



Lancaster University  
Medical School

# Lancaster Medical School Admissions Policy

2025 ENTRY

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# Contents

Introduction: About our medical degree programmes.....	3
Lancaster Medical School Widening Participation .....	3
A100 Contextual Admissions: .....	3
A104 Medicine & Surgery with a Gateway Year (6-year MBChB): .....	4
Pre-application support: .....	4
Access to Medicine and Lancaster Access Programme: .....	4
Realising Opportunities (RO): .....	4
Admissions Policy.....	5
Overview: .....	5
Reapplications:.....	5
Deferred Entry: .....	5
UCAS Application form.....	6
Overview: .....	6
Domicile: .....	6
UCAS Academic Reference:.....	6
Personal Statement: .....	6
Plagiarism:.....	6
Additional Supporting Evidence.....	7
Initial Applicant Survey (IAS):.....	7
Qualifications: .....	7
Supplementary Information Form (SIF): .....	7
Work Experience:.....	7
The Selection Process: .....	8
Stage 1: Academic aptitude: .....	8
Stage 2: University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) .....	8
Stage 3: Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI) .....	8
Stage 4: Fitness to Practise .....	9
Admissions Fitness to Practise process in the event of a declared criminal record.....	10
Application Cycle Timeline .....	12
Provision of Feedback:.....	12
Offers: .....	12
Exceptional circumstances.....	13
If you are completing A-levels or another equivalent school-leaving qualification: .....	13

Exceptional circumstances affecting the UCAT .....	14
Exceptional circumstances on the day of interview: .....	14
Data Protection .....	14
Academic Entry Requirements (A100):.....	15
For candidates offering GCSEs and A Levels .....	15
Resits: .....	15
For candidates with an undergraduate degree .....	16
Transfers: .....	16
For Candidates offering an Access to Higher Education Diploma (Medicine).....	17
Academic Entry Requirements (A104):.....	18
English Language Requirements (A100 and A104) .....	19

## Introduction: About our medical degree programmes

Lancaster Medical School offers two MBChB Medicine and Surgery programmes: A100, the standard 5-year programme and A104, the 6-year Medicine & Surgery with a Gateway year programme. Both MBChB Medicine and Surgery programmes aim to equip graduates with the requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes to be a rounded doctor able to deliver excellent patient care throughout their future careers. The core curriculum is delivered through problem-based learning (PBL), a form of small group teaching that prepares graduates for life-long learning by developing their problem-solving and independent study skills. Early clinical experience helps students to understand the context for and purpose of their learning. From the beginning, they learn not only the biomedical science that underpins medicine but also the importance of the social context of patient care, population and public health perspectives, and the ethical and professional challenges inherent in modern clinical practice.

Alongside the acquisition of knowledge, students develop the necessary skills for a successful career, with communication and clinical skills training from the very outset of the degree programme. The development of professional skills and attitudes on clinical placement is encouraged through frequent, timely feedback and the annual appraisal scheme. Lancaster Medical School's educational facilities include: the Clinical Anatomy Learning Centre; a Clinical Skills suite; modern tutorial rooms and lecture theatres; fully-equipped library.

Successful applicants to Lancaster Medical School come from a wide range of backgrounds but all have the motivation and academic ability to thrive at medical school and demonstrate empathy and respect for patients.

Detailed information about entry requirements and our selection procedure can be found on our webpages: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lms/medicine/>

## Lancaster Medical School Widening Participation

We are committed to recruiting medical students who reflect the diversity of patient populations and wider society but recognise that applicants from some backgrounds experience more barriers to studying Medicine than others. Lancaster Medical School's Widening Participation strategy employs a number of schemes to improve access to its degree programmes.

**A100 Contextual Admissions:** As part of our commitment to widening access to medicine, we take a holistic approach to reviewing applications and aim to understand as much as possible about our applicants, their circumstances, and their potential.

All applicants who meet our academic entry requirements will be asked to provide contextual information about their background. Specifically, applicants who are Local Authority care experienced, care leavers, or a refugee OR who meet two or more of our widening participation criteria, (full details can be found on our website: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lms/medicine/mbchb-medicine-and-surgery/entry-requirements/>) may have this information taken into account at two stages of the admissions process:

Stage 2. Shortlisting for interview based on UCAT scores. Borderline candidates who meet WP criteria may be invited to interview using a lower overall score threshold.

Stage 3. Candidates who are successful at interview may be considered for a contextually lowered offer of ABB.

Your UCAS application will be used to validate criteria based on your postcode and previous/current school/college, all other criteria must be indicated through completion of the [Initial Applicant Survey \(IAS\)](#), and the [supplementary information form \(SIF\)](#) and evidenced by providing the appropriate supporting documentation via email. We are unable to consider information received after offers have been made; applicants who do not complete the SIF before shortlisting or who cannot provide supporting evidence will not be considered for a contextual offer apart from in rare circumstances where the applicant can evidence that this is beyond their control.

**A104 Medicine & Surgery with a Gateway Year (6-year MBChB):** This programme represents another approach to attract a more diverse range of students into the medical profession. This programme is only open to UK/home domiciled applicants. Only applicants who fulfil widening participation criteria as explained above are eligible to be considered for the Gateway Year but, in contrast to the contextual admissions, it is designed for students who are **not** predicted the A-level grades and/or have not met the GCSE requirements to apply directly to the A100 MBChB Medicine and Surgery degree programme. Applicants to A104 will be asked to complete the SIF shortly after application and must return this and any supporting evidence before being considered for interview within the admissions cycle.

**Pre-application support:** Lancaster runs a number of events for potential students who meet our Widening Participation criteria. For more details, please look at the Schools and Colleges page of our website: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/>.

**Access to Medicine and Lancaster Access Programme:** In addition to the opportunity to experience how medical education is delivered at Lancaster Medical School, students who attend Access to Medicine – part of the Lancaster Access Programme – will receive advice on applying to study medicine. Upon successful completion of the Access to Medicine programme, **subject to fulfilling both the academic and non-academic requirements for entry**, students who choose to apply for either A100 or A104 at Lancaster Medical School will be offered a guaranteed interview. Applicants with a guaranteed interview must meet the academic entry requirements of A100 or A104 and satisfy the LMS widening participation criteria. Applicants must also complete an admissions test, but their application will bypass the stage where this score is considered when shortlisting for interview. For 2025 entry onwards, all applicants must take the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) to be eligible for consideration at Lancaster Medical School. This must be taken in the summer testing window prior to application. More information about UCAT, how to register, and how to prepare for the test can be found on the [UCAT website](#).

For more information, visit: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/access-to-medicine/>.

**Realising Opportunities (RO):** Realising Opportunities is a national collaboration of research-intensive universities, working together to promote fair access and social mobility of students from groups underrepresented in higher education. Students who complete the RO programme by the end of November of their application year may be eligible for a guaranteed interview if they meet the academic entry requirements and can evidence the Lancaster Medical School [Widening Participation](#) criteria through a supplementary form. Those students offered a guaranteed interview will typically be eligible for either A104 or a contextually lowered offer for A100 if successful after interview as described above.

## Admissions Policy

**Overview:** Lancaster Medical School aims to ensure that our admissions policy is fair, consistent and transparent. Applicants are selected on both their academic suitability and the demonstration of the non-academic skills and attributes that make a good doctor. Entry into medicine is highly competitive and successful applicants are those who most ably demonstrate that they meet both the academic and non-academic entry requirements.

The number of places to study medicine in the UK is regulated by the Office for Students and General Medical Council and all Medical Schools are given a quota of places for home/UK and internationally domiciled students that they must not exceed each academic year. For 2025 entry for A100 Medicine and Surgery, Lancaster Medical School has:

- 130 home/UK and
- 4 international places.

A104 Medicine and Surgery with a Gateway Year, a programme open to home/UK domiciled applicants who meet widening access eligibility criteria, can accommodate up to 15 students each year. Upon successful completion of the Gateway Year, these students will count towards the home/UK target for the following year's intake, resulting in a minimum of 115 UK/Home places for A100 each year.

After an application has been received, an initial assessment of each candidate's eligibility for A100 or A104 and their domicile group (UK or international) will be conducted. In addition to the information you provide us with on your UCAS application, the admissions team may also request additional information through the Initial Applicant Survey (IAS) and/or Supplementary Information Form (SIF) as well as directly by email. Applicants should ensure they check their email regularly, including their spam/junk folders, to ensure they reply within stated timeframes.

Lancaster Medical School reserves the right to reject applicants who have consistently failed to respond to requests for additional information to support their application. For example: failure to provide additional references or exam certificates.

**Reapplications:** In general, we do not consider re-applications from applicants who applied in a previous admissions cycle and were unsuccessful after interview. Applicants who were rejected prior to interview in a previous admissions cycle, or were placed on the reserve list, can re-apply if they can demonstrate additional evidence of their potential. For instance, an applicant who has sought additional relevant work experience in the intervening period and reflected well on these experiences in an updated personal statement.

**Deferred Entry:** Lancaster Medical School will consider applications from those who wish to defer entry for one academic year. You should indicate on your application form your preferred year of entry. Applicants may request to defer their place after offers are made if they inform the admissions team in writing before the end of July within each application cycle. When requesting a deferred place, applicants should explain what change in circumstances has led to their decision to defer their entry year. Requests made after the end of July deadline will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and where there is a valid reason for the delay.

## UCAS Application form

**Overview:** Applicants should endeavour to complete their UCAS application form fully, honestly and without omissions, including all past academic qualifications with the grade achieved.

Applications that have not been completed properly will not be considered. Moreover, we do not consider any additional unsolicited information sent to the department and it is, therefore, in your best interests to include all relevant information in your application form. If a school or sixth form college has failed to complete the UCAS form correctly, we may consider additional correspondence relating to their error or omission, as long as it is received before 20<sup>th</sup> November in the year of application.

All applications to Lancaster Medical School should be made through UCAS before the early equal consideration deadline which is 15<sup>th</sup> October in 2024. Applications received after this date will not be considered. When your application arrives from UCAS, Lancaster University will send you an acknowledgement email to confirm receipt and provide a link to the Initial Applicant Survey (IAS) which should be completed as soon as possible (see below for more information).

Please note, applications are not accepted through UCAS Extra or through Clearing, unless otherwise advertised. Lancaster Medical School does not accept direct applications.

**Domicile:** When you first apply to Lancaster Medical School, your application will be assessed to determine whether you are considered home/UK or internationally domiciled. You can declare your nationality and residential status on your UCAS form however, the admissions team often requires additional information to fully determine this accurately. You can provide additional information about your residential history through the Initial Applicant Survey (IAS) or by email. If the information you have provided on your UCAS application form (e.g. nationality) is incorrect and leads to your being incorrectly categorised, we reserve the right to withdraw any offer that has been made to you.

**UCAS Academic Reference:** Your academic reference should follow the new guidelines set out by UCAS in 2023. This reference should be written by someone at your last educational establishment (i.e. not an employment reference). Your reference should indicate whether you have retaken any qualifications or had any gaps in your study, and outline any relevant exceptional/extenuating circumstances that have affected your education. If a referee is aware of an applicant meeting any of our widening participation criteria, they can outline this in their reference.

**Personal Statement:** Lancaster Medical School does not score applicant statements. Your statement should explain why you want to study medicine and what educational, work and voluntary experience you have completed to help prepare you to study medicine and train to be a doctor. If you have a disrupted or discontinuous academic timeline (e.g. you have restarted a year or are resitting qualifications) or you have begun to study for, or completed, post-school/college qualifications (e.g. you have begun to study for a degree), you should include this information in your personal statement.

**Plagiarism:** Lancaster Medical School will be notified by UCAS if they find evidence of plagiarism in the personal statement of any of the applicants to our medical degree programme. This might occur if an applicant copies sections of another's personal statement or if they re-apply without significantly revising their own personal statement. Lancaster Medical School reserves the right to

reject such applications automatically. Applicants may re-apply in a subsequent admissions cycle, if they submit a new and original application, which is not deemed to be plagiarised.

## **Additional Supporting Evidence**

**Initial Applicant Survey (IAS):** This survey allows you to provide us with additional information about your qualifications, educational and residential timeline and background which will help the Admissions team to process your application. Failure to complete the IAS means there may be a delay in processing your application which may impact the time you have to provide further information to us.

**Qualifications:** Lancaster Medical School may request proof of prior academic achievement (for example, GCSE or A-level certificates) or an additional reference to support your application. Applicants who have not sat UK based qualifications (e.g. GCSEs, A levels and Scottish qualifications) will be asked to provide a transcript of their studies at the equivalent level to GCSE and A Level. Graduate applicants will be asked for a degree transcript, including details of individual marks by year of study and the overall mark that determined their degree classification.

**Supplementary Information Form (SIF):** This survey allows applicants to provide us with details about their background that may be taken into account during selection, offer making and post-confirmation assessment of widening participation support eligibility, which may include scholarships. Applicants who have indicated that they meet any of our widening participation criteria on the SIF will be asked to provide further evidence of this, which will be verified by the Admissions team. If evidence is not provided, or deemed unsuitable or insufficient by the given deadline, an assessment of the applicant's eligibility for our A104 programme of contextual admissions processes will be made based on the verified information we hold about the candidate. Lancaster Medical School will not retrospectively assess information provided by an applicant after our admissions deadlines.

**Work Experience:** If invited for interview, you will be asked to provide contact details for individuals who can substantiate any claims you have made in your personal statement about work or voluntary experience. Applications from those who are found to have made fraudulent or misleading claims in their personal statement will not be considered further according to [Stage 4](#) of our selection process (Fitness to Practise: probity).



## The Selection Process

Lancaster Medical School considers applications to its medical degree programmes in a four stage process:

### Stage 1: Academic aptitude

Applications are assessed against our minimum entry requirements, considering prior academic achievement and predicted grades. For details of the minimum entry requirements, please see our webpage: A100: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lms/medicine/mbchb-medicine-and-surgery/entry-requirements/>

A104: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lms/medicine/medicine-and-surgery-with-a-gateway-year/how-to-apply/>

A100: Only those who meet our [academic entry requirements at GCSE and A-level](#) or have achieved the requisite grades at GCSE and are predicted at least AAB at A-level (or equivalent in other qualifications) will progress to Stage 2.

A104: Only those who meet our [academic entry requirements](#) at GCSE and A-level or have achieved the requisite grades at GCSE and are predicted between ABB and BBC at A-level (or equivalent in other qualifications) will progress to Stage 2.

Applicants who are applying from outside the UK or who have lived in the UK for less than 5 years at the point of application may need to demonstrate proficiency in English through one of the recognised English Language qualifications accepted by Lancaster Medical School. Please see our [English Language Requirements](#) section for more details of recognised qualifications and exemptions.

### Stage 2: University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

All applicants must take the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) to be eligible for consideration to study at Lancaster Medical School.

More information about UCAT, how to register and how to prepare for the test can be found on the UCAT website: <https://www.ucat.ac.uk/>.

You must register to be able to take UCAT. Registration is separate from the UCAS application process and the deadline is **before** the UCAS application deadline. For 2025 entry, you must sit the UCAT in the Summer of 2024. Please note, you may only take UCAT once per application cycle.

Applicants will be ranked according to their overall UCAT score. For the 2024-2025 admissions cycle, we anticipate selecting from candidates who have an overall score within the top 7 deciles, and with an SJT score between 1 and 3.

We will consider contextual information in cases where a candidate's UCAT score is borderline. If you think you meet our [Widening Participation criteria](#), then please ensure you complete the Initial Applicant Survey (IAS), which will be sent to you following submission of your UCAS application.

### Stage 3: Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI)

No applicant will be offered a place without being interviewed. The MMIs will usually be held in January and February. The exact timing of the days when MMIs are hosted will vary from year to

year but we aim to give applicants at least two weeks' notice of their individual MMI date. If an applicant decides not to attend for interview, we will offer their interview place to another applicant, if possible, even if it is at short notice. Interviews for 2025 entry (2024-2025 admissions cycle) will be held online via Microsoft Teams.

The MMI typically consists of up to 10 different assessed "stations", most of which will be 5 minutes long. Some stations will consist of a short interview, where you may be asked questions about your career choice, work experience or suitability for a medical career. At others, you may be asked to read a paragraph or watch a video clip, take some notes and then discuss at a subsequent station. An additional station will involve group work which assesses your suitability for our problem-based learning curriculum. Applicants who are selected for interview will be sent detailed information one week prior to their interview.

The applicant's performance at each station is assessed by trained interviewers against clearly defined criteria. Interviewers include members of University staff, NHS clinicians, local GPs, patients and public representatives, and current medical students. Interviewers also have the opportunity to highlight any particular concerns about the applicant's performance. In the absence of any concerns, applicants with the highest overall scores will be made offers.

**Reasonable Adjustments:** Applicants with evidenced health conditions or disabilities for which reasonable adjustments during the interview may be appropriate will be asked to declare and evidence these when invited for interview. Applicants must provide supporting evidence (e.g. medical letter or educational psychologists report) by the deadline stated (usually within the first week of January) so this can be reviewed and arrangements put in place for their interview. Lancaster Medical School may not be able to provide reasonable adjustments for applicants who fail to notify of their health condition or disability by this deadline.

#### **Stage 4: Fitness to Practise**

The professional body that governs medical practice in the UK, the General Medical Council (GMC), has specific requirements to protect staff and maintain patient safety. In accordance with these requirements, all medical students must have the ability to function as a fully competent doctor and fulfil the rigorous demands of professional fitness to practise. There are four aspects of Fitness to Practise for medical applicants:

1. **Probity:** Doctors are expected to "be honest and open and act with integrity" at all times ([Good Medical Practice](#)). Therefore, probity is taken extremely seriously during the admissions process for our medical degree programme. Applicants are advised to ensure that their UCAS application form has been completed fully, honestly and without omissions. Lancaster Medical School reserves the right to reject any applicant who is found to have been dishonest at any stage of their application.

Where a legitimate probity concern is raised about an applicant, the Admissions team will collate any documented evidence regarding the concern for review by the LMS Good Medical Practice Decision Group (GMP DG). The GMP DG will advise the Admissions team if further action is required. If the incident is unusually serious, or a decision cannot be reached, then the case will be referred on to the Good Medical Practice Committee for the final decision.

The Director of Admissions will communicate the outcome of the Fitness to Practise probity process to the applicant as necessary and make an offer or reject the application, depending on the decision.

Where a probity concern has been raised and the applicant becomes a medical student at LMS, then further investigation and/or actions may be required once the student has commenced their studies.

2. **Disability and Medical Conditions:** Applicants who have a disability or medical condition that might impact on their fitness to practise should provide details on their UCAS application. Disclosed disabilities or medical conditions are not taken into account during the selection process. We will, however, consider requests for reasonable adjustments required to allow applicants to participate in the MMI. If successful after interview, the applicant will be assessed by an Occupational Health professional to determine whether they are fit to practise or if there are reasonable adjustments that Lancaster Medical School should make to enable the applicant to study medicine successfully.
3. **Occupational Health Check and Immunisation:** All students are subject to an occupational health check, as part of their registration process, and will be tested for and/or immunised against a range of infectious diseases before any patient contact will be permitted.
4. **Disclosure and Barring Service:** Applicants should note that all medical students are subject to enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service clearance. Any criminal convictions, reprimands, warnings, cautions or fixed penalty notices should be declared, and details provided, if the applicant attends for interview. If successful at interview, the circumstances of the incident will be considered by the Lancaster Medical School Fitness to Practise panel and a judgement made as to whether it impacts on the applicant's fitness to practise. Only those who are deemed fit to practise will be admitted onto the medical degree programme; applicants may be subject to further requirements to confirm their fitness to practise. In most instances, minor offences do not bar entry to medical training or clinical practice. More details can be found on the [GMC website](#).

### **Admissions Fitness to Practise process in the event of a declared criminal record**

#### **Before interview:**

Applicants who are invited to interview are required to complete a Declaration of Criminal Background form, on which they are asked to disclose any convictions, cautions or warnings and to provide brief details of the incident.

#### **After interview:**

If the applicant has disclosed a criminal conviction, reprimand, warning, caution or fixed penalty notice, they will be asked to provide more information about the incident, including a reflection on the impact of the incident and the relevance to their chosen career in Medicine, plus any supporting documentary evidence

#### **Enquiry meeting:**

The applicant will then be invited to meet (virtually) with two members of the LMS Good Medical Practice Decision Group (GMP DG).

These two members of staff will make a recommendation to the **GMP DG**, who will ratify the outcome.

If the incident is unusually serious, or a decision cannot be reached, then the case will be referred on to the Good Medical Practice Committee for the final decision.

**Outcome:**

The Director of Admissions will communicate the outcome of the Fitness to Practise process to the applicant and make an offer or reject the application, depending on the decision.

## Application Cycle Timeline

Applicants who are not eligible for A100 or A104 due to domicile or failure to meet our minimum academic or English Language entry requirements (Stage 1 above) are usually notified of the result of their application before the end of January. Applicants who meet the minimum academic criteria but are not called for interview (stage 2 above) may be notified of the outcome at any time between January and the end of March. Applicants who are invited for interview (Stage 3 above) will not be informed of the outcome until all interviews have been conducted (usually before the end of February) and can expect to be informed of the decision by the end of March.

October	November	December	January	February	March
UCAS deadline for early equal consideration applications	Applications are considered.		Applicants who do not meet academic entry criteria are informed.		Applicants who have been interviewed are informed of the outcome.
			Applicants who meet academic entry requirements but are not called for interview are informed		
		Applicants may be called for interview.			

**Provision of Feedback:** Lancaster Medical School provides feedback to unsuccessful applicants via UCAS Track at the same time as notifying applicants of the outcome of their application. We aim to make this feedback as informative as possible and are not usually able to provide any additional feedback on applications that were unsuccessful at stage 1 or 2. Applicants who were unsuccessful after interview, however, can request additional feedback between 31<sup>st</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**Offers:** Each applicant will be considered on their own merits and offers will be made taking into consideration whether or not applicants have had the opportunity to take a 4<sup>th</sup> A Level or AS subject or an EPQ; whether applicants are resitting their A-levels (or equivalent). The offers will be in the range A\*AA to AAB, or a contextually lowered offer of ABB, including two of Biology, Chemistry and Psychology (A100) or BBB including both Biology and Chemistry (A104).

**Reserve list:** Due to Government restrictions on places for students studying Medicine, Lancaster Medical School operates a reserve list. This is comprised of applicants who rank highly across the admissions process but are not initially offered places. Applicants will be informed if they have been placed on the reserve list when a decision is made on their application (usually late March). The reserve list can be activated at any point between the UCAS decision deadline up until the start of term. Applicants who have accepted an offer to study medicine elsewhere in the UK or are requesting deferred entry will not be considered. Applicants who are offered a place to study on either A100 or A104 from the reserve list will be given a deadline to respond by. If the applicant does not confirm acceptance of their place in writing by email by this deadline then their place will be offered to another applicant on the reserve list.

## Exceptional circumstances

This refers to adverse circumstances that an applicant believes may have affected their examination performance. There are four points at which exceptional circumstances may apply:

- (1) when these exceptional circumstances affect your current course of studies,
- (2) when these exceptional circumstances have affected your past performance, for instance, when an applicant has taken or will take three years to complete their A-levels and falls under our '[Resit Policy](#)',
- (3) when exceptional circumstances affect your sitting of the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT), or,
- (4) when exceptional circumstances occur on the day of interview (or immediately before interview).

### **If you are completing A-levels or another equivalent school-leaving qualification:**

If you think your performance during examinations has been affected by exceptional, extenuating circumstances, such as illness or challenging personal circumstances, you should liaise with the exams officer at your school or college to apply for *special consideration* from the relevant exam board(s).

Special consideration is a post-examination process where the exam boards can adjust a student's marks to compensate for any proven disadvantage that the student has suffered over the examination period. This mark adjustment is performed according to guidelines that have been agreed by all the awarding bodies. As such, this is the only fair way for extenuating circumstances to be taken into account by Lancaster Medical School.

You may still inform Lancaster Medical School of the exceptional circumstances that you believe have affected your exam performance but, as these circumstances have already been taken into account by the exam board in deciding your final grades, we cannot make any additional dispensation.

Lancaster Medical School is unable to consider any information about exceptional, extenuating circumstances that have not been communicated to the relevant exam board. We are also not able to consider any information that is only divulged on the day of, or after, the publication of results.

### **If you are completing an undergraduate degree:**

If you think your performance during examinations has been affected by exceptional, extenuating circumstances, such as illness or challenging personal circumstances, you should liaise with the departmental exams officer at your current university. They will be able to advise you about the most appropriate course of action and how your current university takes exceptional circumstances into account when determining the final degree classification.

Lancaster Medical School is unable to consider any information about exceptional, extenuating circumstances that have not been communicated to your university through the appropriate channels. We are also not able to consider any information that is only divulged on the day of, or after, the publication of results.

## **Exceptional circumstances affecting the UCAT**

UCAT has a Fitness to Test Policy to ensure that candidates who sit their test are fit to do so and that their result should stand. UCAT places the responsibility on candidates to decide whether they are fit to test. If you are aware of anything that might affect your performance on the day, you should not sit the test. This applies even if you fall ill or experience issues on the day of your test.

Candidates have the flexibility to test over a period of 12 weeks. UCAT also permits free reschedules up to 24 hours before an appointment time. A period of contingency testing also takes place once the main testing window has closed. UCAT has published further advice on their website:

<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/sit/fitness-to-test/>.

Lancaster Medical School is unable to consider any information about exceptional, extenuating circumstances that have not been communicated to UCAT. We are also not able to consider any information that is only divulged on the day of, or after, the publication of results.

## **Exceptional circumstances on the day of interview:**

We recognise that some applicants who have been invited for interview may experience exceptional circumstances, either in advance or on the day of their interview. Unfortunately, we are unable to take such exceptional circumstances into account when considering your performance at interview, as there is no reliable and consistent way to adjust an applicant's MMI score to take account of ill health or other mitigating factors.

If you feel unwell or a serious incident occurs that is likely to affect your ability to perform during the MMI, **you should not attend for interview**. If you inform us of your circumstances, we will endeavour to re-arrange your interview to a later date but, please note, we cannot guarantee that this will always be possible due to the nature of our interview process. If you do attend for interview, we will assume that you are well and fit to participate in the interview, and will not be able to take into consideration any circumstances that you bring to our attention after the event, even if you are able to provide documentary evidence.

## **Data Protection**

Lancaster Medical School is legally bound to only discuss (or communicate in any way) an application with the individual who submitted it. The admissions team cannot discuss applications to study medicine with parents, teachers or referees without the explicit written permission of the applicant.

## Academic Entry Requirements (A100)

### For candidates offering GCSEs and A Levels

**GCSEs:** Most applicants are expected to have GCSEs in eight separate subjects and to demonstrate excellent attainment across all subjects: a minimum score of 13 points from eight subjects (A or A\* or 7-9 = 2 points; B or 6 = 1 point). The eight subjects must include either combined science trilogy as two GCSE qualifications or Biology, Chemistry and Physics as individual subjects, plus Maths and English Language, all at grade B/6 or above. If Biology or Chemistry is not studied at A-level (see below), then applicants must have achieved at least grade 7/A at GCSE.

**A-levels:** Applicants must offer three A-level subjects, studied simultaneously, including any two of Biology, Chemistry and Psychology. Offers will be in the range A\*AA-AAB: A\*AA for those resitting their A-levels; AAA for those offering three A-levels alone; AAB for those offering a 4<sup>th</sup> subject at AS or A-level, or an EPQ.

Critical Thinking, General Studies, Global Perspectives and native languages completed as a foreign language A Level cannot be accepted as one of the three subjects studied at A-level but could be considered as a 4<sup>th</sup> subject (see above). Only one of Maths or Further Maths will be considered; if Maths is offered as the third A-level, Further Maths cannot be used as the 4<sup>th</sup> subject at AS or A-level. BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate may be considered in lieu of 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> A-level subject and BTEC Level 3 Certificate as an AS-level 4<sup>th</sup> subject equivalent. Please note that BTEC Applied Science is not accepted as a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> subject.

**Resits:** Lancaster Medical School will consider applications to A100 Medicine and Surgery from applicants who have taken longer than 2 years to achieve the required grades at A-level, if the applicant otherwise meets the GCSE criteria and the non-academic entry requirements. This includes those who have retaken Year 12, are resitting or have resat their A-levels or taken additional subjects at A-level after year 13. All resit applicants should reflect on their circumstances in their UCAS personal statement and must achieve the required grades (typically A\*AA) within three years of study.

If you have achieved the resit requirements of A\*AA within three years of A Level study, Lancaster Medical School will consider your application if you meet our other entry requirements, regardless of initial grades achieved at A Level and exceptional circumstances.

If you would like to apply during your resit year of A level study:

- in the absence of exceptional circumstances, you must have achieved at least ABB in your A Levels at the first attempt.
- if you are able to evidence that exceptional circumstances negatively affected your studies or exam performance we will consider grades of BBB - CCC in your A levels at the first attempt. Please note, the COVID-19 pandemic on its own will not be accepted as an exceptional circumstance.

After application, candidates with first attempt grades of BBB-CCC will be asked for details of any exceptional circumstances that they believe affected their studies or their exam performance. A statement of exceptional circumstances should be accompanied by supporting evidence and be submitted before the end of November. The statement should explain, as fully as possible, the impact of the exceptional circumstances on the applicant's studies or exam performance. This



information will be reviewed by our exceptional circumstances panel. **We cannot consider resit applicants, who achieved less than ABB at the first attempt, unless the exceptional circumstances panel decide that there is sufficient proof that the exceptional circumstances would have had a negative impact on the achieved grades.**

Applicants are afforded two opportunities to meet the academic entry requirements for the A100 medical degree programme. Applicants who have already re-taken A-Level examinations are advised that they are not eligible for entry to the medical degree programme through the Access route or by completing another alternative qualification.

GCSE resits will not be considered without evidence of significant exceptional circumstances.

### **For candidates with an undergraduate degree**

**GCSEs:** Requirements the same as for applicants offering GCSEs and A Levels (see above).

**A Levels:** In addition to their degree (see below), graduates in biomedical, biological or health science subjects must also have achieved at least BBB at A-level (to include any two of Biology, Chemistry or Psychology). Graduates in other subjects must have achieved at least AAB at A-level (including any two of Biology, Chemistry or Psychology at A-level). Third subject requirements are the same as for applicants offering GCSEs and A Levels (see above).

**Degree:** All applicants who offer an UK undergraduate degree are expected to achieve (or have already achieved) at least a good 2:1 Honours degree (with an average transcript mark of 65% or above). Applicants who have achieved a 2:2 degree (or lower) will not be considered. Where the undergraduate degree is in progress, we will ask to see an interim degree transcript and will use performance in the penultimate year of study as a predictor of overall performance; those with an average transcript mark of 65% or above will be considered. Please note, the requirements for applicants offering a degree from outside the UK are equivalent but may not equate to the same raw average scores.

Please note: we are unable to consider applications from those who have started a medical degree elsewhere and had their studies terminated, for either failing to make adequate academic progress or on a fitness to practice basis (for more information, see below).

**Transfers:** We **do not** accept transfers into the medical degree programme from any other undergraduate degree programme. Applicants who are currently enrolled on **Year 1** of another degree programme may be considered **for 2025 entry only** if they otherwise meet the GCSE and A-level (or equivalent) entry requirements for A100. They will be considered alongside all other applicants and any offer would be conditional upon achieving an average transcript mark of at least 65% (or equivalent) in Year 1 of their current degree programme.

Lancaster Medical School does not accept transfers from other medical schools under any circumstances. In extremely rare instances, we may be able to consider **applications** from those who have started a medical degree programme elsewhere but are unable to continue their studies due to exceptional personal circumstances. These applicants must apply through UCAS, in the usual way, and will be considered alongside all other applicants; they are not guaranteed a place to study Medicine at Lancaster University. In order to be eligible to be considered, several conditions must be met:

1. The applicant meets our academic entry requirements (for instance, meets our GCSE and A-level subject and grade requirements).
2. The applicant has serious exceptional circumstances that mean they are unable to continue their studies at their current medical school, but which would be substantially alleviated by studying at Lancaster Medical School.
3. The applicant can demonstrate exemplary academic performance at their current medical school.
4. The applicant is prepared to re-start their medical education at Year 1. We are not able to accept applications for entry into later years of the programme.

Please note: we are unable to consider applications from those who have started a medical degree elsewhere and had their studies terminated, for either failing to make adequate academic progress or on a fitness to practise basis.

### **For Candidates offering an Access to Higher Education Diploma (Medicine)**

Access to Medicine qualifications are designed for adults who are returning to education, and who have achieved few previous qualifications because of social, educational or individual circumstances. Access to Medicine programmes provide academic preparation for higher education study and allow mature applicants to demonstrate their academic suitability for further study.

Access to Medicine qualifications are not appropriate for school-leavers and will not usually be accepted in lieu of resitting A-levels, or other equivalent qualifications. Lancaster Medical School will not consider applications from applicants enrolled on an Access to Medicine course if they have already re-taken AS or A Level examinations and failed to meet the standard academic entry requirements at the second attempt. Only one Access-type qualification will be accepted and applicants cannot make multiple attempts at completing access-type courses.

From 2022 entry onwards, we will only accept Access to Higher Education Diploma (Medicine) qualifications that comply with the QAA national framework and [subject descriptors](#) for Medicine. For guidance about Access to Medicine diplomas completed before Sept 2021, please contact the department for advice ([medicine@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:medicine@lancaster.ac.uk)).

**GCSEs:** Applicants must offer combined science trilogy as two GCSE qualifications or Biology, Chemistry and Physics as individual subjects, plus Maths and English Language, all at grade B/6 or above achieved in one sitting. Depending on individual circumstances, applicants may be required to demonstrate at least a score of 13 points from eight GCSEs where A\*-A or 7-9 = 2 points; B or 6 = 1 point. Applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements at GCSE should email [medicine@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:medicine@lancaster.ac.uk), detailing what qualifications they have achieved and when for further advice.

**A Levels:** Any AS or A2 qualifications held (irrespective of subject) should usually be at a minimum of grade C at first attempt. Applicants offering an Access-type qualification to compensate for having studied the wrong subjects at A-level are usually expected to offer three A-levels and have achieved at least BBB at the first attempt.

**Access to HE diploma (Medicine):** Applicants offering an approved course are required to achieve a distinction in 45 Level 3 credits. The Level 3 components of the Access course will need to offer at least 15 Level 3 credits in Biology, 15 in Chemistry and 15 credits in another science and maths that cover physical and mathematical concepts as described in the subject descriptor document above. In

addition, 9 ungraded credits should be completed in the use and comprehension of numerical data, study skills and professional behaviours.

## **Academic Entry Requirements (A104)**

The entry requirements for the Gateway year programme are more flexible to take into account additional barriers that certain applicants may have faced in preparing and applying to study Medicine but applicants' achieved and predicted grades must demonstrate the potential to succeed at medical school. Otherwise, the selection process for this programme is the same as for the A100 MBChB programme. Please note that this programme of study is only open to UK domiciled applicants.

### **For candidates offering GCSEs and A Levels**

**GCSEs:** Most applicants are expected to have GCSEs in eight separate subjects, including combined science trilogy as two GCSE qualifications or Biology, Chemistry and Physics as individual subjects, plus Maths and English Language, all at grade B/6 or above.

**A-levels:** Applicants must offer three A-level subjects, studied simultaneously, including both Biology and Chemistry. The standard offer is BBB achieved at the first attempt, after two years of study.

Critical Thinking, General Studies and native languages completed as a foreign language A Level cannot be accepted as one of the three subjects studied at A-level. BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate may be considered in lieu of 3<sup>rd</sup> A Level subject. Please note, BTEC Applied Science is not accepted.

**Previous undergraduate degree:** We do not accept graduate applicants onto A104, Medicine & Surgery with a Gateway year.

**Access qualifications:** We do not normally accept Access applicants onto A104, Medicine & Surgery with a Gateway year.

**Resits:** We do not normally accept applications from applicants who have taken longer than two years to complete the A-level requirements for A104, Medicine and Surgery with a Gateway Year unless they can evidence that they have missed the majority of a year of study through exceptional circumstances. We do accept resits of GCSEs so that applicants can meet our minimum entry criteria on the second attempt, particularly in the core subjects described above.

## English Language Requirements (A100 and A104)

All applicants must study English, as part of their secondary education, and achieve the equivalent of GCSE English, grade B/6 or above. For those offering IGCSE, please note only English as a first language is acceptable.

Applicants who are applying from outside the UK or who have lived in the UK for less than 5 years at the point of application (exemptions listed below) may need to demonstrate proficiency in English through one of the following recognised English Language qualifications:

- **IELTS Academic** (a minimum score of 7.0 with no component less than 7.0) **or**
- **Pearson PTE Academic** qualification (at least 70 overall and at least 70 in each communicative skill sub-test).

This is in addition to the academic entry requirements outlined above.

Please note:

- Applicants must demonstrate their English language proficiency **before application**.
- Applicants who do not include details of their English language proficiency qualification on their UCAS application may not be considered.
- The test must be taken in person, in an authorised test centre.
- Online versions of these tests are not accepted.
- You must achieve these scores in the same test sitting (we do not accept one-skill retakes).
- English language qualifications must be less than 2 years old at the time of application.

Although, we do not accept other English Language proficiency qualifications for admission to Lancaster Medical School, if you have sat either TOEFL, Cambridge C1 Advanced OR proficiency of English Qualification we may be able to consider your application for interview, on the condition you satisfy our English Language requirements before the start of August in each admissions cycle.

### ***Applicants who do not need to demonstrate their level of English:***

All applicants who have lived in the UK continuously for 5 years or more at the point of application.

Applicants whose first language is English and have always been a resident and citizen of a majority English-speaking country recognised by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI).

Applicants who have lived and had a significant portion of their education in the UK, as determined by Lancaster Medical School, but are currently living outside the UK.

Graduate applicants who completed an undergraduate degree in a recognised UK Higher Education establishment and have been continuously resident in the UK since graduation.