

# MDV Information Evening

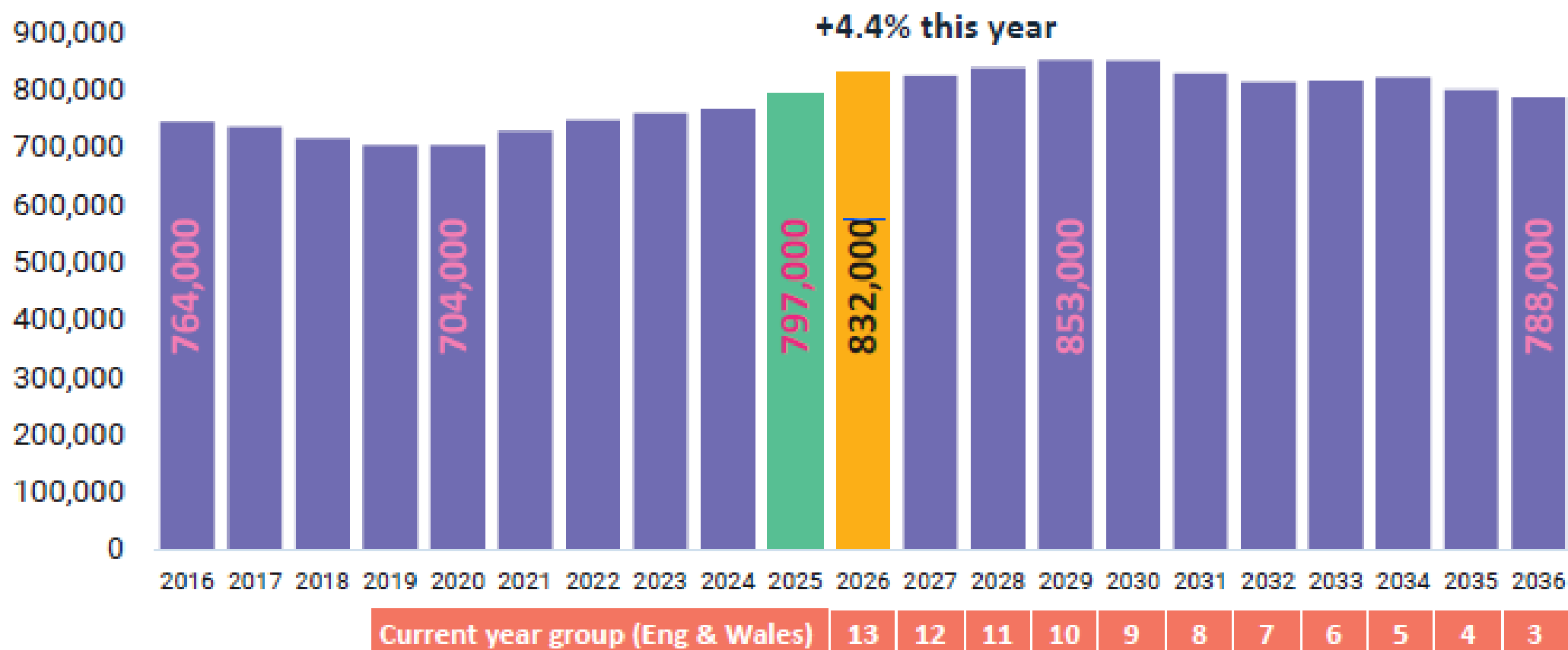
16<sup>th</sup> April 2026



## Altrincham Grammar School for Girls

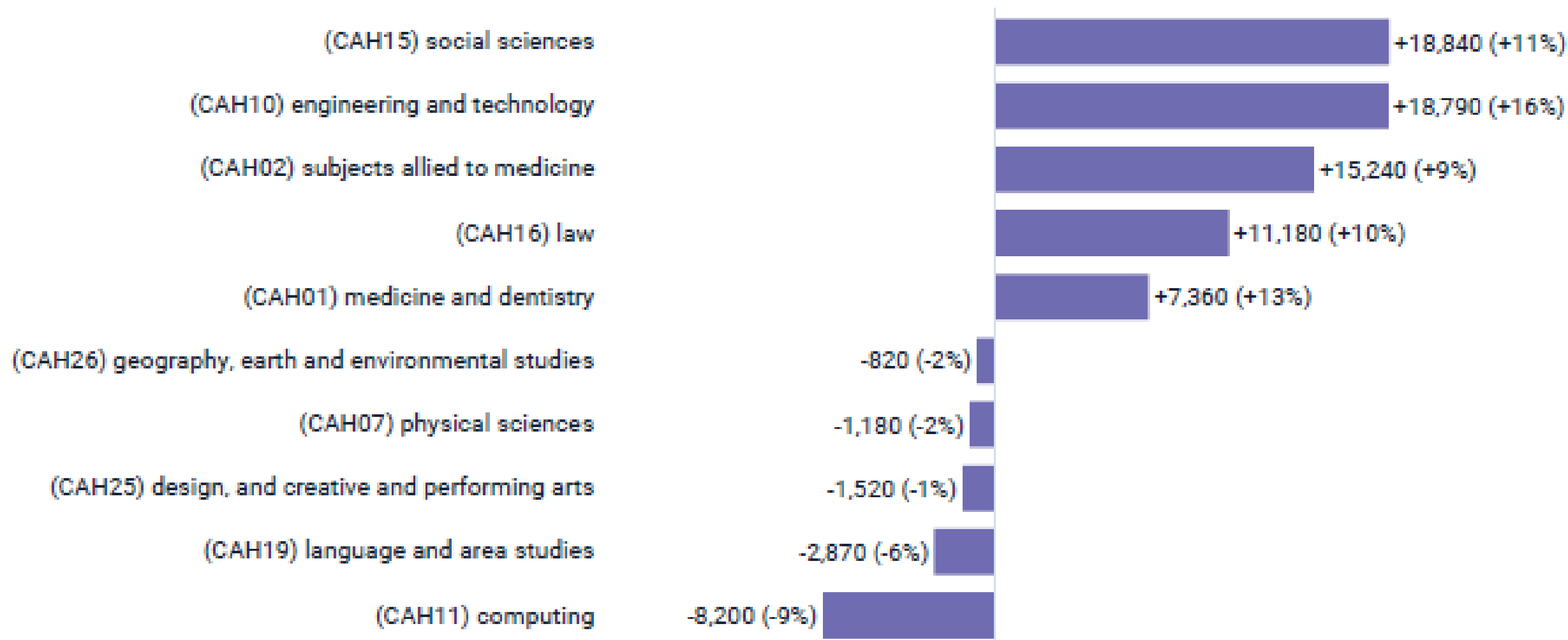
BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

# HOW MANY UK 18-YEAR-OLDS EACH YEAR?



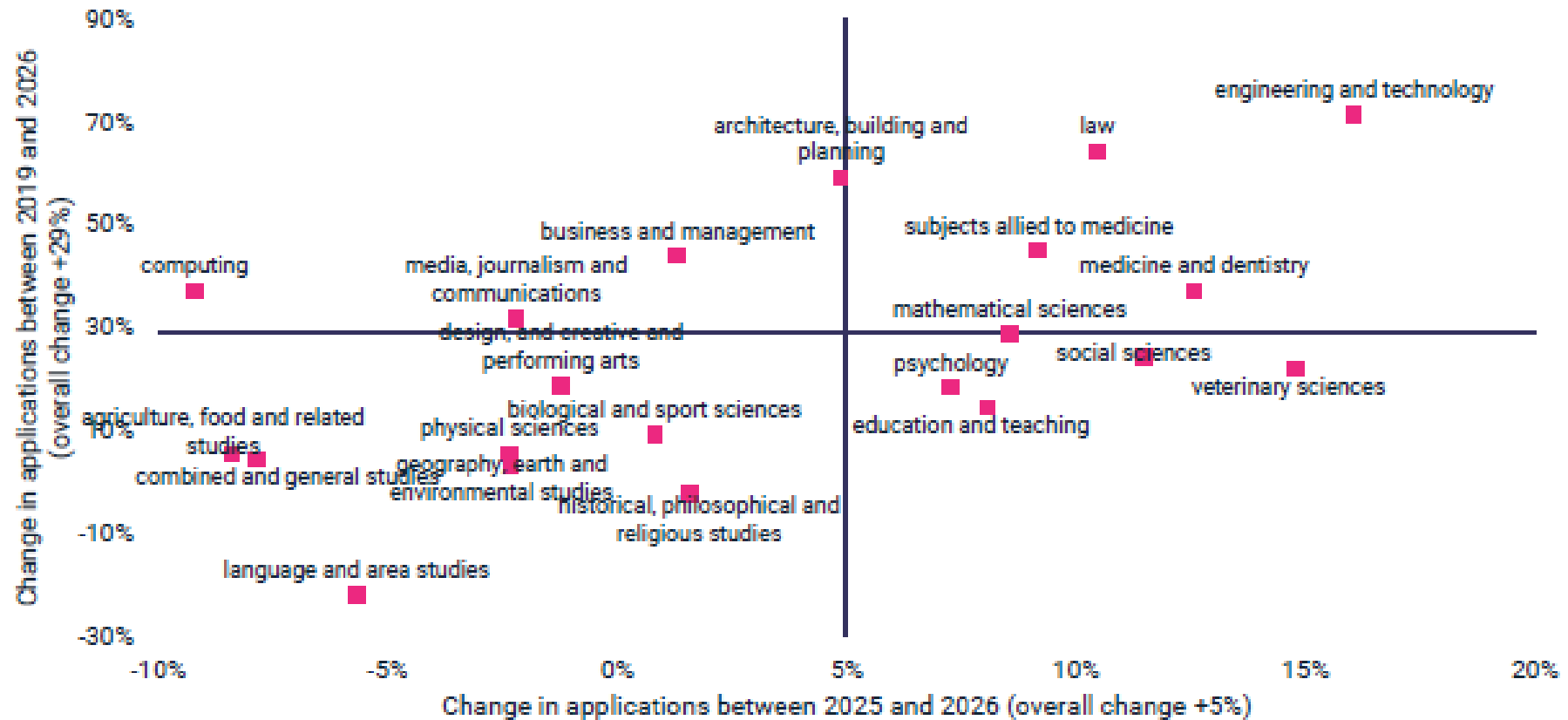
# BIGGEST CHANGES IN APPLICATIONS BY SUBJECT

Applications by subject group - five biggest increases and decreases (UK 18)

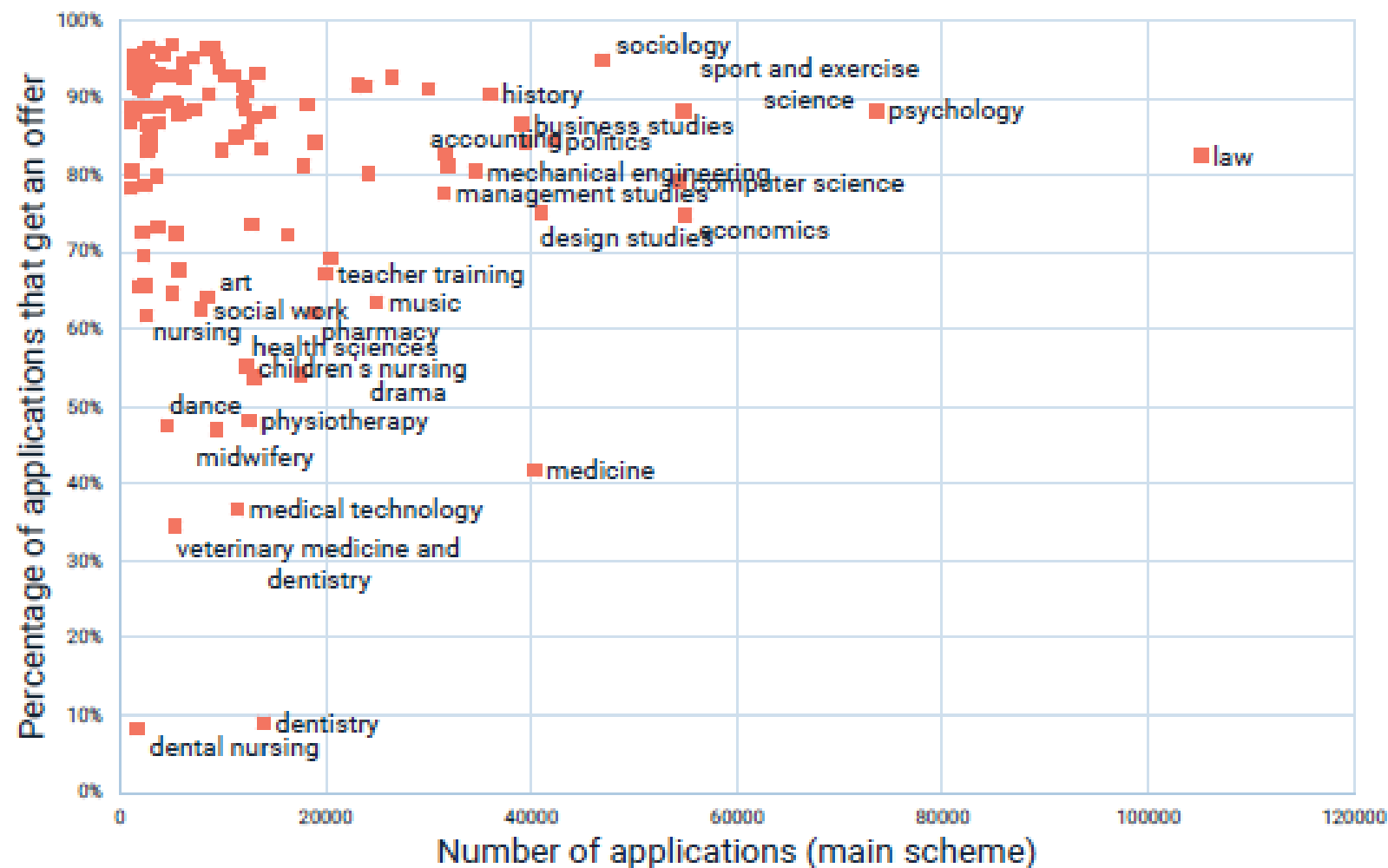


# CHANGE SINCE 2019 AGAINST CHANGE SINCE 2025

Comparison of change in applications by subject (high level groups) UK 18



# OFFERS BY SUBJECT 2025: UK 18-YEAR-OLDS



# What are my chances?

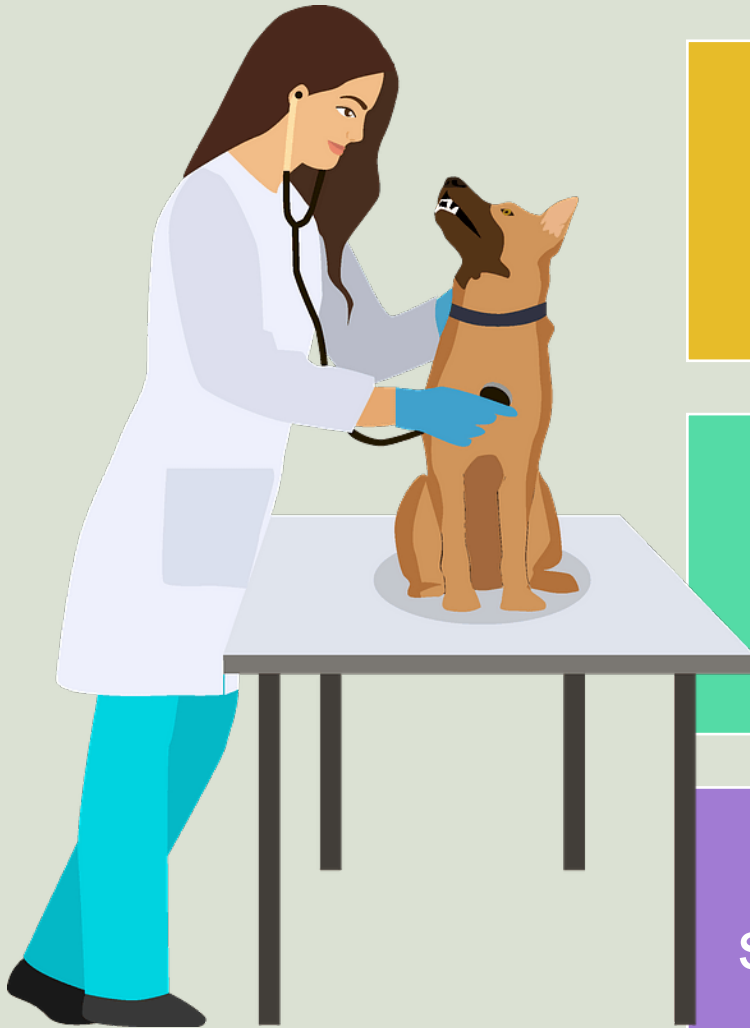
## Be realistic

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

If you want to pursue an MDV course, 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.**

# 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

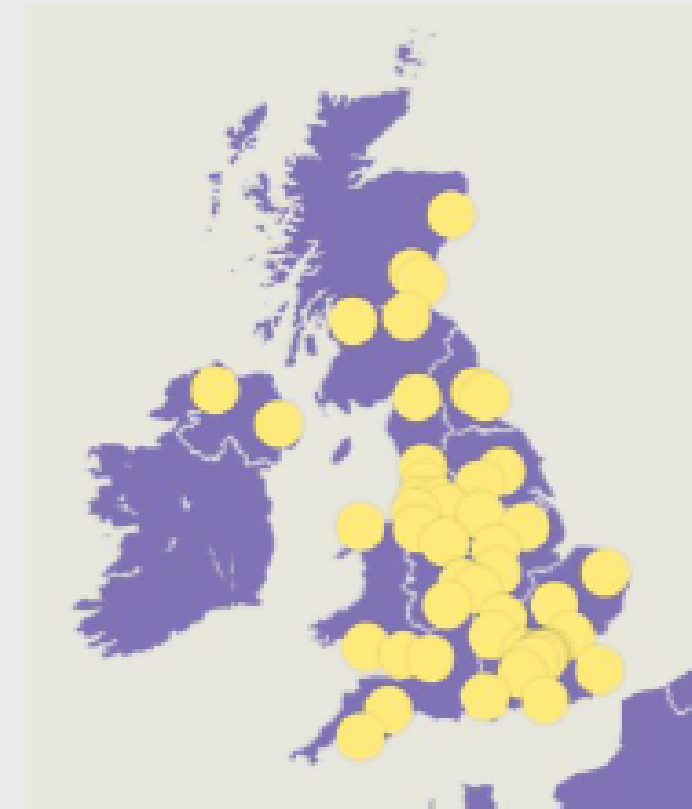
Honesty and  
integrity

# How to choose a medical or dental school

There are over 50 medical schools across the UK and 16 universities that offer dentistry.

Four choices on the UCAS application plus **fifth choice**

- How do students narrow their choices down?
- What factors should they consider?
- What is important?
- The fifth choice
- Entry requirements



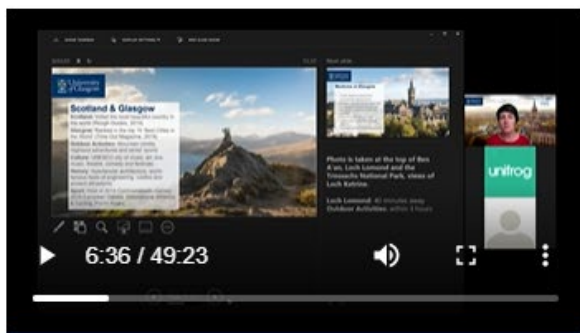
# Exploring subjects

[← 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](#)

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

Psychology and history join our experts panels from and Lancaster University.

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

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



## 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...

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

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

A career join our experts panels from the New School, SCAD, University for the Arts and OCAD.

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

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.

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

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

# 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](#) 🔍

# Some questions for you to answer to help you decide:

- How far from home do you want to be, or will you live at home?
- Do you want to be in London or another big city?
- Do you want to study at a campus university or in a small city/town?
- What interests and hobbies do you have?
- Do you want to go to the same university as friends or family or other students from your school/college?
- What bursaries/scholarships/financial support are offered ?
- Do you have a disability/health condition that might affect your decision?

## Hot topics

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### 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

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### 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.medsc  
hools.ac.uk/studyin  
g-  
medicine/outreach-  
and-  
support/resources-  
for-teachers-and-  
students](https://www.medsc<br/>hools.ac.uk/studyin<br/>g-<br/>medicine/outreach-<br/>and-<br/>support/resources-<br/>for-teachers-and-<br/>students)

# Medicine

## Article

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### **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)

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### **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.

# Supporting students with disabilities

- Medical schools can support applicants with disabilities
- School (Mrs Galvin/Bell-Walker/Hickman) need to know in advance so they can provide support
- Applicants must declare disabilities on the UCAS form and school will mention it in the 'extenuating circumstances' section of the academic reference
- Please come and chat to Mrs Bell-Walker for more information if this applies to you

[www.medschools.ac.uk](http://www.medschools.ac.uk)

# Personal Statements

## The new personal statement questions

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- ▶ Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

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- ▶ Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

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- ▶ Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

# Personal statements need to be submitted on the UCAS application by 4/9/26

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.
- Your statement should be true and accurate
- Use your own words – they check for plagiarised statements.
- Do not use AI to write your personal statement for you

# UCAS personal statement guides

Medicine: <https://www.ucas.com/applying/applying-university/personal-statement-guides/personal-statement-advice-medicine>

Dentistry: <https://www.ucas.com/applying/applying-university/personal-statement-guides/personal-statement-advice-dentistry>

Vet: <https://www.ucas.com/applying/applying-university/personal-statement-guides/personal-statement-advice-veterinary-medicine>

General UCAS personal statement support:  
<https://www.ucas.com/applying/applying-university/writing-your-personal-statement#applying-for-2026-entry>

# Work experience

Universities understand it is hard to secure.



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
- Use AI to write your personal statement.

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
- Personalised support from myself/form tutors/subjects – just ask.
- Proof-read of final draft



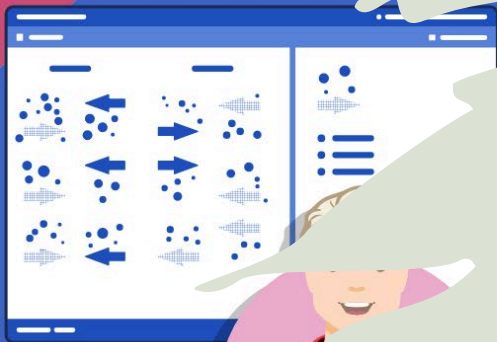
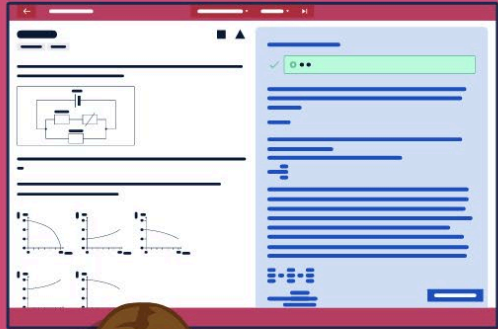
# UCAS grades- holistic judgement

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 (teachers have already analysed your data, the grades are evidence informed).





# Pre-interview Assessments

# UCAT University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

The UCAT test helps universities make informed choices and differentiates between highly-qualified applicants.

Computer-based, sat in Pearson Test Centres

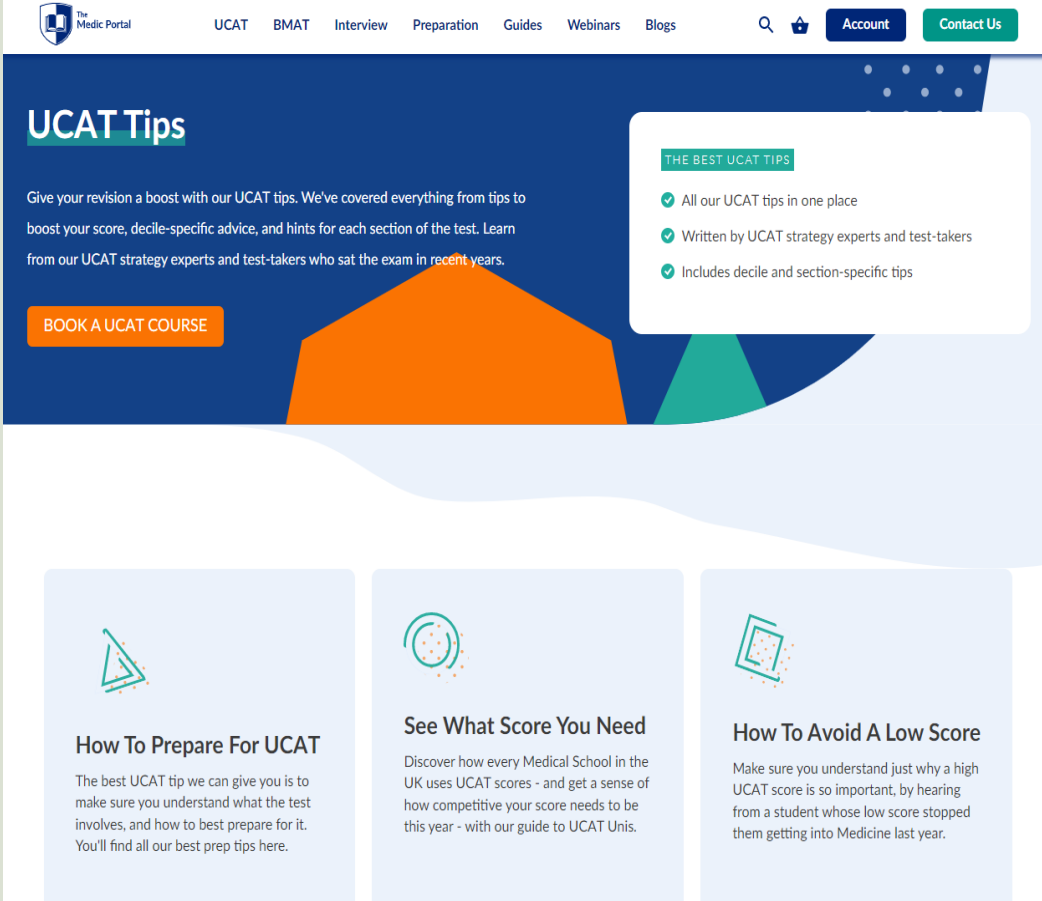
It's divided into four sections, all multiple-choice questions:

- Verbal reasoning
- Quantitative reasoning
- Decision making
- Situational judgement (scored in bands 1-4)

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 13<sup>th</sup> July and 24<sup>th</sup> September 2026. Tests taken in the UK cost £70.**

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

(Abstract reasoning has been removed, giving a maximum UCAT score of 2700)



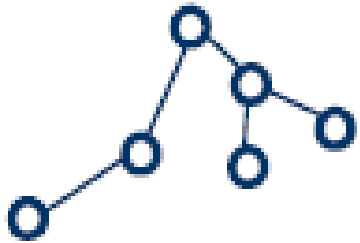
The screenshot shows the UCAT website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for UCAT, BMAT, Interview, Preparation, Guides, Webinars, and Blogs. A search icon and a user account icon are also present. The main content area features a large blue banner with the heading 'UCAT Tips'. Below this, there is a paragraph of text and a prominent orange button labeled 'BOOK A UCAT COURSE'. To the right, a white box titled 'THE BEST UCAT TIPS' lists 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 banner, there are three light blue boxes, each with an icon and a title: 'How To Prepare For UCAT' (with a triangle icon), 'See What Score You Need' (with a circular icon), and 'How To Avoid A Low Score' (with a square icon). Each box contains a short paragraph of text.

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

# How do universities use UCAT?

There is no single 'competitive' score

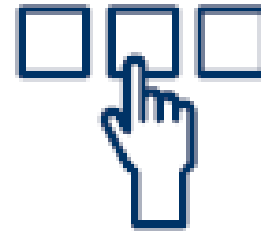
No minimum



Threshold score



Marginal use



Ranking



Considerations:

SJT

Widening Access and Representation

# UCAT 2026 (for 2027 entry)

- 20th May – create your account. Apply for bursary/access arrangements if eligible.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June – booking opens
- 13<sup>th</sup> July- tests begin
- 10th September – booking deadline
- 24th September – last test date
- 15 October – UCAS deadline
- Early November – Universities get your score.

[https://www.ucat.ac.uk/about-ucat/ucat-test-dates/#:~:text=Table\\_content:%20header:%20%7C%2020%20May%202026%20\(14:00,Arrangement%20applications%20open:%20Last%20test%20day%20%7C](https://www.ucat.ac.uk/about-ucat/ucat-test-dates/#:~:text=Table_content:%20header:%20%7C%2020%20May%202026%20(14:00,Arrangement%20applications%20open:%20Last%20test%20day%20%7C)

MAY	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
JUN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
JUL	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
AUG	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
SEPT	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27

## BURSARIES AND ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

20<sup>th</sup> May: Applications open10<sup>th</sup> September: Access Arrangements application deadline24<sup>th</sup> September: Bursary application deadline

## MORE KEY DATES

AND FURTHER INFO:

WWW.UCAT.AC.UK

## Support:

- UCAT presentation (March 2026)
- Organise UCAT study groups yourself
- A few books of practice questions to borrow in 6th form office
- UCAT website – use the online past papers
- Teams – MedSoc / Dental Society / Vet Society/science society

# UCAT top tips

- Sit the test at the end of summer so you have the whole summer to prepare
- Book a test on 23rd June so you have your choice of dates and test centres
- Access arrangements and bursaries are offered – check whether you are eligible once you have created an account with UCAT
- Speed reading essential
- Read the question first
- Practice papers – you could form a group to purchase materials together or ask Y13 students if they can donate any
- Photo ID needed to sit the test (<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/sit/id-policy/>)
- Make university choices tactically once you have your UCAT score

**How should I prepare for the UCAT?**

Work through the official UCAT Preparation Resources below in the order that works best for you. Revisit resources if needed.

**When should I start preparing?**

Our top-performing candidates say they spent about 30 hours preparing and started 6–8 weeks before their test.

## Learn about the test format and strategies for each subtest

Tour Tutorial [↗](#)Question Tutorials [↗](#)

VR DM QR SJT

## Mimic the testing experience through official UCAT example questions

Verbal Reasoning Question Banks [↗](#)

1 2 3 4

Decision Making Question Banks [↗](#)

1 2 3 4

Quantitative Reasoning Question Banks [↗](#)

1 2 3 4

Situational Judgement Test Question Banks [↗](#)

1 2 3

Our question banks are divided up into multiple sections, giving you hundreds of questions to try! Use the 'Explain Answer' button to learn as you go!

Practice Tests [↗](#)

A B C D

# UCAT preparation

- Use all the advice from the presentation you had last month.
- Top-performing candidates say they spent about 30 hours preparing and started 6–8 weeks before their test.
- Sit the test over the Summer.
- Use the resources from the UCAT website:

<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/prepare/preparation-resources/>



## 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.

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

## 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

Self-awareness  
*“It’s like, sort of,  
important,  
y’know, ok?”*

Academic  
subject  
knowledge

Reading –  
journals,  
news stories

...

- Mock interviews inc. 1:1, MMI (Nov – Jan)
- MMIs have been outsourced and performed by 1<sup>st</sup> year university students
- Unifrog
- Webinars- advertised on teams
- Sixth form careers office
- Debrief / more practise if not successful early
- Look out for future opportunities organised by MedSoc and the science department

**The deadline for MDV is 6pm GMT, 15<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**4th September 2026**

**Any application that does not meet the October deadline will not be accepted for 2027 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.

University ranking	University name	Overall score	Entry standards	Student satisfaction	Research quality	Research intensity	Graduate prospects
1	<a href="#">University of Glasgow</a> <a href="#">VIEW COURSES →</a>	100%	100%	92%	80%	58%	95%
2 ▲ 6	<a href="#">University of Manchester</a> <a href="#">VIEW COURSES →</a>	97%	75%	72%	85%	90%	100%
3 ▲ 8	<a href="#">Queen's University Belfast</a> <a href="#">VIEW COURSES →</a>	97%	79%	90%	72%	99%	95%
4	<a href="#">Newcastle University</a> <a href="#">VIEW COURSES →</a>	97%	72%	90%	83%	76%	95%
5 ▼ 2	<a href="#">Queen Mary University of London</a> <a href="#">VIEW COURSES →</a>	97%	77%	75%	84%	81%	90%
6	<a href="#">University of Bristol</a> <a href="#">VIEW COURSES →</a>	96%	73%	79%	80%	85%	100%
7	<a href="#">University of Sheffield</a> <a href="#">VIEW COURSES →</a>	96%	73%	85%	80%	56%	100%

Dental Society- are you an active member?

# 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		FULL TABLE					
University ranking	University name	Overall score	Entry standards	Student satisfaction	Research quality	Research intensity	Graduate prospects
1	University of Glasgow <a href="#">VIEW COURSES →</a>	100%	98%	82%	84%	69%	100%
2 ▲ 2	University of Edinburgh <a href="#">VIEW COURSES →</a>	99%	100%	86%	78%	89%	98%
3 ▲ 2	University of Liverpool <a href="#">VIEW COURSES →</a>	98%	80%	84%	81%	59%	100%
4 ▲ 2	University of Nottingham <a href="#">VIEW COURSES →</a>	98%	73%	91%	78%	71%	98%
5 ▲ 2	University of Cambridge <a href="#">VIEW COURSES →</a>	97%	94%	n/a	80%	81%	92%
6 ▼ 4	Royal Veterinary College, Universit... <a href="#">VIEW COURSES →</a>	97%	80%	80%	78%	82%	96%

# 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**

- Finalise your final four UCAS MDV courses
- Choose a 'backup' course you are happy with
- Start to prepare for UCAT /assessment tests
- Work experience

## Stage 3 – Summer Holiday

- Keep a diary of any more (work) experience
- Finish your personal statement by 1st September
- Sit the UCAT

## Stage 4 – Next School Year

- UCAS form finished in September. Your final deadline, everything finished by **4th September**
- Interview prep during October
- Real interviews
- Additional interview practice following rejections

# Useful dates:





Questions?