STUDY MEDICINE IN DUNDEE
UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE
LEARN IN DUNDEE

The University of Dundee in Scotland has 18,000 students and 3,000 staff. It enjoys an international reputation for excellence that attracts top-class students and academics from across the world with over 145 countries represented in the University community. The main campus is located within Dundee’s city centre and the Medical School is just a 10-minute drive away, within one of Europe’s largest teaching hospitals, Ninewells.

Progressive and dynamic, the University is described as “one of the prize catches in higher education” (The Sunday Times University Guide).

Medicine in Dundee is consistently ranked in the United Kingdom’s top five for teaching, and was ranked 1st in Scotland in the 2015 Guardian University Guide.

The University of Dundee enjoys a distinguished reputation as one of the UK’s top institutions for teaching and research across a broad range of disciplines, ranked:

- 1st in Scotland for Pharmacology (Times Good University Guide 2014)
- 1st in Scotland for best student experience (Times Higher Education, Student Experience Survey 2014)
- 1st in Scotland for Anatomy (Times Good University Guide 2014)
- 1st in Scotland and 5th in UK for Medicine (Guardian University Guide 2015)
- 1st in UK for Dentistry (Guardian University Guide 2015)
- 1st in Europe for Biological Sciences (QS World Rankings 2013 and 2014)
- 1st in Scotland for Pharmacology (Times Good University Guide 2014)
- 1st in Scotland for best student experience (Times Higher Education, Student Experience Survey 2014)
- 1st in Scotland for Anatomy (Times Good University Guide 2014)

The Dundee MBChB Curriculum

With around 160 students in each academic study year, Dundee’s five year curriculum provides an exciting, focused structure to produce well-rounded graduates – equipped with the skills and knowledge to enable them to work within, as well as shape and lead 21st century healthcare systems.

- outcome-based education
- integration of basic sciences and clinical specialities
- exposure to around 100 core clinical problems
- multiple approaches to teaching and learning
- advanced assessment techniques
- “spiral curriculum”: building on existing skills, continuous reassessment

The Dundee MBChB is delivered through a partnership between NHS Tayside and the University of Dundee School of Medicine. Students have the opportunity to study medicine in a fully integrated medical school and hospital. Ninewells Teaching Hospital provides a modern and supportive learning environment and is complemented by several peripheral hospital sites and general practices, located throughout Tayside and Scotland. The curriculum ensures all graduates meet the outcomes specified in “Tomorrow’s Doctors” (GMC, 2009).
Following the introductory block, students embark on our systems based programme which focuses on the body's organ systems. Use of core clinical problems allows a problem-focused approach to learning in parallel with lectures, tutorials and a systematic training in clinical skills.

Vocational skills are developed through experience on wards and in primary care from the start of year 1. Students focus on specific normal and abnormal body structures, functions and behaviours.

At the end of year 3, students complete a transition block where – in a realistic setting - they are expected to effectively use the knowledge and skills acquired during years 1 to 3 when a patient presents them with a core clinical problem.

The Systems in Practice teaching in Years 1-3 begins with an 8 week introductory block. Dundee students are in contact with patients from early in their course. There is an emphasis on integrating the teaching of basic science with its clinical relevance. Learning of body systems is supported through teaching of anatomy by dissection.

New students develop an understanding of the basic principles of normal structure, function, disease mechanisms and behaviour on which they can effectively build their knowledge of the core clinical problems.

The block introduces:

- approaches to study and learning, including an understanding of their learning style
- the practice of medicine in hospitals and in the community
- a safe approach to the practice of medicine
- the professional attributes expected of medical learners and doctors
- basic emergency care skills

The aim is to ensure the student can:

- consult in a patient-centred manner and carry out an appropriate clinical examination
- demonstrate a safe approach to developing a differential diagnosis
- search for evidence to inform decision making
- recognise the role of other professionals in the healthcare team in the delivery of evidence based patient care
- recognise when to use health promotion and prevention strategies most effectively
- be aware of the effects of different healthcare settings on the process of care
- recognise the diversity of investigative and therapeutic options available
- continue to develop a strategy for identifying their own learning needs / self awareness
- demonstrate an awareness of individual and population health issues
- understand the meaning of medical professionalism and be able to demonstrate attitudes and behaviours consistent with the General Medical Council's expectations of a medical professional.
STUDENT SELECTED COMPONENTS (SSCS)

Dundee’s Student Selected Components are not optional - they are a very important part of the curriculum. SSCs provide either the opportunity to study areas of the student’s choice in depth, or provide a taster of topics / disciplines that will be covered in more detail subsequently.

In addition, SSCs allow students to develop generic skills that are essential to their professional development. Through SSCs, students can achieve core learning outcomes not related to specific fields of knowledge but concerned with transferable skills - such as handling information, computer literacy, critical thinking and independent learning.

Topics covered by SSCs in Dundee include:
- more in-depth study of disciplines, such as detailed anatomy, biochemistry, pathology
- related topics such as sports medicine, musculoskeletal system and orthopaedics, clinical application of core and basic sciences; exploring the ‘cutting edge’ of a discipline (clinical and in basic sciences); a variety of basic medical science topics, some offering laboratory experience, experimental drugs and treatments
- health politics, history of medicine, medical computing, presentation skills
- foreign language such as medical French, law/business studies, the doctor as an engineer

YEARS 4-5 PREPARATION IN PRACTICE

Dundee’s systematic approach to learning provides a springboard to take advantage of a wide range of clinical learning opportunities in years 4-5.

After a generic skills block covering the basics of learning in a ward environment, the Preparation in Practice programme takes the student through clinical practice, student selected components, clinical placements and final preparation for practice.

Students gain experience in a variety of hospitals and primary care centres where they organise learning around 100 core clinical problems, looking at the patient as a whole rather than focusing on a specific disease entity. The strategy enables students to pursue a career in medicine where patients’ concerns and problems are central to their practice.

Core Clinical Problems include:
- Abdominal Pain
- Antenatal Care
- Breast Lumps
- Chest Pain
- Child Abuse
- Hoarseness
- Immunisation
- Incontinence of Urine
- Infertility
- Labour
- Leg / Foot Ulcer
- Loss of Vision
- Painful Red Eyes
- Palpitations
- Paraplegia
- Confusion
- Deafness
- Eating Disorders
- Family Planning
- Growth & Development
- Psychosis
- Raised Blood Pressure
- Screening
- Shock
- Sick Child
- Stridor
- Sudden Death
- Thirst
- Transplantation
- Unconscious Patient
PREPARATION FOR PRACTICE

Towards the end of Year 5, all students complete a final series of placements to prepare them for practice as a Foundation Doctor.

Student Assistantships: Students undertake three foundation apprenticeship blocks in medicine, surgery and general practice where they prepare for their role as Year 1 Foundation Doctors. These apprenticeships link theory and practice in relation to the students’ future role in service delivery. Students are supported by an individual learning plan developed with their supervisor. They are expected to participate in the delivery of patient care as part of the healthcare team. One month is spent in Acute Care.

The Elective: All students have the exciting opportunity of a 6-week elective during their final year. This is a period of clinical practice, organised by the students, anywhere in the world, and is focused on their own objectives. Most go overseas and around half to developing countries. Dundee has been leading the development of a ‘Responsible Elective’ programme, which includes some opportunities for extended attachments, presently in Malawi.

THE DUNDEE INTERCALATED BMSc YEARS 3 & 4

Students can opt to undertake a one-year BMSc degree to study a topic in more depth, between years 3 and 4.

Courses currently offered include:

- Anatomy
- Applied Orthopaedic Technology
- Clinical Research
- Forensic Medicine
- Human Genetics and Experimental Medicine
- Human Reproduction, Assisted Conception and Embryonic Stem Cells
- International Health
- Teaching in Medicine
- Neuropharmacology and Behaviour
- Cardiovascular and Diabetes
In the early years, we deliver teaching through lectures, small group discussions, practical skills sessions and in the ward. As students progress, they spend 10% of their time in primary care with 2 x 1 month placements in GP surgeries during Years 4 and 5.

Dundee Medical School also has a state-of-the-art Clinical Skills Centre where students train in communication, physical examination and practical procedures in a safe, simulated environment.

Dundee's dedicated e-learning team develops and manages our students' online support and learning resources - such as interactive online study guides and online teaching modules. Students can access key information via smartphone apps.

We also encourage students to develop new e-learning resources, as SSCs or through vacation scholarships.

Dundee is at the forefront of a new approach to performance assessment in medical education, utilising a range of methods including:

- objective online written tests
- the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
- ward simulation exercise
- portfolios

The goal is to assess each student's mastery of the curriculum goals plus test knowledge, skills and attitude.

Students progress through the curriculum at a rate appropriate to their needs. They receive feedback on their performance and we encourage self-examination of their own competence.

FUTURE PROOFING MEDICAL EDUCATION
Among Europe's most technologically advanced facilities

The University of Dundee's Medical School is recognised at home and abroad for its pioneering new approaches to clinical skills education, performance assessment, interprofessional learning and quality improvement.

'Fully integrated with one of Europe's largest teaching hospitals at Ninewells, Dundee, we provide students with state-of-the-art teaching facilities.'
OUR STUDENTS

CHERYL CHEE

MALAYSIAN MEDICINE STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

“I chose to study Medicine at the University of Dundee firstly because of its academic excellence. Dundee has consistently been ranked highly for its Faculty of Medicine through the years. Senior students also shared their positive experiences and spoke highly of the university and its training, giving it a good reputation amongst the students which made me even more keen.

The best thing about studying Medicine at the University of Dundee is all the new experiences! A new environment, different cultures and practices, meeting new classmates and working with colleagues from different backgrounds has definitely given me new perspectives. All these helping me grow as a person and a future doctor.”

FIND OUT MORE

Please visit www.dundee.ac.uk to find out more about the University of Dundee, our entry requirements, fees and details on applying to study Medicine. We look forward to welcoming you to Dundee.