

Medical, Dental and Veterinary applicants transition work

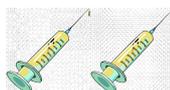


At Woking College, all individual subjects stretch and challenge our students and you will find a large range of these tasks and activities contained in our Year 11 transition work. In college, however, we offer additional sessions for those who are pursuing a career in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science.

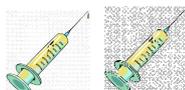
Applying for medical, dental or veterinary courses at university is an enormous commitment. They are careers and vocations and in this way different from many other courses. A quick search on the internet looking for medical school or veterinary school preparation, will throw up an enormous number of sites. They will generally tell you how challenging it is to get onto these courses before going on to reassure you that if you pay them a few hundred pounds or more, they will impart the vital knowledge to be successful in your application.



Resources readily available



A bit more work, you will have to look for resources yourself



More challenging, maybe something for the future

In fact, it is much more straightforward than this, and you are much better going to the universities' websites for information. They are the ones doing the selection, so this is where you should be looking.

Perhaps the most important thing for your application is that you will need to get AAA (or possibly AAB) for your A level grades. This is the biggest hurdle for many applicants.

Any queries, please email Susan Hammond at shd@woking.ac.uk

Academic qualifications

This is where you start. You need to have a minimum profile of GCSE results. This varies greatly between universities, so check what these are (links in the box below).



You almost certainly need to choose A level Chemistry and Biology, plus one other subject. Usually, this third subject does not matter, it certainly does not have to be Maths, though this is a common choice. Subjects such as English Literature and Psychology, which show an interest in people, are also popular.

You will need to get top grades in these A levels, so use this time to prepare. Look at the transition resources on the Woking College website for the subjects that you are interested in and work on them. These pages include ideas for projects and links to activities on external websites.

Basic research

Medical, dental and veterinary schools want to take the best students regardless of their background. They are very keen that everybody has an equal chance, so look at what they want.



Medicine: <https://www.medschools.ac.uk/media/2357/msc-entry-requirements-for-uk-medical-schools.pdf>

Dentistry: <https://www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk/studying-dentistry/making-an-application/>

Veterinary: <https://www.vetschoolscouncil.ac.uk/study-and-training/applications/>

These sites are run by the relevant bodies, and are not for profit. They tell you what is required and will not charge you for doing so. They will give advice and links on where to find further information.

Have a look at websites for individual universities. The universities and the courses differ. Find out what you think is right for you. Keep a notebook of your research.

MOOCs



These are Massive Open Online Courses. Many are created by universities and are completely free (although some require a subscription or one-off payment, so pay attention to what you are signing up for!). Below are some links to get you going. Keep a record of what you have learned and your reflections on this.

<https://www.coursera.org/collections/prepare-for-medical-school>

<https://www.edx.org/course/subject/medicine>

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/mds/moocs/index.aspx>

<https://www.sgul.ac.uk/about/our-institutes/institute-of-medical-and-biomedical-education/centre-for-technology-in-education/technology-in-education/moocs>

Work experience



“Work experience is any activity or life experience that helps you to prepare for medical school. This means any activity that allows you to demonstrate:

- *That you have had people-focused experience of providing a service, care or help to others and that you understand the realities of working in a caring profession.*
- *That you have developed some of the values, attitudes and behaviours essential to being a doctor such as conscientiousness, good communication skills, and the ability to interact with a wide variety of people. The values that medical schools are looking for are set out in the NHS Constitution and explained in the MSC guidance Core values and aptitudes needed to study medicine.*
- *That you have a realistic understanding of medicine and in particular the physical, organisational and emotional demands of a medical career.”*

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/media/2331/relevant-experience-for-applying-to-medical-school.pdf>

You can see from the above, that you do not need to have work experience in a hospital shadowing doctors. Though this is good for letting you decide if medicine is the career for you. Hospital experience is usually arranged after you are 17, so do not worry about it now. We will give information about the St Peter's Hospital scheme when you are in Year 12.

Obviously, work experience is tricky to arrange at the moment, but you may already be doing it, or have done it in the recent past - are you helping to care for any family members, did you mentor any younger pupils at school, have you helped organise a sports team or club, have you volunteered as part of a DoE award? All of these are valid work experience. Probably the most useful type of work experience is to volunteer in a care home when possible. We also have links with Woking Hospice.

Having said that, two exciting online opportunities are available to conduct virtual work experience:

<https://bsmsoutreach.thinkific.com/courses/VWE>

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/training-exams/discover-general-practice/observe-gp.aspx>

Do not worrying about personal statements, interviews or the UCAT/BMAT exams at the moment. We have links with Brighton and Sussex Medical School and St George's Medical School who visit us each year to provide admissions advice and MMI training.

Similarly, for dentistry, think about people focussed activities, and try to get some shadowing experience in a dental surgery when it is possible. Work experience is crucial for veterinary applicants and some schools (especially Liverpool and Bristol) focus heavily on it. Do some research on the university website and try to get veterinary surgery, lambing, dairy and also a day at an abattoir. Pet shops, zoos, stables and farms are also good options.

For all of the above keep a notebook and focus on what you have learnt during the experience: not just a list of what you have observed. You should also be interested in your chosen field. Keep up to date with news and research, again keeping a notebook.