



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**BUCKINGHAM**  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Undergraduate  
Prospectus



**Welcome to the University of Buckingham and the UK's first independent Medical School.**

**Join us as a medical student and you will help transform British medical education as you learn to be a doctor in our progressive, supportive Medical School. Small enough for you to feel part of a coherent community, but large enough to provide all the experience and support you need, our Medical School is suited to both UK students and those from overseas, and there is no cap on overseas numbers.**

Our condensed four-and-a-half year course is derived from the successful programme at Leicester, and will help you to reach the 'Outcomes for Graduates' prescribed by the General Medical Council. On graduation you will be competent and safe to start work as a doctor and have professional attitudes and behaviours to ensure that

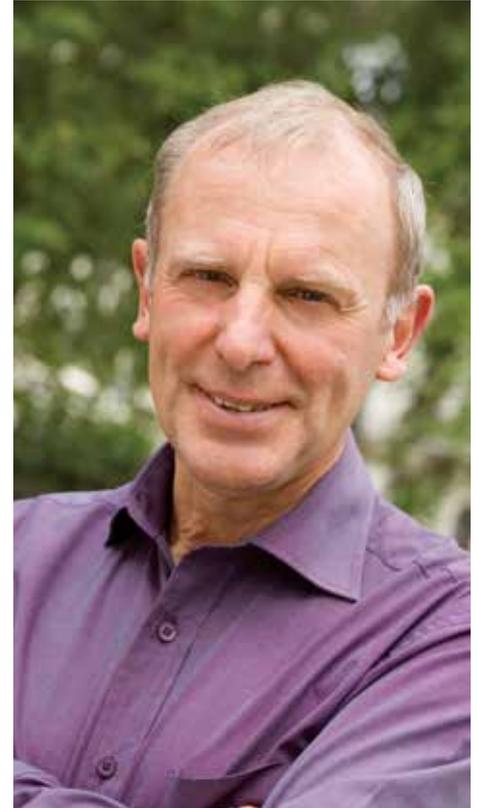
you put the interests of patients first and foremost in your clinical work.

The University is in the historic town of Buckingham, with first class clinical facilities at the busy nearby hospitals of Milton Keynes, Bedford and St Andrew's Healthcare Centre in Northampton, and excellent local general practices.

Our determination to put the student first has seen Buckingham develop an enviable reputation for student satisfaction over the years. At our University, your education is our top priority, just as in the future we expect you to put the interests of patients as your top priority.

I look forward to seeing you.

**Professor Karol Sikora MA, MBBChir, PhD, FRCR, FRCP, FFPM, Founding Dean of Medicine**



# The MB ChB Programme

**Our MB ChB programme is designed to help you develop into a competent, safe and caring doctor well equipped to progress in your chosen career.**

Every aspect of our curriculum is engineered to help you develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to practise medicine. You will learn how to be an effective doctor through an integrated combination of study at the University and extensive clinical experience in our partner organisations.

Your first two years (Phase 1) are a combination of work at the University and clinical work in General Practice and Hospital, so that by the time you enter Phase 2 (the remaining two and a half years) you are ready to learn through full time clinical work.

## **Phase 1**

Phase 1 consists of a series of integrated



and interdisciplinary units mostly based around the systems of the body and all presented in a clinical context. You will learn how to apply a wide range of topics to your clinical work, from basic biomedical sciences to social and behavioural medicine. We will help you to learn actively through coordinated sequences of lectures, work in small groups, self study and clinical work. By the end of Phase 1 you will be able to communicate effectively with patients, examine them clinically, and have a sufficient understanding of how the body works in health and disease to embark

on full time clinical work.

## **Phase 2**

Phase 2 is about building on the foundations of Phase 1 through intensive work with patients and doctors in the clinical environment. Over a series of themed blocks you will be given a structured exposure to all aspects of medicine in both the hospital and the community. The first six blocks are organised around the systems of the body. The second six are organised around systems of care. You will develop the practical skills you need as a doctor through structured training, first in simulated environments and then with real patients. Finally you will work alongside junior doctors as an 'assistant', to hone your skills before you are ready for work as a new doctor.

The placements will take place in hospitals and general practices, especially the large and well-equipped

hospital in Milton Keynes. In keeping with the Buckingham ethos, the ratio of students to clinical teachers and patients will be kept low, so you will have the best chance to interact with a wide variety of patients and the doctors will have time to teach you well.

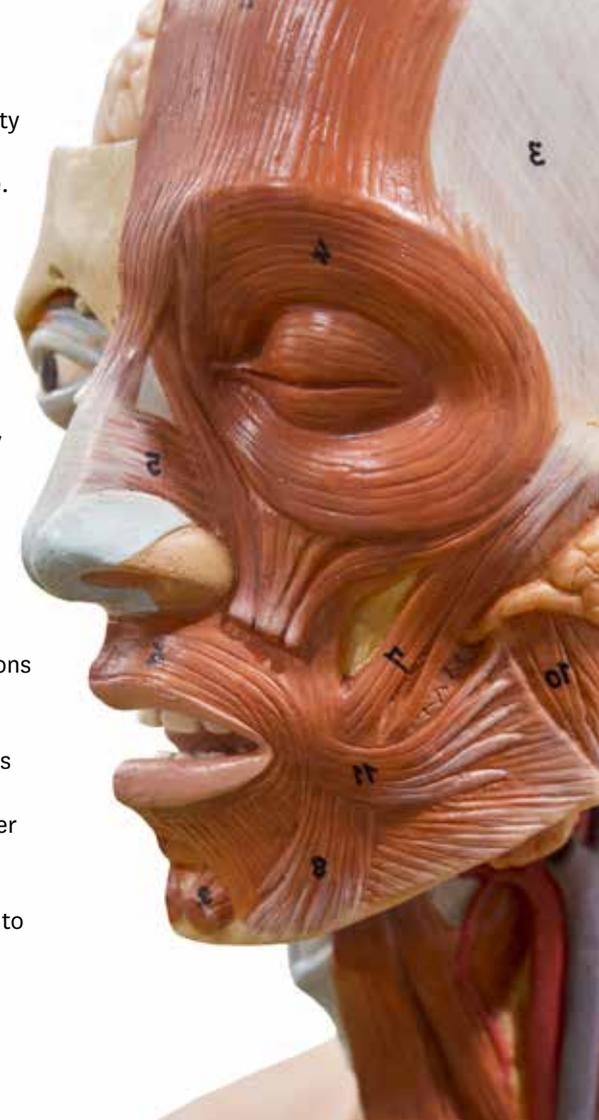
### **Assessment**

We will assess your progress rigorously throughout the course, so that you, the Medical School, and the public can be confident that you are meeting the high standards required of a doctor. There will be a combination of written examinations, structured clinical examinations, and the use of an e-portfolio of evidence of progress, all chosen to make the most valid and reliable tests of your abilities. We will monitor your overall progress carefully and aim to provide feedback and support that will enable you to rectify rapidly any problems you may encounter. Ultimately, however, it is up to you to put in the energy and commitment necessary to prosper on the course and succeed in the assessments. We can support you, but we cannot do it for you.

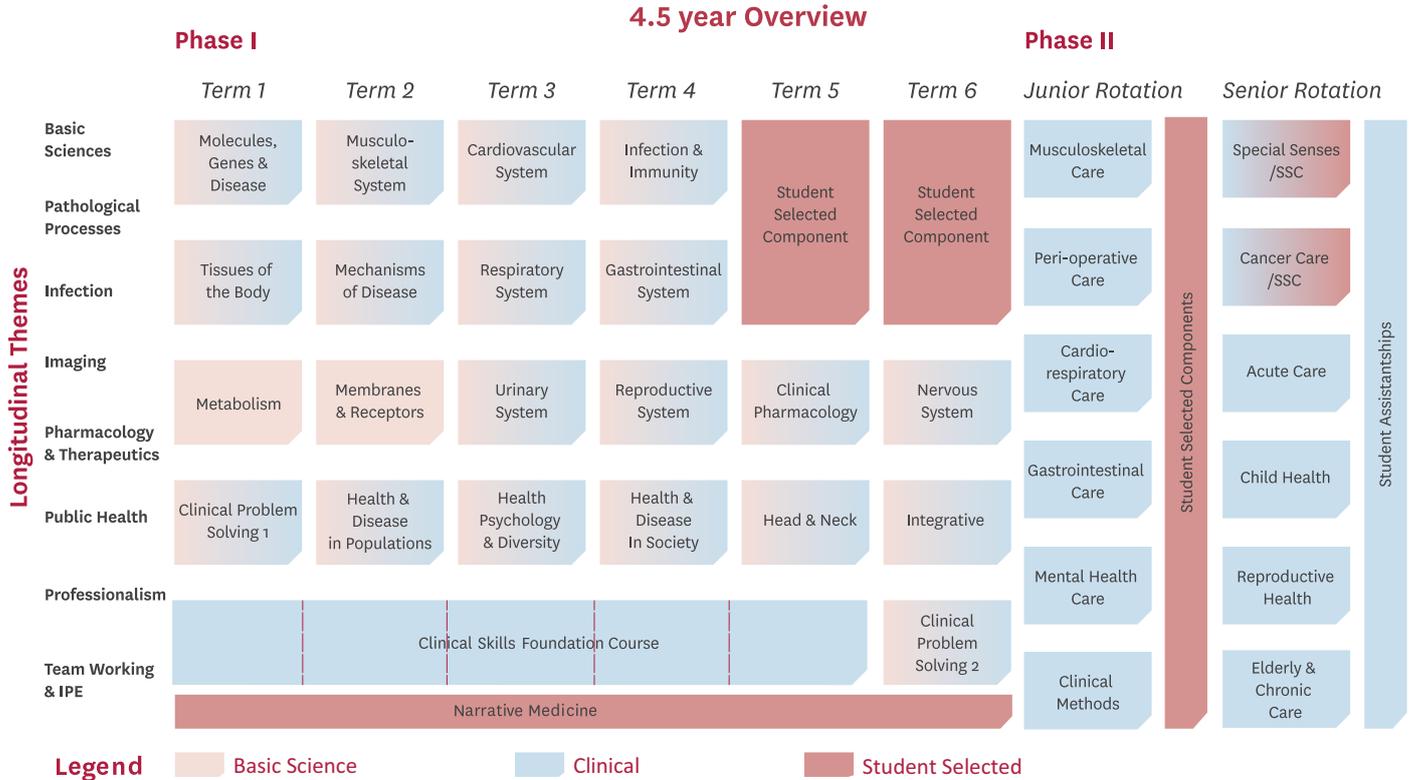
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### **Fitness To Practise**

The Medical School has a responsibility to future patients to ensure that all graduates are fit to practise medicine. This means that you must have the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes tested through examination and that your behaviour, conduct or health will not put patients at risk. Entry to the course is therefore contingent on a satisfactory criminal record check and a health check. Any student whose academic progress, health, conduct or attitudes give cause for concern during the course will be identified and managed actively through a 'concerns process'. Mostly issues are resolved satisfactorily but there will be occasions where the concerns are such as to bring 'Fitness To Practise' into doubt. In such cases there is a formal 'Fitness To Practise' Procedure, with external involvement that will consider whether a student must leave the course. A student deemed unfit to practise by these procedures will not be allowed to graduate from the MB ChB.



# 4.5 Year Overview



# Facilities



**In order to give our medical students the best possible environment to work in, we have undertaken a £3,000,000 refurbishment of our historic Chandos Road building to house the University of Buckingham Medical School.**

The Medical School occupies a prominent site on the main University campus. The building was formally a steam car factory and then a milk processing factory before it was acquired by the University, and hints of its industrial heritage have been preserved in our renovation and conversion. In addition to a 100-seat lecture theatre, flexible seminar rooms with state of the art audio-visual systems and anatomy and clinical skills labs, we have allocated social and self-study space. All of our course materials will be provided on iPads which can also be used to access our excellent resources in anatomy and histology.

# Applying to Buckingham

Applications for the MB ChB programme can be made directly via our online application form or through UCAS.

You can access the online application form under “Apply Here” on our website: <http://medvle.buckingham.ac.uk/>

The UCAS code for the MB ChB is: 71A8

In order to ensure your application is handled swiftly, please remember to include any supporting documents requested.

## Entry Requirements

Our entry requirements are reviewed on a yearly basis. Please refer to our website for up-to-date qualifications: <http://medvle.buckingham.ac.uk/>

All students must have reached the age of 18 by the end of their first term of study.



Please note that transfers from other undergraduate science or medicine programmes cannot be accepted. We will also not accept students who have previously enrolled in or studied an undergraduate medical programme.

### **International Applicants**

Please refer to our website for a list of international qualifications that we accept: <http://medvle.buckingham.ac.uk/>

Non-native English speakers should obtain at least 7.5 overall and at least 7.0 in each component of the IELTS before they can be invited to Selection.

### **Fees**

The University of Buckingham is a not-for-profit educational charity that receives no government subsidies. Students must therefore fund the full cost of their tuition which is invested fully into providing a first class medical education and student experience.

Current fees can be found on the website.

### **Important Information for Applicants**

The GMC is currently considering the introduction of a formal assessment that UK medical graduates would need to pass in order to be granted registration with a licence to practise. Although no final decision has been taken as to whether or when such an exam will be introduced, applicants should be aware that the GMC envisages that future cohorts of medical students may need to pass parts of a medical licensing assessment before the GMC will grant them registration with a licence to practise.

### **Application Deadlines**

UCAS applicants are subject to the standard UCAS deadlines. Direct applicants should visit the website for further information on application deadlines.

### **Open Days**

Please consult the website for a list of upcoming open days:  
[www.buckingham.ac.uk/open-days](http://www.buckingham.ac.uk/open-days)



# The Selection Process

The first stage in the selection process is the submission of your application. Candidates who meet the academic requirements will be invited to the second stage. The Selection Panel scrutinises all applications and makes a decision based on qualifications and predicted achievements as to whether the applicant is capable of meeting the course's academic challenges.

Students applying with 'equivalent qualifications' are advised that it is at the discretion of the Panel as to whether or not these will be recognised. Please contact the Admissions Officer for further information.

As much detail as possible should be included in the initial application.

## **Selection Day**

Applicants who are successful at the first stage will be invited to take part in a Selection Day. These are held at the

University several times a year. Being an excellent doctor requires more than academic excellence and during the Selection Day a variety of personal attributes and attitudes will be assessed. Candidates will complete up to 10 stations; each station is manned by an assessor who may be a practising hospital doctor or General Practitioner.

Each task lasts for seven minutes. Each station is scored separately and the total marks are then combined and candidates ranked according to overall performance. Offers will be made on the basis of this ranking.

## **Selection Day Tasks**

The tasks are designed to test empathy, communication skills with colleagues and future patients, comprehension and numerical skills relevant to the practice of medicine, analytical skills, manual skills and team-working.

Examples of station types are indicated





below. The University reserves the right to use such stations as it chooses and this list is neither exhaustive nor exclusive.

A variety of different stations designed to test the same attribute to the same standard may be used on any day.

**Communication Skills:**

- Observed interaction with an actor simulating a patient with a challenging life history
- Structured interview that examines

your reaction to life events

- Structured questioning on a comprehension task

**Observation Skills:**

- Analysis of video recording of interactions between doctors and patients
- Abstracting salient features of a patient's story

**Comprehension and Numerical Skills:**

- Structured questioning on comprehension task

- Questions on calculations relevant to the practice of medicine (eg dose calculations)

**Manual Skills:**

- Test of ability to follow instructions for a simulated clinical procedure

**Team Working Skills:**

- Analysis of team functioning

*Actual tasks will vary from images*

# Life at Buckingham

## The Town

Buckingham is a small, vibrant market town set in the beautiful countryside of North Buckinghamshire. Within a relatively small area you will find an array of boutique shops and gourmet restaurants, as well as traditional English cafés and pubs.

Dating back to the 7th Century, Buckingham has an old-world charm that is as quaint as it is welcoming, and is the perfect place to unwind after a hard day's study.

There are also a number of nationally important places to visit around Buckingham. For those interested in culture and history, Stowe House and Gardens, Waddesdon Manor and Claydon House are all within easy travelling distance. For shopping enthusiasts, Bicester outlet village offers discounted luxury brands all year round. Silverstone Circuit, home of the British Grand Prix, is

also only a few miles away. And with good transport links to cities such as Oxford, Milton Keynes and London, Buckingham is ideally located for those who enjoy the perks of living in a small English town while never being too far away from city life.

## The University

Being one of the smallest universities in the UK, life at Buckingham has a very strong community feel. Our students often take it upon themselves to maintain a dynamic and active social life on campus. The Old Tanlaw Mill, home to the Students' Union, is always brimming with events such as open-mic nights, gaming tournaments, band jams, student quizzes and debates, as well as the weekly student parties.

With a number of student societies ranging from the traditional theatre, Music or Debating Societies to the less traditional Gaming, Poker or Photography







societies, we have something for everyone at Buckingham. If you feel that your interests are too niche and want to create a student society of your own, send us your proposal and we will happily review it.

We have students from over 90 different countries and the intercultural experience is a fundamental part of student life. Our cultural societies, which include the Caribbean, African, Chinese, Indian and Japanese societies,

celebrate cultural and national events to which all of our students are welcome. Sports enthusiasts will also fit right in at Buckingham. We have football, futsal, badminton, rugby, cricket and basketball teams, among others. Some of these, such as our football team, take part in local competitive leagues and our cheerleading team, the Buckingham Bullets, has won national competitions.

Our state-of-the-art gym is available to all our students for a nominal fee. It is

open for use every day of the week from 6am to midnight. Our Sports Officers will help you devise a training schedule to suit your specific needs.

We also offer training sessions for a number of disciplines on a termly basis. Whether you want to perfect your skills in tai chi, boxing, kendo or karate or learn to maintain physical and mental discipline in yoga, our trainers set up training schedules throughout the year.

# Student Support

Studying medicine can be an exacting experience. Our MB Chb Student Support Team is committed to help you meet this challenge and make your student life as rewarding and stress-free as possible.

Buckingham's 'student-first' ethos underpins our support structure, and we will provide you with academic and general guidance as well as individual learning support throughout your studies.

Our Student Support team, working alongside the University Student Welfare Department, will provide confidential support for whatever aspect of performance you are struggling with, and will offer extensive information on:

- Wellbeing
- Time management
- Registering with the local GP practice and dentist
- Sexual health
- Drug and alcohol-related issues



- Support in any individual and personal learning needs (the only time this information will be shared is if there is a Fitness to Practise or safety concern).

Our Student Support Team, Personal Tutor system and Pastoral Team form the

core of our support structure. Together with resources such as the Big White Wall (an online forum where you can anonymously talk to experts who can help you explore ways to manage your daily life), we aim to make your student experience a highly fulfilling one.

# Clinical Placements, Milton Keynes

Clinical placements for undergraduate MB ChB students will primarily be in Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, a medium sized acute hospital based on a centrally located single health campus.

The Hospital has around 500 beds and provides a broad range of general medical and surgical services, including A&E and maternity. The Trust is continually developing the facilities on the Hospital site to meet the needs of a growing and diverse population.

In addition to general acute services, Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is increasingly providing more specialist services. These include: cancer, cardiology, HIV and treating premature babies born locally and in the surrounding areas. The Trust has close ties to specialist centres, particularly Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Furthermore, Milton Keynes University Hospital Trust has a purpose built Post-Graduate Centre and a long history of providing training across all clinical disciplines and specialities.

## **Buckingham Students at Milton Keynes University Hospital**

There are over 120 consultants and more than 220 other doctors at the Hospital.

Students will be taught by clinical specialists in their field of medicine and placed within one of the clinical teams with day-to-day responsibility for patient care.

In conjunction with the first two years of teaching at Buckingham, students on placement at Milton Keynes University Hospital will benefit from small teaching groups ensuring a personalised teaching environment and a high level of individual attention.

Whilst at the Hospital, students will have the opportunity to participate in clinical activity both in outpatient and inpatient settings.

Students will be encouraged to take an active part in the life of the Hospital to ensure that they gain maximum benefit from their placement.

It is anticipated that students will have access to a new purpose-built education centre with facilities specifically designed to aid both practical and theoretical learning. This will include simulation suites, seminar rooms, a lecture theatre and study areas with internet access and librarian support.

The Hospital has a restaurant and coffee shops which students can use as part of the hospital team.



# Clinical Placements, St Andrew's



St Andrew's is the UK's leading charity providing specialist NHS care and is an independent national Teaching Hospital. Its Northampton site is the country's largest psychiatric hospital, with more than 500 beds. The Hospital's reputation has grown over 174 years and it has become a unique and influential

pioneer in mental health. Today it provides secure and open care for nearly 800 service users across four sites in Northampton, Birmingham, Essex and Nottinghamshire.

At St Andrew's you will gain clinical experience within highly specialist

services and clinical teams. Its leading academics and clinicians have outstanding international reputations. They are continually contributing to improvements in mental healthcare and to the growing reputation of St Andrew's as a world class teaching hospital.

# GP Training



Our students will rotate through Milton Keynes Hospital, the clinical skills laboratory in Buckingham and local GP surgeries throughout the Consultation Skills Foundation Unit in Phase 1.

During your time in GP practices, you will consolidate the consultation skills gained from examining simulated patients at the University and develop your communication skills. You will also follow the treatment of patients with chronic conditions over time.

As the Unit progresses, you will become increasingly adept at clinical examination and history taking, as well as improving practical skills in venepuncture and blood pressure measurement. Importantly, skills accumulated in other environments will be reinforced in a primary care setting.

You will also spend significant time in General Practice in Phase 2 of the course.

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