IS MEDICINE FOR YOU?

Your pathway into healthcare

Preparing you for university success | www.catseducation.com
HELPING YOU INTO HEALTHCARE

Working in healthcare is varied, exciting and rewarding. There is a range of career paths, which include being a doctor, a biomedical scientist, a nurse or a psychologist. Whatever profession you choose, CATS Education will support you on your journey.

We will help you improve your academic knowledge and understanding, develop your English language skills and prepare a compelling university application so that you can apply for a healthcare course.

In addition to core tuition, you receive an additional package of support designed to improve your chances of university success.

Higher Education Support and Advice

As well as regular one to one tutorials, you receive weekly classes looking at all aspects of applying to university to study a healthcare-related degree. They cover:

- Intensive UCAS application support
- Interview preparation
- Mock interviews
- Support throughout the application process
- Seminars on topics such as ethics, current issues in healthcare and the medical school entrance tests: UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) and Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT).

Healthcare Insights

We offer a programme of in-school lectures from leading healthcare researchers and medics. Recent lectures include:

- Innovations in Pain Management: Dr Ewan St. John Smith, Pharmacology at Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge
- Polymer Chemistry: Dr Stuart Clarke, Chemistry Research Fellow at Jesus College, University of Cambridge
- Population Health: Dr Stephen Jivraj, Institute of Epidemiology & Health, University College London

Volunteering Support

Volunteering is a way to gain and demonstrate practical skills. It also shows your commitment to a chosen career. We help you organise placements.

Recent CATS healthcare students have gained experience with:

- Hospitals, including a local head injuries unit which collaborates with the NHS
- Care homes
- Biology labs
- International charities such as the British Red Cross.

Visits to and from Medical Schools

Regular visits to and from medical schools give you an understanding of the demands of a healthcare degree. You will participate in lectures, talk with current undergraduates and meet with admissions tutors.

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS

Some healthcare professions that past CATS students have entered include:

- Biomedical scientist
- Counsellor
- Dentist
- Dietician
- Doctor
- Radiographer
- Health advisor
- Psychologist
- Mental health nurse
- Midwife
- Nurse
- Occupational therapist
- Paramedic
- Pharmacist
- Physiotherapist

“I was encouraged to enter competitions to support my university application. I took a masterclass in Biochemistry and Genetics.”

Name: Wylan Wong | Nationality: Hong Kong Chinese
Studied: International Baccalaureate at CATS Canterbury
Destination: Imperial College, London | Course: Biotechnology

Wylan Wong scored 43 points in the IB Diploma, placing him in the top 1% of students in the world.
WHICH IS THE RIGHT PATHWAY FOR YOU?

We have a variety of one and two-year programmes to prepare you for your chosen career in healthcare.

SO YOU’VE DECIDED YOU WANT TO WORK IN HEALTHCARE...

Your next steps are:
• Gain relevant experience
• Read about and around your chosen subjects
• Look at UKCAT and BMAT test websites (see page 10)

DO YOU WANT TO BE A DOCTOR OR A DENTIST?

CAN YOU ANSWER ‘YES’ TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS?
• Do you have an outstanding high school record, GCSE or equivalent?
• Can you discuss your healthcare-related reading?
• Can you reflect on your volunteering experience?
• Are you prepared for UKCAT and BMAT?

Do you want to train as a postgraduate, having completed a first degree in a relevant subject?

Do you want to train as an undergraduate?

Is your IELTS 5.5 or above?

Is the qualification recognised in the countries in which you want to work?

Is your IELTS 6.5 or above?

Choose one of the following
University Foundation Programme see page 7
International Baccalaureate see page 9
A level (two-year) see page 6
A level (Fast-track) see page 6
A level (1.5 years) see page 6

Choose A level (Fast-track) see page 6

Choose A level (two-year) or International Baccalaureate see pages 6 and 9

Choose one of the following
University Foundation Programme see page 7
International Baccalaureate see page 9
A level (two-year) see page 6
A level (Fast-track) see page 6
A level (1.5 years) see page 6

Speak to a CATS higher education specialist

Do you want to train as a postgraduate, having completed a first degree in a relevant subject?

Do you want a professional qualification at the end of your healthcare-related degree?

Do you want a professional qualification at the end of your healthcare-related degree?

Do you want to train as an undergraduate?

Do you want to be a doctor or a dentist?

Improve your English on our Academic English Module visit www.catseducation.com
A levels are the most common route for entry to higher education in the UK. To meet the minimum requirements for medicine or health-related degrees, you must take at least three A level subjects.

SUBJECTS

All medical schools require Chemistry, some also require Biology. We recommend that anyone applying for healthcare-related courses take Chemistry and Biology. Mathematics and Physics are often recommended as a third option. Successful applicants have also taken Physics, Psychology, Sociology and Government & Politics. For subject summaries, see page 8.

Most medical school offers are based on A*AA or higher. However, university entrance requirements vary.

ASSESSMENT

In some subjects, there is a small amount of assessment during the course, but mainly formal exams will be taken at the end of the course. These exams are set by government-approved examination boards.

A level results are published nationally in August every year. Your tutor will be available to discuss your results and next steps.
The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma is an internationally-recognised programme obtained after two years of studying (6 terms). The programme is demanding but rewarding and encourages independent thinking and creativity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overview</th>
<th>Suited to students who want to explore a broad subject range and enjoy independent research.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>16+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic achievements</td>
<td>Good grades at GCSE (or equivalent qualifications). At least five A*/A.</td>
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<td>Language level</td>
<td>At least (IELTS 5.5) or above</td>
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<tr>
<td>University application preparation progress</td>
<td>You are ready to start the process of completing your university application, and to take expert advice on relevant reading and volunteering (ideally some volunteering will already have been completed).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start date</td>
<td>September (6 terms)</td>
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<td>Weekly tuition in hours</td>
<td>32+</td>
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<td>Availability</td>
<td>Canterbury</td>
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<td>Average class size</td>
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**SUBJECTS**

Students study six subjects, choosing three at higher level and three at standard level. Students choose one subject from each of the six groups. For a pathway to Medicine or a Life Sciences degree we recommend:

- **Group 1-3**: Optional subjects
- **Group 4**: Biology or Physics
- **Group 5**: Mathematics
- **Group 6**: Chemistry

In addition to the six subjects, you also study three core areas to broaden your education.

**Theory of Knowledge (ToK):** An introduction to the critical evaluation of all knowledge. The core modules encourage students to question, explore theory and use critical thinking.

**Extended Essay (EE):** You undertake a research project and write a 4,000-word essay based on a personal theme. We recommend that students seeking a career in healthcare choose a topic specific to their area of intended study.

**Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS):** A programme of arts, sports and community service that helps you become a reflective, open-minded individual. Community service activity will be designed to support your university application and could include work with a charity, a care home or hospital.

**ASSESSMENT**

Subjects are assessed through coursework. This counts towards your overall grade. You also take examinations at the end of the second year (May and June).

IB results are published every July. The IB Diploma is marked on a numbered scale. Each of the six subjects taken is marked out of seven, and there are an extra three points available for the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge parts. To gain the Diploma, you need at least 24 points, and the maximum score available for the most academically gifted students is 45 points.
APPLYING TO MEDICAL SCHOOL
A timeline for students choosing a two-year study programme.

Students choosing A level (Fast-track) need to have completed year one of the timeline independently before joining the programme. This includes registering and preparing for the UKCAT or BMAT.

<table>
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<th>YEAR ONE</th>
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Prepare for your medical career
Choose the CATS Medicine Taster Programme to explore your subject choices. See back page for more details.

Prepare for the application tests
Your tutor will talk you through the tests – UKCAT and BMAT – and you will start preparing your preparation by reading and practising test papers.

Medical school research
With the help of a CATS higher education specialist, you will research and draw up a list of your four preferred medical courses and a ‘Plan B’ course if your application to study medicine is unsuccessful.

Prepare for and attend university interviews.
Prep with the help of a CATS higher education specialist. You will research and draw up a list of your four preferred medical courses and a ‘Plan B’ course if your application to study medicine is unsuccessful.

APITUDE TESTS
Most universities require one of two tests – BMAT or UKCAT. These tests are used in collaboration with the UCAS application process.

THE BIOMEDICAL ADMISSIONS TEST (BMAT)
An admissions test for Medicine, Biomedical Science and Dentistry courses at certain universities such as: University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, Imperial College London and University College London.

TEST FORMAT
There are three sections to the test:
1. Aptitude and Skills: 1 hour (35 multiple-choice questions)
2. Scientific Knowledge and Applications: 30 minutes
3. Writing Task: 30 minutes

RESULTS
There is no pass/fail threshold for the test. Results are issued to you via an online system approximately eight weeks after the test has been taken. Results also go to any BMAT institution you have applied to. There is some variation in how different institutions make use of the results.

FURTHER INFORMATION
www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/

THE UK CLINICAL APITITUDE TEST (UKCAT)
An admissions test used by a consortium of UK universities for their medical and dental degree programmes. The UKCAT does not contain any curriculum or science content. It helps UK universities select applicants with the most appropriate mental abilities, attitudes and professional behaviours required for new doctors and dentists to be successful in their clinical careers.

TEST FORMAT
The UKCAT is a two-hour computer-based test which assesses a range of mental abilities identified by university medical and dental schools as important. It consists of five separately timed subtests which each contain a number of questions in a multiple-choice format.

RESULTS
You will get the results when you exit the testing room on the day of your test.

FURTHER INFORMATION
www.ukcat.ac.uk/ukcat-test

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTS
At CATS, we provide five hours of English language tuition each week to develop your language skills and help prepare for an English language exam, either the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or Cambridge English suite of exams.

THE INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM (IELTS)
IELTS measures the language proficiency of people who want to study or work where English is used as a language of communication. Typically 7.5 is the minimum IELTS score for those wishing to study a healthcare-related subject at a UK university, although each institution has their own criteria.

TEST FORMAT
The IELTS test assesses your abilities in listening (30 mins), reading (60 mins), writing (60 mins) and speaking (11-14 mins). The listening, reading and writing components of IELTS are completed on the same day. The speaking component is completed up to a week before or after the other tests.

RESULTS
IELTS results will be available 13 days after the test is taken and can be previewed online.

FURTHER INFORMATION
www.ielts.org/

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH
The Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) and Proficiency (CPE) are exams aimed at test takers with advanced English. They are thorough and challenging exams that are well respected worldwide and are accepted by all UK universities.

TEST FORMAT
The CAE and CPE test English across four skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. As part of the reading test there is a ‘use of English’ section which drills down into grammatical and word-use knowledge.

RESULTS
The computer-based test results are available within two weeks, while the paper-based test takes six weeks. Results are reported in grades A, B and C, and the certificate gives a detailed breakdown of the various component test scores on the Cambridge Scale of English.

FURTHER INFORMATION
www.cambridgeenglish.org/
OUR CAMPUSES

CATS Education has three international boarding schools located in the UK – Cambridge, Canterbury and London. All schools offer state-of-the-art facilities from science labs to art studios and fully catered modern en-suite accommodation. You will have the opportunity to make friends from over 80 countries around the world. Pastoral and boarding staff are experts in helping you settle in and gain the most from these stunning locations.
STUDENT DESTINATIONS
From 2012 to 2017, 173 CATS students progressed to study medicine or health-related degrees. 163 students went to UK universities, 10 students went to universities in other countries including the USA, Spain and Japan.

76% of all Medicine and health-related pathway students progressed to a Russell Group university.

Russell Group universities taught 80% of doctors and dentists trained in the UK in 2015-16.

THE RUSSELL GROUP
The Russell Group represents 24 leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector.

POPULAR LIFE SCIENCES SUBJECTS
CATS students chose the following subject degrees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDICINE</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHARMACY</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEUROSCIENCE</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTHER DEGREES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
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<td>Biology</td>
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<td>Chemistry</td>
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<td>Veterinary Medicine</td>
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<td>Natural Sciences</td>
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<td>Veterinary Medicine</td>
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<td>Veterinary Medicine</td>
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</table>

19 OF THE 24 following Russell Group universities:

Cardiff University
Durham University
Imperial College London
King's College London
Newcastle University
Queen Mary, University of London
Queen's University Belfast
University College London
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Edinburgh
University of Leeds
University of Liverpool
University of Manchester
University of Nottingham
University of Sheffield
University of Warwick
University of York

OTHER DESTINATIONS INCLUDE:

Exeter University
Keele University
University of Bath
University of Surrey
Royal Holloway University of London

STUDENT PROGRESSIONS
All of the UK’s top 40 universities have accepted CATS UK students.

FAVOUR’S STORY
"For an international student to get into Nursing it is very hard. The Higher Education officer really helped in my application. She found universities I could apply to as a foundation programme student. She was extremely helpful throughout and is still very happy to help. She is very proud of me."

Name: Favour Osahioria Adoghe
Nationality: Nigerian
Studied: University Foundation Programme at CATS Cambridge
Destination: Keele University
Course: Nursing

Name: Vladislav Murzakov
Nationality: Cypriot
Studied: A level at CATS Cambridge
Destination: St George’s University, London
Course: Medicine

Name: Ana Alina Haiduc
Nationality: Romanian
Studied: A level at CATS Cambridge
Destination: St George’s University, London
Course: Medicine

Name: Natasha Low
Nationality: Singaporean
Studied: A level at CATS London
Destination: University College Dublin
Course: Chemistry
OUR SUMMER PROGRAMMES

Try one of our exciting medic short courses. After completing one of these courses, if you enrol on one of our one or two-year healthcare pathway programmes the following year, we will refund your summer school fees.

MEDICINE TASTER PROGRAMME
CANTERBURY, REGISTER NOW FOR JULY

You will learn about the world of medicine, gain a headstart in your university applications, discover different medical career options and understand what is required in your UKCAT and BMAT preparation. This course will also help you to define which subjects to commit to at A level, International Baccalaureate or Foundation.

Meet with industry professionals
Introduction to Oxbridge, Russell Group universities and medical schools
Mock interviews
University open days and tours
Academic study
Skills workshops
Social programmes

Try one of our exciting medic short courses. After completing one of these courses, if you enrol on one of our one or two-year healthcare pathway programmes the following year, we will refund your summer school fees.

*If you enrol on one of our full-time pathway programmes the following year.

FOR SPECIALIST ADVICE CONTACT:

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T: +44 (0)1223 345 698
F: +44 (0)1223 346 181
E: admissions@catseducation.com
www.catseducation.com

CATS Education is part of Cambridge Education Group

FREE SUMMER COURSE* subject to terms and conditions

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CAMBRIDGE
studentservices@catscambridge.com

CANTERBURY
studentservices@catscanterbury.com

LONDON
studentservices@catslondon.com

*If you enrol on one of our full-time pathway programmes the following year.

FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

Facebook
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Instagram
LinkedIn