Guide to widening access schemes in medical schools
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Introduction

This guide is intended as a resource for career advisors, teachers and students thinking of applying to medical school. Produced jointly by the BMA Medical Students Committee and the Medical Schools Council, this guide will provide information on outreach schemes aimed at widening access to medicine that are offered by each medical school in the UK.

The term ‘outreach’ refers to a range of activities including interactive open days, mentoring and summer schools all aimed at students from less advantaged backgrounds who have an interest in medicine and the potential to be a doctor. Most medical schools will have a named contact who will be able to tell you more about a particular scheme you might be interested in; contact details are included in this document. Alternatively, the Medical Schools Council website provides links to all UK medical schools:
http://www.medschools.ac.uk/Students/UKMedicalSchools/MedicalSchoolsbyRegion/Pages/UK-Medical-Schools-by-Region.aspx

In addition to outreach activities medical schools are engaged in a number of other approaches aimed at widening access. In their admissions processes medical schools seek to select the students who will make the best doctors, and many schools provide extra support in the application process for applicants from low participation groups. In addition, a number employ adjusted entry criteria so that those from less advantaged backgrounds who perform better than their peers have the opportunity to study medicine with lower grades than those usually required. About a third of UK medical schools run a ‘Foundation’ or ‘Pre-Clinical’ year for those wishing to study medicine but who might not be eligible for the standard five year programmes. These programmes may be run as a stand-alone course or as part of an extended medical degree programme. A list of these programmes is available on the Medical Schools Council website:
http://www.medschools.ac.uk/STUDENTS/COURSES/Pages/Foundation-Pre-clinical-year.aspx. For details about a particular foundation or pre-clinical programme and for entry requirements for all courses, including information on adjusted entry criteria, please contact the appropriate medical school directly.

This guide has been produced as part of the BMA’s effort to ensure that the most talented young people are able to pursue a career in medicine, not just those from privileged backgrounds. The BMA is the trade union and professional association for doctors and medical students in the UK.

The Medical Schools Council represents the interests and ambitions of UK medical schools as they relate to the generation of national health, wealth and knowledge acquisition through biomedical research and the profession of medicine. As an organisation it occupies a unique position embracing medical undergraduate education, health related research, and a critical interface with the health service and postgraduate education and training.
University of Aberdeen

The University of Aberdeen has a number of widening participation schemes.

- How applications are considered during the application process – described on the School’s website: [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/medicine/prospective/home/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/medicine/prospective/home/)

- **Fancy a Career in Health?** – an S4 event (held in partnership with Highland Education, NHS Highland and other contributors) which offers a full day of hands-on Clinical Skills workshops at an introductory level along with informal **Meet the Students and Meet the Professionals** sessions in which students and staff of the major health professions participate. General careers information regarding future courses of study are also provided.

- **So you want to be a Doctor? (Aberdeen) and Is Medicine for You? (Inverness)** – provide days of more advanced Clinical Skills Workshops led by a range of consultants and other senior doctors and medical scientists. Medical students, clinicians, GPs and medical scientists also provide informal lunchtime chat sessions.

- **50 Years of Medicine and Medical Science** – annual interactive day-conferences for S5 / S6 held in Aberdeen and Inverness. Experts give presentations on the most significant advances in their own fields in recent times and speculate about future developments. Topics covered have included diabetes, keyhole surgery, fertility, medical microbiology, radiology, cancer research and forensic pathology. The programme changes yearly. All north-east and Highland schools are invited to these events and very large numbers of pupils attend.

- Health Studies in Education – Since 2001 Aberdeen University Medical School has developed a 6 week Medical Humanities SSC option (now for Year 3 and unique in Scotland) which includes a 2 week teaching placement in selected secondary schools around north-east Scotland and Highland. While teaching in the schools, the students also mentor local pupils interested in medical careers.

Pictures courtesy of University of Aberdeen
Barts and The London school of medicine and dentistry runs a number of widening participation schemes.

- **SAMDA (Student Assisted Medical and Dental Applicants)** – This student-led scheme works with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to support them with their applications for medicine and dentistry. The programme reaches out to schools and colleges in east London to provide practical support throughout the whole process of application. For more information email Anne Setright (a.setright@qmul.ac.uk)

- **Masterclass Programme** – aimed at students at sixth form college/school in Waltham Forest. Year 12 students come to Queen Mary over 8 months taking classes taught collaboratively by academic staff and sixth form college staff. Pupils can choose from a number of subjects, including biology and chemistry. Year 10 students attend three consecutive Saturday morning sessions in subjects including chemistry.

- **Year 12 Health Professions Summer School** – Students take part in subject-taster activities and project work designed to raise awareness of the range of health-related subjects that can be studied at university. Students receive careers advice and have the opportunity for a one-to-one careers interview. They also get to spend a day at the Barts and The London Medical Simulation Centre, where they take the lead in an Accident and Emergency role play scenario, and have to diagnose and treat a ‘patient’.

For more information on both the masterclass programme and the health professions summer school email Michael Bennett (m.bennett@qmul.ac.uk) Widening Participation and Outreach Officer or call 020 7882 7463.
Queen’s University Belfast

Queen’s University Belfast runs an annual symposium entitled Medicine at Queens which is attended by some 300 Level 6 pupils representing 50 schools in Northern Ireland. The programme includes talks on admissions procedures for medicine; details of the course at Queen’s University Belfast; presentations from various consultants and general practitioners and an opportunity to visit demonstrations in the Clinical Skills Facility and the Anatomy and Physiology departments. The medical school also attends a number of external conferences and events and can arrange to talk about medical careers at individual schools in Northern Ireland on request.

There is also a university widening participation unit (http://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/sgc/wpau/AboutUs/) that covers all subject areas and works with secondary schools across Northern Ireland.

They have a number of services on offer including:

- Pathways to the Professions Days: Provides an opportunity for students to think and explore their ideas about their future goals and careers and future profession.
- Insight to Higher Education Days: Designed to give young people an insight into university life.
- Taster Days: Aimed to inspire pupils to think more specifically about university study and the possible subjects that might be of interest to them.
- Master Classes: Specialist classes in chosen subject areas to compliment school curriculum and help raise pupil attainment.

- Year13 Summer Project: Two-week programme to encourage year 13 pupils to think about their future goals and plans, including applying to university.
- Head Start Programme: Two-week programme designed to prepare Widening Participation students who have been accepted to Queen’s University for university study.
- Staff Development: Specialist workshops aimed towards school staff.
- Family Events: Designed to encourage families to explore Queen’s University and learn about Higher Education together.
- Highway to Science and Engineering: This foundation programme aims to improve access into science or engineering degree courses at Queen’s University by equipping students who do not meet the prerequisites for these courses with the necessary knowledge and skills.

For more information email Stephanie Wilson (wpu@qub.ac.uk) (Widening Participation Coordinator) or call 02890972727.
There are numerous widening participation schemes at the University of Birmingham, College of Medical and Dental Sciences.

- **Birmingham Widening Access to Medicine Society** – a voluntary student-run programme that targets pupils in years 9-11 and aims to inspire them to consider healthcare degrees (medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, dentistry, BMedSci) and to support them in their applications if they decide to apply. Students get involved by running workshops, giving presentations, holding mock interview sessions and Q and A sessions. For more information email uobwams@googlemail.com

- **Access to Birmingham (A2B) Scheme** (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/advice/services/index.aspx) - designed to help students from families and communities who have little or no experience of higher education to find out what studying at university involves. The A2B Higher Education Learning Module is designed to help students make the transition from school to university. Upon successful completion of this module, applicants may be eligible to receive a scholarship worth £1,200 for each successful year of study at University of Birmingham. For more information email Lucy Hall l.hall@bham.ac.uk

- **Year 10 Health and Life Sciences Summer Schools** – designed for students wishing to pursue a career in the health sector. Students attend lectures and seminars in health-related subjects including medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy and nursing. There are also talks on healthcare careers and visits to Queen Elizabeth II and Good Hope hospitals, and the dental hospital. For more information and an application form email Esther Hill (e.h.hill@bham.ac.uk), the Health and Life sciences residential coordinator or call 0121 414 8039.

- **Year 12 Academic Enrichment Programme** – covers biological and health sciences, including physiotherapy, medicine, dentistry, nursing, biology and chemistry. For more information email Mohammed Ansar (m.ansar@bham.ac.uk), the AEP coordinator or call 0121 414 7693.
Brighton and Sussex

BrightMed (http://www.bsms.ac.uk/undergraduate/5-year/applying/brightmed.php) is Brighton and Sussex Medical School’s widening participation programme.

- BrightMed is delivered in three distinct ways: The main BrightMed programme is open to students throughout Sussex who meet the normal WP criteria. Students are recruited in Year 8 and begin the programme in Year 9. Year 9 and Year 10 students each have 6 activity days during the academic year. Year 11 students have 4 days and year 12 students have 5 days plus a week long summer residential. BrightMed is delivered by a mix of faculty, clinicians and students. Teaching focuses on 6 vertical themes, running throughout each year group – being a doctor and a medical student, applying to study medicine, ethics, clinical skills, the human body, personal development. Teaching highlights include drug design, living anatomy, and dissection, along with student designed sessions as part of SSC’s and IRP’s. BrightMed currently works with 233 students.

- BrightMed Compact is sponsored by Aim higher Sussex and is an intensive three day event aimed at Year 12 students who have not joined the main programme – it features key elements of BrightMed.

- The BrightMed Road Show is delivered using the same teaching sessions as BrightMed Compact, however it is takes place over three days in a number of towns in the South East outside of Sussex. The idea is to reach out to students who do not have immediate access to a medical school.

Brighton and Sussex Medical School also supports and advises BrightWAMS in Sussex, the student led outreach programme that delivers in primary schools and to Girl Guide and Scout groups throughout Brighton and Hove.

For more information about BrightMed and BrightWAMS please contact Darren Beaney: d.beaney@bsms.ac.uk or 01273877863
Bristol University

Bristol University runs a number of programmes in close partnership with the Sutton Trust and Aim Higher.

• Student mentors and tutors work with young people, usually from the year 10 Aim Higher consort, in local secondary schools to raise aspirations and achievement by helping pupils with coursework, homework or revision; helping them to find solutions to their problems and helping them to make realistic plans for the future. These young people have the potential to be successful in further education but come from groups under-represented in higher education. For more information email Zoe Pither, Mentoring and Tutoring Coordinator (zoe.pither@bristol.ac.uk) or call 0117 331 7550.

• **Subject enrichment days** – short programmes are constructed that focus on the interests of the group of students involved and consist of various activities that may include lectures, seminars, presentations and lab work. To book an activity, email schools-colleges-liaison@bristol.ac.uk.

• **Sutton Trust Summer School** – aimed at academically able year 12 students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Students must apply to one of six subject streams, including medical sciences. They will experience taster sessions in the subject area and receive information and guidance on topics such as UCAS applications and student finance.

• **Aim Higher Unitaster** – aimed at year 11 students who are introduced to a number of subjects, including medicine, and experience a whole range of teaching methods including lectures, seminars, lab work and practicals.

Email William MacFaul wmm6894@bristol.ac.uk for more information.
There are numerous widening participation schemes run at the University of Cambridge.

- Sutton Trust Summer Schools – in summer 2010 thirty year 12 students from UK state schools and colleges spent an intensive week in medical study, gaining an insight into life as a Cambridge undergraduate.
  [www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/year12summerschools/](http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/year12summerschools/)
  [www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/wp/](http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/wp/)

- Each year Cambridge colleges and academic departments run a number of Open Days you can attend to get a better sense of collegiate life and teaching at Cambridge.
  [www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/opendays/](http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/opendays/)

- Cambridge University Students’ Union (CUSU) run a two day Shadowing Scheme each year for year 12 students from schools without a tradition of top university entry and/or who have little family experience of university. Students spend time shadowing a current undergraduate who is studying a subject that they are interested in, attending lectures, practicals and social events.[www.cusu.cam.ac.uk/campaigns/shadowing.html](http://www.cusu.cam.ac.uk/campaigns/shadowing.html)

- CUSU also contact every state sector sixth form in the country, giving them the opportunity to receive a talk from a current Cambridge undergraduate about university life. This aims to increase the proportion of undergraduates coming from state schools through encouraging more applications. You can request a visit online. [www.cusu.cam.ac.uk/campaigns/access.html](http://www.cusu.cam.ac.uk/campaigns/access.html)
Cardiff University runs numerous widening participation schemes.

- **Pre-medical school journal club** – currently being set up for school pupils using articles from the Student BMJ. The aim is to get pupils talking and thinking about current medical issues in the hope that they will be inspired to apply to medical schools. In the event that these pupils attend medical school interviews, they should have increased confidence.

- **Medical Roadshow** – secondary schools in South East Wales can book the roadshow to visit for around two hours. A number of medical students (often in their 4th year) take along medical equipment for either Year 11 or Year 12 pupils to sample. The students also talk through course structure, personal statements, interview questions etc.

- **Step Up to University** – pupils across Wales join the Step Up scheme if they are interested in going on to Higher Education in the future. The scheme starts at the beginning of their Year 11 and continues right through Year 13. Pupils interested in medicine get the opportunity to attend tailored events at Cardiff University including a Health Roadshow and a Summer School, with links to the Institute of Rural Health and Yale College. They are able to chat to a medical student via a dedicated e-mentoring website [www.cardiffmentoring.com](http://www.cardiffmentoring.com).

- **MedWales** – a one-day free conference aimed at pupils in Year 12 who are seriously interested in studying medicine at university. The conference incorporates lectures on undergraduate training, life as a GP, life as a hospital doctor along with interactive workshops in clinical skills, keyhole surgery, pathology and anaesthetics. The conference is held once a year around the February/March period at the University Hospital of Wales.

- An opportunity for Year 12 students to ‘sit in’ on Communication Skills Workshops taking place as part of the third year medical students’ curriculum. The workshops involve students acting as doctors and actors as patients. The sessions include ‘taking history’ and ‘breaking bad news’.

For more information, contact Cardiff University Widening Access:

Widening Access Manager: Annie Mitchell ([MitchellA1@Cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:MitchellA1@Cardiff.ac.uk)), 029 2087 0012. Senior Widening Access Officer: Vicki Roylance (nee Drew) ([RoylanceVJ@Cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:RoylanceVJ@Cardiff.ac.uk)), 029 2087 0073

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Pictures courtesy of University of Cardiff
The University of Dundee strongly encourages applications from students attending lower progression schools and those held back by adversity. It works closely with schools through a variety of initiatives, including embedded aspects of the former Working in Health Access Network, our Discovering Degrees for Schools programme and the new Reach Scotland SFC project. These focus on making secondary school children more aware of the different options that may be open to them, including a specific Access route into Medicine, and involve Medical students and staff who encourage pupils to get involved. Dundee has an innovative selection process for Medicine that champions Fair Admissions practice and ensures the best students join our programme. You can find further details here:

http://www.dundee.ac.uk/admissions/participation/
Durham University

The Phase I Medicine Programme at Durham University interacts with schools and colleges in the Teeside, Durham and Wearside areas to attract students into the medical profession through:

• Look See Days – Schools and colleges can arrange visits to Queen’s campus where pupils can experience talks and medicine-based activities with Phase I medicine staff and students. Days are tailor-made depending on the age group, but all have a practical component in the Clinical Skills Laboratory.

• School Visits – Phase I medical staff and students can come along to local schools/colleges to give talks or attend careers fairs.
University of East Anglia

The University of East Anglia runs several medicine-specific widening participation schemes:

- Work with local primary schools – trained student helpers visit primary schools in the local region to teach CPR to pupils and to talk about careers in medicine.

- Work with local high school students – invited onto campus for taster days, run by staff and students from the medical school and the faculty. Workshops within these taster days become more specialised and academic as students progress through high school. Medical students are rewarded for taking part in these outreach activities through a certificate scheme; medical students can achieve different levels of reward based on their level of involvement.

- ‘Medical Aspirations?’ programme – a three day medical residential programme aimed at young people in year 12 with Widening Participation backgrounds from the Eastern region. For more information email foh.outreach@uea.ac.uk

- A scholarship scheme attached to the residential – three students each year, upon successful entry to the UEA, will have 5 years of medical school fees paid for them.

- Student Mentoring – University students visit year 10 pupils in their schools and work with them on a weekly, one-to-one basis to raise awareness of further and higher education and develop their self-esteem and confidence. For more information email mentors@uea.ac.uk

- Summer Schools – There are a number of summer schools for students in years 9-11. They aim to give pupils an introduction to a range of academic courses and an insight into life at university. For more information email ueasummerschools@uea.ac.uk or call 01603 591 513.

- UEA forms part of Excellence East, which offers a diverse range of activities for Gifted and Talented learners aged 11-19, including master classes, summer schools and specialist subject challenge days. For more information email excellenceeast@uea.ac.uk or call 01603 591 961.
The University of Edinburgh runs the Pathways to the Professions Project for pupils in S4, S5 or S6 who attend any one of the 46 state schools in Edinburgh and the Lothians and are interested in studying medicine.

Pupils must register for the project first and are then able to participate in a number of activities and events.

Pathways Plus students, who are those who are first generation to go to University, also receive one to one guidance and support. Activities include:

- ‘So you want to be a doctor’ careers events run in conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh and Royal College of Physicians
- Workshops in biology and chemistry, and Higher exam revision sessions
- Summer Schools – Early invitations to Kickstart Summer Programmes
- One-to-one advice and guidance on UCAS application and personal statement
- Medic Insight one week work experience in local hospitals
- Mentoring in final year of school and first year of university
- Advice and guidance for parents and advisers

For more information email pathways@ed.ac.uk, call 0131 651 1755 or visit www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/pathways or www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/reach
Glasgow University

Widening participation schemes at Glasgow University play an important role in the Working in Health Access Network West (West WHAN).

West WHAN:
• Aims to raise awareness of courses of study and careers in the healthcare professions. The scheme is operated in West of Scotland schools that fall below the national average of transition to higher education.

• Runs –
  • Workshops: Pupils from S3-S5 can take part in fun, interactive workshops at Glasgow Medical School that are run by healthcare staff and students.

  For more information email Coleen Anderson (coleen.anderson@clinmed.gla.ac.uk), Fiona Harrison (Fiona.M.Harrison@glasgow.ac.uk) or call 0141 330 8542.

  • Mentoring: In collaboration with the Brightside Trust, an online mentoring scheme is in operation where S5 and S6 pupils who are considering applying, or have already applied, for a healthcare related course of study are provided with support from Glasgow University students. For more information email Alan Foster (Alan.Foster@glasgow.ac.uk) or call 0141 330 8543.

Glasgow University also operates a number of university-wide widening participation schemes. For details, view the Widening Participation at Glasgow: Access to Excellence brochure (http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_10692_en.pdf).
HYMS has a number of projects that reach out to young people in local schools and colleges, aiming to raise aspirations and encourage them to consider a career in medicine.

- **Making Connections** – A pilot project working with A2 and AS science students as well as AVCE Health and Social Care students. The project introduces pupils to problem-based learning through a virtual patient scenario and includes visits to the HYMS multi-function laboratory for practical work and to a local hospital to see science in the workplace.

- **Primary School Tutoring** – HYMS students spend time in local primary schools working on a health related project, supporting the primary curriculum.

- **Talks in Schools** – Student ambassadors give talks and presentations in schools and colleges across the region. Topics include: studying medicine; life at university; and coming to HYMS.

- **Events for students**: regular events are organised for students from years 7 to 13 with a focus on virtual patients and problem based learning.

For information on the full range of current widening access schemes at Hull York Medical School please visit: [www.hyms.ac.uk/about/widening-participation.aspx](http://www.hyms.ac.uk/about/widening-participation.aspx)

Email Jo Cross (jo.cross@hyms.ac.uk) Widening Participation Manager or 01904 321 763.

Email Ellie Bird (Eleanor.bird@hmys.ac.uk) Widening Participation Assistant or 01904 321 782.
Imperial College London run a number of widening participation schemes.

- **ICSM SU Vision Scheme** ([http://www.icsmvision.co.uk/](http://www.icsmvision.co.uk/)) – A student-led scheme focuses vision outreach activities in North West London and the areas served by the Imperial College Health Care Trust, but pupils from other areas are welcome to participate.

Activities include:

- **Junior Conference** – A one-day event aimed at school pupils in Years 10-12 who are considering a career in medicine and want to know more about what it involves.

- **Senior Conference** – A one-day event aimed at school pupils in Year 13 or on a gap year and are intending to apply for medicine.

For Junior/Senior Conference enquiries email visioninfo@imperial.ac.uk


- **E-mentoring** ([http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/outreach/mentoringinschools/mentoring](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/outreach/mentoringinschools/mentoring)) – Via the ‘Bright Journals’, medical students develop relationships with students from Years 10-13 that last a minimum of one year. For more information email Dr. Annalisa Alexander (Pimlico@imperial.ac.uk) Mentoring and tutoring programmes manager or call 020 759 4 8134.

- **MedEx** – a one week, non-residential conference at Imperial for twenty Year 12 school pupils who participate in the E-mentoring scheme. There is also a day of work shadowing at Chelsea and Westminster that follows the week of hands-on activities to give the pupils a flavour of studying medicine at Imperial and to give them some credible experience for their UCAS applications.

For more information on MedEx email Dr. Annalisa Alexander, Mentoring and tutoring programmes manager (a.alexander@imperial.ac.uk)

- **School visits** ([http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/outreach/wideningparticipation](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/outreach/wideningparticipation)) – Imperial College staff or students visit local schools to give presentations on student life, UCAS forms and question and answer sessions. For more information email Jane Marshall, Widening participation manager (outreach@imperial.ac.uk).

Keele University participates in a number of widening access initiatives:

- **Annual Royal Society of Medicine Careers Day:** pupils in years 10-12 come to Keele to listen to a range of talks, have tours of the medical school building and participate in interactive workshops.

- **Summer School:** in conjunction with the Healthcare Careers and Skills Academy at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire we shall be offering a joint summer school for local students from a widening participation background.

- **Access to Keele (A2K):** a scheme coordinated by Keele University to support students with their preparations for a transition to Higher Education. The scheme runs throughout the academic year and is best suited for learners in Year 12. It is divided into three streams: experiential, skills and academic. For further information and eligibility criteria please see the website [www.keele.ac.uk/a2k](http://www.keele.ac.uk/a2k)

- **Keelelink:** Keele University's schools and colleges partnership programme. All schools and colleges are welcome to join and membership is free. Involvement in this programme offers partners access to a wide range of activities and resources, including on- and off-campus events, the access scheme Access 2 Keele, e-mentoring, and quality information, advice and guidance. For more information visit [www.keele.ac.uk/keelelink](http://www.keele.ac.uk/keelelink) or email keelelink@acad.keele.ac.uk

- **The University also offers a range of Open Days and Visit Days for those wishing to find out more about the University and the School of Medicine.**

For general information about studying medicine at Keele please visit: [http://www.keele.ac.uk/health/schoolofmedicine/](http://www.keele.ac.uk/health/schoolofmedicine/) and for information on bursaries and student finance please visit: [http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/undergraduatebursaries/](http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/undergraduatebursaries/)
King’s College London

King’s College London (formally known as Guys, Kings and St Thomas’ Medical School) operates a number of well-established widening access schemes.

Outreach to Medicine Project – This project runs a number of activities for students who attend schools and colleges in local London boroughs.

Activities for GCSE students
- ‘Student Doctors’ in the classroom – Pairs of medical students are placed in schools over a four-week period. They teach lessons on health-related topics and present a talk on ‘life at medical school’ to pupils in Year 7-13.
- Key Skills for Medical Professionals – Year 8-11 students are introduced to the work of medical professionals and are informed of the skills they will need to develop and of the correct subject choices to make during half day interactive workshops.
- The Worshipful Company of Barbers’ Medical Activity Days – A mix of interactive workshops, lectures and visits to the Chantler Clinical Skills Centre. Year 8-11 pupils work in small teams led by a student ambassador on topics that are designed to enrich the GCSE Science Curriculum such as DNA.

Activities for A-Level and Access students
- The Worshipful Company of Barbers’ Science in Action lectures – Designed to make students think about scientific issues and to help boost students’ independent study skills.
- The Worshipful Company of Barbers’ Medicine in Action lectures – Provide an insight into a range of medical specialties including Pathology and Accident and Emergency Medicine.
- Group Mentoring – advice sessions and practical workshops run by medical school staff or a medical student for sixth formers who are seriously considering applying to medical school.
- Med-View – an intensive medical conference for Year 12 students considering applying to medical school. The day includes lectures from leading medical researchers, an anatomy class, practical clinical skills workshops, visits to clinical departments, advice on strengthening their application to medical school and more.

For more information on any of the above, contact: outreachformedicine@kcl.ac.uk Or call 020 7848 6972.
Leeds University

There are numerous widening participation schemes at Leeds University.

• The Leeds Bursary – offers financial support to students from low-income backgrounds, with support provided for some 1700 new first year entrants annually (approximately 1 in 4 students). For more information please visit: http://www.leeds.ac.uk/yourfinances/

• The Access to Leeds (A2L) Scheme – a scheme designed to help students whose personal circumstances may affect their ability to demonstrate talent and potential through grades alone. Eligible applicants receive special consideration from admissions tutors and if they receive an offer, applicants also receive an A2L offer. The scheme has proved successful in ensuring Leeds recruit the best and brightest applicants regardless of background.

Over 440 A2L applicants registered with the University between 2006 and 2010.

• Outreach programme – Events have included 2 or 3 medicine summer schools per year, conferences, taster days, information sessions, health-related workshops and health careers conferences for careers advisers.

• Leeds Widening Access to Medical School (WAMS) Scheme – WAMS is a voluntary student initiative set up and run entirely by medical students. It aims to increase the number of successful applications of students from a wide range of backgrounds. www.wanttobeadoctor.co.uk

Leeds University operates a university wide service of Access and Engagement, for general information please visit: http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ace/
Medical students at the University of Leicester have set up a widening participation initiative aimed at school students who might be disadvantaged in their applications to become medical students at university.

- SAMPLE (Student Access into Medical careers through Peer Led Education) aims to cater for students who may struggle to gain medically related work experience.

University-led widening participation schemes include:
- Medical lectures for example ‘Medicine in the 21st Century’
- Talks and workshops surrounding university life

For more information email outreach@le.ac.uk
There are numerous widening participation schemes at the University of Liverpool.

- **Student advocates** – Student advocates work on a variety of tasks such as university campus visits, school visits, open days/evening and summer schools.

- **Medicine Taster Days** – these inform students about the process of applying to medicine, and life as a student and F1 doctor. Students are introduced to Problem Based Learning, the teaching of anatomy, and clinical and communication skills. The MBChB Admissions tutor also gives talks to schools and participates in careers conventions and support of the Scholars Scheme.

- **Scholars Scheme** – This programme for Year 12 students is aimed at supporting entry into university. After successfully completing the course, students are guaranteed a conditional offer of a place at Liverpool University and are eligible for a non-repayable bursary if they meet the conditions of their offer to help with tuition/maintenance costs.

- Liverpool’s **Foundation to Health Studies** (Year 0) Programme has 12 places available each year for students wishing to study medicine. Applications are accepted from students from non-traditional backgrounds who have only studied one science to A2 level or who may have made inappropriate subject choices.

- Liverpool and Lancaster Universities make between them up to 10 offers for their medical programmes each year to students studying on the A900 pre-medical studies course at Lancaster. Students on the A900 programme can currently choose to have a guaranteed interview for medicine at either Lancaster or Liverpool.

- **Dangerous Science Residential** – This summer school aimed at Year 10 pupils from the North West allows pupils to sample what it is like to study science at university, meet staff and current students, ask questions about their future education and participate in science experiments. For information on how to apply and eligibility email Peter Doyle (p.doyle@liv.ac.uk), Educational Opportunities Officer or call 0151 794 4418.

Details of Liverpool Medical School’s admissions requirements for students entering via the Year 0 and A900 programmes can be found at [www.liv.ac.uk/healthsciences](http://www.liv.ac.uk/healthsciences) and [www.liv.ac.uk/sme/prospective/index](http://www.liv.ac.uk/sme/prospective/index)

For more information email Michael Mohebbi (m.mohebbi@liv.ac.uk) Educational Opportunities Officer or call 0151 794 5122.
The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester offers a number of initiatives which aim to encourage and support applications from pupils in widening participation target groups. Several University-wide schemes involve healthcare- and medicine-specific components:

- **The Manchester Gateway Programme for Y7 to Y11 learners:** The University of Manchester Gateway Programme provides a new opportunity for Year 7 to 11 learners within Greater Manchester to participate in a coherent series of academic enrichment and higher education (HE) awareness activities. The Programme is targeted at talented learners from the local region who have the ability to progress into HE and are from backgrounds that are currently under-represented.

- **Gateways Mentoring Scheme:** Under this scheme Year 10 pupils are matched with undergraduate students studying relevant subjects who are trained to act as their mentor for two academic years. Mentors meet with their mentees on school premises, once a month by arrangement with the school. Between meetings mentoring occurs via a secure online portal.

- **Healthcare Careers Experience Day:** Gateways mentees and local Aim higher learners interested in careers in healthcare participate in a wide range of activities that explore the options available to them via HE healthcare courses.

- **Manchester Access Programme (MAP):** MAP is a structured scheme for local post-16 students who meet specific academic and background criteria related to academic potential and measures of under-representation in HE. The aim of the programme is to support entry to The University of Manchester, or another research-intensive university, through the completion of a portfolio of work demonstrating specific knowledge and skills; of the 2010 intake into the MBChB course 5% of students were supported through MAP.

- **Medics in Primary School:** A student run and student led society which involves medical students teaching basic health sciences to Year 6 Primary School children in inner city Manchester. The scheme also provides the children with an insight into life at university as well as careers in medicine.

For more information please contact the Undergraduate Recruitment and Widening Participation Office on 0161 3066506 (pre-16) or 0161 2752212 (post-16), email schoolsandcolleges@manchester.ac.uk
Newcastle University runs a university-wide scheme called PARTNERS. The scheme coordinates a series of outreach events and activities for pupils at certain schools in the North East region.

- Medical Sciences Masterclass – year 11 Gifted and Talented students have the opportunity to undertake basic diagnostic microbiology in a lab setting. For more information email Emma Peak (bc.masterclasses@northumbria.ac.uk) or call 0191 222 8384.

- Medicine Student Shadowing – Year 12 students are able to shadow undergraduate medical students for a day. During the event, students attend a lecture, tutorial or practical session and are given a tour of the teaching facilities. There is also an opportunity to learn about student finance and how to apply to university. For more information email the student recruitment team (partners@ncl.ac.uk) or call 0191 222 6094.

For further information on the more general activities and events on offer at Newcastle visit the PARTNERS website (http://www.ncl.ac.uk/partners/).
The widening participation scheme at The University of Nottingham is called WAMS. This student-led scheme aims to promote medicine as a career to individuals from non-privileged backgrounds.

- **Work Experience Programme** ([http://www.studymedicine.org.uk/schemes/Work_Experience.html](http://www.studymedicine.org.uk/schemes/Work_Experience.html)) – aimed at Year 12 students who are thinking about applying to medical school and attend any state school in Nottinghamshire. A day of introductory seminars is followed by three days of clinical experience shadowing medical students and doctors.

- **E-Mentoring** ([http://www.studymedicine.org.uk/schemes/E-Mentoring.html](http://www.studymedicine.org.uk/schemes/E-Mentoring.html)) – in conjunction with Bright Journals, The University of Nottingham runs an E-mentoring scheme where Year 11 and 12 students are matched with current undergraduate medical students as mentors. This gives pupils the opportunity to get a flavour of what it is like to study medicine and have the support and experience of their mentors through the application process.

- **School Visits** ([http://www.studymedicine.org.uk/schemes/School_Visits.html](http://www.studymedicine.org.uk/schemes/School_Visits.html)) – The WAMS Committee visit schools and colleges within the Nottingham area, putting on a range of activities related to studying medicine.

- **Events** – WAMS run four event evenings at the Nottingham Medical School throughout the year: ‘life as a medic’; UCAS evening (information about which universities to apply for and how to apply); personal statement evening (tips are given and all personal statements are read through); interview skills evening (every student has a mock interview). For more information on any of the activities mentioned above email WAMS at wams@nottingham.ac.uk

- **Masterclass** – Year 12 pupils spend an afternoon at the medical school learning about the admissions process and take part in an interactive seminar on the ethical decisions that doctors face. For more information email Emma Szem bek (emma.szem bek@nottingham.ac.uk), Schools and Colleges Manager or call 0115 8466468.

- **Year 12 Experience Programme** – includes a strand covering medicine and health sciences for students from around the East Midlands, applications open in January of the Year 12 academic year. For more information please visit the website [www.nottingham.ac.uk/aep](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/aep).

- **Year 12 Sutton Trust Programme** – Includes a strand covering medicine and health sciences, applications open in January of the Year 12 academic year. For more information please visit the website [www.nottingham.ac.uk/suttontrust](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/suttontrust).

- **Year 11 Healthcare Professions Insight Day** – a taster day for Year 11 students covering medicine, midwifery and nursing. Please contact Lucie Whitfield for further information, lucie.whitfield@nottingham.ac.uk.
A number of widening participation activities are offered each year from within the Medical School and in collaboration with projects across the University.

- **Open Days for A100 Medicine**
  [http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/medicine/courses/preclin/open-days/](http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/medicine/courses/preclin/open-days/)

- **Oxford and Cambridge Regional Conferences**
  [http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate_courses/working_with_schools_and_colleges/oxford_and_cambridge.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate_courses/working_with_schools_and_colleges/oxford_and_cambridge.html)

- **Regional Teachers’ Conferences**
  [http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate_courses/open_days/teachers.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate_courses/open_days/teachers.html)

- **UNIQ Summer School** – medicine offers a full academic programme (anticipated 40 places for 2011) for this School, which is open to UK state school students (competitive applications process applies).
  [http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate_courses/working_with_schools_and_colleges/uniq/new_summer_school.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate_courses/working_with_schools_and_colleges/uniq/new_summer_school.html) or email admissions@medschool.ox.ac.uk

- **E-Outreach** – in collaboration with Bedford School, there are occasional opportunities for state school students to follow a first year lecture in Medicine, via video-conferencing facilities. To register your interest, email admissions@medschool.ox.ac.uk

- **Visits to schools/colleges** – Events are run at local schools that look at aspects of applying to, and studying at, Oxford. Email: liaison@admin.ox.ac.uk
At Peninsula, the student-led Widening Access to Medical School (WAMS) programme targets pupils at most local state schools in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset. These schools have been actively encouraged to use this independent student-led service.

The services it provides include:

**E-mentoring**: This is an opportunity for students in Years 10-13 at schools in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset to discuss the application process, and the teaching and learning experiences of current medical students.

**Interactive Workshops**: student led activities which introduce pupils to a range of healthcare scenarios designed to demonstrate the roles of the medic, nurse, surgeon and wider healthcare team. These sessions are available on request through WAMS@pcm.ac.uk. Please note that all invitations must be from the hosting School and not individual pupils.

For more information email the PCMD Admissions Team (pcmd-admissions@pcm.ac.uk) or call 01752 437 333.
Sheffield Outreach & Access to Medicine Scheme (SOAMS) (http://www.shef.ac.uk/schools/soams) is the widening participation scheme run by the University of Sheffield medical school.

- SOAMS enables students from non-traditional backgrounds to pursue a career in medicine by targeting young people who have the academic potential to study medicine, but who are least likely to progress to university.

- Individuals can take part for up to five years prior to applying to university.

Participants attend four interactive activities per year, each aimed at raising their aspirations to progress to Higher Education (HE). They include sessions to familiarise young people and their parents with HE, team building and problem solving workshops, lab based workshops, online e-mentoring by current medical students, a residential summer school and occupational placement.

- All SOAMS students are guaranteed an interview for medicine at the University of Sheffield subject to achieving certain academic benchmarks. They also benefit from mock interviews, bespoke study skills and revision sessions aimed at enhancing their application writing skills, interview performance and academic attainment. Links are being established with tutors on courses allied to medicine at the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University to give timely advice to students aspiring to pursue other health and science options.

- SOAMS is managed by the University of Sheffield’s Outreach Team, working in partnership with Sheffield’s Medical School to support the young people throughout the programme. Current medical, healthcare and biosciences undergraduates routinely work with participants and are valuable role models. Many ex-SOAMS students now work as mentors.

For more information and contact details please see the SOAMS web pages: http://www.shef.ac.uk/schools/outreach-programmes/soams
There are a number of medicine specific widening participation schemes currently on offer at Southampton University.

- **Widening Access to Medicine Summer School** – a two-day event aiming to give students an insight into medicine as a career through a number of interactive activities. In particular it provides students with information about the BM6 programme and aims to support potential students in their application to this programme. The BM6 is Southampton School of Medicine’s 6 year Widening Access to Medicine programme with a Year 0 (http://www.som.soton.ac.uk/)

- **FE2HE Summer University** – designed for Year 12/13 students at local schools/colleges who are interested in pursuing a career in Health and Social Care. The event consists of a 5 day residential event in July followed by a day event in September where participants return and receive more in-depth support on applying to university. With the support of their student mentors, participants take part in practical sessions in subject areas including medicine. For more information email Charlotte Everitt (cee@soton.ac.uk) or call 023 8059 7377.

- **Bright Journals E-mentoring** – designed to support students interested in careers or study in areas related to Health & Social Care. All students are matched with a university student mentor who offers advice and guidance.

- **Student Associate Scheme** – current students work in secondary schools and tertiary colleges in and around Southampton, supporting the subject they are studying at degree level or a subject they completed at A-Level. For further information email Laura Ahern (L.J.A hern@soton.ac.uk) or call 023 8059 7359.
St Andrews

St Andrews has several schemes in place that aim to raise aspirations of pupils from non-traditional backgrounds.

- **Student Shadowing and Mentoring** – Pupils spend a day shadowing an undergraduate to appropriate lectures, tutorials and laboratories. Questions regarding university applications and student life can be answered.
- **Student Tutoring** – Undergraduate students are placed in a subject area that they are studying and help with the teaching of classes. Students also hold sessions with the pupils on issues related to university life. The schools involved in the scheme are normally ones that send few students to university.

The Medical School at St Andrews also operates two specific routes to Medicine for applicants from access or non-standard backgrounds. These are:

- **The Pre Med Year in Science at St Andrews** which has 5 places for school leavers
- **The HNC Applied Sciences “Pathway to Medicine” at Perth College** from which 5 mature students progress to Medicine

Disadvantaged applicants are also identified for consideration through access programmes such as:

- **Lothian Equal Access Programme for Schools**
- **Greater Opportunity for Access and Learning with Schools**
- **Pupils attending schools with low rates of progression to HE**
- **‘Access to Medicine’ courses such as Stow College, College of West Anglia, Lambeth College**

The University supports access pupils in advance of application through the following schemes:

- **Sutton Trust Summer School** (for access pupils)
- **First Chances Summer School** (for specified pupils in local schools)
- **Online Mentoring programme for those on First Chances Summer School**
- **Clinical Skills Workshops run by St Andrews Medical students embedded into First Chances Summer School**
- **Medicine Shadowing Days for S5/S6 pupils from access related backgrounds**
- **Medicine Workshops aimed at enhancing work placement options in access priority schools with the follow up option of a Medicine Shadowing Day**
- **Teachers Together Conference for teachers to gain more insight into Medicine at St Andrews**

For further information visit [http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/admissions/Access/SchoolProjectsInitiatives/](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/admissions/Access/SchoolProjectsInitiatives/) or email: **Mike Johnson (maj10@st-andrews.ac.uk)**, Senior Schools Liaison Officer **Joanna Fry (access@st-andrews.ac.uk)**, Administrator: Scottish Recruitment & Access.
St George’s

St George’s, University of London has a well established series of award winning widening participation schemes in place (www.sgul.ac.uk/wp).

• Primary Practice – an after school club offering year 5 and 6 pupils the opportunity to learn more about medicine and healthcare by taking part in practical activities and developing new skills including basic first aid. It’s designed to develop pupils’ scientific knowledge and enhance their confidence and team working skills at this important time of their education. For details email wp@sgul.ac.uk or call 020 8266 6483

• Taste of Medicine (www.tasteofmedicine.com) – This free, interactive and engaging site consists of a family of resources that support students through education and careers decision making, reflections on work experience, communications skills development, and transition into higher education.

• Experiments Roadshows (www.roadshows.sgul.ac.uk) – 5 different Student ambassador led roadshows that take place at schools and colleges. They are aimed at pupils in Years 7 – 13 and link into the science curriculum, highlighting different medical and healthcare careers. For further information and availability email roadshow@sgul.ac.uk or call 020 8266 6342

• Clinical Skills Taster Days – Aimed at years 8 – 12, schools and colleges are invited to spend a half or full day at St George’s following a specially designed programme of activities to give participants an insight into studying medicine and healthcare subjects at university. For further information and availability email wp@sgul.ac.uk or call 020 8266 6483.

• Summer Schools (www.summerschool.sgul.ac.uk) – St George’s Spring and Summer Schools introduce life as a student in all of the health care professions. St George’s have numerous schools that are designed to look at the wide range of career options in medicine and the allied health professions. Activities include role-play scenarios, laboratory practicals, lectures, tutorials and clinical skills training. Visit the website for details of eligibility. For further information email wp@sgul.ac.uk or call 020 8266 6483.

• Interview preparation – aimed at years 12 – 13, we run three distinct sessions in schools and colleges: firstly on developing skills in reflection, particularly linked to work experience; secondly on developing formal communication skills by linking medical scenarios to participants’ own experiences; and thirdly on Multi Mini Interviews, the innovative approach taken to medical student selection at St George’s. For details email wp@sgul.ac.uk or call 020 8725 2333.

• School and college visits – St George’s staff and student ambassadors are available to visit schools and colleges in London to talk about applying to university, student life and finance and subject-specific presentations. For more information email enquiries@sgul.ac.uk or call 020 8725 2333.

• Open days (www.sgul.ac.uk/opendays) – take place every month except December. For further details and bookings either visit the website, email opendays@sgul.ac.uk or call 020 8725 2333.
University College London

UCL has several university-run schemes in place that are aimed at widening participation in medicine.

• **Insight into Medicine**: Year 2 medical students develop activities and presentations to promote studying medicine to school pupils in Years 8-11. The student ambassadors then go into schools to run these activities and discuss medical issues. For more information and booking email Caroline Fionda (c.fionda@ucl.ac.uk) or call 020 7679 3016.

• **Dick Whittington Medical Summer School** – a non-residential work experience week held at UCL’s Archway campus, within the Whittington Hospital. Students work in small groups with two medical student buddies, and meet real patients, visit different hospital departments and neighbouring GP practices, and learn emergency response skills. There are also sessions on applying to medical school that cover topics such as volunteering, personal statements and interview techniques. The school is open to Year 11 pupils at non-selective state schools in London, who have parents that did not attend university and are thinking of studying medicine. For more information email Dr Jayne Kavanagh (j.kavanagh@medsch.ucl.ac.uk)

• **Science, Society and Theatre** – an outreach programme aimed at enhancing the Key Stage 4 GCSE science curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to debate ethical and moral issues raised in stem cell research and genetics. For more information email Rebecca Reed (rebecca.reed@ucl.ac.uk) or call 020 7679 2914.

• **School Visits and Activities**: There are a number of activities and workshops available that address some of the more general aspects of student life and studying at university. To book an event email Caroline Fionda (c.fionda@ucl.ac.uk) or call 020 7679 3016

• **Applications support**: sessions for state school applicants from the London area can be arranged to provide guidance on interviews, BMAT and writing personal statements. For more information email Dr Jayne Kavanagh (j.kavanagh@medsch.ucl.ac.uk)

• **Target Medicine**: is an innovative student driven and delivered initiative supported by the Division of Medical Education. Target Medicine includes three programmes targeted at students from non-selective state schools in the London area. These are: Target Medicine Presentation Team (aimed at Year 8 and Year 9 students); Target Medicine Summer School (aimed at Year 11 students) and Target Medicine Mentoring Scheme (aimed at Year 12 and Year 13 students). Please email targetmedicine2011@gmail.com for further information.
Warwick University

Warwick University and Medical School have a number of schemes in place aimed at widening participation.

• In collaboration with the Brightside Trust Warwick University offers an e-mentoring service for school pupils interested in a career in healthcare or medicine.

• The Goal Programme. Medical students are paired with students in local schools, making contact with each other at least once a week. This service can be accessed by registering on the GOAL programme, which is designed to target gifted and talented students from families with no history of higher education. For further information email Goal@warwick.ac.uk or call 02476 574051

• The student-led Widening Access to Medical School (WAMS) programme visits local state schools to introduce pupils to medicine and a range of healthcare scenarios. These sessions are designed for pupils in Years 8 to 12.

• A 3 day course for Year 12 students, facilitated by students and doctors from all specialities. The course provides both knowledge about and experience of medicine with the aims of helping students to decide whether medicine is for them and to assist those who make that decision in their application.

• A summer coaching course, run jointly with Coventry University, which focuses on interview practice, ethical discussions, school choices, work experience and personal statement writing.

• Providing work experience opportunities in the area, including shadowing of junior doctors and sessional attachment to general practitioners.

More detail on the above activities can be found at www.medicalinsightcov.org.uk

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