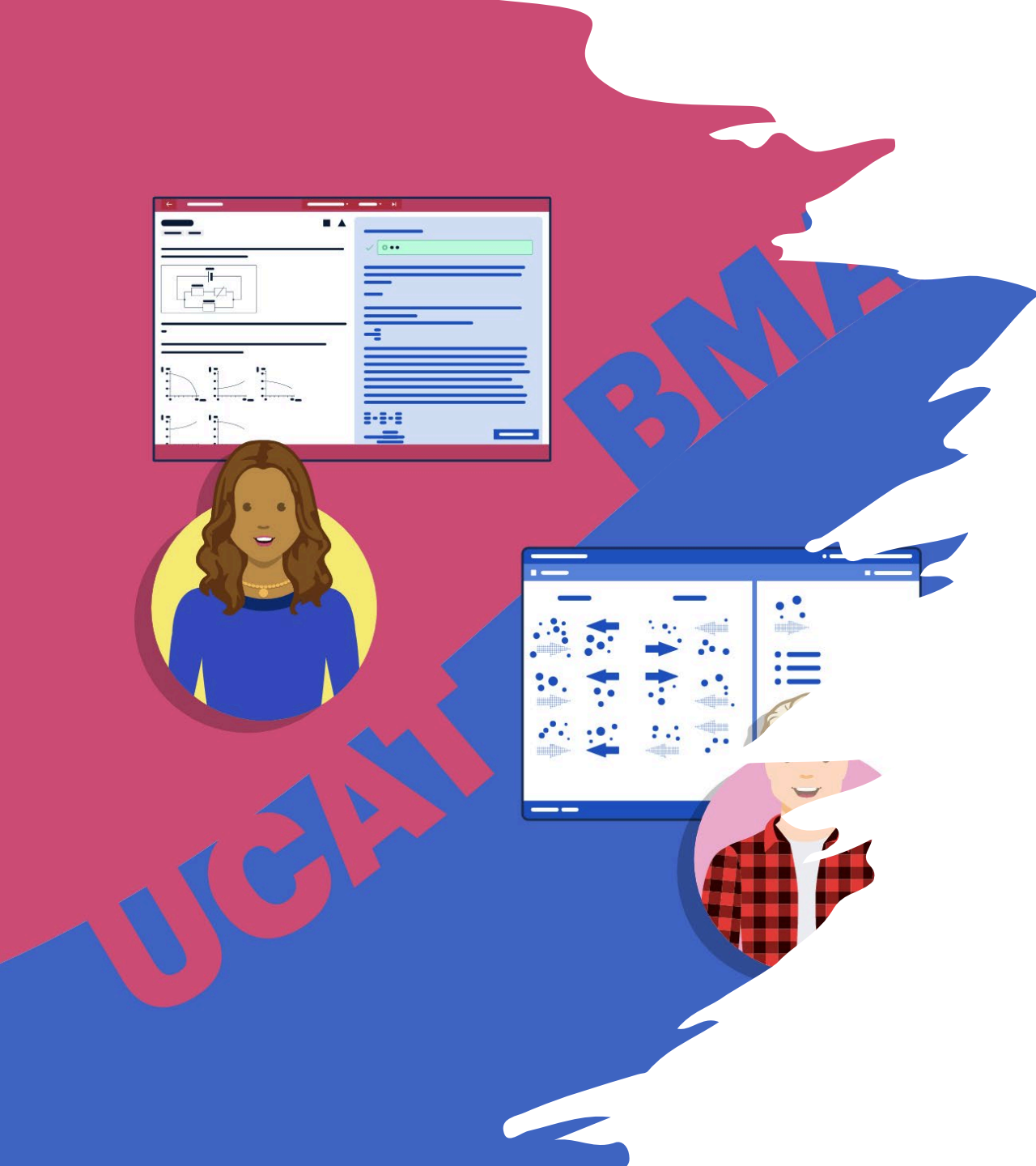


UCAS grades

AAA prediction and above makes you more competitive and provides good reason for them to interview you.

Our predictions are made on your Year 12 internal examination results, recent assessments and work ethic. They are not up for discussion (and our predictions nearly always are correct!)





Pre-interview Assessments

UCAT University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

The UCAT (previously UKCAT) test helps universities make informed choices and differentiates between highly-qualified applicants. It's divided into five sections, all multiple-choice questions:

- **Verbal reasoning**
- **Quantitative reasoning**
- **Abstract reasoning**
- **Decision making**
- **Situational judgement**

The computer-based test lasts two hours, with each section having a set amount of time to be completed in. **You can sit the test between July and September 2024. Tests taken in the UK cost £75.**

More information including a list of universities that use this test for admissions is available on the UCAT site.

The screenshot shows the UCAT website's 'UCAT Tips' page. The header includes the UCAT logo and navigation links: UCAT, BMAT, Interview, Preparation, Guides, Webinars, Blogs, Account, and Contact Us. The main content area features a large orange and blue graphic. A white box on the right lists 'THE BEST UCAT TIPS' with three bullet points: 'All our UCAT tips in one place', 'Written by UCAT strategy experts and test-takers', and 'Includes decile and section-specific tips'. Below the graphic is an orange button that says 'BOOK A UCAT COURSE'. At the bottom, there are three light blue boxes with icons and titles: 'How To Prepare For UCAT', 'See What Score You Need', and 'How To Avoid A Low Score'.

<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/about-ucat/ucat-test-dates/>

UCAT

- 14 May – create your account. Apply for access arrangements if eligible.
- 18 June – booking opens
- 8 July- tests begin
- 19 September – booking deadline
- 26 September – last test date
- 15 October – UCAS deadline
- Early November – Universities get your score.

UCAT top tips

- Sit the test at the end of summer so you have the whole summer to prepare
- Access arrangements and bursaries are offered – check whether you are eligible once you have created an account
- Speed reading essential
- Read the question first
- Practice papers – can you form a group to purchase materials together or ask y13 students if they can donate any
- Book a test on 18th June so you have your choice of dates and test centres
- Make university choices tactically once you have your UCAT score

What support is there in school?

- UCAT assembly (delivered in February)
- Essay writing support from Post-18 team and departments
- External speakers arranged e.g. Medology
- MMI Interviews either internally or externally via ISOC
- A few books of practice questions to borrow in 6th form office
- Direction to online papers
- Teams – MedSoc / Dental Society / Vet Society/science society



Interviews

- **Ability to communicate**
- **Attitude**
- **Motivation to be a Doctor, Dentist, Vet**
- **Previous caring experience**
- **Knowledge of what is happening in your chosen MDV field**

Medicine applications: Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs)

What are MMIs?

MMIs are an alternative to traditional interview formats. The majority of UK medical schools now use them and some universities also use MMI for admission to Law, Nursing, Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Education courses.

How do MMIs work?

MMIs are made up of multiple 'stations' (usually between six and twelve). Each station is designed to test your non-academic traits, such as communication skills, empathy and teamwork.

You may have to complete many types of station, including:

- Role play
- Discussion of your UCAS application and relevant experience
- Ethics question
- Reading comprehension
- Data analysis
- Manual dexterity
- Interpretation of scenarios/observation of scenes on a screen

You're given a score based on the strength of your performance at each station. These scores are collated and you're given an overall score. The strength of your overall score relative to those of other candidates determines whether or not you're offered a place.

PANEL VS MMI	
What to expect	
2 - 3 Interviewers	6 - 8 Stations
Timing	
20 - 30+ Minutes	8 Minutes per station
Questions	
More flexible questions	Rigidly structured questions
Personal Statement	
Usually discussed	Usually not discussed

Why are MMIs used?

MMIs are more realistic

MMIs allow medical schools to better recreate scenarios where students will find themselves during their time as a medical student and a doctor.

They create a level playing field for candidates

MMIs are harder to prepare for because they're unconventional, so students can't be coached for them. They're designed to test for skills for a medical career, not interview-response skills.

MMIs are more fun

Doing a variety of tasks is more challenging and interesting than simply responding to questions being asked by the same person. Your degree is meant to be enjoyable, so there's no reason the selection process shouldn't be as well.

Some things to prepare for...

Practise
skills tested
in multi-
minis

Prepare for
rejection

Standard
questions –
why dentistry?

Prepare for
stress

Academic
subject
knowledge

Reading –
journals,
news stories
...

Self-awareness
*"It's like, sort of,
important,
y'know, ok?"*

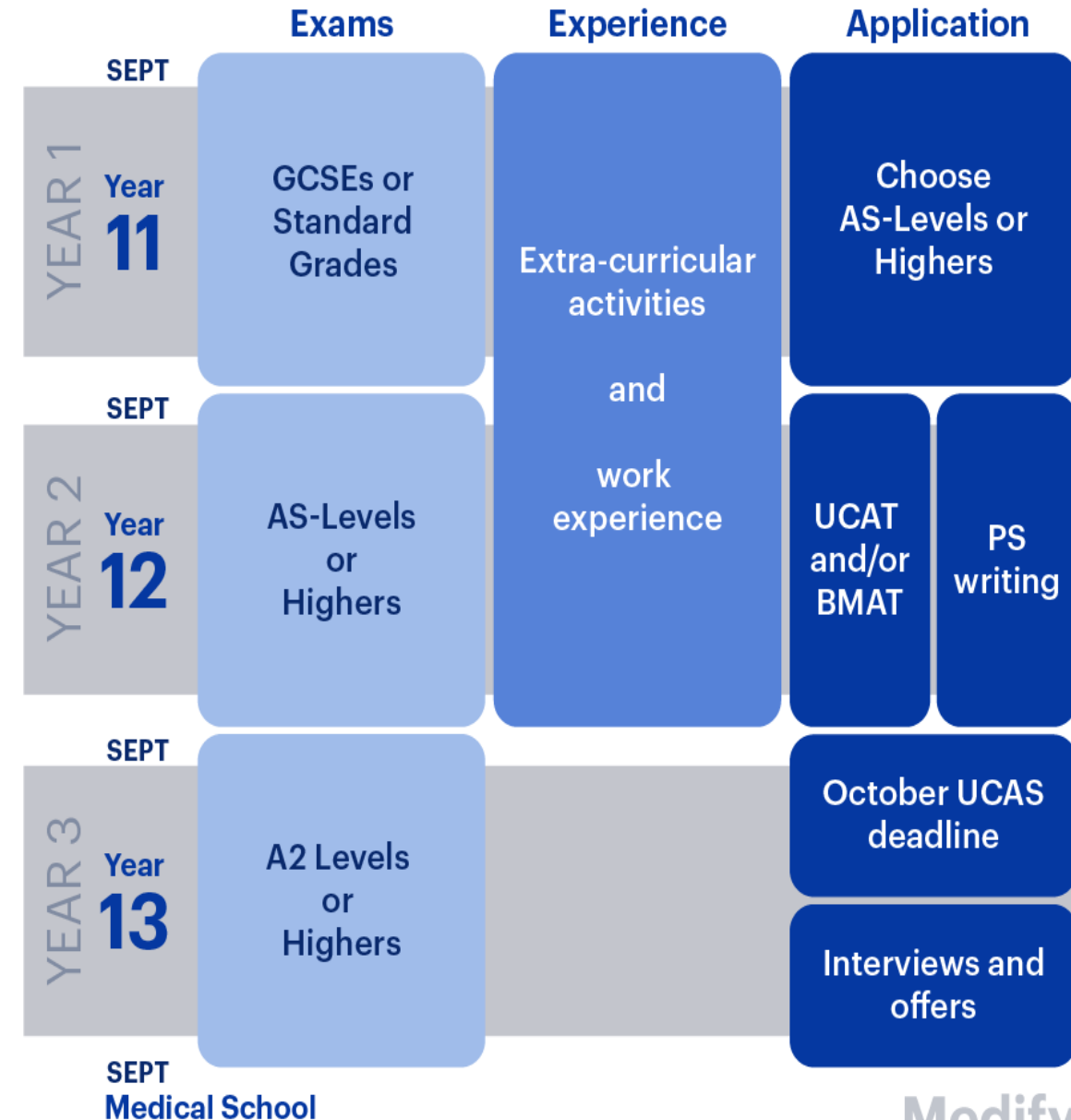
- Mock interviews inc. 1:1, MMI (Nov – Jan)
- MMIs have been outsourced and performed by 1st year university students
- Unifrog
- Sixth form careers office
- External ‘courses’ available
- Debrief / more practise if not successful early
- Mindfulness / lunchtime meditation
- Look out for future opportunities organised by MedSoc and the science department

The deadline for MDV is 6pm GMT, 15th October, therefore you are classed as 'early entry'.

The school's deadline, to enable us to check and process your application, is:

13th September

Any application that does not meet the October deadline will not be accepted for 2025 entry, so it is imperative we get it in by (or ideally before!) our deadline to check it.



Dentistry

What Makes A Good Dentist?

1. **Good eyesight and colour vision.** There is a lot of precision work involved in Dentistry.
2. **Manual dexterity.** Once you're a practising Dentist, you'll need to be able to confidently work with medical instruments in delicate areas.
3. **An interest in and ability to acquire scientific knowledge,** particularly about the human anatomy and oral disease.
4. **Confidence in offering advice and educating patients** about their oral health is a key part of the role.
5. **Patience and compassion.** Unfortunately, a lot of people are scared of the Dentist! It's your job to convince them there's nothing to worry about.

Dental Society

University ranking	University name	Overall score	Entry standards	Student satisfaction	Research quality	Research intensity
1	University of Glasgow VIEW COURSES →	100%	100%	92%	80%	58%
2 ▲ 6	University of Manchester VIEW COURSES →	97%	75%	72%	85%	90%
3 ▲ 8	Queen's University Belfast VIEW COURSES →	97%	79%	90%	72%	99%
4	Newcastle University VIEW COURSES →	97%	72%	90%	83%	76%
5 ▼ 2	Queen Mary University of London VIEW COURSES →	97%	77%	75%	84%	81%
6	University of Bristol VIEW COURSES →	96%	73%	79%	80%	85%
7	University of Sheffield VIEW COURSES →	96%	73%	85%	80%	56%

You will need to sit entry tests.

Veterinary Science

The range of undergraduate degrees in Veterinary Medicine may include:

- Animal Behaviour BSc
- Veterinary Biosciences BSc
- **Veterinary Medicine BVetMed or BVMS**
- Veterinary Nursing & Companion Animal Behaviour BSc
- **Pre-test for Vets – usually are no pre tests except:** The Engineering and Science Admissions Test (ESAT) will be used for degree programmes in Veterinary Medicine at Cambridge.
- The University of Edinburgh has a [free online course](#) designed to give A Level students an idea of what studying a veterinary course will be like. It's designed to take 3–4 hours a week for five weeks and will give you a taster of the first year.
- <https://www.classcentral.com/course/edivet-1675>

QUICK VIEW			
University ranking	University name	Overall score	
1	University of Glasgow VIEW COURSES →	100%	
2 ▲ 2	University of Edinburgh VIEW COURSES →	99%	
3 ▲ 2	University of Liverpool VIEW COURSES →	98%	
4 ▲ 2	University of Nottingham VIEW COURSES →	98%	
5 ▲ 2	University of Cambridge VIEW COURSES →	97%	
6 ▼ 4	Royal Veterinary College, Universit... VIEW COURSES →	97%	

Summary – recipe for success

- Research and preparation
- Outstanding academic **results** (including tests and reference)
- Convincing **personal statement**
- Qualities & commitment shown in **interview**



Stage 1 – Now

- Dazzle teachers with your work ethic in all subjects
- Get strong A grades in your Year 12 examinations

Stage 2 – After Year 12 exams

- Thoroughly research universities/courses
- Choose a 'backup' course you are happy with
- Start to prepare for UCAT
- Work experience

Stage 3 – Summer Holiday

- Keep a diary of any more (work) experience
- Finish your personal statement by 1st September
- Prepare for UCAT/BMAT

Stage 4 – Next School Year

- UCAS form finished in September
- Interview prep during October
- Real interviews
- Additional interview practice following rejections
- Your final deadline, everything finished **by 13th September**



Questions?