

Lancaster Medical School

Admissions Policy – 2023/24

Introduction: About our medical degree programmes

Lancaster Medical School offers two MBChB Medicine and Surgery programmes: A100, the standard 5-year programme and A104, the 6-year Medicine & Surgery with a Gateway year programme. Both MBChB Medicine and Surgery programmes aim to equip graduates with the requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes to deliver excellent patient care throughout their future careers. The core curriculum is delivered through problem-based learning (PBL), a form of small group teaching that prepares graduates for life-long learning by developing their problem-solving and independent study skills. Early clinical experience helps students to understand the context for and purpose of their learning. From the beginning, they learn not only the biomedical science that underpins medicine but also the importance of the social context of patient care, the public health perspective and the ethical and professional challenges inherent in modern clinical practice.

Alongside the acquisition of knowledge, students develop the necessary skills for a successful career, with communication and clinical skills training from the very outset of the degree programme. The development of professional skills and attitudes on clinical placement is encouraged through frequent, timely feedback and the annual appraisal scheme. Lancaster Medical School's educational facilities include: the Clinical Anatomy Learning Centre; a Clinical Skills suite; modern tutorial rooms and lecture theatres; fully-equipped library.

Successful applicants to Lancaster Medical School come from a wide range of backgrounds but all have the motivation and academic ability to thrive at medical school and demonstrate empathy and respect for patients.

Detailed information about entry requirements and our selection procedure can be found on our webpages: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lms/medicine/>

Admissions Policy:

Lancaster Medical School aims to ensure that our admissions policy is fair, consistent and transparent. Applicants are selected on both their academic suitability and the demonstration of the non-academic skills and attributes that make a good doctor. Entry into medicine is highly competitive and successful applicants are those who most ably demonstrate that they meet both the academic and non-academic entry requirements.

Lancaster Medical School Widening Participation

We are committed to recruiting medical students who reflect the diversity of our society but recognise that applicants from some backgrounds experience more barriers to studying Medicine than others. Lancaster Medical School's Widening Participation strategy employs a number of schemes to improve access to its degree programmes.

Contextual Offer Scheme: As part of our commitment to widening access to medicine, we take a holistic approach to reviewing applications and aim to understand as much as possible about our applicants and their potential.

If you meet two or more of our widening participation criteria, meet the academic entry requirements and are successful at interview, you may be considered for a contextually lowered offer of ABB. Please see the website for details of the widening participation criteria that are taken into account: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lms/medicine/mbchb-medicine-and-surgery/entry-requirements/>

To be considered for a contextual offer, you must complete the supplementary information form (SIF) that is sent to you in advance of interview and provide the appropriate supporting documentary evidence. We are unable to consider information received after offers have been made; applicants who do not complete the SIF before interview or cannot provide supporting evidence will not be considered for a contextual offer.

A104 Medicine & Surgery with a Gateway Year (6-year MBChB): This programme represents another approach to attract a more diverse range of students into the medical profession. This programme is only open to UK/home domiciled applicants. Only applicants who fulfil two or more widening participation criteria are eligible to be considered for the Gateway Year but, in contrast to the contextual offer scheme, it is designed for students who are **not** predicted the A-level grades and/or have not met the GCSE requirements to apply directly to the A100 MBChB Medicine and Surgery degree programme. Applicants to A104 will be asked to complete the SIF shortly after application and must return this and any supporting evidence before the end of November in each admissions cycle to be considered for interview.

Pre-application support: Lancaster runs a number of events for potential students who meet our Widening Participation criteria. For more details, please look at the Schools and Colleges page of our website: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/>.

Access to Medicine: In addition to the opportunity to experience how medical education is delivered at Lancaster Medical School, students who attend Access to Medicine, as part of the Lancaster Access Programme, will receive advice on applying to study medicine. Upon successful completion of the Access to Medicine programme, **subject to fulfilling both the academic and non-academic requirements for entry**, students who choose to apply for either A100 or A104 at Lancaster Medical School will be offered a guaranteed interview. Applicants with a guaranteed interview must meet the academic entry requirements of A100 or A104 and satisfy the LMS widening participation criteria. Applicants must also complete an admissions test, but their application will bypass the stage where the score is considered when shortlisting for interview. For 2024 entry, the admissions test used is the BMAT. For applications placed in the 2024-25 admissions cycle for 2025 entry and beyond, Lancaster Medical School will be using the UCAT. For more information, visit: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/access-to-medicine/>.

UCAS Application form:

The UCAS Application form: Applicants should endeavour to complete their UCAS application form fully, honestly and without omissions. Applications that have not been completed properly will not be considered. Moreover, we do not consider any additional unsolicited information sent to the department and it is, therefore, in your best interests to include all relevant information in your application form. If a school or sixth form college has failed to complete the UCAS form correctly, we may consider additional correspondence relating to their error or omission, as long as it is received before 20th November in the year of application.

All applications to Lancaster Medical School should be made through UCAS before the early equal consideration deadline (usually around the 15th October, in 2023 this is October 16th). Applications

received after this date will not be considered. When your application arrives from UCAS, Lancaster University will send you an acknowledgement email to confirm receipt.

Please note, applications are not accepted through UCAS Extra or through Clearing, unless otherwise advertised.

UCAS Academic Reference: The reference should follow new guidelines set out by UCAS for applications for 2024 entry. Please include whether an applicant has resat any qualifications or had any gaps in their study and outline any relevant exceptional/extenuating circumstances. If a referee is aware of an applicant meeting any of our widening participation criteria, they can outline this so we can investigate further in the Supporting Information section.

Plagiarism: Lancaster Medical School will be notified by UCAS if they find evidence of plagiarism in the personal statement of any of the applicants to our medical degree programme. This might occur if an applicant copies sections of another's personal statement or if they re-apply without significantly revising their own personal statement. Lancaster Medical School reserves the right to reject such applications automatically. Applicants may re-apply in a subsequent admissions cycle, if they submit a new and original application, which is not deemed to be plagiarised.

Additional Supporting Evidence: Lancaster Medical School may request proof of prior academic achievement (for example, GCSE or A-level certificates) or an additional reference to support your application. If invited for interview, you will be asked to provide contact details for individuals who can substantiate any claims you have made in your personal statement about work or voluntary experience. Applications from those who are found to have made fraudulent or misleading claims in their personal statement will not be considered any further. Graduate applicants will be asked for a degree transcript, including details of individual marks by year of study and the overall mark that determined the degree classification.

Failure to provide additional information: Lancaster Medical School reserves the right to reject applicants who have consistently failed to respond to requests for additional information to support their application. For example: failure to provide additional references or exam certificates.

Reapplications: In general, we do not consider re-applications from applicants who applied in a previous admissions cycle and were unsuccessful after interview. Applicants who were rejected prior to interview in a previous admissions cycle can re-apply if they can demonstrate additional evidence of their potential. For instance, an applicant who has sought additional relevant work experience in the intervening period and reflected well on these experiences in an updated personal statement.

Deferred Entry: Lancaster Medical School will consider applications from those who wish to defer entry for one academic year.

Academic Entry Requirements (A100):

For candidates offering GCSEs and A Levels

GCSEs: Most applicants are expected to have GCSEs in eight separate subjects and to demonstrate excellent attainment across all subjects: a minimum score of 13 points from eight subjects (A or A* or 7-9 = 2 points; B or 6 = 1 point). The eight subjects must include either combined science trilogy as two GCSE qualifications or Biology, Chemistry and Physics as individual subjects, plus Maths and English Language, all at grade B/6 or above. If Biology or Chemistry is not studied at A-level (see below), then applicants must have achieved at least grade 7/A at GCSE.

A-levels: Applicants must offer three A-level subjects, studied simultaneously, including any two of Biology, Chemistry and Psychology. Offers will be in the range A*AA-AAB: A*AA for those resitting their A-levels; AAA for those offering three A-levels alone; AAB for those offering a 4th subject at AS or A-level, or an EPQ.

Critical Thinking, General Studies, Global Perspectives and native languages completed as a foreign language A Level cannot be accepted as one of the three subjects studied at A-level but could be considered as a 4th subject (see above). Only one of Maths or Further Maths will be considered; if Maths is offered as the third A-level, Further Maths cannot be used as the 4th subject at AS or A-level. BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate may be considered in lieu of 3rd or 4th A-level subject and BTEC Level 3 Certificate as an AS-level 4th subject equivalent. Please note, BTEC Applied Science is not accepted, as a 3rd or 4th subject.

Resits: Lancaster Medical School will consider applications to A100 Medicine and Surgery from applicants who have taken longer than 2 years to achieve the required grades at A-level, if the applicant otherwise meets the GCSE criteria and the non-academic entry requirements. This includes those who have retaken Year 12, are resitting or have resat their A-levels or taken additional subjects at A-level after year 13. All resit applicants should reflect on their circumstances in their UCAS personal statement and must achieve the required grades (typically A*AA) within three years of study.

If you have achieved the resit requirements of A*AA within three years of A Level study, Lancaster Medical School will consider your application if you meet our other entry requirements, regardless of initial grades achieved at A Level and exceptional circumstances.

If you would like to apply during your resit year of A level study:

- in the absence of exceptional circumstances, you must have achieved at least ABB in your A Levels at the first attempt.
- if you are able to evidence that exceptional circumstances negatively affected your studies or exam performance we will consider grades of BBB - CCC in your A levels at the first attempt. Please note, the COVID-19 pandemic on its own will not be accepted as an exceptional circumstance.

After application, candidates with first attempt grades of BBB-CCC will be asked for details of any exceptional circumstances that they believe affected their studies or their exam performance. A statement of exceptional circumstances should be accompanied by supporting evidence and be submitted before the end of November. The statement should explain, as fully as possible, the

impact of the exceptional circumstances on the applicant's studies or exam performance. This information will be reviewed by our exceptional circumstances panel. **We cannot consider resit applicants, who achieved less than ABB at the first attempt, unless the exceptional circumstances panel decide that there is sufficient proof that the exceptional circumstances would have had a negative impact on the achieved grades.**

Applicants are afforded two opportunities to meet the academic entry requirements for the A100 medical degree programme. Applicants who have already re-taken A-Level examinations are advised that they are not eligible for entry to the medical degree programme through the Access route or by completing another alternative qualification.

GCSE resits will not be considered without evidence of significant exceptional circumstances.

For candidates with an undergraduate degree

GCSEs: Requirements the same as for applicants offering GCSEs and A Levels (see above).

A Levels: In addition to their degree (see below), graduates in biomedical, biological or health science subjects must also have achieved at least BBB at A-level (to include any two of Biology, Chemistry or Psychology). Graduates in other subjects must have achieved at least AAB at A-level (including any two of Biology, Chemistry or Psychology at A-level). Third subject requirements the same as for applicants offering GCSEs and A Levels (see above).

Degree: All applicants who offer an UK undergraduate degree are expected to achieve (or have already achieved) at least a good 2:1 Honours degree (with an average transcript mark of 65% or above). Applicants who have achieved a 2:2 degree (or lower) will not be considered. Where the undergraduate degree is in progress, we will ask to see an interim degree transcript and will use performance in the penultimate year of study as a predictor of overall performance; those with an average transcript mark of 65% or above will be considered. Please note, the requirements for applicants offering a degree from outside the UK are equivalent but may not equate to the same raw average scores.

Please note: we are unable to consider applications from those who have started a medical degree elsewhere and had their studies terminated, for either failing to make adequate academic progress or on a fitness to practice basis (for more information, see below).

Transfers: We **do not** accept transfers into the medical degree programme from any other undergraduate degree programme. Applicants who are currently enrolled on **Year 1** of another degree programme may be considered if they otherwise meet the GCSE and A-level (or equivalent) entry requirements for A100. They will be considered alongside all other applicants and any offer would be conditional upon achieving an average transcript mark of at least 65% (or equivalent) in Year 1 of their current degree programme.

Lancaster Medical School does not accept transfers from other medical schools under any circumstances. In extremely rare instances, we may be able to consider **applications** from those who have started a medical degree programme elsewhere but are unable to continue their studies due to exceptional personal circumstances. These applicants must apply through UCAS, in the usual way, and will be considered alongside all other applicants; they are not guaranteed a place to study Medicine at Lancaster University. In order to be eligible to be considered, several conditions must be met:

1. The applicant meets our academic entry requirements (for instance, meets our GCSE and A-level subject and grade requirements).
2. The applicant has serious exceptional circumstances that mean they are unable to continue their studies at their current medical school, but which would be substantially alleviated by studying at Lancaster Medical School.
3. The applicant can demonstrate exemplary academic performance at their current medical school.
4. The applicant is prepared to re-start their medical education at Year 1. We are not able to accept applications for entry into later years of the programme.

Please note: we are unable to consider applications from those who have started a medical degree elsewhere and had their studies terminated, for either failing to make adequate academic progress or on a fitness to practise basis.

For Candidates offering an Access to Higher Education Diploma (Medicine)

Access to Medicine qualifications are designed for adults who are returning to education, and who have achieved few previous qualifications because of social, educational or individual circumstances. Access to Medicine programmes provide academic preparation for higher education study and allow mature applicants to demonstrate their academic suitability for further study.

Access to Medicine qualifications are not appropriate for school-leavers and will not usually be accepted in lieu of resitting A-levels, or other equivalent qualifications. Lancaster Medical School will not consider applications from applicants enrolled on an Access to Medicine course if they have already re-taken AS or A Level examinations and failed to meet the standard academic entry requirements at the second attempt. Only one Access-type qualification will be accepted and applicants cannot make multiple attempts at completing access-type courses.

From 2022 entry onwards, we will only accept Access to Higher Education Diploma (Medicine) qualifications that comply with the QAA national framework and [subject descriptors](#) for Medicine. For guidance about Access to Medicine diplomas completed before Sept 2021, please contact the department for advice (medicine@lancaster.ac.uk).

GCSEs: Applicants must offer combined science trilogy as two GCSE qualifications or Biology, Chemistry and Physics as individual subjects, plus Maths and English Language, all at grade B/6 or above achieved in one sitting. Depending on individual circumstances, applicants may be required to demonstrate at least a score of 13 points from eight GCSEs where A*-A or 7-9 = 2 points; B or 6 = 1 point. Applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements at GCSE should email medicine@lancaster.ac.uk, detailing what qualifications they have achieved and when for further advice.

Access to HE diploma (Medicine): Applicants offering an approved course are required to achieve a distinction in 45 Level 3 credits. The Level 3 components of the Access course will need to offer at least 15 Level 3 credits in Biology, 15 in Chemistry and 15 credits in another science and maths that cover physical and mathematical concepts as described in the subject descriptor document above. In addition, 9 ungraded credits should be completed in the use and comprehension of numerical data, study skills and professional behaviours.

Academic Entry Requirements (A104):

A104 Medicine & Surgery with a Gateway Year (6-year MBChB): The entry requirements for the Gateway year programme are more flexible to take into account additional barriers that certain applicants may have faced in preparing and applying to study Medicine but applicants' achieved and predicted grades must demonstrate the potential to succeed at medical school. Otherwise, the selection process for this programme is the same as for the A100 MBChB programme.

For candidates offering GCSEs and A Levels

GCSEs: Most applicants are expected to have GCSEs in eight separate subjects, including combined science trilogy as two GCSE qualifications or Biology, Chemistry and Physics as individual subjects, plus Maths and English Language, all at grade B/6 or above.

A-levels: Applicants must offer three A-level subjects, studied simultaneously, including both Biology and Chemistry. The standard offer is ABB achieved at the first attempt, after two years of study.

Critical Thinking, General Studies and native languages completed as a foreign language A Level cannot be accepted as one of the three subjects studied at A-level. BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate may be considered in lieu of 3rd A Level subject. Please note, BTEC Applied Science is not accepted.

Previous undergraduate degree: We do not normally accept graduate applicants onto A104, Medicine & Surgery with a Gateway year.

Access qualifications: We do not normally accept Access applicants onto A104, Medicine & Surgery with a Gateway year.

Resits: We do not normally accept applications from applicants who have taken longer than two years to complete the A-level requirements for A104, Medicine and Surgery with a Gateway Year unless they can evidence that they have missed the majority of a year of study through exceptional circumstances. We do accept resits of GCSEs so that applicants can meet our minimum entry criteria on the second attempt, particularly in the core subjects described above.

English Language Requirements (A100 and A104)

All applicants must study English, as part of their secondary education, and achieve the equivalent of GCSE English, grade B/6 or above. For those offering IGCSE, please note only English as a first language is acceptable.

Applicants who are applying from outside the UK or who have lived in the UK for less than 5 years at the point of application (exemptions listed below) may need to demonstrate proficiency in English through one of the following recognised English Language qualifications:

- **IELTS Academic** (a minimum score of 7.0 with no component less than 7.0) **or**
- **Pearson PTE Academic** qualification (at least 70 overall and at least 70 in each communicative skill sub-test).

This is in addition to the academic entry requirements outlined above.

Please note:

- Applicants must demonstrate their English language proficiency **before application**.
- Applicants who do not include details of their English language proficiency qualification on their UCAS application may not be considered.
- The test must be taken in person, in an authorised test centre.
- Online versions of these tests are not accepted.
- You must achieve these scores in the same test sitting (we do not accept one-skill retakes).
- English language qualifications must be less than 2 years old at the time of application.

Although, we do not accept other English Language proficiency qualifications for admission to Lancaster Medical School, if you have sat either TOEFL, Cambridge C1 Advanced OR proficiency of English Qualification we may be able to consider your application for interview, on the condition you satisfy our English Language requirements before the start of August in each admissions cycle.

Applicants who do not need to demonstrate their level of English:

All applicants who have lived in the UK continuously for 5 years or more at the point of application.

Applicants whose first language is English and have always been a resident and citizen of a majority English-speaking country recognised by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI).

Applicants who have lived and had a significant portion of their education in the UK, as determined by Lancaster Medical School, but are currently living outside the UK.

Graduate applicants who completed an undergraduate degree in a recognised UK Higher Education establishment and have been continuously resident in the UK since graduation.

The Selection Process:

Lancaster Medical School considers applications to its medical degree programmes in a four stage process:

Stage 1: Academic aptitude: applications are assessed against our minimum entry requirements, considering prior academic achievement and predicted grades. For details of the minimum entry requirements, please see our webpage: A100: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lms/medicine/mbchb-medicine-and-surgery/entry-requirements/>

A104: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lms/medicine/medicine-and-surgery-with-a-gateway-year/how-to-apply/>

A100: Only those who meet our academic entry requirements at GSCE and A-level or have achieved the requisite grades at GSCE and are predicted at least AAB at A-level (or equivalent in other qualifications) will progress to Stage 2.

A104: Only those who meet our academic entry requirements at GSCE and A-level or have achieved the requisite grades at GSCE and are predicted at least BBB at A-level (or equivalent in other qualifications) will progress to Stage 2.

Stage 2: Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT)

All applicants must take the Biomedical Admissions test (BMAT) to be eligible to be considered at Lancaster Medical School.

More information about BMAT, how to register and how to prepare for the test can be found on the BMAT website: www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/

You must register to be able to take BMAT. Registration is separate from the UCAS application process and the deadline is **before** the UCAS application deadline. For 2024 entry, you must sit the October 2023 BMAT. Please note, you may only take BMAT once per application cycle.

The total BMAT score is calculated by combining the individual scores for Sections 1, 2 and 3; we do not include the quality of English score (A-E). Applicants will be ranked according to their total BMAT score and the top-ranking applicants will progress to Stage 3.

Admissions test for 2025 entry: Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing is to withdraw from running the BMAT. For the 2024-25 admissions cycle onwards, Lancaster Medical School will put alternative arrangements in place to utilise the UCAT. Lancaster Medical School will communicate changes to its application process in a timely manner. Our focus is to manage the transition to an alternative arrangement, and to ensure that our admissions requirements remain fair and transparent.

Stage 3: the Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI)

No applicant will be offered a place without being interviewed. The MMIs will usually be held in January and February. The exact timing of the MMI days will vary from year to year but we aim to give applicants two weeks' notice of their MMI date; six weeks' notice for overseas applicants. If an applicant decides not to attend for interview, we will offer their interview place to another applicant, if possible, even if it is at short notice.

The MMI typically consists of 12-15 different “stations”, most of which will be 5 minutes long. Some stations will consist of a short interview, where you may be asked questions about your career choice, work experience or suitability for a medical career. At others, you may be asked to read a short paragraph or watch a short video clip, take some notes and then discuss at a subsequent station. An additional 20 minute station will involve group work and will assess your suitability for our problem-based learning curriculum. Applicants who are selected for interview will be sent detailed information prior to their interview. The applicant’s performance at each station is assessed by trained interviewers, against clearly defined criteria. Interviewers include members of University staff, NHS clinicians, local GPs, patients and public representatives, and current medical students. Interviewers also have the opportunity to highlight any particular concerns about the applicant’s performance. In the absence of any concerns, applicants with the highest overall scores will be made offers.

Stage 4: Fitness to Practise: The professional body that governs medical practice in the UK, the General Medical Council (GMC), has specific requirements to protect staff and patient safety. In accordance with these requirements, all medical students must have the ability to function as a fully competent doctor and fulfil the rigorous demands of professional fitness to practice. There are four aspects of Fitness to Practise for medical applicants:

1. **Probity:** Doctors are expected to “be honest and open and act with integrity” at all times ([Duties of a Doctor](#)). Therefore, probity is taken extremely seriously during the admissions process for our medical degree programme. Applicants are advised to ensure that their UCAS application form has been completed fully, honestly and without omissions. Lancaster Medical School reserves the right to reject any applicant who is found to have been dishonest at any stage of their application.
2. **Disability and Medical Conditions:** Applicants who have a disability or medical condition that might impact on their fitness to practice should provide details on their UCAS application. Disclosed disabilities or medical conditions are not taken into account during the selection process. We will, however, consider requests for reasonable adjustments required to allow applicants to participate in the MMI. If successful after interview, the applicant will be assessed by an Occupational Health professional to determine whether they are fit to practise or if there are reasonable adjustments that Lancaster Medical School should make to enable the applicant to study medicine successfully.
3. **Occupational Health Check and Immunisation:** All students are subject to an occupational health check, as part of their registration process, and will be tested for and/or immunised against a range of infectious diseases before any patient contact will be permitted.
4. **Disclosure and Barring Service:** Applicants should note that all medical students are subject to enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service clearance. Any criminal convictions, reprimands, warnings, cautions or fixed penalty notices should be declared, and details provided, if the applicant attends for interview. If successful at interview, the circumstances of the incident will be considered by the Lancaster Medical School Fitness to Practise panel and a judgement made as to whether it impacts on the applicant’s fitness to practise. Only those who are deemed fit to practise will be admitted onto the medical degree programme; applicants may be subject to further requirements to confirm their fitness to practise. In most instances, minor offences do not bar entry to medical training or clinical practice. More details can be found on the [GMC website](#).

Admissions Fitness to Practise process in the event of a declared criminal record:

Before interview:

Applicants who are invited to interview are required to complete a Declaration of Criminal Background form, on which they are asked to disclose any convictions, cautions or warnings and to provide brief details of the incident.

After interview:

If the applicant has disclosed a criminal conviction, reprimand, warning, caution or fixed penalty notice, they will be asked to provide more information about the incident, including a reflection on the impact of the incident and the relevance to their chosen career in Medicine, plus any supporting documentary evidence

Inquiry meeting:

The applicant will then be invited to meet (virtually) with two members of the LMS Good Medical Practise Decision Group (GMP DG).

These two members of staff will make a recommendation to the **GMP DG**, who will ratify the outcome.

If the incident is unusually serious, or a decision cannot be reached, then the case will be referred on to the Good Medical Practise Committee for the final decision.

Outcome:

The Director of Admissions will communicate the outcome of the Fitness to Practise process to the applicant and make an offer or reject the application, depending on the decision.

Application Cycle Timeline

Applicants who fail to meet our minimum academic entry requirements (Stage 1 above) are usually notified of the result of their application before the end of January. Applicants who meet the minimum academic criteria but are not called for interview (stage 2 above) may be notified of the outcome at any time between January and the end of March. Applicants who are invited for interview (Stage 3 above) will not be informed of the outcome until all interviews have been conducted (usually before the end of February) and can expect to be informed of the decision by the end of March.

| October | November | December | January | February | March |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|----------|---|
| 16 th Deadline for applications | Applications are considered. | | Applicants who do not meet academic entry criteria are informed. | | Applicants who have been interviewed are informed of the outcome. |
| | | | Applicants who meet academic entry requirements but are not called for interview are informed | | |
| | | Applicants may be called for interview. | | | |

Provision of Feedback: Lancaster Medical School provides feedback to unsuccessful applicants via UCAS Track at the same time as notifying applicants of the outcome of their application. We aim to make this feedback as informative as possible and are not usually able to provide any additional feedback on applications that were unsuccessful at stage 1 or 2. Applicants who were unsuccessful after interview, however, can request additional feedback between 31st March and 30th June.

Offers: Each applicant will be considered on their own merits and offers will be made taking into consideration whether or not applicants have had the opportunity to take a 4th A Level or AS subject or an EPQ; whether applicants are resitting their A-levels (or equivalent). The offers will be in the range A*AA to AAB, or a contextually lowered offer of ABB, including two of Biology, Chemistry and Psychology (A100) or ABB including both Biology and Chemistry (A104).

Exceptional circumstances: This refers to adverse circumstances that an applicant believes may have affected their examination performance. There are four points at which exceptional circumstances may apply:

- (1) when these exceptional circumstances affect your current course of studies,
- (2) when these exceptional circumstances have affected your past performance, for instance, when an applicant has taken or will take three years to complete their A-levels and falls under our 'Resit Policy' (see below),
- (3) when exceptional circumstances affect your sitting of the Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT), or,
- (4) exceptional circumstances that occur on the day of interview (or immediately before interview).

If you are completing A-levels or another equivalent school-leaving qualification:

If you think your performance during examinations has been affected by exceptional, extenuating circumstances, such as illness or challenging personal circumstances, you should liaise with the exams officer at your school or college to apply for *special consideration* from the relevant exam board(s).

Special consideration is a post-examination process where the exam boards can adjust a student's marks to compensate for any proven disadvantage that the student has suffered over the examination period. This mark adjustment is performed according to guidelines that have been agreed by all the awarding bodies. As such, this is the only fair way for extenuating circumstances to be taken into account by Lancaster Medical School.

You may still inform Lancaster Medical School of the exceptional circumstances that you believe have affected your exam performance but, as these circumstances have already been taken into account by the exam board in deciding your final grades, we cannot make any additional dispensation.

Lancaster Medical School is unable to consider any information about exceptional, extenuating circumstances that have not been communicated to the relevant exam board. We are also not able to consider any information that is only divulged on the day of, or after, the publication of results.

If you are completing an undergraduate degree:

If you think your performance during examinations has been affected by exceptional, extenuating circumstances, such as illness or challenging personal circumstances, you should liaise with the departmental exams officer at your current university. They will be able to advise you about the

most appropriate course of action and how your current university takes exceptional circumstances into account when determining the final degree classification.

Lancaster Medical School is unable to consider any information about exceptional, extenuating circumstances that have not been communicated to your university through the appropriate channels. We are also not able to consider any information that is only divulged on the day of, or after, the publication of results.

Exceptional circumstances affecting the BMAT

If you think your performance during the BMAT has been affected by exceptional, extenuating circumstances, such as illness or challenging personal circumstances, you should liaise with your test centre to apply for *special consideration* with Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing (CAAT) who administer the BMAT.

Special consideration is a post-examination process where the exam boards can adjust a student's marks to compensate for any proven disadvantage that the student has suffered over the examination period. CAAT will assess each special considerations application individually and will classify these on a 1-5 point scale. Lancaster Medical School will use this classification to adjust your total BMAT score according to the [JCQ Special Considerations Guidelines](#).

Lancaster Medical School is unable to consider any information about exceptional, extenuating circumstances that have not been communicated to CAAT through the special considerations process. We are also not able to consider any information that is only divulged on the day of, or after, the publication of results.

Exceptional circumstances on the day of interview:

We recognise that some applicants who have been invited for interview may experience exceptional circumstances, either in advance or on the day of their interview. Unfortunately, we are unable to take such exceptional circumstances into account when considering your performance at interview, as there is no reliable and consistent way to adjust an applicant's MMI score to take account of ill health or other mitigating factors.

If you feel unwell or a serious incident occurs that is likely to affect your ability to perform during the MMI, **you should not attend for interview**. If you inform us of your circumstances, we will endeavour to re-arrange your interview to a later date but, please note, we cannot guarantee that this will always be possible due to the nature of our interview process. If you do attend for interview, we will assume that you are well and fit to participate in the interview, and will not be able to take into consideration any circumstances that you bring to our attention after the event, even if you are able to provide documentary evidence.

Data Protection: Lancaster Medical School is legally bound to only discuss (or communicate in any way) an application with the individual who submitted it. The admissions team cannot discuss applications to study medicine with parents, teachers or referees without the explicit written permission of the applicant.