

UKWPMED (2026)

Widening participation in Medicine: A collaboration of UK Medical Schools

This collaboration provides an exciting opportunity for school leavers from socially and/or educationally under-represented backgrounds to improve their chances of gaining a place at one of the participating medical schools.

Advantage of the scheme for students

Eligible students will automatically receive an interview at any of the participating schools, and if successful at interview, will be given a reduced offer which is currently ABB (this may be subject to change so candidates are advised to check Medical School websites before applying).

Who can apply?

Any student who completes any of the WP Programmes from the table below:

Participating Medical Schools	WP Programme
Birmingham Medical School	Routes to the Professions: Medicine
Brighton and Sussex Medical School	BrightMed
HYMS	Pathways to Medicine
Keele University School of Medicine	Steps2Medicine
Leicester Medical School	https://le.ac.uk/study/schools-and-colleges/post-16/progression-programmes/access-leicester
Manchester Medical School	Manchester Access Programme Preston Widening Access Programme (for Medicine)
Peninsula Medical School	Peninsula Pathways

- Successful completion is defined by each WP programme.

- Applications may be made to one or more of the participating Medical Schools.
- The pre-A level academic requirements, for each school to which an application is made, must be met in full (Appendix 1).
- All students will be required to meet the UCAT requirements for each school (Appendix 1).

All applications for UKWPMED must be made through UCAS for 2026 entry.

How to Apply

The screenshots below show the section of your UCAS application where you must enter the relevant data which is in the [Extra activities](#) menu near the bottom of the side menu as shown in the screenshot.

- ✓ Personal details
- ✓ Contact and residency details
- ✓ Nationality details
- ✓ Supporting information
- ✓ English language skills
- ✓ Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion
- More about you
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Employment
- [Extra activities](#)
- ✓ Personal statement
- Reference

Add activity

Type of activity *

Masterclass/ subject insight

Activity provider *

UKWPMED

Name of the activity/programme *

List the WP programme you are taking part in here and the university this is in partnership with.

Characters used: 97 of 100 characters

Start date *

Day Month Year

DD MM YYYY

When you open this menu, you will see the screenshot below. This allows you to add activities. For UKWPMED we recommend that you enter <Masterclass/subject> insight into **Type of Activity**. Then select <UKWPMED> from the dropdown in **Activity provider**. Then in **Name of the activity/programme** you should give the name of the WP Programme as above. <e.g. Steps2Medicine>

Please note

By applying as part of UKWPMED through UCAS, you are consenting to allow each Medical School to check your eligibility by contacting the Medical School where you completed your WP programme.

This principle applies to any aspect of your application, which can be checked by the recipient universities.

Important information about the scheme

- The UKWPMED scheme as described here is open only to Medicine applicants who apply via the standard UCAS process in the 2025–2026 application cycle for 2026 entry or deferred entry in 2027.
- Medical Schools will only consider UKWPMED applicants who are eligible for Home (UK) fees, and each Medical School will follow their own procedures for determining this status.
- The scheme is only applicable to Medicine A100 (A106 at Manchester).
- Medical Schools may not consider applicants as part of the UKWPMED scheme if they have completed Year 13 at the time of application (check with medical school before applying).
- All Medical Schools will follow their own admissions procedures.
- An interview at one medical school does not guarantee an interview at another.
- Although the benefits of the scheme are largely similar between medical schools, there may be some differences.
- At Birmingham and HYMS, the benefits are contingent on a firm acceptance of an offer.

FAQs

I am enrolled on one of the above WP programmes, how can I get more information about UKWPMED?

The organisers of your WP programme should be able to give you advice about the scheme and answer any questions you might have.

I am a Year 11 student; how do I find out if I am eligible for one of the WP programmes?

These programmes normally cater for local widening participation students. If there is a programme local to you then use the links above to check your eligibility and who to contact.

If I am on the Keele Steps2Medicine course and I apply to Manchester, for example, will students on the Manchester WP programme get preferential treatment?

No, as part of the collaborative project, all students will get the same consideration whether they are from the host WP programme or from another.

I am doing a WP programme from a medical school that is not listed. Can I still apply to UKWPMED?

No, unfortunately we can only offer the benefits of the scheme to students from a participating university medical school WP programme.

We hope in time to add more schools to the collaboration. However, depending on your WP credentials, you might still get some benefits from the above medical schools. Check their websites for details.

I am considering a gap year; will I still be eligible for the scheme?

If you wish to take a gap year, either you should apply for deferred entry, or, if your application is successful, request that your offer is deferred.

For deferral requests received after an application is submitted, each medical school will consider those requests according to its own policy.

Do I need to advise each medical school in the scheme that I am applying as a UKWPMED candidate?

No, this will be picked up from your UCAS application.

What should I do if I think my WP programme has not been taken into consideration at one of the participating schools?

Speak to your WP programme organiser about it and if they agree that this is likely, then the medical school should be contacted to check what has happened.

What if I have to re-sit my level 3 qualifications (A levels)?

Each medical school has its own policy regarding resits. You will need to discuss with the medical school you are applying to whether they will be able to offer you any benefits under the scheme.

What happens if I apply to a medical school that is not part of the scheme?

You will not be entitled to the benefits of this scheme. However, depending on your WP credentials, they may be able to offer you some benefits. The details should be available on the website of the medical school.

Will the scheme continue in the future?

Each year, the programme will be reviewed and may change as a result. Also, the medical schools and WP programmes involved may change.

Will I have to attend for an interview?

All successful applicants to the scheme will have succeeded at interview. No applicant will be given a place without an interview.

Appendix 1: Pre A-Level academic requirements for application to UKWPMED medical schools

Medical School	GCSE	UCAT	Predicted A-levels	Other
Birmingham	A minimum of seven GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English language, maths, chemistry, and biology (or double-award science) at grades 7755 in any order	Has to be taken but no threshold score has to be achieved	BBB (to include biology and chemistry)	
Brighton & Sussex	Maths and English (language or literature) at grade 5 or higher	No cut off at present but must achieve at least band 3 in SJT	ABB to include biology and chemistry	
Hull York	6 GCSE grades 4-9 6 in English language 6 in maths	4 th decile or above in year of application SJT band 1,2,3	ABB predicted required with biology and chemistry	UKWPMED offers are only eligible for 1 application cycle. More information about entry requirements can be found here: https://www.hyms.ac.uk/medicine/entry-requirements/entry-requirements-medicine Will request evidence of contextual criteria via an online form sent shortly after the UCAS application deadline.
Keele	5× grade 6/B, including combined science or three separate sciences; minimum of grade 5/C in English language and maths	Minimum of 1,700 and SJT band 3	Predicted grades not used in selection	Will accept applications during year 13 or the following year but must not be currently enrolled on a university course
Leicester	Eng Lan, Maths & 2 Sciences at 6 or above	Can't be in bottom 2 deciles, SJT band 1,2,3	ABB (A must be in biology or chemistry)	Only available for 2026 entry, no longer part of consortium for 2027

Manchester	6 GCSEs at grade 7 or above (to include maths and English language at minimum grade 6).	UCAT total score in the 5 th decile (For example, in 2023, our reduced threshold was 2500) AND a band 1 or band 2 SJT score.	Studying three A-Level subjects or IB (we don't look at predicted grades) that meet our science subject requirements	
Plymouth	A minimum of seven GCSEs at grade 4 or above, to include English language, maths, and 2 sciences from biology, chemistry and physics or double-award science	No preset. SJT section not considered.	ABB at A level with A in biology and B in a second science from chemistry, physics, maths or psychology	

Warning If you apply to a medical school where you do not meet their requirements your application will be rejected.