

College of Medicine and Health - BMBS Admissions Process Policy

2021 entry

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1. Governance/Entrance Requirements

A specific Admissions Selection and Advisory Group (ASAG) will operate in relation to admissions to the BMBS programme, and reports from the Panel will be made available to the Admissions Policy Group (APG). The BMBS Admissions Selection and Advisory Group will be chaired by the Admissions Dean for the College of Medicine and Health (CMH) with representation from relevant academic leads, central admissions and College Professional Services staff.

Standard offer AAA; IB:36; Access 30 L3 credits at Distinction Grade and 15 L3 credits at Merit Grade, to include 15 L3 credits at Distinction Grade in Biology subject area and 15 L3 credits at Distinction Grade in Chemistry subject area

Contextualised Offer ABB; IB 32 for details – see section 5

Required subjects GCE AL Biology, Chemistry and one other subject, excluding General Studies.

Please note meeting the typical offer range does not guarantee being shortlisted for an interview.

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2. Direct School Leavers

Definition: Those who will enter the BMBS programme no more than two full academic years after completing their level 3 (A level or equivalent) studies. Direct School Leavers are required to sit the UCAT test.

2.1. Process:

2.1.1. Submit UCAS application form by 15 October and sit UCAT test by the published deadline. Candidates are required to sit the test by 2 October 2020 if they are intending to apply for entry in 2021 (or deferred entry in 2022) to a relevant course listed below. UCAT results cannot be carried over from one year to the next.

Candidates who present themselves for the UCAT are declaring themselves fit to take the test. Candidates not fit to take the test due to illness or other personal circumstances must reschedule their test to a later date, even if this means losing the test fee.

Candidates may be unable to sit the UCAT throughout the 2020 test cycle because of a significant or unforeseen medical or personal issue. If this is the case they should contact their chosen Universities to see whether they would consider their application without a UCAT result. Universities will require recent supporting medical evidence as part of that process.

2.1.2. Assessment of academic credentials (achieved or predicted) are made by Admissions Staff on the basis of information contained in the UCAS application form. Personal statement and reference are read for evidence of mitigating circumstances only.

2.1.3. Applicants who meet the published entry requirements¹ are then ranked according to their best three A-level (or equivalent) prediction of achievement as shown in the table below.

Rank	Grades Achieved	Grades Predicted	Contextualised Offer applicants (Achieved or predicted)
Tier 1	A*A*A*		AAB or Better
Tier 2	A*A*A	A*A*A*	ABB
Tier 3	A*AA	A*A*A	BBB
Tier 4	AAA	A*AA	
Tier 5	AAB	AAA	

2.1.4. For the BMBS (A100) programme, changes in predicted grades due to an error when the grades were entered will only be considered if received within 14 days of the equal consideration deadline (for example if the equal consideration deadline is 15 October, changes in predicted grades due to error will only be considered if received by 29

¹ All subject/extra conditions must also be met (see <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/medicine/medicine/#Entry-requirements>)

October). Where an error in predicted grades comes to light after this date, if it places an applicant in a tier where they would have been invited to interview they will be placed on a reserve list and invited if interview places become available. Please note that this policy applies to errors in predicted grades only – all other reasons for a change in predicted grades will not be considered.

- 2.1.5. A defined number of applicants will be invited to interview (based on historic conversion rates to achieve target entrants plus a reserve pool), from the top-ranked students downwards.
- 2.1.6. Where there are too many applicants for the places available from a given tier, applicants will be ranked by overall UCAT score, in order to arrive at a defined number of applicants to be called for interview.
- 2.1.7. The defined number of International applicants invited to interview and the cut-off tier used may differ due to the proportion of international applications received and the need to meet a separate quota.
- 2.1.8. Interviews held and judgements recorded based on the outcome of seven multiple mini interviews. This is managed at College level.
- 2.1.9. A defined number of offers will be made to those who have been deemed suitable by the interview panel to receive an offer, based on interview. We will be looking for applicants to be awarded 'Yes' judgements within **at least five** of their seven mini interviews. If it is the case that there are still more applicants within this group then the UCAT score may be used again to define the number of offers to be made.
- 2.1.10. For applicants who meet the criteria outlined within our contextual offer making policy an offer to achieve ABB including a grade A or B in Biology and Chemistry will be made. Those with already achieved grades must have achieved at this level.
- 2.1.11. Applicants from a Widening Participation background

In order to help the institution make progress towards its agreed Widening Participation targets with the Office for Students, and to ensure appropriate diversity within the BMBS programme, CMH will adhere to the University of Exeter policy for making contextualised offers (See section 5 below)

In addition, a number of places may be reserved for applicants from WP backgrounds who are not applying through compact schemes.

- a. Students identified as from a WP background according to University of Exeter definitions will be considered separately and a defined number of places may be reserved for them. They will be ranked by tier as above and a defined number of offers will be made in order to achieve the desired number of entrants.

3. Non-Direct School Leavers

- 3.1. Definition:** Those for whom it will be more than two full academic years from the time they completed their level 3 (A level or equivalent) studies. This includes all graduate applicants. Non-Direct School Leavers are required to sit the GAMSAT test.

We welcome applicants who are not applying directly from school. The use of GAMSAT allows us to compare students from diverse backgrounds and whose first degrees (if applicable) are not science-based and who may not have done Chemistry or Biology at A level (or equivalent). The GAMSAT cut off score will therefore vary each year dependent of the number of applications received.

3.2. Process:

- 3.2.1. Submit UCAS application form by 15 October and sit GAMSAT test (GAMSAT scores are valid for two years. So results from September 2020 are valid for applications for 2021 and 2022 entrance).
- 3.2.2. Personal statement and reference are read for evidence of mitigating circumstances only.
- 3.2.3. Applicants will be ranked according to their overall GAMSAT score.
- 3.2.4. A defined number of applicants will be invited to interview, from the top-ranked students in the GAMSAT downwards, excluding any that fall below a pre-determined 'floor' of attainment.²
- 3.2.5. Interviews are held and judgements recorded based on the outcome of seven multiple mini interviews. This is managed at College level.
- 3.2.6. A defined number of offers will be made to those who have been deemed suitable by the interview panel to receive an offer, based on interview. We will be looking for applicants to be awarded 'Yes' judgements within **at least five** of their seven mini interviews. If it is the case that there are still more applicants within this group the GAMSAT Score may be used again to define the number of offers to be made.
- 3.2.7. Offers will be made conditional on non-academic requirements (i.e. DBS, student agreement, Occupational Health Screening). Where appropriate applicants may also be required to achieve the required level of English Language.

² The 'floor' for GAMSAT students is expected to be 55 in section 2, with no less than 55 and 50 in the other two sections.

4. Widening Participation

In order to help the institution make progress towards its agreed Widening Participation targets with the Office for Students, and to ensure appropriate diversity within the BMBS programme, CMH will adhere to the University of Exeter policy for making contextualised offers.

4.1. Students participating in Outreach schemes:

- 4.1.1. Submit UCAS application form by 15 October and sit UCAT or GAMSAT test by the published deadline. Please see above information on direct & non-direct school leavers for deadline dates.
- 4.1.2. Applicant to continue to participate with the Outreach scheme.
- 4.1.3. Assessment of academic credentials (achieved or predicted) are made by Admissions Staff on the basis of information contained in the UCAS application form. Personal statement and reference are read for evidence of mitigating circumstances only.
- 4.1.4. Applicants who have achieved/predicted grades of AAB or higher (or equivalent)³, are guaranteed an invite to interview, therefore will be placed within the top Tier (see above).
- 4.1.5. Eligible applicants invited to a WP Interview day. Interviews held and judgements recorded based on the outcome of seven multiple mini interviews. This is managed at College level.
- 4.1.6. A defined number of offers will be made to those who have been deemed suitable by the interview panel to receive an offer, based on interview. We will be looking for applicants to be awarded 'Yes' judgements within **at least five** of their seven mini interviews.
- 4.1.7. Conditional offers will be made at ABB including Biology and Chemistry or equivalent, including successful completion of the Outreach programme.

4.2. Care leavers

- 4.2.1. Submit UCAS application form by 15 October and sit UCAT or GAMSAT test by the published deadline. Please see above information on direct & non-direct school leavers above deadline dates
- 4.2.2. Applicants assessed against eligibility criteria for Care leaver process⁴
- 4.2.3. Assessment of academic credentials (achieved or predicted) are made by Admissions Staff on the basis of information contained in the UCAS application form. Personal statement and reference are read for evidence of mitigating circumstances only.
- 4.2.4. Those with achieved/predicted grades of AAB or better (or equivalent)⁵, are then invited to interview, therefore will be placed within the top Tier.
- 4.2.5. A defined number of offers will be made to those who have been deemed suitable by the interview panel to receive an offer, based on interview. We will be looking for applicants to be awarded 'Yes' judgements within **at least five** of their seven mini interviews. If the case where there are still more applicants within this group the UKCAT score may be used again to define the number of offers to be made.

³ Applicants would still have to meet all subject requirements – ie two A grades (or equivalent) in Chemistry and Biology.

⁴ See <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/finance/studentfunding/fundingforcareleavers/>

⁵ Applicants would still have to meet all subject requirements – ie two A grades (or equivalent) in Chemistry and Biology or Physics.

4.2.6. Conditional offers made at ABB including Biology and Chemistry or equivalent.

4.3. Exeter Link Partner Schools/Key Partners

4.3.1. Submit UCAS application form by 15 October and sit UCAT test by the published deadline. Candidates are required to sit the test by 2 October 2020 if they are intending to apply for entry in 2021 (or deferred entry in 2022) to a relevant course listed below. UKCAT results cannot be carried over from one year to the next.

4.3.2. Applicants assessed as attending an Exeter Link partner School or a Key Partner.

4.3.3. Assessment of academic credentials (achieved or predicted) made by Admissions Staff on the basis of information contained in the UCAS application form. Personal statement and reference read for evidence of mitigating circumstances only.

4.3.4. Those with achieved/predicted grades of AAA, are then invited to interview, therefore will be placed within the top Tier.

4.3.5. A defined number of offers will be made to those who have been deemed suitable by the interview panel to receive an offer, based on interview. We will be looking for applicants to be awarded 'Yes' judgements within **at least five** of their seven mini interviews. If the case where there are still more applicants within this group the UKCAT score may be used again to define the number of offers to be made

4.3.6. Conditional offers made at AAA including Biology and Chemistry or equivalent.

5. BSc Medical Sciences graduates

5.1. Submit UCAS application form by 15 October (no requirement for UCAT or GAMSAT tests)

5.2. All applicants in their final year of study on the BSc/MSci (Hons) Medical Sciences courses at the University of Exeter, who are predicted to achieve a 2:1 or First Class honours BSc Medical Sciences degree who wish to be considered will be shortlisted for interview. All applicants must declare any professionalism issues throughout their degree. Each individual case will be reviewed by a panel to decide on whether an interview can be offered, and applicants may be asked to submit additional evidence and supporting documents. Interviews are held and judgements recorded. Interviewers assess each interviewee and provide a 'global judgement' answering the question: "Has this candidate demonstrated the qualities (i.e. attitude, behaviours, and values) to be offered a place to train as a doctor at Exeter Medical School?" This will reflect the same process as for the Direct School Leaver group.

5.3. A defined number of offers made to those who are judged suitable to be made an offer, using the same process as for the Direct School Leaver Group.

6. INTO Exeter Applicants

6.1. Students should have achieved a minimum of 90% in the Thanawiyya for entry to INTO

6.2. Applicants sit UCAT test by the published deadline. Candidates are required to sit the test by 3 October 2020 if they are intending to apply for entry in 2021 (or deferred entry in 2021). UCAT results cannot be carried over from one year to the next. Exceptionally, the requirement for UCAT for this group may be waived.

6.3. English Language requirement:

- a. IELTS band 7.5 or above with none less than 6.0 and at least 7.0 in each of the Speaking and Listening sections OR

- b. a minimum of 75% in the INTO English language module

IELTS/ TOEFL score must be no more than 2 years old at the point of BMBS registration

- 6.4. Submit UCAS application form by 15 October
- 6.5. Assessment of academic credentials (achieved or predicted) are made by Admissions Staff on the basis of information contained in the UCAS application form. Personal statement and reference are read for evidence of mitigating circumstances only.
- 6.6. Students predicted to achieve an average INTO end of year score of greater than 70% or above will be invited for interview
- 6.7. Interviews are held and judgements recorded. Interviewers assess each interviewee and provide a 'global judgement' answering the question: "Has this candidate demonstrated the qualities (i.e. attitude, behaviours, values) to be offered a place to train as a doctor at Exeter Medical School?" This will reflect the same process as for the Direct School Leaver group.
- 6.8. Conditional offers to be made at 75% overall or more (specific percentage within subject condition to be confirmed). If there are more applicants than places available, then students' performance at the end of the first term may be used to define the number of offers made.
- 6.9. Offers will be made conditional on non-academic requirements (i.e. DBS, student agreement, Occupational Health Screening)

7. Reserve List

- 7.1. Following interviews a defined number of applicants may be offered a place on the reserve list.
- 7.2. Applicants will be contacted offering them the opportunity to be placed on the reserve list and will be required to confirm whether they wish to accept this place.
- 7.3. Applicants on the reserve list will be required to complete the Occupational Health, Student Agreement and Self-Declaration form in advance of the summer.
- 7.4. Applicants will be advised that they will be required to make contact with the University once the A 'level results have been released in order to find out whether any places have become available.
- 7.5. Applicants who successfully gain a place through the reserve list will then be required to complete the DBS process.

8. Transfer students

Applications from candidates currently enrolled in UK Medical Schools will be considered for entry on to Year 1 – 4 of the BMBS programme. Only Home/EU candidates will be considered. International students and International students enrolled in UK Medical Schools will not be eligible.

Applicants who have previously failed any part of a medical programme or have been excluded from a medicine programme according to Fitness to Practice policies at the University of Exeter or any other institution, will not be considered for the BMBS programme. Any declaration of extenuating circumstance should be referred to the University of Exeter Medical School for initial consideration. A final decision shall lie with the Admissions Selection and Advisory Group (ASAG).

Initial enquiries requesting transfer on to any year of the programme will be managed by the CMH Student Recruitment and Admissions team. Enquirers will be asked to provide a personal statement outlining the reason for transfer as well as scanned copies of transcripts covering all years of study on their current medicine programme. The following steps shall then apply:

1. Upon receipt of scanned transcripts, CMH Student Recruitment and Admissions Manager (SRAM) to liaise with Head of Admissions at the stated Medical School to verify the authenticity of transcripts.
2. UoE Fitness to Practice Lead and CMH Director of BMBS Admissions to review the Medical School Council's (MSC) Excluded Students Database to confirm candidate is not listed
3. Once transcripts and Database have been verified and confirmed to be valid, personal statement and enquiry details to be sent to Associate Dean of Education and Clinical Director of Medicine for confirmation that a transfer, to a particular year of study, can be achieved. If approved, a meeting with either of the aforementioned to be arranged by SRAM
4. Following face to face meeting, if approved for entry, conditions of entry to be outlined to SRAM who will liaise with Undergraduate Admissions team to advise and discuss a date for UCAS to be opened so that an application can be submitted
5. Application window to be communicated to candidate
6. Offer conditions officially outlined by UG team following receipt of UCAS application.

Further information outlining how information may be shared between the University and third party can be found here: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/privacy/applicants/>