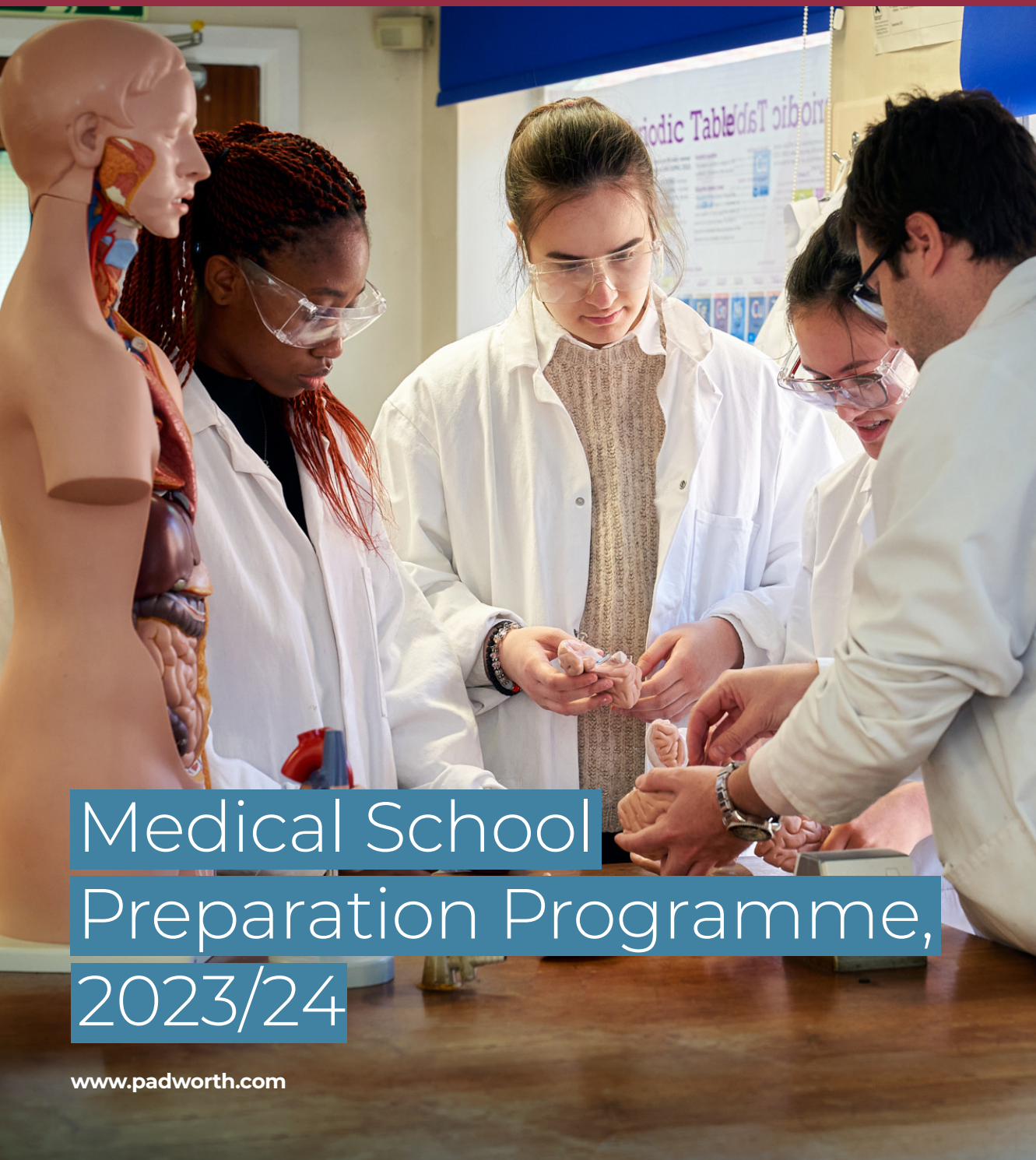




PADWORTH
COLLEGE



Medical School Preparation Programme, 2023/24

www.padworth.com

Padworth College has been helping students secure entry to leading universities since 1963. We have over 50 years of expertise in preparing university applications for prestigious courses such as medical school entry.

Established in 1963, Padworth College has a long history of preparing students, aged 14-19 years, for exam success in a broad range of subjects at GCSE, A Level and Foundation level. Our collegiate atmosphere and small class sizes provide excellent preparation for life at university.

Applying to Medical School

Applying to medical school is tough! Irrespective of how much preparation a student is able to benefit from, he or she has to be an excellent candidate to be offered a place to study Medicine. Only about 40% of applicants for Medicine are successful in gaining places and the common entry requirement for most UK universities is a minimum of AAA at A Level. Becoming a successful doctor requires many skills, as well as strength in academia and it is the job of the admissions staff at universities to decide who is the most suitable at interview.

How Can Padworth Help?

A Medical School application is comprised of several elements. These include predicted or actual grades at A Level or equivalent, performance in specialist entrance tests set by the universities, school references, the Personal Statement and performance at interview. These are all reviewed carefully before a candidate is offered a place or rejected.

Padworth's Medical School Preparation Programme covers the following areas:

- Weekly medical sessions, designed to provide students with a thorough understanding of what a medical career involves and the opportunity to discuss medical ethics and current medical issues.
- Support with UCAS applications, including Personal Statement preparation.

- Support to prepare for specialist tests, namely the UKCAT and BMAT.
- Interview preparation, both traditional interview and MMIs.
- Dedicated lecture series, with visiting speakers delivering a series of lectures during the Autumn Term.

Aspiring medics at Padworth are automatically enrolled onto the Medical School Preparation Programme, free of charge.

Padworth's Medical School Preparation Programme is also suitable for students applying to read Dentistry, Pharmacy, Ophthalmology or Veterinary Medicine at university.

Studying Medicine in the UK as an International Student

Medicine is a highly competitive programme requiring both excellent academic grades and advanced English language skills. Each UK medical school admits a small number of international students each year, amounting to about 7.5% of the total annual student intake.

International students studying at Padworth College benefit greatly from the Medical School Preparation Programme. Padworth's tutors are experts in their field and have considerable experience supporting medical school candidates through the application process. The College has an established record in placing students on specialist degrees in Medicine or related subjects such as Dentistry.

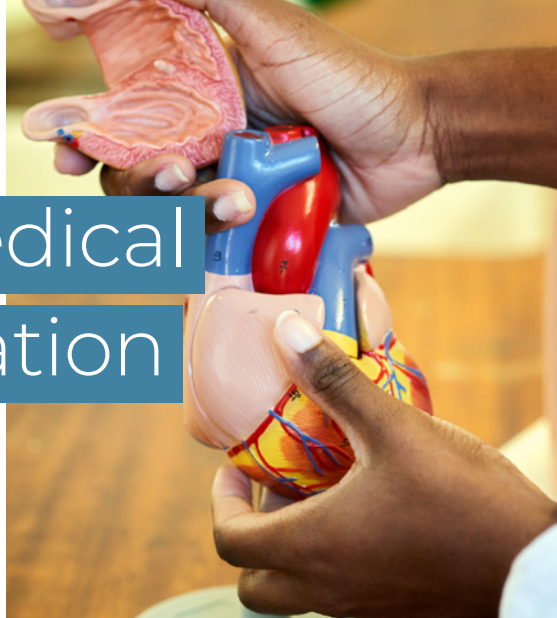


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My advice to current and prospective medical students is this: first know yourself and the kind of work within medicine that makes you tick – that will give you maximum satisfaction. Then, whatever it is – and it does not matter what that is – try to be the very best at it”

**Professor Jonathan Van-Tam,
Former Deputy Chief Medical Officer
and Professor of Health Protection,
University of Nottingham**

Padworth's Medical School Preparation Programme



Weekly Medical Sessions

Aspiring medics on the Medical School Preparation Programme meet on a weekly basis. These sessions are designed to provide students with a thorough understanding of what a medical career involves and provide the opportunity to discuss current medical issues and medical ethics. Discussion topics include:

- Where will the NHS be in 5 years' time?
- How to write a powerful Personal Statement?
- How to secure work experience?
- How did previous successful applicants secure entry to medical school?

Support with UCAS Applications, including Personal Statement Preparation

Your Personal Statement needs to convince university admissions tutors that you are worthy of an interview, which is essential because most medical schools only issue conditional offers after their admissions panel have met you. Only 15-25% of medical school applicants will be invited to interview, so it is critical to ensure your Personal Statement stands out!

You should approach your Personal Statement as you would an essay. Planning

is an important part of the process. A Personal Statement should be logical, with sentences short and to the point; after all, there are only 4,000 characters available! Sections should be split into paragraphs, covering each of the necessary topics. As a guide, the Personal Statement should address the following questions:

- What interests you about Medicine and why?
- Why do you want to be a doctor?
- What have you done to investigate the profession and how has this led you to want to pursue this vocation?
- What did you learn from your work experience?
- What do you do apart from studying and why is this important to you?

At Padworth, Personal Statement preparation commences in Year 12, with Personal Tutors providing support and guidance throughout the UCAS application process. Our tutors have a wealth of experience in this area and will provide students with feedback on Personal Statements as these progress from first draft to the finished article. Together with the Deputy Principal and Principal, they are able to offer guidance on what will make the Personal Statement more compelling and how it can be improved.



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Taking into account observation of progress in lessons, together with results in public and language examinations and university places gained, pupils' progress is judged to be excellent”

**ISI Inspection Report,
October 2015**



Support to Prepare for Specialist Tests

Most universities require applicants to sit admissions tests as part of the application process. These include the UKCAT and BMAT tests. Experience shows that students can benefit from familiarity with these tests: learning the techniques required to approach questions effectively and having an awareness of the questions to expect. Practising past papers and time management are crucial preparations for the all-important test day. Students on the Medical School Preparation Programme benefit from covering these areas during their weekly sessions, including analysis of the more challenging questions.

UKCAT (the UK Clinical Aptitude Test)

The UKCAT has been adopted by 25 universities as part of their admissions process. It is designed to ensure that students have the mental capabilities, attitude and professional conduct required for a career in medicine.

There are four sections to the UKCAT, which are based on the set of skills that medical (and dental) schools believe are vital to be successful as a medical practitioner:

1. Verbal Reasoning.
2. Quantitative Reasoning.
3. Abstract Reasoning.
4. Decision Analysis.

The test takes 2 hours and candidates can take it between July and October in the year before entry.

BMAT (Biomedical Admissions Test)

The BMAT is a test to ensure effective selection of well-qualified students. It is a written test and is deemed a productive indicator of a student's likely result in their first year of undergraduate study. It consists of three main sections:

1. Aptitude and Skills.
2. Scientific Knowledge and Applications.
3. Writing Task.

The test lasts two hours and takes place in November.



Interview Preparation

Why is preparation important for medical interviews?

The interview is often the crucial factor in distinguishing between candidates with similar results. It also enables candidates to make a case if their academic profile is strong, but is equalled or bettered by other applicants. You need to prepare thoroughly, as you will not get a second chance and the more you practise, the better your chances of success.

What sort of questions could you face at interview

Questions often tend to be open-ended, so there will be no 'correct' answer. The following are some examples:

- Why should we choose you over the other candidates outside?
- What makes a good doctor?
- It says on your UCAS Personal Statement that you enjoyed reading about X – what was it in particular that you learned from that?
- Should smokers be treated on the NHS?
- Should you withdraw life-prolonging treatment from a terminally ill patient?
- What are the main problems facing the NHS at the moment?
- What do you know about treatment for cancer?
- Tell me about a medical article that you have read recently that has interested you?
- When you saw doctors using the MRI scanner on your work experience, what were you looking for?

At the interview, you need to prove that you can:

- Listen effectively.
- Absorb facts and ideas presented to you and assess their relevance.
- Respond to problems and criticisms.
- Present arguments in a logical, clear manner.

Some of the most difficult questions often involve an ethical dilemma. With these types of questions, the interviewers are interested in whether or not you have understood the relevant issues, rather than in your opinion. You should think about the background to the question, explore both sides of the argument, back-up your points with examples from your reading and finally draw a tentative conclusion.



How will Padworth mock interviews help you prepare for the real thing?

Like in many walks of life, practice makes perfect! As you familiarise yourself with the list of commonly asked questions, your responses will become smoother and more fluent. Our tutors have spent many years coaching students for these crucial interviews and know how to get the best from applicants. They are also familiar with what an admissions tutor is looking for and the key points that any student might need to improve on. We also work with external experts (including practising doctors and dentists) to make sure that key medical issues or scientific questions can be asked and we provide the sort of atmosphere that a student will encounter at interview.

How does the Padworth interview process work?

Interviews are held by tutors and external experts (usually practising doctors and dentists) both at Padworth and in London. Interviews with tutors are scheduled as part of the programme of weekly sessions during the Autumn Term, whilst a mock-up MMI Circuit is organised at the College in October. Verbal and written feedback is provided.

Information

For More Information

The Medical School Preparation Programme is organised by Rachel Archer, Teacher of Chemistry who can be contacted at:

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Email: admissions@padworth.com

Medical School Admissions Calendar

Mid-September 2023

UKCAT entry deadline

End of September 2023

Last sitting of UKCAT

Mid-October 2023

UCAS application deadline
BMAT entry deadline

November 2023

BMAT exam

November 2023 onwards

Successful candidates invited to interview

By May 2024

Decisions announced to candidates



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EDUCATION

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