



UCAS



Dentistry, Medicine and Veterinary

The reality of becoming a doctor or a vet?

Once you have qualified you will be working long hours with a 24/7 duty rota which includes bank holidays and weekends. It is not a job you can just leave at the end of your shift. At times of emergency you are the front-line!

Plus, you will still need to study for your next rotation or promotion whilst working these extended hours.

You will have to address emotional situations for example informing a cancer patient that there are no further treatments that will help them or informing a family that their loved one has died.

You will witness the best and the worst aspects of people.

You will witness terrible injuries both accidental, self-inflicted and inflicted by others.

You will experience such tiredness that you can't imagine how you can carry on with your shift... but you will.

You will have to address difficult decisions and ethical dilemmas.

You will have to ensure that you can cope with the pressure of the high level of responsibility.

Reasons to become a dentist, doctor or a vet:

- you like scientific problem solving linked to helping people / animals
- you want to make a difference by helping people / animals
- you would like a rewarding career
- you thrive on academic challenge
- you know that you would like working in a public system in a challenging working environment
- lifelong learning
- you embrace constantly changing technology

**Don't forget to
arrange WORK
EXPERIENCES in
your subject of
choice!**

Reasons NOT to become a dentist, doctor or a vet:

- the salary
- because your parents want you to
- because this career runs in the family
- status
- you do not like people / animals

Skills and attributes required as a dentist, doctor or a vet:

- Diagnostic - pattern recognition, deduction, attention to detail,
- Clinical - knowledge and its application, open minded, enquiring mind, investigative, innovative, ability to remain current, adaptable, resilient
- Other - communication, teamwork, independent, non-judgemental, calm under pressure, empathetic, good decision maker

Routes into dentistry

- Standard entry five-year course.
- Dentistry with a preliminary year six-year course designed those who achieved high in A-levels but did not take the required subjects or have a contextual reason.
- Post-graduate
- Students who apply for dentistry need to be able to achieve A* and As in their A-levels in specific subjects.
- You can only apply for four dental courses.
- You may have to take the UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test)
- Your dentistry choices have to be submitted by the UCAS early entry deadline in October.
- You can add your fifth choice after this date but before the 18:00 on 15 January 2022
- Most students choose a biomedical science type course as their fifth choice.

Routes into medicine

- Standard entry medicine five or six-year courses depending on university.
- Biomedical sciences degree with a direct transfer after year one of a specific science degree. These places are very limited places.
- Medicine with a preliminary year six-year course designed those who achieved high in A-levels but did not take the required subjects.
- Medicine with a gateway year for students who have had barriers to their education for example those students who come under 'widening participation'. It is a six-year course including a foundation year.
- Graduate entry medicine for students who already have a bachelor's degree in a science or health-related subject; four- or five-year courses depending on university.
- You will be required to take the UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test)

Routes into Veterinary

- Standard entry veterinary course five- or six-year courses depending on university
- Veterinary with a preliminary year, six-year course designed those who achieved high in A-levels but did not take the required subjects
- Veterinary with a gateway year for students who have had barriers to their education for example those who come under 'widening participation'.
- Six-year course including a foundation year.
- Graduate entry veterinary for students who already have a bachelor's degree in a science or animal-related subject four-or five-year courses depending on university

Personal Statement

When you are writing your personal statement include:

- What is your motivation to study ... - be specific
- What is your understanding of a career in ...
- How have you demonstrated your breadth of experience, for example: work experience, community -

volunteering, interests - sport, music, drama

- Do not repeat information that is elsewhere on your application form
- Do not write about anything that you are not prepared to discuss at interview
- What is special about YOU?

Admission Tests

For medicine and dentistry there is the UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test) which is taken at a Pearson Centre.

Please note that the UCAT can only be taken once in a 12-month period.

Please do your research and find out if your universities of choice require this test or any other ones for example the University of Cambridge requires the ESAT (Engineering and Science Admissions Test) for their veterinary course. Again, this is taken at a Pearson Centre.

Interviews

All courses for dentistry, medicine and veterinary will require an interview.

To prepare for your interview:

- Re-read your UCAS personal statement
- Re-read The NHS Constitution (dentistry and medicine)
- Be ready to debate your views and opinions
- Be up-to-date on scientific and medical breakthroughs
- Be up-to-date on humanitarian and ethical issues

Be prepared to talk about / show your:

- Motivation to study...
- Understanding of a medical career
- Empathy
- Teamwork and leadership
- Resilience
- Communication
- Maturity
- Contribution to medical school life / community
- Values aligned to the NHS Constitution



Useful websites

Dentistry

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/subject-guide-list/dentistry>

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses/dentistry/top-ten-tips-for-applying-to-study-dentistry>

<https://www.bda.org/advice/career-hub/career-advice/how-to-become-a-dentist/>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/dentist>

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/studying-career-dental-team>

<https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/dentistry/dentistry-work-experience/>

Medicine

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/>

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/becoming-a-doctor-in-the-uk>

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/general-practice-doctor>

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects/medicine>

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/outreach-and-support/resources-for-teachers-and-students>

<https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/medicine/pre-clinical/applying/reading>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/the-nhs-explained>

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/research-and-impact/>

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/impact/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nhs-constitution-for-england>

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/training-exams/discover-general-practice/observe-gp>

Veterinary

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/what-to-study/top-tips-for-veterinary-medicine-applications>

<https://www.bva.co.uk/your-career/becoming-a-vet/>

<https://animalowners.rcvs.org.uk/veterinary-careers/i-want-to-be-a-vet/>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/veterinary-surgeon>

<https://www.pdsa.org.uk/careers/how-to-become-a-vet>

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects/veterinary-science>