

**BellerbysCollege**

PREPARATION FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Brighton · Cambridge · London · Oxford

# Pathways to dentistry, medicine, medical sciences and pharmacy



[bellerbys.com](http://bellerbys.com)



With more than 50 years' experience behind us, we know that international students thrive when they receive high-calibre teaching and feel happy and secure in their environment.

## A rewarding and successful career

Careers within dentistry, medicine, medical sciences and pharmacy can be incredibly rewarding and intellectually stimulating. If you are considering a career in these fields, this brochure explains how Bellerbys College can help you progress towards medical school or an undergraduate university degree in the UK.

### Guiding you towards medical school or a degree in pharmacy or medical science

Bellerbys has a history of providing international students with the best preparation to achieve top grades and meet the increasingly high entrance standards demanded by universities.

From advising you on university choices, helping you write your personal statement or coaching you on interview techniques; we make sure you are fully prepared for the interview process.

Our comprehensive enrichment programme supplies you with the in-depth subject knowledge, specialist skills and interests that can demonstrate your passion for a subject. This allows you to stand out from other candidates when competing for a place at university or medical school.

### Providing high-calibre teaching within a supportive learning environment

With more than 50 years' experience behind us, we know that international students thrive when they receive the best teaching and feel happy and secure in their environment.

### Specialist centres for medical and dental students

Both our **Cambridge** and **Brighton** campuses have an impressive track record of helping students progress to medical school and top universities.

**Cambridge** is our specialist college for science and engineering. A traditional building that houses a state-of-the-art scientific environment. Like minded students learn together, in a city which is at the forefront of global medical research.

Our **Brighton** campus is a modern boarding school for students aged 13-18. It has impressive results, being in the top 3% of all schools in England\*. It combines expert teaching, modern science labs, a dedicated science enrichment programme and a wealth of support staff to enable students to confidently progress in their chosen career.

\* Department for Education 2013 Performance Tables



We can help you become a sought-after university candidate and guide you safely through each step of the university application process

Whether you are looking for a career in dentistry, medicine, medical sciences or pharmacy, Bellerbys has a programme which can help you achieve your goals.

## Your path to a Career in medicine: Bellerbys A Level Programme

Top A Level grades are a requirement for all students looking to study dentistry or medicine. Our A Level Programme will provide you with all the in-depth preparation, support and knowledge you need to get on to the most demanding and competitive medical degree courses.

### Medicine degree essentials

One of the first questions our students ask is "what A Levels do I need to take in order to study dentistry or medicine?" If you are looking to progress to a top UK dental or medical school you will need A Levels in Chemistry, Biology and either Physics or Maths (or both), and all at least at grade A standard.

Many medical schools expect their undergraduates to be academically well rounded and favour students with a fourth A Level in a non-science subject. However students should note that this additional A Level can be any subject **except** Critical Thinking or General Studies.

If you decide to study a non-science subject, we have other subjects to choose from. Don't forget that most dental and medical schools will expect you to have A Level Biology so we highly recommend that you select it as one of your studied subjects.

### Additional degree essentials:

International students looking to study dentistry or medicine in the UK will also need the following:

- **IELTS 7.0** A high command of English with an overall band score of 7.0. However, many universities may expect 7.5 in all components.
- **Relevant work and voluntary experience** ideally within a healthcare environment. We find that many students undertake part of their work experience during their holidays when they are in their home countries. Most dental schools will require you to have spent some time in relevant work experience before applying.

### A supplementary qualification

In order to study medicine in the UK, all students will need to take an aptitude test: either The UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) or The Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT), depending on which university you want to apply to. These tests help universities to make more informed choices from amongst the many highly-qualified applicants who wish to enrol on their medical degree programmes.

• **It is important to note** that it is strongly recommended that you register for the UKCAT or BMAT tests in your first year of A Levels (AS), between May and September. Places fill up quickly and many universities will require students to sit the test prior to submitting their UCAS applications. And the deadline for UCAS applications for medical degrees is 15 October.

For more information about the UKCAT and BMAT aptitude tests visit [www.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk) and [www.admissionstesting.org](http://www.admissionstesting.org)

To find out about our A Level programme, turn to page 4.

For information about our English Language Preparation Programme, turn to page 9.

Many medical schools expect their undergraduates to be academically well rounded and favour students with a fourth A Level in a non-science subject



## Your journey to university success

- Develop a deep and well-rounded **knowledge** of your subjects
- Practice your **university interview technique** in mock interviews
- Learn how to **write a clear and persuasive personal statement**
- Reach your academic potential and **achieve top results**
- **Receive help and advice during your studies** and at each step of your university applications
- **Study with like-minded students** in a friendly and encouraging environment
- **Feel confident** about embarking on university life

## Your path to a Career in medical sciences or pharmacy: Bellerbys Foundation Programme

Our Science and Pharmacy Foundation Programme is an intensive, 3-term programme which is accredited by Lancaster University.

Based on the A Level syllabus and taught by A Level teachers, the Foundation programme will suit you if you are seriously considering a career within pharmacy or a related science. This course offers a high level of support and guidance alongside expert teaching.

Once you successfully complete the Foundation Programme and meet the required standards you can progress to an undergraduate degree at one of over 80 UK or Irish universities. Deciding which universities to apply to is an important decision. We can advise you on your choices and help you select universities which best fit your academic ability and career aspirations.

### Pharmacy and science degree essentials

Entry requirements for pharmacy and science related degrees can vary, but you'll almost certainly need to have studied Chemistry to a high level, preferably alongside a combination of Biology, Physics and Mathematics. The Science and Pharmacy Foundation Pathway helps students meet this requirement.

### Additional degree essentials:

• **IELTS 6.5 - 7.5:** Although some UK universities will have a minimum overall band of 6.5, the fact is that many students will require **at least an IELTS level of 7.0 - 7.5.**

### Interview and personal statement:

All universities will require you to provide a personal statement and attend an interview. In both these situations you must be able to demonstrate a genuine enthusiasm for your chosen subject and give examples of your personal development and related interests to support your application. Therefore it is vital that you develop a good command of English. It is also important that you fully engage in societies, clubs and enrichment activity that support your application. For more information about our Foundation Programme, turn to page 6.

If you would like more information on how we can support you with improving your IELTS level, turn to page 9.



Deciding which universities to apply to is an important decision - we can help you select universities which best fit your academic ability and career aspirations





## Bellerbys A Level Programme

A Levels are the benchmark qualifications you need to go on to dental and medical school in the UK. Our A Level Programme will help you develop a deep understanding of your subjects and the independent thinking skills you will need at university.

### Preparing you for dental and medical school

Alongside a clear academic focus, we carefully manage the programme to help you prepare for each step of the university application process.

We want you to feel at home at Bellerbys, enjoy your time with us and make good friends. We offer a wide range of enrichment and extra-curricular activities where you can develop your interests and socialise with other students. Examples of this include our Tomorrow's Doctors Club at Cambridge, our Aspiring Medics Programme and trips to study The Wellcome Collection.

### Programme highlights

- First-class teaching from academic experts and specialists who can help you achieve the grades you need to progress to medical school
- Advice on UCAS applications based on your current and expected academic grades and your career aspirations
- Help and advice for each stage of the university application process
- Help with finding a rewarding voluntary experience placement to broaden your knowledge of healthcare and support your university application
- Small classes for one-to-one time, personal attention and any other help you need from your tutors.

**Bellerbys A Level students consistently achieve top results and go on to study at their chosen universities**

A Level success:

**57%**

of Bellerbys students achieved A\* - A, compared to just 26% across the whole of the UK

A Level Programme key facts	
Age	15.5+
IELTS	5.5 (3-term IELTS 6.0)
Centres for medicine	Brighton and Cambridge
Start dates	September, January and April*
Academic entry requirements	Evidence of a good high school or secondary education or 5 GCSE passes at grade C or above
Programme structure	<b>6-term programme:</b> Year 1 four AS Levels. Year 2 three or four A2 Levels. Runs September to June, summer break, September to June
	<b>5-term programme:</b> Four AS Levels and Three or four A2 Levels. Runs January to June, summer break, September to June or April to August, September to June (no summer break)
	<b>3-term programme (Brighton only):</b> Three or four A2 Levels or three A2 Levels and one AS Level. Runs September to June with university entry in September following final exams in June
Average class size	12 students

\*April start Brighton only

Achieve the grades you need to progress to dental and medical school



## Successful A Level progressions

In 2013 our A Level students were accepted into these top UK universities to study medicine

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

University of BRISTOL

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

University of Glasgow

Newcastle University

Queen's University Belfast

RCS  
ADVANCING SURGICAL STANDARDS

The University Of Sheffield.

“Bellerbys supported me throughout the university application process. Understanding how to write my personal statement and preparing for the interview helped me succeed and obtain my place at University of Bristol.”

Kaveh from Iran achieved A\* A\* A A and is now studying medicine at University of Bristol



# Bellerbys Science and Pharmacy Foundation Programme



Bellerbys College Foundation programme is accredited by Lancaster University

Bellerbys Science and Pharmacy Foundation is accredited by Lancaster University and is a recognised pathway to over 80 UK universities

## Preparing you for university

Our Foundation Programme is designed to give you the solid preparation you need to progress on to a number of degree courses including: natural sciences, pharmacy, biomedical genetics, chemistry, biology and nutrition at one of 80+ destination universities. Throughout the programme we will encourage you to fulfil your academic potential and help you prepare for university applications.

The programme also offers a great range of extra-curricular activities to enrich your studies and help you have fun outside of the classroom.

## Programme highlights

- Top-class teaching from our A Level teachers help you achieve impressive results
- Lectures from industry specialists and academics will deepen your subject knowledge
- Help and advice on each stage of the UCAS application process including interview techniques and writing your personal statement
- Small classes for one-to-one time, personal attention and any additional help you need from your tutors
- Pastoral support from our approachable staff
- A huge range of fun and rewarding extra-curricular activities, clubs and trips

## What will I study?

During the programme you will study specialist modules that have been designed to prepare you for degree courses in natural sciences and pharmacy. The modules are based on corresponding A Level subjects and will give you a strong foundation for an undergraduate university degree.

To underpin the specialist modules and improve your study skills, you will also study the programme's core modules in English Skills 1 and 2, Study Skills in the British Environment and Computer Information Technology.

## Specialist science and pharmacy modules

**Cell Biology:** Study biological molecules, cellular structure and function, chromosome structure, cell division, movement through cell membranes, enzymes and metabolic pathways.

**Physiology:** Learn about the cardiovascular system, the respiratory system, the digestive system, osmo-regulation, control and co-ordination and reproduction.

**Core Principles of Chemistry:** Study and apply formulae, equations and moles, atomic structure, redox systems, thermodynamics and bonding.

**Kinetics; Acid-base equilibria and Organic Chemistry:** Reaction rates, acid-base equilibria, kinetics and organic chemistry.

**Pure Maths 1:** Study functions including the modulus and exponential functions, logarithms, series, the equations of lines and more.

## And one of the following:

**Pure Maths 2:** Develop your mathematical skills further through algebra studies, co-ordinating geometry, trigonometry, differentiation and more.

**Applied Statistics for Scientists:** Study the basics of probability and statistics, random variables and associated distributions, regression and correlation, and simple hypothesis testing.

### Science and Pharmacy Foundation key facts

Age	16.5+
IELTS	4.5
Centres	Brighton, Cambridge and London. From January 2015, Brighton and Cambridge only.
Start dates	September and January
Academic entry requirements	Satisfactory completion of a secondary or high school education
Programme structure	3 terms
Average class size	12 students

Visits to science and pharmaceutical workplaces will give you insights into the working lives of pharmacists and scientists



## Successful Foundation Programme progressions

In 2013 our Science and Pharmacy Foundation students progressed to these UK universities to study pharmacy and science related degrees

Chemistry with Forensic Investigation  
University of Surrey

Geology  
University of Bristol

Pharmacy  
University of East Anglia

Biomedical Genetics  
Newcastle University

Food Marketing and Nutrition  
Newcastle University

Pharmacy  
University of Nottingham

Nutrition  
University of Nottingham

Chemistry with Biomedicine  
King's College, London

Forensic Science  
University of Kent



### Outstanding Foundation Success:

# 76%

of our Foundation students graduated to the top 50 UK universities in 2013

“Bellerbys has great connections with universities and helped me gain a place at my first choice.”

Cheuk Hin Jerry from Hong Kong achieved 84% and is now studying Chemistry with Forensic Investigation at University of Surrey





## Experts in our field: the Bellerbys difference

With over 50 years' experience, we specialise in providing outstanding education to international students and helping them progress to top UK universities.

We believe the key to our success lies in a combination of academic excellence, knowledgeable and friendly staff, specialist study centres, a diverse set of enrichment and extra-curricular activities and above all, an encouraging and supportive learning environment.

### Meet industry specialists and visit healthcare workplaces

Our programmes feature lectures from industry experts and visits to healthcare workplaces, global enterprises and university faculties. We provide you with a wide range of stimulating experiences which will broaden your perspective and help you stand out in your university application.

### Using mock interviews, we will work with you to practice your interview techniques so that you know what to expect, regardless of the interview style you encounter

### How Bellerbys can help you gain a place at a top UK university

#### Helping you shine in your university interview

Some students can feel nervous about their university interview or worry about their performance. With more and more universities adopting a 'panel' interview style, it's never been more important to be prepared. Using mock interviews, we will work with you to practice your interview techniques so that you know what to expect, regardless of the interview style you encounter. You will learn how to anticipate questions, communicate your ideas clearly and talk about your work or voluntary experience with passion.

#### Improving your subject knowledge and communication skills

Our dedicated tutor groups will keep you up-to-date with the latest medical research findings, science news and events. Taking part in these discussions helps embed your learning and improves your communication skills.

#### Real world experience

We will provide our A Level students with the opportunity to observe how hospitals and clinics operate. We will also work with you on how best to gain work placement experience when you are home during the holidays. By the end of your placement you will be able to show universities that you have relevant and real-world experience.

### Complementing your academic studies

We have created a diverse set of enrichment and extra-curricular activities to give you a stimulating and fulfilling education alongside your academic studies. There is something for everybody on the programme including visits to workplaces and a wide range of clubs, lectures and trips.

#### Joining professional clubs, workshops and discussion groups

Joining one of our clubs or workshops is a great way to make new friends, improve your speaking skills and find out more about careers in medicine and pharmacy. You can join Tomorrow's Doctors, for example, to debate topical and ethical issues with like-minded students, or meet practising professionals and ask them about their careers.

#### University visits, museum trips and specialist lectures

Participating in one of our extra-curricular activities is another way to broaden your horizons, make friends and support your university application. There are plenty of activities to choose from including lectures from industry professionals and visits to The Royal College of Surgeons, the fascinating Hunterian Museum and our partner universities.

#### And for A Level students, we will help you prepare for your UKCAT or BMAT

Depending on which university you want to apply to, you will need to take either The UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) or The Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT). We can help you prepare for your test by giving you past papers to analyse and practice tests.

### Studying towards Medicine, Pharmacy and Science at our specialist centres

Studying at our **Cambridge** or **Brighton** campus enables you to reach your full potential, safe in the knowledge you will be supported both academically and personally.

Choose to study at **Bellerbys College Cambridge** with like-minded students in a city steeped in medical history and at the forefront of bio-medical science.

Learn within a caring boarding school environment at **Bellerbys College Brighton**, offering the widest choice of A Level subjects and a diverse set of enrichment activities. Choose to study by the sea in a cosmopolitan city within easy commuting distance of London.



**Bellerbys College Cambridge:** Specialist college for science and engineering

**Bellerbys College Brighton:** A modern interpretation of an English boarding school

## Improving your English and developing your study skills

Competition to study dentistry, medicine, pharmacy or a science related degree in the UK is fierce. Students with a high command of English will have a distinct advantage, particularly when it comes to expressing themselves at university interviews and in writing their personal statements.

We find that many prospective Bellerbys students have an IELTS score of below the requirements of many UK universities. To help our students develop top level communication and study skills and gain entry to their university of choice, we offer an intensive English Language Preparation Programme (ELPP). The ELPP can be undertaken for between one and three terms before joining either the A Level or Foundation programme.

This programme focuses on maximising progress in each of the four core English skills so that you develop a fully rounded language proficiency. You will also acquire the crucial study skills to help you learn faster and with greater confidence.

One of the recognised benefits of this programme is that throughout the duration of the ELPP you will be fully supported to help you keep track of your progress and overcome any particularly challenging elements. The advantage of this is that it ensures you reach the required level of proficiency in the English language for any further course of study you wish to undertake.

### Typical Programme Structure:

**General English** – 8 to 10 hours per week: grammatical accuracy, sentence formation and structure, English tense system, identifying structure and meaning in listening, speaking and reading tasks.

**Academic Preparation** – 10 hours per week: academic English vocabulary and grammar, academic reading, skimming and scanning texts, academic essay writing, writing about visual information and expressing opinion, listening to lectures and introduction to seminar skills.

**Skills Classes** – 5 to 7 hours per week: studying in the UK environment, academic study skills, including dictionary and vocabulary learning, group project tasks, presentation skills, UK culture lessons and introduction to the IELTS exam.

Daily homework will also form part of the programme.

## Additional medical school pathways for Foundation Programme students

If you are a Foundation student who wants to progress to medical school, there are two routes you can take at the end of your course. As well as our relationship with over 80 UK universities, our Science and Pharmacy Foundation Programme is recognised by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and Medipathways (associated with the University of Buckingham).

### Study medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

The RCSI medical school is a world-leading institution and the largest medical school in Ireland. When you successfully complete the Foundation Programme you have the opportunity to progress to an undergraduate degree course in medicine, pharmacy or physiotherapy at the RCSI.

#### RCSI degree courses available to Foundation Programmes students

Degree course	Medical	Pharmacy	Physiotherapy
Duration	6 years	4 years	4 years
Country of study	Dublin, Bahrain or Malaysia	Dublin	Dublin
Entry requirements	Overall average of 70% across all modules in the Bellerbys Foundation Programme with not less than 60% in any single module. A minimum score of 75% in Chemistry	Overall average of 70% across all modules in the Bellerbys Foundation Programme, with not less than 55% in any single module. A minimum score of 70% in Chemistry	Overall average of 70% across all modules in the Bellerbys Foundation Programme, with not less than 55% in any single module
IELTS	6.5 with no band less than 6.0	6.5 with no band less than 6.0	6.5 with no band less than 6.0

### Prepare for medical school and undergraduate degrees at Medipathways

Medipathways offers courses which are validated by the University of Buckingham. You can progress to the Medipathways Foundation Programme once you have successfully completed the Bellerbys Foundation Programme.

The Medipathways Foundation Programme will prepare you for the first year of various BSc degrees in the UK. Alternatively you can choose to progress directly on to the second year of the Medipathways 2-year BSc Medical Science degree course. To progress further to a UK medical or dental school, you will need to graduate with a 2:1 in the BSc Medical Science degree course. For Medipathways programmes available to A Level students please see page 13, Q. Is there a Medipathways programme for A Level students?

#### Medipathways course available to Foundation Programmes students

Course title	Medipathways Foundation programme
Qualification	Certificate in Medical Foundation Studies
Validation university	University of Buckingham
Duration	1 year
Study centre	Birkbeck College, University of London
Subject prerequisites	Chemistry and Biology
Entrance requirements	Overall average of 65% across all modules in the Bellerbys Foundation Programme
IELTS	6.5 with no part below 6.0
Progression routes	Successful students can progress on to the first year of various science degrees in the UK, or enter directly on to the Medipathways 2-year BSc degree.

## Success stories

Students tell us they are very happy at Bellerbys which we believe is the basis for learning and achieving. Each year we see students gain impressive results, grow in confidence and become sought-after university candidates. Many go on to study at leading UK universities. Here are some of our success stories of 2013.

### A Level Programme success stories

In 2013 the following students progressed to study medicine

Student	Country/Region	Grades	Degree	University
Kaveh DAVOUDI	Iran	A*A*AA	Medicine	University of Bristol
Miraen KIANDEE	Malaysia	A*AAA	Medicine	University of Birmingham
Raykal Yan Jun SIM	Singapore	A*AAA	Medicine	Newcastle University
Pei Lyn TEY	Malaysia	AAAB	Medical Genetics	University of Sheffield
Hou In CHIO	Portugal	A*A*AA	Medicine	University of Edinburgh
Sarah Elizabeth Kah Sem MOK	Singapore	A*AAA	Medicine	University of Edinburgh
Sue Anne NG	Malaysia	AAAA	Medicine	University of Glasgow
Xi Min Fiona CHAN	Singapore	A*A*A*A	Medicine	Queen's University Belfast
Ogechi Mary ADINGWUPU	Nigeria	ABBB	Medicine	Royal College Surgeons
Lok Kwan YU	Australia	A*A*A*A	Medicine	Chinese University of Hong Kong

### Science and Pharmacy Foundation success stories

In 2013 the following students progressed to study medical sciences and pharmacy

Student	Country/Region	Grade	Degree	University
Koon LAM	Singapore	78%	Biomedical Sciences	Durham University
Nadezhda TSYRENZHAPOVA	Russia	86%	Pharmacology	University of Bath
Yana RUCHIY	Kazakhstan	84%	Biology with Psychology	Lancaster University
Cheuk Hin Jerry YU	British National (Overseas)	84%	Chemistry with Forensic Investigation	University of Surrey
Sang Yeon KIM	Korea	66%	Biological science	University of Leicester
Hoang Anh LE	Vietnam	85%	Biochemistry with Medical Biochemistry	University of Bristol
Oleksii MARTYNCHUK	Ukraine	84%	Biochemistry with Molecular Biology & Biotechnology	University of Bristol
Chun Wai Clifton CHAN	Hong Kong	78%	Pharmacy	University of East Anglia
Chan TEK FAI	China	76%	Pharmacy	University of East Anglia
Elena STEPANNIKOVA	Russia	75%	Biomedical Genetics	Newcastle University
Syanas Yasmen Binti RADZALI	Malaysia	74%	Biomedical Science	University of Sheffield
Choi Wa CHAN	China	82%	Biological Sciences	University of Edinburgh
Pei Ting FONG	Singapore	89%	Pharmacy	University of Nottingham
Wai Shan CHOW	China	87%	Pharmacy	University of Nottingham
Tien Thuy Tran VU	Vietnam	86%	Pharmacy	University of Nottingham
Natasha Nadia DORAI	Singapore	79%	Pharmacy	University of Nottingham
Yongjoon (Joon) KIM	Korea	72%	Chemistry with a Year in Industry	University of Nottingham
Chinwendu Ngozichukwuka DIYOKE	Nigeria	85%	Pharmacy	University of Manchester
Yujin CHO	Korea	72%	Chemistry with Biomedicine	King's College London

“At Bellerbys I joined a club called Tomorrow's Doctors. We discussed ethical scenarios and the best way of dealing with them. We also met doctors who told us about their experiences in the medical field. My teachers related the topics we studied to things I may encounter in the future as a medical practitioner.”

Ogechi Mary from Nigeria achieved ABBB and is now studying Medicine at Royal College of Surgeons in England





# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** Where can I study A Levels if I want to pursue a degree in dentistry or medicine?

**A:** Our specialist centres for dentistry and medicine are Cambridge and Brighton.

**Q:** What are the entry requirements for the A Level Programme?

**A:** To join the A level Programme you will need:

- An IELTS level of at least 5.5
- Evidence of a good high school or secondary school education, or 5 GCSE passes at grade C or above
- To be at least 15.5 years old

However, for students looking to study dentistry, medicine or pharmacy, you will need to have an A\* in GCSE or equivalent for Science and Maths.

**Q:** When can I start the A Level Programme?

**A:** Our start dates are September, January and April (Brighton only).

**Q:** How long is the A Level Programme?

**A:** You can choose from a 3, 5 or 6-term programme. However, we run the 3-term programme in Brighton only and there are strict entry requirements:

- Outstanding high school graduation grades, or
- You are repeating the A Level Programme, or
- You have already studied at degree level

**Q:** What A Level grades will I need to progress to a degree in dentistry or medicine?

**A:** To get into the best dental and medical schools in the UK you will need A levels in Chemistry, Biology and either Maths or Physics (or both), all at grade A standard (minimum). Increasingly medical schools favour students who have a fourth A level that is non-scientific.

If you only take one from Chemistry or Biology, fewer dentistry courses will be open to you.

**Q:** Are there any non-scientific subjects that are not favoured by medical schools?

**A:** This may vary by university but as a general rule, many universities do not accept General Studies or Critical Thinking. Your teachers at Bellerbys can help guide you in suitable options.

**Q:** What are UKCAT and BMAT?

**A:** UKCAT is The UK Clinical Aptitude Test. Many UK university medical and dental schools use UKCAT as part of their selection process. The test explores your mental abilities, attitudes and professional behaviours and helps universities make an informed choice about your application.

BMAT is The BioMedical Admissions Test. BMAT tests your subject knowledge and universities use it as part of their application process for medicine, veterinary medicine and similar courses.

**Q:** Which test should I take - UKCAT or BMAT?

**A:** The test you need to take depends on which university you want to attend. To find out which test your university of choice requires:

- Visit the UKCAT website for a list of universities that require UKCAT [www.ukcat.ac.uk/about-the-test/who-should-take-the-test](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk/about-the-test/who-should-take-the-test)
- Visit the BMAT website on [www.admissionstesting-service.org/our-services/medicine-and-healthcare/bmat/about-bmat/](http://www.admissionstesting-service.org/our-services/medicine-and-healthcare/bmat/about-bmat/)

**Q:** Do all dental schools require students to take the UKCAT?

**A:** There are 16 universities in the UK which offer the undergraduate course in dentistry. Nine of these 16 dental schools require you to have taken the UKCAT. These are Dundee, King's College London, Queen Mary University of London, Cardiff, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle, Queens College Belfast and Sheffield.

**Q:** When do I need to register to take the UKCAT or BMAT?

**A:** We strongly recommend that you register to sit the BMAT and UKCAT at your earliest convenience, ideally in your first year of A Levels (AS) to ensure places are available at your local centre. You need to take the tests before the start of the second year of A Levels (A2) and before you submit your medical school application (usually 15 October).

**Q:** Am I allowed extra time to complete the UKCAT or BMAT given that English isn't my first language?

**A:** No. As a candidate who is applying for a degree course, BMAT or UKCAT expect you to have a good command of English.

**Q:** What IELTS level do I need to progress to dental or medical school?

**A:** A minimum of IELTS 7.0 in all components. However, many universities will expect an IELTS of 7.5 in all components.

**Q:** What IELTS level do I need to progress to a pharmacy degree?

**A:** Between 6.5 and 7.5. However, most top universities expect an IELTS level between 7.0 and 7.5.

**Q:** How important is it to have an IELTS level of 4.5 or above when I start the Foundation Programme?

**A:** Very important. You will write and submit your personal statement during the first term of the Foundation Programme. For this you will need a good level of English, the ability to express your ideas clearly and be able to show your enthusiasm for the degree you are applying for.

**Q:** Can Bellerbys help me achieve a higher IELTS level so that I can progress to a medical or pharmacy degree?

**A:** Yes. Our English Language Preparation Programme is designed to help make good progress in each of the core English skills so that you develop a fully-rounded language proficiency. More information can be found on page 9.

**Q:** I'm planning to take the Science and Pharmacy Foundation Programme. Do I need to take the UKCAT or BMAT?

**A:** No. UKCAT and BMAT are part of the application process for medical degrees only. However, many universities have their own entrance exams for their pharmacy degrees.

**Q:** I'm worried about my university applications. Will I receive any guidance on how to complete them properly?

**A:** Yes. We will work with you on your UCAS applications and support you at each stage of the application process.

**Q:** Apart from RCSI are there any other routes I can take to progress to medical school from the Bellerbys Foundation Programme?

**A:** When you successfully complete our Foundation Programme you can progress to The Medipathways Foundation Programme. This programme is designed to prepare you for the first year of various BSc degrees in the UK or you can join the second year of the Medipathways 2-year BSc Medical Science degree course. To progress further to a UK medical or dental school, you will need to graduate with a 2:1 in the BSc Medical Science degree course.

**Q:** Is there a Medipathways programme for A Level students?

**A:** Yes, there are two programmes which offer Bellerbys A Level students an alternative route to dental and medical school: 1-Year Pre Med (CertHE in Medical Science) and 2-Year BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Sciences. For both of these programmes, students will need to have completed Biology and Chemistry and for the 1-Year programme, achieved overall A Level grades AAA. For the 2-Year BSc students will need to have achieved overall A Level grades of BBB. The IELTS requirement for both programmes is IELTS 6.5 with no part below 6.0.

**For students who are interested in progressing to the RCSI**

**Q:** Is there an interview for the 6-year medical degree?

**A:** Yes. You need to take a structured and recorded online interview as part of the application process.

**Q:** Do I need to take the UKCAT or BMAT?

**A:** No. To progress to RCSI you need successful Foundation Programme results, English language competency and to complete the online interview.

**Q:** Do I apply to RCSI through UCAS?

**A:** No, you need to complete the RCSI application form and submit your application directly to RCSI via their website.

**Q:** When should submit my application to RCSI?

**A:** RCSI will accept your application from 1 November after you have joined the Foundation Programme. The application deadline is 15 January in the year of intended entry.

**Q:** What IELTS level do I need?

**A:** IELTS 6.5 with no band less than 6.0.

**Q:** Do RCSI accept Foundation students on to their 5-year medical degree?

**A:** No. Foundation students can only apply for the 6-year programme. The RCSI only considers applications from A Level students for their 5-year programme.

**Q:** Why don't the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS) or the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI) feature in any of the university rankings for medical school?

**A:** The RCS and RCSI are not multi-faculty universities and therefore do not sit within any university rankings. There are no established rankings for medical schools alone.



For admissions and further information, please contact our local representative in Moldova:



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