

# APPLYING FOR MEDICINE

JFS Year 12 Parents': Progression Evening

March 2017

Barbara Hamnett & Tim Miller



## 6 Key Elements in a Successful Application:

- **G**rades
- **T**ests
- **W**ork Experience
- **I**nterviews
- **S**ubject interest and personal qualities (shown in personal statement and reference)
- **K**nowledge of the course - applying to the right institutions!

# Grades

- Crucial to check exact GCSE and A Level requirements of each medical school
- Curriculum reform - minimal impact on applications. School will outline its curriculum offer in references. No requirement to have AS Levels.

*“From 2017 entry we expect to require three A-level passes with a minimum A grade including either Biology or Chemistry and a further Science A-level from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. We will not require an additional pass in an AS level.”*

**Barts and the London Medical School( QMC)**

# Pre- admissions Tests

- BMAT – taken at school ( 2 Nov. 2017). Register with Exams Officer
- UKCAT – register independently; taken outside school.
- All UK Medical Schools now use one of the above – 7 BMAT/25 UKCAT

## Main advice:

- Get tactics right!
- Prepare ....prepare ....prepare

# Work Experience

- The key is the quality of reflection – keep a journal/notebook
- Keep records- verification sometimes required
- Key : observe the teamwork of medical staff and offering patient care
- Working in care home or with young children or disabled group also highly valuable
- Work experience tells students if medicine is right for them.

*'.....try to gain as wide voluntary experience as possible in a caring or health environment. This does not have to be in a hospital (which can be difficult to obtain) but a nursing home, local hospice, shelter for the homeless, working with people with disabilities or special needs, or working with a youth group, would all be useful experience.'*

University of Bristol

# Interviews

Types of interview vary: Panel or MMI ( Multiple Mini Interviews)

Prepare thoroughly:

- Know your personal statement
- Reflect on work experience and school contributions
- Read all available websites, articles and literature on medicine ( eg BMJ; New Scientist; BBC website; Newspapers articles on ethical issues)
- For MMI think through some of the scenarios which are commonly set.
- Look at JFS 'University Interviews Guide' for sample questions

MMI:

*8 stations. Each station will last seven minutes and you will have one minute to move between stations and read the next task. The format of the stations varies; some will ask you to discuss information that is on your UCAS form, or discuss a scenario or question that you will be presented with. Most involve discussion with the examiner but the station may require you to write down some information or to interact with an actor who will be playing a role. The skills that we will be assessing will include ethical reasoning, self-evaluation, communication skills and problem solving'.*

## Demonstrating subject interest: Personal Statement

- Motivation
- Understanding role of a doctor/wider context / NHS
- Examples of regular hands-on caring work experience
- Reflection on what was learnt from such experiences
- Evidence of initiative/enterprise
- Work/life balance
- Evidence of working successfully in teams
- Ability to Communicate

# Choosing the right **four** medical schools

## Type of course:

- Traditional ( eg Oxford , Cambridge)
- Integrated ( eg Nottingham, Birmingham)
- Problem-based learning ( eg Liverpool , Manchester, Barts)

What suits your own learning style?

## Other factors:

- Location
- Balance of choices – tactics again!
- Don't rule out the lesser known ones – eg Plymouth, UEA, Leicester



# School Process and Support

JFS provides:

- Pre- application experiences, talks and visits
- Alumni Day
- June : session focussing on MMI interviews and BMAT/UKCAT prep/ 'doctors talk' – with medical students
- BMAT/UKCAT preparation evening ( 18 July )
- Interview practice day and individual mock interview with formal feedback (November) + eve of interview practice

## **IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES FOR INTENDING APPLICANTS:**

Get the best end of year 12 grades and predictions / sort out work experience for July and summer/ research medical schools/ practice the Tests

**Andy Gardner   Barbara Hamnett MBE  
Tim Miller**

# **University Interviews Guide**



## **Medicine Supplement**

*Newly revised medicine section with details of selection  
criteria for entry to all undergraduate UK Medical Schools*

# Other resources

<http://www.medschools.ac.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/MSC-Entry-requirements-for-UK-medical-schools.pdf>

Medical Schools Council guide to all UK Medical Schools

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/career/studying-medicine/becoming-a-doctor/application-process>

British Medical Association