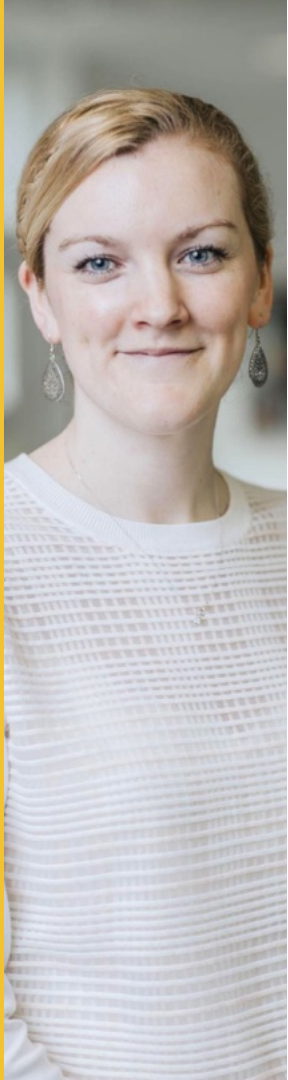


Ashbourne Medical School Programme (AMSP)

Amy Youngman

*Teacher of Biology, Head of Faculty
and Head of Sixth Form*



Amy Youngman

Head of the Medical Programme

Amy only joined Ashbourne in September 2015 but has spent the last eleven years working with medical students, guiding them through the application process.

She is Head of Faculty for the Natural Sciences and teaches biology in addition to running the Medical School programme.

Amy runs the medical sessions each week, and will be the first point of contact for all students wishing to apply to medical school.

By having a member of staff dedicated to all medical students, it ensures each student receives individual attention and assurance that they are supported throughout the entire application process. Amy is also an interviewer for UCL Medical School.



Students will be provided with:

- ✓ A thorough understanding of what a medical career will involve
- ✓ BMAT and UCAT preparation
- ✓ Interview preparation: both traditional and MMI's
- ✓ UCAS help: The personal statement and how to know where to apply
- ✓ Assistance in securing work experience placements
- ✓ The opportunity to discuss medical ethics and current medical issues with other prospective medical students during weekly meetings
- ✓ The opportunity to talk to current doctors and Ashbourne alumni who are now at medical school

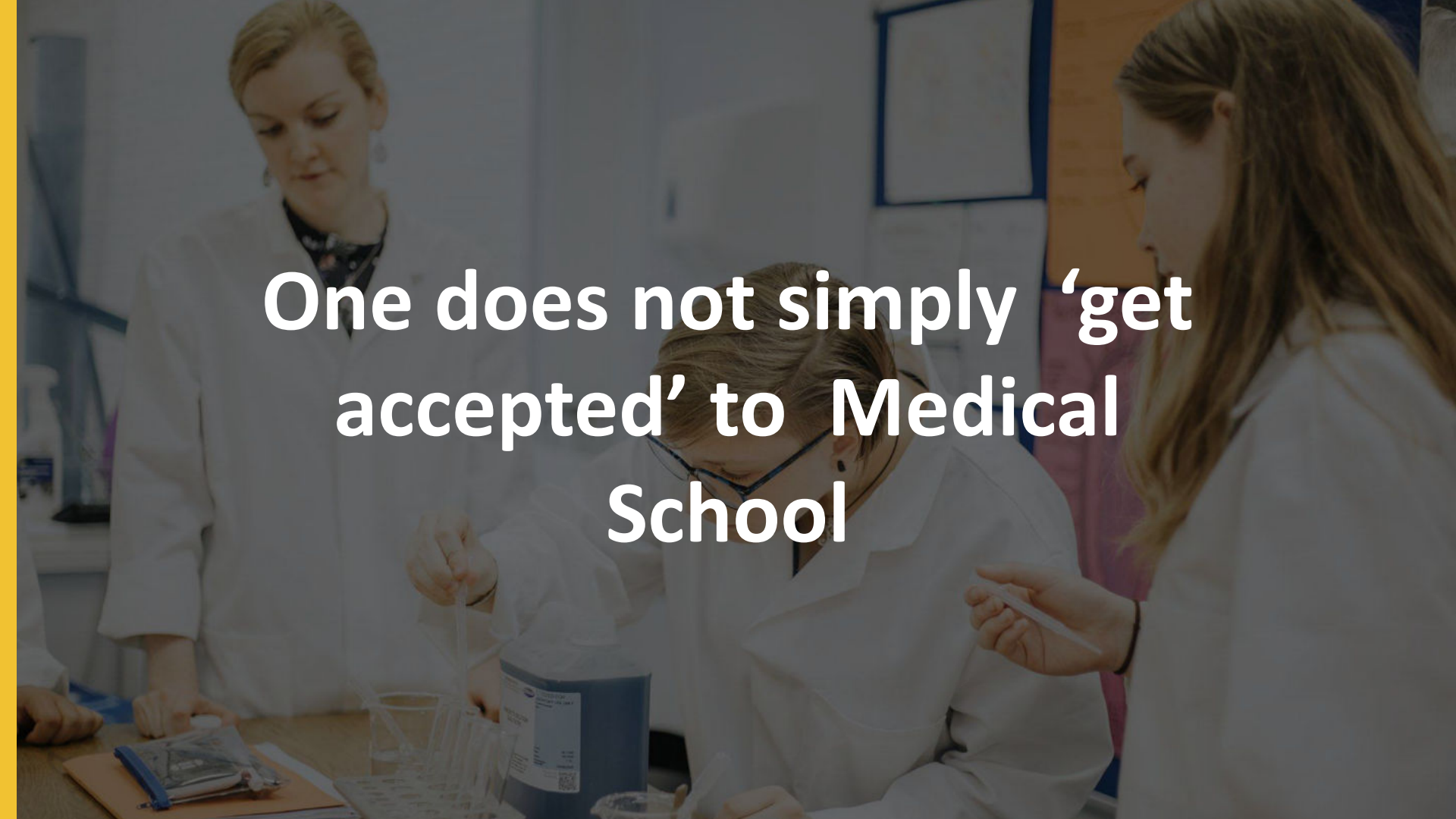
Can the AMSP help students considering Dentistry?

- ✓ Yes!
- ✓ Although less common, we still get a small handful of students wishing to apply for dentistry each year.
- ✓ These students will attend all the AMSP sessions and will also need to keep up to date with what is going on in the world of dentistry.
- ✓ In 2019, we have had 3 students who applied and secured their places for dentistry



Why are so many applicants unsuccessful?

- BMAT/UCAT scores may not be high enough
- Not enough work experience
- A poor interview
- Weak personal statement
- Applying to the wrong universities
- Lack of extracurricular activities

A photograph of three medical students in a laboratory setting. They are wearing white lab coats. The student in the center is wearing glasses and is focused on using a pipette to transfer liquid into a multi-well plate. The student on the left is looking down at the work. The student on the right is holding a pipette and looking towards the center. The background shows laboratory equipment and a whiteboard.

**One does not simply ‘get
accepted’ to Medical
School**

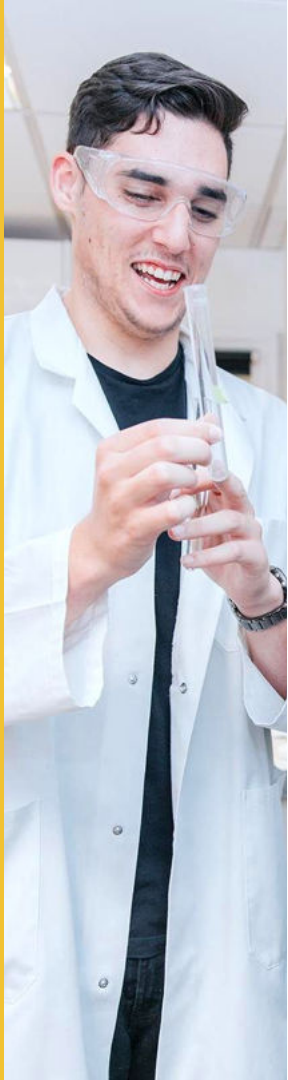


How can the AMSP help?

- ✓ By attending weekly sessions, students will be provided with all the information necessary for a successful application.
- ✓ All potential medical students are identified when they interview at Ashbourne. This ensures that they are given guidance right from the start.
- ✓ The AMSP guides students through the entire application process, from drafting the personal statement to accepting an offer.

Weekly sessions





Typical timetable (weekly sessions)

Week	Topics discussed
1	Introduction to Medicine
2	How to write a powerful Personal Statement
3	Where will the NHS be in 5 years' time?
4	How to decide which medical schools to apply to
5	How to secure work experience
6	BMAT preparation
7	UCAT preparation
8	Previous successful applicants: how did they do it?
9	Advice from real doctors
10	The Traditional Interview: typical questions
11	Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI's): typical questions
12	The 5th choice: how to make it wisely



Benefits of weekly sessions

- ✓ The weekly sessions give students the opportunity to improve their non-academic skills.
- ✓ Debating current medical issues allows students to consider arguments from both points of view.
- ✓ Presenting information about important topics such as euthanasia or abortion also allows students to improve their public speaking.

A close-up photograph of a person's arm and hand. A purple blood pressure cuff is wrapped around the upper arm. A healthcare professional wearing white gloves is adjusting the cuff. The person is wearing a striped shirt and blue jeans. A potted plant is visible in the background.

Work Experience

Work experience is absolutely essential.

- When to apply
- CRB check

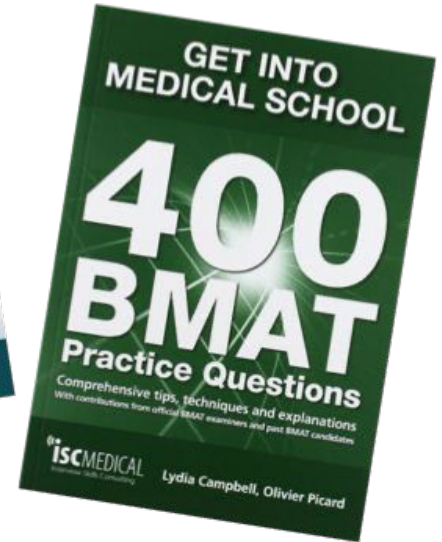
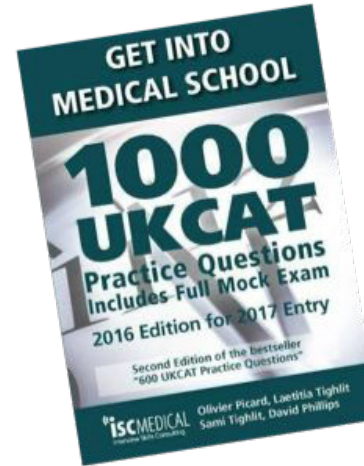


Volunteering

“In addition to high academic achievement, medical schools look for applicants who are genuinely concerned for others. Some time spent volunteering is not only a good way to enhance your experience, but it also demonstrates your empathy and committed to a career in medicine.”

NHS consortium

Admissions Tests for Medicine





BMAT and UCAT

- **BMAT (Biomedical Admissions Test):** The BMAT was introduced in 2003 because the top institutions receive many more applications from extremely well qualified students than there are places to offer. The purpose of the test is purely to provide a predictive assessment of candidate's academic potential.
- **UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test):** It helps to ensure that candidates selected have the most appropriate mental abilities, attitudes and professional behaviour required for new doctors and dentists to be successful in their clinical careers. It is used in collaboration with other admissions processes such as the UCAS application and academic qualifications. The UCAT does not contain any curriculum or science content. It focuses on exploring the cognitive powers of candidates and other attributes considered valuable for healthcare professionals.

BMAT

Sat at Ashbourne on 18th October

Section 1: Aptitude and Skills

Duration: 1 hour

Number of Questions: 35 multiple choice or short answer questions.

This section tests the generic skills of problem solving, understanding argument, data analysis and inference.

Section 2: Scientific Knowledge and Applications

Duration: 30 minutes

Number of questions: 27 multiple choice or short answer questions.

This section tests your ability to apply core scientific and mathematical knowledge and principles (typically covered by the age of 16 in non-specialist school science and mathematics courses).

Section 3: Writing Task

Duration: 30 minutes

Number of Questions: one question must be answered from a choice of four.

This section tests whether you can demonstrate the capacity to develop ideas and communicate them effectively in writing.



Universities requiring BMAT for 2024

Please refer to <https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/> for the full list

UNIVERSITY	COURSE
Brighton and Sussex Medical School	A100 Medicine
Imperial College London	A100 Medicine
Lancaster University	A100 Medicine & Surgery A104 Medicine & Surgery with a Gateway Year
University College London	A100 Medicine
University of Cambridge	A100 Medicine
University of Oxford	A100 Medicine BC98 Biomedical Sciences
University of Oxford	A101 Graduate Medicine

UCAT:

Sat at an external centre (July to September)

UCAT Subtests	Questions	UCAT	UCATSEN
Verbal Reasoning Assesses the ability to critically evaluate information presented in a written form.	44	1 minute instruction section. 21 minutes test time.	1 minute 15 second instruction section. 26 minutes 15 seconds test time.
Decision Making Assesses the ability to make sound decisions and judgements using complex information.	29	1 minute instruction section. 31 minutes test time.	1 minute instruction section. 31 minutes test time.
Quantitative Reasoning Assesses the ability to critically evaluate information presented in a numerical form.	36	1 minute instruction section. 24 minutes test time.	1 minute 15 second instruction section. 30 minutes test time.
Abstract Reasoning Assesses the use of convergent and divergent thinking to infer relationships from information.	55	1 minute instruction section. 13 minutes test time.	1 minute 15 second instruction section. 16 minutes 15 seconds test time.
Situational Judgement Measures the capacity to understand real world situations and to identify critical factors and appropriate behaviour in dealing with them.	69	1 minute instruction section. 26 minutes test time.	1 minute 15 second instruction section. 32 minutes 30 seconds test time.

Universities requiring UCAT for 2024

University of Aberdeen

Anglia Ruskin University

Aston University

University of Birmingham

University of Bristol

Brunel University
(International students only)

Cardiff University

University of Dundee

University of East Anglia

Edge Hill University

University of Edinburgh

University of Exeter

University of Glasgow

Hull York Medical School

Keele University

Kent and Medway Medical School

King's College London

University of Leeds

University of Leicester

University of Lincoln

University of Liverpool

University of Manchester

Newcastle University

Norwich Medical School (UEA)

University of Nottingham

Plymouth University

Queen Mary University
London

Queen's University Belfast

University of Sheffield

University of Southampton

University of St Andrews

St George's, University of
London

University of Sunderland

University of Warwick

Academic Requirements

It is no secret that the entry requirement for Medicine is high.

- Typical offers range from A*A*A to AAA.
- It is absolutely essential that students achieve all A grades at AS in order to guarantee that they are at the academic standard required for medicine.
- With such small classes and individual attention at Ashbourne, this is perfectly achievable with complete dedication and hard work from the student.

Different medical schools use different teaching methods

The Traditional Approach

- Long-established
- Lecture-based style
- Becoming increasingly less common
- A definite pre-clinical/clinical divide
- Oxford, Cambridge, St Andrews

PBL (Problem Based Learning)

- Problem-based learning
- Becoming popular
- A patient-oriented approach
- From year 1 onwards, students are heavily involved in clinical scenarios, with the focus on the student to demonstrate self-motivation and proactive, self-directed learning
- Designed to get away from previous, traditional spoon-fed' approach.

The Integrated Approach

- A compromise between a traditional course and a PBL course
- They have patient contact from the start BUT there is a huge variation in the amount of contact from school to school
- Basic medical sciences are taught concurrently with clinical studies

Knowing where to apply

- It can be overwhelming for students when deciding where to apply.
- The AMSP talks students through all the different teaching methods medical schools use in order to help them make their choices.
- It is also crucial for students to look carefully at the entry requirements. For example, some medical schools require students to have a minimum score of 600 for the UCAT. This is why the AMSP ensures students feel thoroughly prepared for this test.
- Attending open days is also crucial.

Preparing for the different types of interview

The Traditional Interview

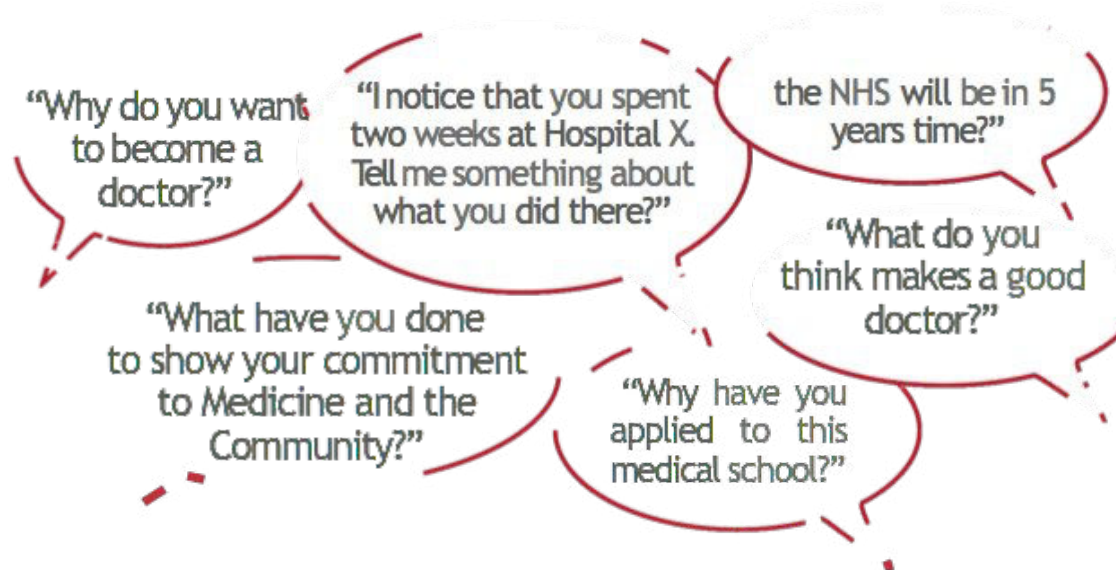


Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI's)



The Traditional Interview

- Typically lasts between 20-30 minutes
- There are usually 3 members of staff on the panel and occasionally a medical student. Typical questions include:



Multiple Mini Interviews

- A multiple mini interview consists of a series of short, structured interview stations used to assess non-cognitive qualities including cultural sensitivity, maturity, teamwork, empathy, reliability and communication skills.
- Prior to the start of each mini interview rotation, candidates receive a question/scenario and have a short period of time (typically two minutes) to prepare an answer.
- An example of an MMI question “Tell me about a time where you later regretted a decision you made. What would you do differently?”



Interview Practice on the AMSP

- All students will be provided with both a mock traditional interview and a mock MMI interview during their AS year. This allows them to see how they are able to cope under pressure and which areas they need to improve upon.
- Upon being offered an interview in their A2 year, students will again, be offered practice interviews with both Amy and other members of staff in order to fully prepare them for the real thing.
- This crucial practice can make the difference between an offer or a rejection.



Extracurricular Activities

- Medical Schools like to see that students have interests outside of academia.
- Luckily, there are various extra-curricular activities students are able to get involved with at Ashbourne. This will not only make their application look more impressive but will also demonstrate their ability to work as part of a team.

Advice from the Experts



Dr. Laura

Medicine, Imperial College
working in the States



Dr. Rebecca

Medicine, Imperial College
working as GP in
Birmingham



Dr. Charlotte

Medicine, King's College
working as an obstetrics
registrar in the midlands

Advice from the Experts



Sadly a career in medicine is far from the glamour of ER, Gray's Anatomy and even Scrubs (although that's probably the closest). If you are prepared to sacrifice nights out to study, your weekends and nights to be in the hospital dealing with blood, poop and pee, spend half your days telling people to stop smoking, drinking, doing drugs, reassuring them that their pain does not need narcotics because it's being caused by constipation, and live for the few moments of glory when you do make a difference, then sleep for a few hours before you have to get up and do it all over again, then you might just be able to make it as a doctor (or a nurse, pharmacist, physiotherapist, social worker).

There are several great books you can read to find out more, "In Stitches" by Dr Nick Edwards, "Confessions of a GP" by Dr Benjamin Daniels, and a quick search on Amazon will find many more. Anything written by Atul Gawande is worth a read too. Try and get some experience in a GP office or a local hospital. Volunteering at a nursing home is good for you too and looks great on your application.



Dr. Laura

Medicine, Imperial College
working in the States

Advice from the Experts



Dr. Rebecca

Medicine, Imperial College

working as GP in
Birmingham



I would advise people to think about where they want to study with regards to how they teach the course as this can make a lot of difference in the university experience.

I think the important thing is to be prepared for the fact that it may be challenging and different from a typical student experience.

However the overall experience is rewarding, you come out with an almost guaranteed job at the end and you get to make a difference to people's lives.

Advice from the Experts



You need to do medicine because you really want to, not because your parents think it's a good idea or you have the right grades. Gone are the days where it is really easy to make a lot of money and you are the most respected person in the town. It involves a lot of hard physical and mental work, there is no overtime pay, you will finish late a lot, patients shout, relatives can get angry, and I'm not sure how much longer we will have the NHS as we know it now for.

However, it is such a rewarding job, it's incredibly social (I feel like my day is one long social event) and offers so many diverse careers - there really is something for everyone. Medicine also offers the opportunity to work abroad so is not limiting to the UK. I don't ever remember a day where I've woken up and thought 'I don't want to go to work today' - mostly because I don't really think of my job as work, it's part of my life and I love it.



Dr. Charlotte

Medicine, King's College

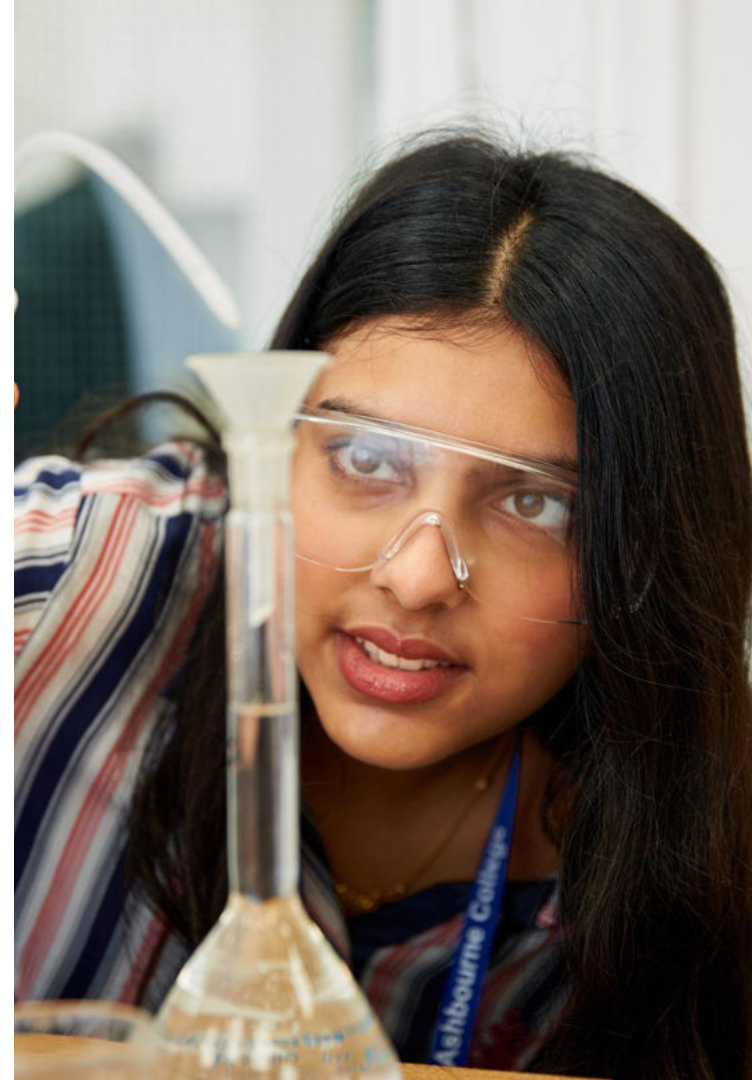
working as an obstetrics registrar in the midlands

To do list for prospective medics

- Book a meeting with Amy to discuss all things Medicine.
- Sign up to the medic portal for lots of free online resources for medicine:
<https://www.themedicportal.com/sign-up/?reason=portfolio>
- Securing work experience is vital but it can take months. Start contacting local hospitals for availability ASAP.
- Make sure that you are up to date with what's going on in the world of medicine. Start with the BBC News, The Guardian Newspaper and New Scientist.
- Look at the UCAT and BMAT websites and start having a look at past papers/practice questions.
- Start looking at the websites of the different medical schools in order to gather more information.
- Look at the specifications for all your A level subjects. Start looking at the recommended books in order to make a head start.

Ashbourne's Statistics:

- In 2023, **80%** of Ashbourne medical applicants were offered a place.
- From 2016-2022, **76%** of Ashbourne medical applicants were offered a place.
- Our students have gone onto study Medicine and Dentistry at: **UCL, King's College London, University of St. Andrews** and **St. George's Hospital Medical School**, amongst 13 other UK and international Medical Universities.



Tomi

Received offer from King's College London for
Biomedical Science.

Graduated from Ashbourne in Summer 2023.

Biology **A***
Chemistry **A**
Psychology **A**

Reading Medicine at University of Central Lancashire.

Kian

Graduated from Ashbourne Summer 2023.

Biology **A***

Chemistry **A***

Maths **A***

Persian **A***

Reading Medicine at Keele University School
Of Medicine.

Baseera

Received offers from University of Bristol and St.George's Hospital for Medicine.

Graduated from Ashbourne in Summer 2022.

Biology A*

Chemistry A

Psychology A

Reading Medicine at St.George's Hospital Medical School.

Kenny

Received offers from UCL, Queen Mary, and Birmingham University.

Graduated from Ashbourne in Summer 2022.

Biology **A***

Chemistry **A***

Maths **A***

Currently reading Medicine at Imperial University.

Hanna

Received offer from Imperial, UCL and UEA for Medicine, and Kings for Biomedical Science.

Graduated from Ashbourne in Summer 2019.

Biology A
Chemistry A
Maths A*

Currently reading Medicine at Imperial College London.


Lilian

Received offers from King's and UEA for
Medicine, and Kings for Biomedical Science.

Graduated from Ashbourne in Summer 2019.

Biology A
Chemistry A
Maths A*

Currently reading Medicine at King's College, London.

A photograph of students in a library or study area. A young woman with long brown hair is smiling at the camera. Other students are visible in the background, some looking at books or laptops. A dark blue banner is overlaid on the image, containing white text.

For any queries, please contact us at
admissions@ashbournecollege.co.uk