

DOCTOR



“ Medicine offers something to suit everyone interested in helping their community and making a difference. The rewards repay many times the hard work and commitment. ”

DOCTOR

Doctors are responsible for the diagnosis, care and treatment of illnesses, diseases, infections and well-being of people. They may work in a variety of settings such as in a hospital or as a family doctor (GP). Hospital doctors can go on to specialise in particular areas such as histopathology, psychiatry and paediatrics, or various branches of surgery such as cardiothoracic or trauma and orthopaedics.

Learning to be a doctor involves a long and demanding course of study. It can take a minimum of 9 years to train as a general practitioner (GP) and 12 years before a doctor is suitably qualified to apply for a post as a hospital consultant.

Within the practice of medicine itself, there are over 60 different specialties; your medical training will give you the opportunity to discover which appeals to you most.

Broadly speaking, the specialties fall into the following groups:

Medical specialties cover most of the conditions for which people are admitted to hospital. Roles range from accident and emergency medicine to clinical genetics. Many specialties focus on particular organs such as the heart (cardiology) or disease processes such as cancers (oncology).

Surgical specialties Surgeons specialise in operating on particular parts of the body, or to address specific injuries, diseases or degenerative conditions.

General Practice GPs (General Practitioners) are the first point of contact with the health service for most people. They provide a complete spectrum of care within the local community: dealing with problems that often combine physical, psychological and social components. They increasingly work in teams with other professions, helping patients to take responsibility for their own health.

Paediatrics and Child Health Paediatricians diagnose and provide treatment for babies, infants, children and adolescents who have medical problems. They are also experts in normal child growth, development and feeding.

Obstetrics and Gynaecology Obstetricians and gynaecologists give specialised medical treatment and advice related to the female reproductive system. Obstetrics involves caring for women during pregnancy, particularly if this is complicated.

Pathology Pathologists specialise in the detection of disease through the use of a variety of investigative techniques. Their work is vital in finding an accurate and timely diagnosis - improving the prospects for successful treatment. Those involved in infectious diseases play an important role in identifying sources of disease and reducing the possible risks of further spread.

Psychiatry Psychiatrists specialise in mental ill health: a priority in today's health service, with new services being developed to support acute and community care.

Skills Required:

Medicine includes a wide range of people, working in very varied roles. Some personal qualities you may need to draw on include a concern for people, an enquiring mind, an interest in people, a rational approach, an open mind, imagination, ability to handle pressure, hard work, determination and decisiveness.

Training Programme:

Degrees: MB, BCH, BAO

Queen's University Belfast School of Medicine undergraduate full-time five year programme

Entry Qualifications:

The grades required are likely to be AAA at A-Level + A (AS level) including A-level Chemistry. A maximum of 6 VCE units will be counted.

GCE A-Levels: Chemistry + one from Biology, Maths or Physics (NB only 1 mathematics subject will be counted at A-Level and General Studies is not acceptable).

GCE AS Level: Biology is required and a non-science is recommended

GCSE: Mathematics and either Physics or Double Award Science if not offered to AS or A-Level.

The GCSE threshold varies from year to year according to supply and demand.

Career Pathway:

On completion of registration, the graduate is ready to undertake further postgraduate training in his or her chosen area of interest. The medical degree provides the basis for opportunities in Primary Care, Hospital Medicine, Community Medicine, Academic Medicine and other areas of practice.

Postgraduate training in Northern Ireland is organised by the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA).

Professional Recognition:

Possession of the degree of MB BCH BAO entitles the holder to be provisionally registered with the General Medical Council. To conform with the regulations laid down by the General Medical Council, all graduates who intend to practise in the United Kingdom are required to spend 12 months in approved Pre-Registration House Officer posts. Such posts in Medicine and Surgery and related specialities are available in Northern Ireland but training posts elsewhere may be acceptable to the University. On satisfactory completion of this Pre-Registration year, doctors are fully registered with the General Medical Council. A further period of postgraduate medical training is dependent on the area of medical practice and usually extends from 4-8 years.

How to Apply:

For undergraduate full-time programme, application should be made through Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Web Links:

Queen's University Belfast – www.qub.ac.uk

General Medical Council - www.gmc-uk.org

British Medical Association - www.bma.org.uk

NIMDTA - www.nimdt.com

To find out more

Tel

Fax

email

