

# Medicine

is a great human endeavour. Studying medicine can be a path to developing self-knowledge and a rich and varied career. It is also academically demanding, very hard work and emotionally taxing. It's a serious vocation.

The starting point to becoming a doctor is entry to a medical school. Each of these schools is part of a university, but will also be linked to hospitals and GP Practices for medical learning, clinical teaching and scientific research.

Medical specialities broadly fall into the following categories:

- Anaesthetics
- General practice
- Medicine
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Ophthalmology
- Paediatrics
- Pathology
- Psychiatry
- Radiology
- Surgery (Including Dental Surgery)

## Paediatrics

offers a career in a stimulating, challenging and rewarding area of medicine. It embraces a rich scope and variety ranging from high technology neonatal and paediatric intensive care to the management of the disabled child; the organisation of preventative services in the community to the intensive treatment of the child with cancer. It is a holistic speciality, which focuses on the child within a family, working to minimise the adverse effect of disease and to allow children to live as normal a life as possible. The concept of multi-disciplinary team working is advanced, providing integrated packages of care.

There are opportunities to develop skills in specialty areas including Community Paediatrics and Neonatal Intensive Care. General Paediatrics remains the bedrock of the service, but opportunities to develop close links with Primary Care, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Public Health, as well as other medical specialties; eg. diabetes, cystic fibrosis and epilepsy exist.

Personal qualities should include:

- An ability to work with and understand children and their families
- Excellent communication skills including listening
- An ability to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team
- An ability to learn from your patients
- A sense of humour

### Further Information

Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health  
50 Hallam Street  
London  
W1N 6DE  
Tel: 0207 307 5600  
Website: [www.rcpch.ac.uk](http://www.rcpch.ac.uk)



### Entry qualifications and progression routes

#### Graduate entry

If you first study a relevant biological science degree you can apply to do medicine as a shorter four year course. Contact medical schools for details.

#### Undergraduate Courses

The majority of medical schools require three good A levels including chemistry and biology but potential students must check the entry requirements with each medical school individually. You will first complete a medical degree for five years and then complete two years clinical training as a junior house officer. At the end of this period you are a qualified doctor but then need to complete more training in specialised areas before developing your career.

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