

A FEW COMMENTS EARLY ON...

Students taking a degree program in this field need to have a great amount of passion and determination in order to succeed.

A career in medicine is very varied and there are hundreds of different types of doctor. One of the biggest advantages of studying medicine is the number of options open to you when you qualify.

Being a doctor is a big responsibility. The decisions you make and the way you interact with people can make a huge difference to people's lives, both good and bad. The hours can be long and the work can be emotionally and physically demanding.

It's a good idea to talk to lots of people about whether being a doctor is right for you. Discuss it with your friends and family, teachers or careers advisor to help you come to a decision. Also talk to any doctors that you know, maybe a relative, a family friend or even your own GP. Ask them what they most enjoy about their job, what they least enjoy and what advice they would give to someone thinking about becoming a doctor. However, the best way to find out if you really want to be a doctor is to do work experience.

HOW TO GET TO MEDICAL SCHOOL

- 1) A levels, have to be 2 sciences and usually chemistry, not lower than ABB predicted and usually higher. Some access courses if change of mind from non- science A levels.
- 2) Entrance exam... UKCAT test and BMAT- used by oxford and Cambridge and more academic courses or 4 year courses
- 3) Work experience... essential

Speak with people , shadow, ask if you can go and see / meet them . Talk to members of family or family contacts. Volunteer, GP surgeries (ask to have e mail or speak with practice manager) , hospitals, hospices, care homes etc.

Think about how you can demonstrate the following...

- YOU CAN WORK IN A TEAM
- YOU CAN GET ON WITH PEOPLE
- YOU HAVE WORKED IN A CARING ROLE (PAID OR VOLUNTARY)
- YOU HAVE SOME IDEA OF HOW THE NHS WORKS
- YOU HAVE LEADERSHIP SKILLS
- YOU HAVE BEEN IN A POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY
- YOU HAVE LOTS OF HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

What happens then :

FOUNDATION YEAR

The Foundation Programme consists of 2 years (F1 and F2) of work as a junior doctor.

SPECIALIST TRAINING

The GP training programme typically lasts for 3 years, whilst specialist training programmes typically last for 5 to 7 years.

Dr Helen Warwick BMed Sci. BM.BS. DRCOG. DCH. DFFP. MRCP. FRCGP(FBA)
Parkside Family Practice 224 Wokingham Road, Reading RG6 1JS