



MBChB and Foundation Year for Medicine – Admissions & Selection

Supplement to Edge Hill University Admissions Policy

Introduction

The MBChB programme at Edge Hill University aims to develop a new generation of doctors who have patient safety at the core of their practice. Graduates from the programme will understand the needs of the local communities they serve and will respond appropriately to drive forward new models of patient care. As a whole, the ethos of the Medical School aligns closely with the University's core values of celebrating diversity and of engagement with the local region, building on its commitment to widening access from local communities and its substantial expertise in providing high quality postgraduate medical and healthcare education to the benefit its local communities. Alongside an emphasis on biomedical science, therapeutics and diagnostic skills, exposure to general medicine / surgery and a range of hospital specialties, our curriculum promotes a greater understanding of the health and social care needs of our communities, the role of prevention and the diverse environments in which patients receive health care. By embedding resilience, medical leadership and professionalism and emphasizing preparedness for practice, it aims to develop doctors who will make a major contribution to healthcare services of today and tomorrow.

Edge Hill University is committed to widening access to medicine. The Foundation Year for Medicine programme is designed to facilitate and support this. Students who successfully complete the Foundation Year for Medicine will progress onto the five year MBChB programme (subject to GMC approval). As such, the selection and admissions processes for the Foundation Year for Medicine are similar to those for the MBChB.

Aim - Selection and Admission

The Edge Hill University Medical School aims to have a selection process which is open, fair and consistent. Our admission process aligns to Health Education England's Values-based Recruitment Framework and is informed by the Medical Schools Councils 'Selecting for Excellence' report. During the process of selection, we will carefully consider students who demonstrate the ability, character, attributes and values to become doctors who deliver excellent patient-centred, competent, compassionate, effective and safe care.

In considering all applicants, the Medical School will take into account the General Medical Council's standards in Outcomes for Graduates (2018) and the guidelines on Medical Students: Professional Behaviour and Fitness to Practise.

Selection and admission of students aligns to the Edge Hill University Equality and Diversity policy www.edgehill.ac.uk/documents/equality-diversity-policy/.

The selection and admissions criteria will be reviewed annually by The Edge Hill Medical School Admissions Team. The admissions team will comprise of the Admissions Tutor, experienced academic / clinically qualified staff and the wider University Admissions Team.

All those involved in the selection process will have Equality and Diversity training prior to any involvement. Those involved in selection will include those from health, clinical, academic and lay backgrounds.

UCAS

Applications for both the Foundation Year for Medicine and the MBChB should be made via UCAS. The closing date for application for September 2019 is 15th October 2018, for example. Applications made after this date will not normally be considered.

Actual or predicted academic grades must be clearly stated on the UCAS form. Whilst the personal statement and academic reference are not routinely used in selection for interview and offer of a place they may be used to differentiate between borderline candidates. Only information provided on the UCAS form can be considered and will receive an automatic acknowledgement email. Incomplete forms will not normally be considered. We will not consider any applications sent directly to the Medical School.

Additional Requirements

1. University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

All candidates are required to undertake the UCAT prior to application to either the Foundation Year for Medicine or the MBChB. UCAT scores can only be used to support an application in the year they were achieved. Further detail may be obtained from www.ucat.ac.uk. If candidates are reapplying they will need to sit the UCAT test again. We will be unable to consider applications to the Edge Hill University Medical School without the completion of a year relevant UCAT. The UCAT Consortium offer a bursary for some candidates. Applications should be made via the UCAT website: <https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/bursary-scheme/>. Prior to undertaking the test, candidates are advised to make full use of the UCAT preparation resources available for example at: <https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/practice-tests/candidate-advice/>.

2. Fitness to Practice

The primary aim of The Foundation Year for Medicine is to prepare students for progression onto the MBChB programme. As such, applicants for both the Foundation Year for Medicine and the MBChB must align with the fitness to practice requirements of the General Medical Council: www.gmc-uk.org/. These requirements are designed to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of the public, maintain public confidence in the medical profession and ensure proper professional standards and conduct for members of the profession.

It is essential that any issues which may prevent future registration are declared at the time of application. For example, this includes health, disability or criminal conduct. Whilst such declarations will not be taken into consideration in the initial stages of selection, any offers made will be subject to appropriate clearance as detailed below. Applications should be completed as honestly as possible and without omissions. The University reserves the right to withdraw any offer of interview or place on the MBChB programme if it becomes aware of any dishonesty or failure to disclose.

3. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

Applicants must disclose any criminal convictions, reprimands, warnings, cautions or fixed penalty notices on their UCAS application form. Whilst such disclosures are not taken into consideration during the initial selection stage, all applicants should be aware that any offers made will be subject to satisfactory DBS enhanced screening. Here, applicants must meet the mandatory requirement: 'Clearance to Work with Children and/or Vulnerable Adults'. If a DBS outcome shows no disclosures, the University will confirm an offer subject to any outstanding medical / academic requirements.

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The information supplied herein is supplemental to the standard admissions criteria.

See: <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/documents/files/admissions-policy.pdf>

If any disclosures are evident, a panel will be conferred as detailed in the Edge Hill University Admissions Policy to assess whether it / they impact(s) on the applicant's fitness to practice. The panel may ask for additional information from the candidate to help inform their final decision. Final offers are conditional upon satisfactory fitness to practice completion.

Applicants should be aware that the GMC will also require disclosure at the time of GMC registration and will investigate as appropriate. Edge Hill University cannot predict or preempt any decision of GMC in relation to any such disclosures at the time of registration with them. Candidates are directed to the Edge Hill University Admissions Policy for further information about DBS: <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/documents/files/admissions-policy.pdf>

4. Disability and Medical Conditions

Applicants who have a disability or medical condition that may impact on their fitness to practice should disclose this on their UCAS application. Such disclosure has no impact on the selection process. The University will consider requests for reasonable adjustments for any candidates selected for interview to allow them to participate in the interview process.

All offers are subject to satisfactory health clearance. All candidates made a provisional offer will be required to complete a Declaration of Health questionnaire including immunisation history. Candidates may be contacted by the University's nominated Occupational Health Service provider and / or be required to attend an appointment with them to assess their fitness to practice. The University will assess whether any disability or medical condition will impact negatively on their ability to meet the requirements of the course and the GMC's 'Outcomes for Graduates'. Final offers are conditional upon satisfactory medical-based fitness to practice.

5. Occupational Health

Those applicants who confirm their offer will be required to complete and submit a confidential University health screening form. The information provided will be assessed by the Occupational Health Service at Edge Hill University and this will include immunisation status (e.g. hepatitis B). Further to the assessment, medical students will be required to fulfil any requirements identified to ensure suitability for undertaking / completing the programme(s). Potential also exists for an Occupational Health Assessment to be conducted prior to commencement on the Foundation Year for Medicine / MBChB programme(s). This process will confirm fitness to proceed and will help to highlight requirements for support as necessary.

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6. Minimum Age

Candidates for both the Foundation Year for Medicine and MBChB must be at least 18 years old on the date the programme starts.

Entry Requirements

Academic entry requirements are stated on the University's website:

- Foundation Year for Medicine: <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/courses/medicine/>
- MBChB: <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/courses/mbchb/>

Graduate Entry

1. Foundation Year for Medicine

We will not accept applications from graduates onto the Foundation Year for Medicine. Applications from mature students are welcomed. There is no requirement for the academic qualifications in the entry criteria to have been completed in the past two years.

2. MBChB Programme

Applications will be accepted from graduates who have studied a science related degree including Psychology which has been awarded within 2 years of application, or have undertaken postgraduate study within 2 years of application. Candidates must also have achieved ABB at A level to include A in Chemistry or Biology and one other subject. General Studies and Critical Reasoning will not be accepted. There is no graduate entry point onto the MBChB. Graduates will be required to undertake the full programme.

We will consider applications from students who are in the early stages of another non-medical degree programme and wish to withdraw before the end of their degree programme and / or have not completed a previous degree, as long they meet the standard entry criteria. Applicants should detail the circumstances relating to this and provide an academic reference from their last university. Whilst this will not be taken into consideration in the initial selection stages it will be considered before an offer is made. No recognition of prior learning will be considered on this basis.

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We do not consider applications from candidates who have previously started a medical degree but who have failed to progress and withdrawn from this. Any offers made will be subject to satisfactory fitness to practise, which is declared by the applicant and via satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Enhanced Disclosure. Edge Hill University may verify fitness to practise by sharing applicant's details with the Medical Schools Council for checking against the Medical Schools Council Excluded students' database.

3. Transfers from other medical programmes

We will not accept applications from students who wish to transfer from other medical programmes. Deferred entry will not be offered to applicants for the 2019 or 2020 entry of Foundation Year for Medicine, or for the 2020 entry of MBChB. Applicants will be advised to undertake a full re-application for the subsequent year should they wish to defer. Applications from mature students will be accepted. We cannot currently accept applications from international students.

Widening Participation (WP)

We are committed to support and encourage widening participation to our undergraduate medical programme (MBChB). Candidates who meet specific widening participation criteria and have UCAT scores in the top 200 of those who apply to the MBChB at Edge Hill University will automatically be invited to interview as long as they do not score in band 4 in the Situational Judgement Test.

Widening participation criteria is stated on the Edge Hill University website:

- Foundation Year for Medicine:

<https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/courses/medicine/tab/entry-criteria/>

Applicants are required to provide details regarding how any checked widening participation criteria are met within their UCAS application and will be expected to provide evidence of this at a future date, prior to offer.

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Selection Processes

The selection processes for the Foundation Year for Medicine and the MBChB are aligned. This involves 3 stages, detailed below:

Stage 1 - Application screening against the standard eligibility and academic criteria

All applications will be screened to determine whether they meet the standard eligibility and academic criteria. Applications that do not meet the minimum eligibility and academic criteria will not be progressed to the next stage. All applications which meet the minimum eligibility and academic criteria for the programme applied for will be progressed onto the next stage. Applications to the Foundation Year for Medicine must meet the widening participation criteria for eligibility.

Stage 2 – UCAT ranking

Applicants who meet the minimum eligibility and academic criteria will be ranked according to their UCAT scores. A UCAT threshold will be set depending on the number of interviews to be held. The number of interviews to be held will be set each year prior to the admissions cycle. Applicants who meet the UCAT threshold will be invited to interview. The UCAT threshold set by the University may differ from year to year as it is dependent on the scores achieved by those who apply to us in each admissions cycle and the number of places available on each programme. The threshold is based on the total UCAT score. Any candidate scoring within band 4 in the Situational Judgement Test will be automatically rejected.

Stage 3 – Multiple Mini Interviews

All candidates who progress from stage 2 will be required to attend interview. The interview will take the form of Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) which will assess a range of skills and attributes including the following (mapped onto Good Medical Practice):

- Motivation for wanting to join the MBChB programme at Edge Hill University
- Verbal communication skills
- Integrity/probity
- Teamwork/leadership
- Empathy and compassion
- Awareness of current health challenges
- Ethical awareness

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- Awareness of self and others
- Prioritization/decision making
- Interpretation of data

A score will be given for performance at each MMI station and individual scores combined. Applicants will be ranked according to their overall MMI score and offers made to the top students.

Offers will be made to candidates who have the highest combined scores subject to satisfactory references. No offers will be made without an interview. The personal statement and reference will be used to allow us to distinguish between borderline applicants. Final offers are subject to appropriate DBS and health clearance (i.e. fitness to practice). Offers may also be subject to academic achievement conditions.

The Foundation Year for Medicine and MBChB are small programmes. For 2019 start there will be approximately 15 places available on the Foundation Year for Medicine. There will be a total of 30 places available on MBChB each year, this includes those who progress from the Foundation Year for Medicine. The top scoring students will be made offers soon after the interviews. Some applicants will be rejected and others who meet an agreed threshold of performance at interview will be put on a reserve list. These students may be made offers at a later stage, but this will depend on the conversion rate of offers to firm acceptances. We cannot control the acceptance of offers by candidates but this does affect our ability to make final decisions on some other candidates. Final decisions relating to the reserve list will be made on the A Level results date, or during Clearing if applicable, at which time all outstanding applicants will be contacted and advised that entry to the programme has closed.

Clearing

In the event that places become available in August, applicants on the reserve list will be given priority consideration, subject to meeting the minimum academic criteria and UCAT threshold relating to this cohort. Should we need to reopen the course to late applicants through Clearing, suitable candidates will be invited to attend an interview which will be subject to the same MMI criteria as applied during the main UCAS application cycle.

Feedback

Applicants who attend interview but who are not offered a place can request feedback regarding their performance. This must be requested in writing by the candidate. Edge Hill University cannot enter into any correspondence / communication relating to an individual's application with anyone other than the individual themselves, unless given explicit permission to do so in writing by the individual in question.

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Only general feedback on performance will be supplied, scores from individual MMI stations will not be released. Edge Hill University will not enter into discussion relating to the professional judgement underlying the scoring at interview. Feedback will not be given until all interviews have finished and offers made.

Re-application and re-sits

Unsuccessful candidates are welcome to re-apply the following year provided they meet all application criteria at the time of re-application. We accept applications from those who have re-sat GCSE's or A levels (or equivalent) either with or without mitigation. We will not accept mitigating circumstances in lieu of appropriate entry requirements. All applicants must meet minimum entry requirements. Candidates who feel that mitigating circumstances may impact on their A Level (or equivalent) results must inform their education provider and examination board as soon as possible for appropriate action; and provide Edge Hill University with evidence of this communication.

Applicants invited to interview with mitigating circumstances which they feel may influence their ability to perform at interview should contact the Medical School as soon as possible and always before interview. We will not accept any retrospective information about mitigating circumstances relating to interview performance.

Edge Hill University reserves the right to request additional information relating to mitigation.

GMC Approval

Candidates should be aware that the Foundation Year for Medicine does not normally lead to an award or qualification in its own right. Successful completion of the Foundation Year for Medicine at the required pass mark enables progression onto the five-year MBChB medical programme at Edge Hill University. Undergraduate medical education delivered by all universities is subject to a GMC approval process. The MBChB programme at Edge Hill University is due to complete the required stages of that process for September 2020 entry. The University of Liverpool is acting as the contingency medical school and supporting Edge Hill University through all stages of the GMC approval process.

Post- graduation

Candidates should be aware that, upon graduating with an MBChB, they must currently apply to the GMC to obtain a licence to practice medicine in the UK. Initially students will apply for provisional registration with the GMC. The GMC has a legal obligation to make sure that they only register doctors whose fitness to practise is not impaired. Candidates should be aware that they will be required to declare that they are fit to practice medicine as part of this application process.

Provisional GMC registration with a licence to practice allows doctors to work in approved Foundation F1 posts. The law does not allow provisionally registered doctors to work in service posts. The Foundation Programme is a two-year generic training programme which forms the bridge between medical school and specialist / general practice training. Students need to apply for a Foundation Year 1 post during the final year of the MBChB through the UK Foundation Programme Office selection scheme, which allocates these posts to graduates on a competitive basis. All suitably qualified UK graduates have found a place on the Foundation Year 1 programme, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Doctors can hold provisional registration with the GMC for up to three years and 30 days. After successful completion of the Foundation programme they can apply for full GMC registration. Candidates should consult the GMC website for further details (www.gmc-uk.org/).

The GMC has indicated that it will introduce a Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA) from 2022. This is to demonstrate that those who obtain registration with a licence to practise medicine in the UK meet a common threshold for safe practice. Applicants should be aware that to obtain registration with a licence to practise, medical students will need to pass both parts of the MLA, pass university finals and demonstrate their fitness to practise. The MLA will be in two parts: there will be a knowledge test, which will be set and run by the GMC, and an assessment, delivered by medical schools, that will evaluate students' clinical and professional skills.

Candidates should be aware that regulations may change and should consult the GMC website for further details and for any updated information (www.gmc-uk.org/).

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