



Medical Education in Great Britain





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- Medical education in the United Kingdom includes educational activities involved in the education and training of medical doctors in the United Kingdom from entry level training to continuous education of qualified specialists.
- To enter a medical school in Great Britain candidates must pass entrance examinations.
- Entrance examinations are both oral and written.




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- Students take these examinations at the end of 6-year secondary-school course, generally at the age of 18-19.
 - To enter a faculty of medicine or a medical school, it is required that such subjects as chemistry, physics and biology or mathematics should be taken at an advanced level.

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- Tuition fee is charged.
 - Most students receive financial assistance in the form of grants, which cover their expenses wholly or in part. The academic year is divided into 3 terms, each of 10-11 weeks' duration.
 - The terms run from October to December, from January to March and from April to June.
 - Undergraduate education occupies five years, consisting essentially of two years of basic sciences and three years of clinical work.


- Pre-clinical training consists of the basic sciences such as anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pharmacology, pathology.
- Clinical studies consist of teaching in the various areas of clinical medicine such as internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry and surgery.
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- Medical students have practical training in teaching hospitals.
 - These hospitals consist of in-patient and out-patient departments.
 - These departments are also called units.
 - Senior students and especially undergraduates spend most of the time in teaching hospitals.
 - daily bedside instruction in hospital wards and out-patient departments is given by teachers and doctors.
 - Students follow up their patients and attend ward rounds.




- Besides the work in the wards the students attend lectures and demonstrations in clinical pharmacology, pathology and microbiology as well as in clinical subjects.
- Three years are spent in clinical studies to obtain the Degrees of Bachelor of Medicine (B.M.) and Bachelor of Surgery (B.S.).

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- At the end of each term and after each special course students take exams.
 - These are called sessionals.
 - Most of the exams are written.
 - They include academic and practical problems.
 - The final examinations or finals are in medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology.
 - Besides, students must assist in operations.
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- Before finals in obstetrics and gynaecology the students must assist during the delivery of at least 20 babies.
 - These examinations are both written and oral.
 - A written test includes questions of multiple choice.
 - Oral tests include diagnosing a case.

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- After the finals graduates work in hospitals for a year.
 - This period is called internship.
 - The newly qualified doctor must serve for six months as a house physician and six months as a house surgeon under supervision of his medical school.
 - House physicians and surgeons are on call every second or third night.
 - The work of interns is very difficult.
 - Interns work for at least 8 hours a day.

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- After the internship a young doctor obtains a “Certificate of Experience” from the medical school and he or she may work as a medical practitioner.
 - Further specialization requires training in residency.
 - It takes from 2 up to 7 years depending upon the chosen field of medicine.

- After passing the finals the students are given the B.V. and B.S. degrees.
 - The degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery give the right for the registration as a general practitioner.
- Besides these degrees they have the degree of Doctor of Medicine (M.D.).
- This degree is a postgraduate qualification obtained by writing a thesis based on the original work.
 - It is not required for practice.
 - Such degree in surgery is termed a Mastership (M.S.).

