

Lancaster  
University



Medicine and Surgery  
Undergraduate Degrees 2026



# Welcome to *an outstanding* medical *education*

The world of medicine is changing at an ever-increasing pace.

At Lancaster Medical School we are here to support our trainee medics in this evolving healthcare environment.

We will build your knowledge and expertise through modern teaching technologies, thorough training in patient communication and early clinical placements - supporting your development as a skilled, patient-centred doctor.

We are passionate about supporting you.

We know that studying medicine is challenging and we pride ourselves on being a welcoming community that's by your side throughout this journey.

We may have grown steadily since we began training medics in 2006 but our ethos as a student-focussed medical school remains.

Our small group teaching and excellent student support services mean you'll always have someone to turn to when you need a helping hand.

So, whatever your background, we will nurture your talent and support you to reach your full potential as a doctor and become the most resilient, confident version of yourself.



*Head of Lancaster  
Medical School*

**Professor Marina Anderson**



Our five-year Medicine and Surgery MBChB will teach you the scientific knowledge that underpins doctors' understanding of how the body works, how a disease can present and progress and how it can be investigated and managed. You will learn about the socio-economic, cultural and environmental factors that affect health and medicine as well as population health and professional practice. This will help you to become a skilled doctor ready to deliver compassionate treatment in the healthcare environment of the future.

Our Medicine and Surgery with a Gateway Year programme is specifically designed to enable talented students from under-represented backgrounds to become doctors. It provides a grounding in the biological and life sciences, building your academic skills, knowledge and confidence. After successfully completing the Gateway Year you will progress to the five-year MBChB programme and continue your medical education.

Degree title	Degree (Hons)	UCAS code	Course duration (years)	Typical A level offer
Medicine and Surgery	MBChB	A100	5	AAA
Medicine and Surgery with a Gateway Year	MBChB	A104	6	BBB

Medicine is constantly advancing, and we regularly review our curriculum to ensure that your education at Lancaster incorporates the latest techniques and technology.

We are currently undertaking a comprehensive review of our MBChB curriculum. This includes gathering feedback from students, alumni, and clinicians to ensure that our curriculum continues to prepare our graduates for successful clinical practice and delivers a quality student experience.

Consequently, there may be changes to the structure of our curriculum that affect applicants for 2026–27 entry. Please check our website for updated course information before making an application.



# Teaching and *learning*

We combine lectures and clinical anatomy with small-group learning. This is complemented by clinical training in hospitals, General Practice, and community placements to inspire the doctors we train to have a positive impact on peoples' lives.

## Building the skills for modern medicine

We are passionate about understanding the health needs of local, national and global populations, examining the factors that contribute to positive health for everyone.

As such, our broad and integrated curriculum is built around core themes that will enable you to develop the knowledge and skills required for modern clinical practice.

### These include:

- + Medical sciences
- + The psychology and sociology of health and illness
- + Population health
- + Professional practice and values
- + Medical ethics and law

## Developing clinical skills

From the start of your medical training, you will learn the practical procedures and examinations required for clinical practice. These skills are practiced initially on models and then on real patients, under the supervision of senior clinical staff.

In later years, you will be embedded in teams delivering clinical care in hospitals, General Practice (GP) surgeries or the community.

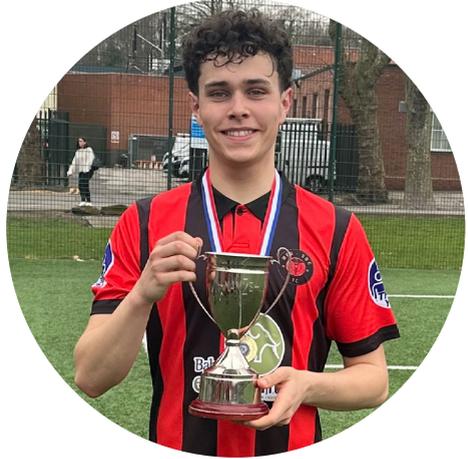
## Creating great communicators

We believe that being a good communicator is essential in becoming a caring and empathetic doctor and colleague.

First, we build your confidence in patient communication by practicing with actors. Later, you'll develop your skills through interactions with real patients on clinical placements.

## Choice

In addition to the core curriculum, you'll have the opportunity to pursue your own areas of interest in more depth through coursework assignments and Selectives in Advanced Medical Practice (SAMPs). Coursework will develop your skills in retrieving and critically appraising information which are essential for applying scientific rigour in your future medical practice. SAMPs will allow you to broaden your experience and explore your own areas of clinical aspiration.



**Ewan**, *first-year student*

### **Medicine and Surgery MBChB**

Lancaster is a very inclusive and welcoming environment.

The colleges make the university feel like a smaller family within the wider university. This allows you to make friends through your college's events and sports teams as well as the people you live with.

I play football for my college, Grizedale, and for the medical school team, Medsoc FC.

This has allowed me to make friends both in and outside medicine, which I feel is really important in the first year, so you can get a feel for who your 'group of people' are at university.

# Small group teaching

At Lancaster University Medical School, small group teaching is at the heart of our educational approach. You'll benefit from close-knit, supportive sessions where you'll engage directly with expert tutors and fellow students.

These small groups foster active discussion, critical thinking, and collaboration - key skills for future doctors. You'll explore clinical cases, apply medical science to practice, and develop communication and teamworking abilities in a focused setting.

This intimate environment encourages you to ask questions, receive tailored feedback and build strong relationships with your peers and tutors.



“

*The small group teaching at Lancaster is one of the aspects I really appreciate. It allows for a much more personal learning experience. It's a space where you feel comfortable asking questions, getting involved and really deepening your understanding.*

”

**Hamid**, fourth-year student  
Medicine and Surgery with a  
Gateway Year MBChB



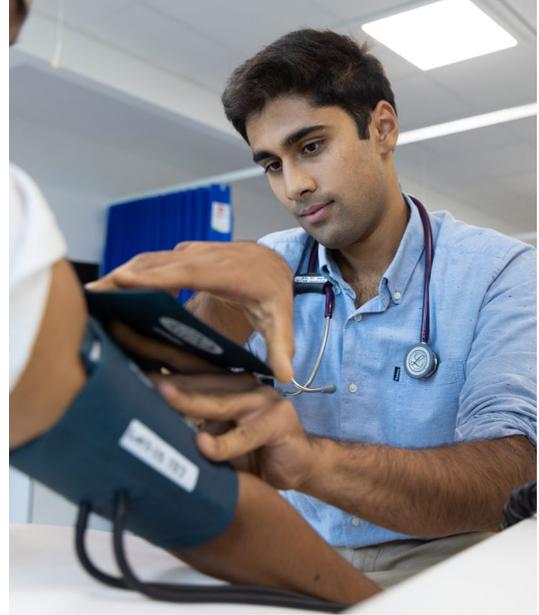
**Isra, third-year student**

### **Medicine and Surgery with a Gateway Year, MBChB**

I'm really enjoying my degree. The course is well-structured and designed to support effective learning.

The small-group teaching style at Lancaster made starting medicine feel much less overwhelming. It's a really supportive way to learn and build confidence and makes the sessions interactive and engaging. The flexible timetable gives me the freedom to take charge of my own learning.

The location is perfect for me. One of my best experiences so far has been joining the Wilderness and Emergency Medicine Society. We take part in hikes and weekend trips to the Lake District and practise real-world emergency scenarios, all taught by older medical students. It's an exciting way to meet new people, pick up practical skills, and learn from those further along the course.



# Supporting *you all the way*

Being a medical student can present many challenges, but you can be reassured that our dedicated team will be with you every step of the way.

We have developed a range of services which are here to provide you with support, advice and guidance as you transition to university and progress through your training.

## Student Support Team

Our departmental Student Support Team provides specific pastoral care for our medical students. They provide confidential help and advice on a range of issues that may affect your studies including academic matters, physical and mental health issues, disability, personal or financial problems. This service is offered in addition to the wider student support services offered by the colleges and the University which you can also access.

## Academic tutor

You'll be allocated an academic tutor when you first join us. They will meet with you regularly to review your progress and provide pastoral support, advice and guidance.

## Student peer mentors

During welcome week you'll be buddied-up with a Year 2 peer mentor who will provide you with informal advice and tips.

## Colleges

Lancaster University is a collegiate university, and you can access a range of support through your college team.

## ASK service

The ASK service is your one-stop student enquiry service. Staff can offer you guidance on a wide range of personal and academic issues.



**Bianca**, *fourth-year student*

### **Medicine and Surgery MBChB**

Lancaster offers great academic and personal support, ensuring students receive the guidance and resources they need to succeed from day one.

You'll be allocated an academic tutor who will help and guide you throughout your degree. You'll have several meetings with them throughout the year where they provide advice and support, and they are always just an email away if you need them.

We all get put in contact with another medical student from an upper year who becomes your peer mentor. My peer mentor has been a great supporter, answering all my questions from managing exams to getting to know people and has given me so much guidance on what resources to use and what societies to get involved in.

# On *placement*: gaining *real-world* experience

Lancaster Medical School's unique location is ideal for getting an insight into the practice of medicine across a hugely diverse population and geography. Your clinical and community placements will offer you a breadth of experience in locations ranging from small, rural GP practices to urban hospitals and deprived coastal communities, helping you to become a well-rounded, resilient, work-ready medical practitioner.

Throughout your studies, you will complete several clinical placements, each of which includes patient contact, clinical teaching and other educational activities, such as lectures, tutorials and clinical skills sessions.

Much of your learning will be based around real clinical cases; you will present information from your own patient histories and use this information as the stimulus for further learning.

## Early clinical placements

At Lancaster Medical School you will experience clinical placements early in your studies. This early patient contact allows you to practise your history-taking and examination skills, whilst providing a real-life context for your learning. In preparation for this, in Year 1, you will begin your training in clinical and communication skills and learn about the fundamental principles of GP care and how care in the community is delivered. From Year 2, you will begin hospital placements and engage in a variety of community care-related activities.



## Medicine in the community

Traditionally, medical training has taken place primarily in a hospital setting. However, up to 50 per cent of all UK medical graduates become GPs. In the UK even specialist healthcare is moving out of hospitals and into the community.

We place a strong emphasis on the importance of clinical placements in the community and we have a strong programme of community-orientated teaching across the breadth of our curriculum.





### **Assessment**

In Years 1 to 4, you will sit examinations to test the knowledge and skills you have developed during each year. Examinations comprise written papers that will assess your knowledge across all of our curriculum themes and clinical examinations. These include Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) to assess your communication and clinical skills (for example, history-taking, clinical examinations, practical procedures and clinical reasoning skills).

You will also complete several coursework assignments as part of the degree.

Each year, you will be expected to complete an online portfolio of evidence to demonstrate that you have achieved the required learning outcomes.

### **Your final exams**

You will take your final examinations at the end of Year 4, allowing you to concentrate, in Year 5, on preparing to be a Foundation trainee doctor.

Your finals will include the General Medical Council's (GMC) Medical Licensing Assessment: the MLA.

### **Coursework and your portfolio**

Your learning and professional development will continue throughout Year 5 and will be assessed through the completion of a portfolio and regular review by your clinical education supervisor. Your final year portfolio will prepare you for Foundation training and beyond.



# Medicine and Surgery with a Gateway Year

## MBChB

Our Medicine and Surgery MBChB with a Gateway Year is designed for talented UK students from backgrounds under-represented in medicine and who may be disadvantaged in applying to our five-year MBChB Medicine and Surgery programme.

This programme is designed to prepare you for successful progression onto Year 1 of the MBChB programme by developing your knowledge, academic writing and independent study skills. You will study a range of modules to build your knowledge of the fundamental principles of bioscience, which are key to studying medicine, including:

- + How molecules drive cellular processes that enable the body to function
- + How pathogens cause illness
- + The anatomy and physiology of the human body
- + Genetics
- + The body's immune response

We will teach you about how the health and care system is structured in the UK, and how care is delivered across primary, secondary and tertiary care. You will also start your exploration of what it means to be a professional, ethical doctor.

On successful completion of this programme, you will progress to the five-year MBChB programme.

### Enhancing your curriculum

We continually review and enhance our course curricula to ensure we are delivering the best possible learning experience, and to make sure that the subject knowledge and transferable skills you develop will prepare you for your future. Information within this publication with respect to courses and modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer courses and modules as advertised. In some cases, changes may be necessary and may result in new modules or some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes or GMC requirements.





## Year 1

### Core Modules

#### Introduction to Biosciences

Gain hands-on experience of essential laboratory skills and equipment and learn how to conduct ethical research, analyse data and present your findings clearly and accurately.

#### Molecules to Cells

Learn how organisms can synthesise molecules to generate energy, build complex molecules and store genetic information.

#### Anatomy and Physiology

Examine the structure-function relationships of the organs and tissues that protect, sustain and maintain the body in human health and develop essential scientific knowledge and practical skills.

#### Genetics and Biotechnology

Explore the human genome, the role of bioinformatics in understanding genetic data and how DNA damage can lead to mutations and disease.

#### Microbes, Pathogens and Immunity

Learn how the human host responds to exposure to pathogenic microorganisms, with a comprehensive introduction to immune response and the intricate relationship between pathogens and human health.

#### Foundations of Medicine

We will introduce you to healthcare in the UK and how it is delivered across primary, secondary and tertiary care and about professionalism and what this means in practice for doctors.

Visit our webpage for full details of eligibility requirements for Medicine and Surgery with a Gateway Year.



# Medicine and Surgery

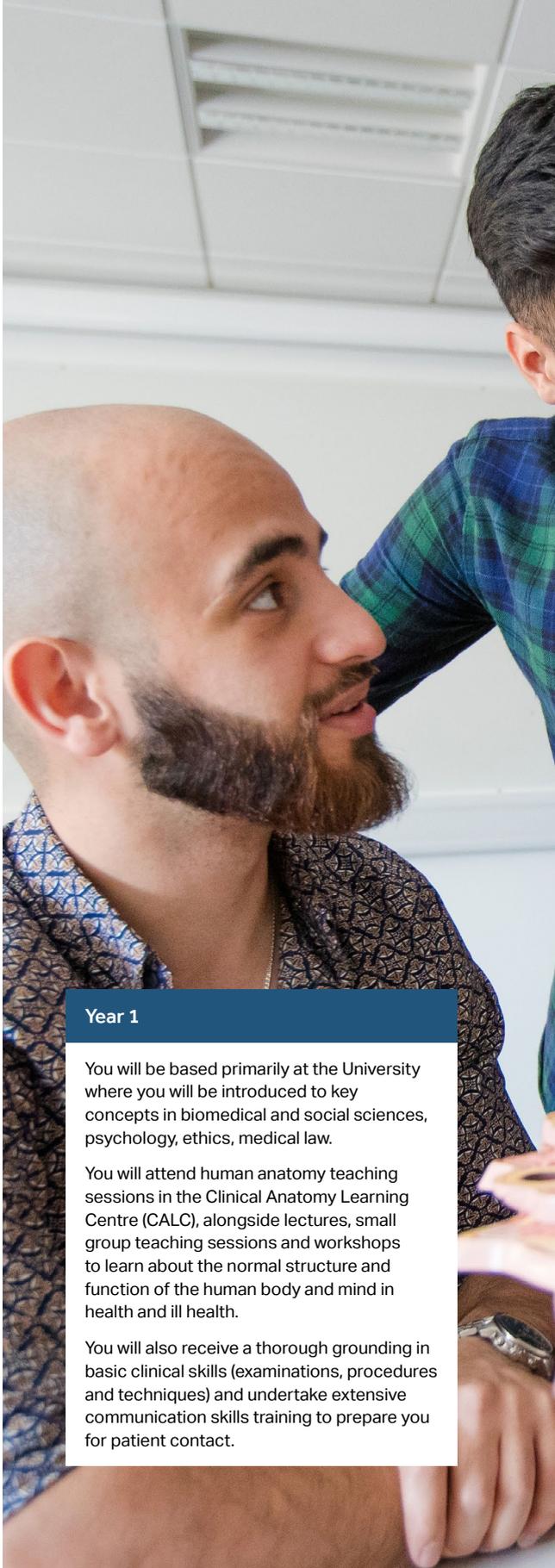
## MBChB

Over the course of five years at Lancaster Medical School, you will accumulate the knowledge and develop the skills required for modern clinical practice.



### Enhancing your curriculum

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### Year 1

You will be based primarily at the University where you will be introduced to key concepts in biomedical and social sciences, psychology, ethics, medical law.

You will attend human anatomy teaching sessions in the Clinical Anatomy Learning Centre (CALC), alongside lectures, small group teaching sessions and workshops to learn about the normal structure and function of the human body and mind in health and ill health.

You will also receive a thorough grounding in basic clinical skills (examinations, procedures and techniques) and undertake extensive communication skills training to prepare you for patient contact.



## Year 2

You will spend time on campus as well as on placements in GP practices, hospitals and in a range of community care-related settings, allowing you to directly apply your learning from Year 1 to real-world clinical cases.

## Year 3

In Year 3, you will complete several clinical placements, each of which includes patient contact, clinical teaching and other teaching activities, such as lectures, tutorials and clinical skills sessions.

Much of your learning will be based around real clinical cases; you will present information from your own patient histories and use this information as the stimulus for further learning.

## Year 4

You will further develop your skills with clinical placements which include patient contact, hospital-based clinical teaching and other learning activities, such as lectures or tutorials. You will sit your Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA) - which must be passed to graduate with a primary medical qualification.

## Year 5

### Postgraduate Foundation training and beyond

In Year 5, you will undertake several clinical attachments as part of your postgraduate foundation training. You will also have a chance to sit the national prescribing assessment exam.

Each attachment consists of intensive clinical experience. A portfolio is used to guide and assess your learning. You will take responsibility for your own learning, engaging in reflective practice to prepare you for Foundation training and lifelong learning.

Visit our webpage for full details of our entry requirements and how to apply.



# Entry requirements and selection processes

We consider applications, made via UCAS, through the following stages:

## Stage one: Academic Aptitude

### Medicine and Surgery MBChB A100

#### A level

Predicted grades of at least AAB in three A levels, taken in one sitting, including two from Biology, Chemistry or Psychology.

Typical offers to study are AAA or AAB plus a B in an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or fourth subject at AS or A level. Some restrictions to a fourth subject choice apply.

#### GCSE

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 double award Combined Science (trilogy), or Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Maths and English language at grade B/6 or above and be achieved at the first attempt.

If you are not studying Biology or Chemistry at A level, you must have achieved at least grade A/7 in that subject at GCSE.

### Medicine and Surgery with a Gateway Year

#### MBChB A104

#### A level

Predicted grades of ABB-ABC/BBB in three A levels including Biology and Chemistry. A typical offer to study is BBB.

#### GCSE

Requirements will vary depending on individual circumstances, but typical requirements are a minimum score of 10 points (A or A\* or 7-9 = 2 points; B or 6 = 1 point). Must include double award Combined Science (trilogy) or Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Maths and English language at grade B/6 or above.

## Stage two: University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

Applicants with a situational judgement score of between one and three will be ranked according to their overall UCAT score. For details of how to register and prepare for the test visit: [ucat.ac.uk](http://ucat.ac.uk).

Different threshold scores are used for A100 UK, A100 international and A104 candidates, with typically lower threshold scores for the UCAT used to select candidates for Medicine and Surgery with a Gateway Year.

## Stage three: Multiple Mini-Interviews (MMIs)

Our interview format is through multiple mini-interviews. These consist of different 'stations' which assess some of the skills, values and attributes required to study and practise medicine successfully. Lower threshold scores are used for the MMIs to select candidates for Medicine and Surgery with a Gateway Year. No applicant will be made an offer without an interview.

## Stage four: Fitness to Practise

All applicants must have the potential to function as a fully competent doctor and fulfil the rigorous demands of professional fitness to practise.



for satisfaction with teaching  
(Medicine)

Guardian University

Guide 2025

Visit our website for further information about our selection process and resit policies for both programmes, as well as entry requirements for other equivalent or higher qualifications.



# Widening *participation in* medicine

At Lancaster Medical School, we know that outstanding doctors can come from any background, and we are committed to developing skilled doctors as diverse as the communities they serve.



We are committed to recruiting students who reflect the diversity of patient populations and wider 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.

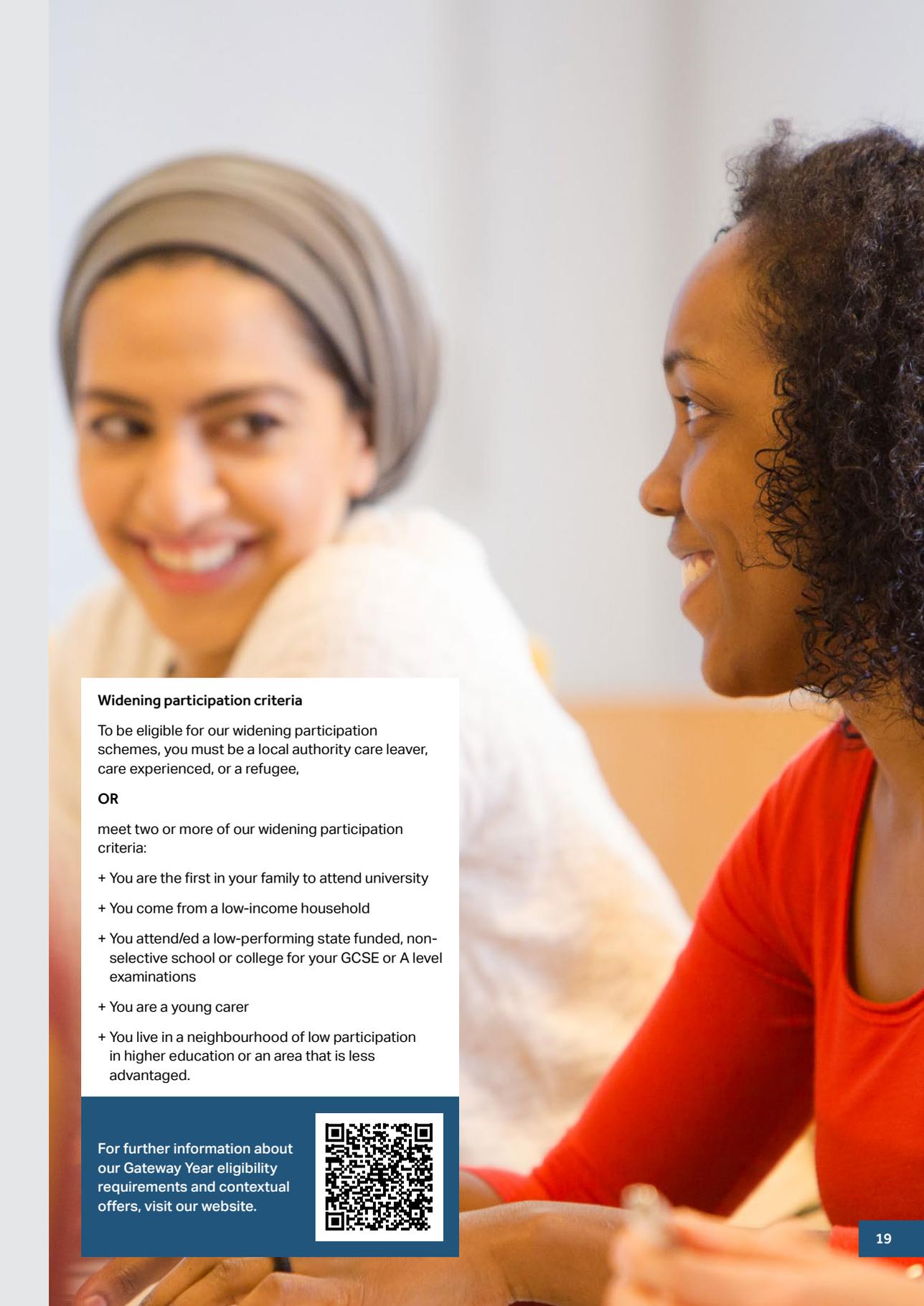
## **A100 Contextual Admissions**

If you meet our academic aptitude requirements (see page 16) and our widening participation criteria (page 19), we will consider this when shortlisting for interview (e.g. if your UCAT score is borderline) and when making offers. If you are successful at interview you may be considered for a contextually lowered offer of ABB at A level and be eligible for further support during your studies at Lancaster University.

## **A104 Medicine and Surgery with a Gateway Year**

To be eligible for this programme, you must be a UK applicant and meet our widening participation criteria.



A photograph of two young women sitting at a table, smiling and engaged in conversation. The woman on the left is wearing a grey hijab and a white top, while the woman on the right has dark curly hair and is wearing a red top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting.

### Widening participation criteria

To be eligible for our widening participation schemes, you must be a local authority care leaver, care experienced, or a refugee,

#### OR

meet two or more of our widening participation criteria:

- + You are the first in your family to attend university
- + You come from a low-income household
- + You attend/ed a low-performing state funded, non-selective school or college for your GCSE or A level examinations
- + You are a young carer
- + You live in a neighbourhood of low participation in higher education or an area that is less advantaged.

For further information about our Gateway Year eligibility requirements and contextual offers, visit our website.





# Build your skills *through new* technologies

Our modern medical school offers the best in new technologies, from Anatomage tables to a clinical skills simulation laboratory, so you can develop your clinical confidence in a safe setting.

## A sustainable medical education

The 2025 Planetary Health Report Card has ranked Lancaster Medical School sixth in the table of UK Medical Schools for sustainability to address planetary health challenges.

This ranking reflects the work we've been doing to integrate sustainable healthcare in our medical curriculum and the university's wider commitment to sustainability.





### **Our Health Innovation Campus**

Our ultra-modern home, the Health Innovation Campus, has been developed to create a dynamic health-focussed community, where health research and medical skills development are at the top of the agenda.

This light and spacious building offers you fantastic clinical learning facilities, lecture theatres, tutorial rooms and space for your own, quiet study.

### **Anatontage tables for virtual dissection**

This state-of-the-art platform offers digitised human cadavers and superior medical learning tools. It allows you to study anatomy and learn to interpret clinical images.

### **Clinical skills and simulation laboratory**

A mock clinical setting that offers a safe environment for you to learn and practise practical procedures, examinations and other clinical skills. Here you will use whole-patient manikins to replicate clinical scenarios and use ultrasound scanning in practical procedures (intravenous cannulation, for example).

### **Independent learning rooms**

We offer two areas for you to practise your clinical skills in your free time. One room is located at our Health Innovation Campus and comprises five bays and models; the other is a ten-minute walk away on our main campus, with two bays and equipment. These areas are available for you to practise clinical skills when it suits you best.

### **Mobile Simulation Teaching Unit**

An eight-bedded simulated hospital ward which can be occupied by either manikins or simulated patients. Here, you can practise diagnosis, communication and treatment as part of your training.

# Careers and employability

**Working in medicine offers a career with real purpose. Whether your training takes you towards hospitals, primary care, research or public health, you will play a trusted and respected role in society.**



## Careers service

Once you have completed your MBChB, you will be qualified to begin the two-year Foundation programme as a junior doctor.

This advanced clinical training will allow you to experience different medical specialties before you decide where to specialise.

You will apply for your Foundation Year 1 (F1) post through the UK Foundation Programme Office (UKFPO) selection scheme, during your final year of your MBChB.

Students who graduate from Lancaster with an MBChB have all previously found a place on the F1 programme. However, this cannot be guaranteed; for instance, if there were to be an increased number of competitive applications from non-UK graduates.

If you decide on an alternative career, your transferable skills will prepare you for a career in public health, medical research, medical education, or even policy or communications.

## Our graduate destinations and preparedness

Our alumni have gone on to a myriad of speciality training places, including emergency medicine, obstetrics and gynaecology, psychiatry, radiology, surgery, ophthalmology and paediatrics and child health.

According to the General Medical Council's (GMC) quality assessment 'Foundation year 1 (F1) preparedness' report, 99 per cent of Lancaster's medicine and surgery graduates enter their Postgraduate NHS Foundation Programme well prepared for clinical practice.

## Specialist careers support

You will benefit from the expertise of our dedicated Careers Consultant, who specialises in careers in medicine and is on hand to provide advice when you need it.

You will attend an introductory session with the Careers Consultant at the start of each year to explore career development tasks pertinent to that year of study. You will also benefit from workshops throughout your time at the medical school that will help you to develop the career management skills you'll need in future.

## Intercalating at Lancaster

Intercalation means you can take a 12-month break from studying Medicine to complete a Bachelor of Science (BSc), Master of Science (MSc), Master of Research (MRes), or Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in another subject.

It's a great opportunity to expand your skill set, explore a subject related to medicine in greater depth, or carry out research.

Many of our students have intercalated on other Lancaster University degrees including:

- + MSc Health Data Science
- + MSc Clinical Research
- + MSc Biomedicine
- + MSc Sports and Exercise Medicine

We also welcome students from other medical schools who wish to intercalate with us here at Lancaster.



**Brawin, fourth-year student**

**Medicine and Surgery MBChB**

**Graduate, Health Data Science MSc**

Intercalating was always something I had in mind. I wanted to take a break from medicine and focus on something a little bit different while at the same time learning something that's useful for my career.

I chose to study a master's in Health Data Science to develop industry-leading skills that can be applied to better understand patient needs such as evaluating the outcomes of current practices and addressing healthcare inequalities - all of which are essential for shaping the future of evidence-based, data-driven, person-centred care.

My best advice? Keep an open mind and embrace the learning experience. At Lancaster, you'll be surrounded by brilliant minds from diverse backgrounds, offering unique perspectives and enriching discussions. Engaging with fellow students and faculty will enhance your academic journey beyond expectations.



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The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2026 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2025. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at: [lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://lancaster.ac.uk/study) for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at: [lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice](http://lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice).