

Academic ability and curiosity

- Academic excellence
- Analytical, problem-solving mindset
- Ability to articulate well and argue logically
- Open to new ideas
- Enthusiasm for intellectual interests (especially science or medicine)

Example questions:

- “Do you think your A level scores to date reflect your abilities?”
- “Describe your learning style. How do you think it fits with this medical school?”

Motivation, self-discipline, and commitment to healthcare

- Evidence of exploring a career in medicine (e.g., subscription to medical journals and relevant work or volunteering experiences)
- Engaging in non-school activities, like The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award (DofE)

Example questions:

- “Tell us about your experience of clinical medicine.”
- “In what way have you shown your commitment to studying medicine?”

Empathy

- Delivery of person-centred care
- Actively listening and remaining sensitive to what someone is thinking or feeling
- Demonstrating your ability to empathise well through reflections and your tone of voice and body language

Example questions:

- “Why do you want to study medicine?”
- “What did you learn from your work experience?”

Flexibility and resilience

- Ability to adapt to changes
- Ability to compromise for the greater good

Example questions:

- “Has there ever been a time when you have compromised on something? What was this?”
- “How do you cope with stress?”

Excellent communication

- Clear communication with colleagues and patients
- Good verbal and non-verbal communication skills (i.e., tone of voice, general demeanour)
- Good command of the English language

Example questions:

- “Describe your style of communicating and interacting with others.”
- “How do you think you’ll cope with the emotional side of medicine?”

Honesty and integrity

- Be trustworthy and dependable
- Be aware of your own limitations and admit mistakes
- Act with integrity in all areas of life
- Be candid and true to yourself, rather than trying to come across as perfect

Example questions:

- “What do you think you will find most challenging about medicine?”
- “What are your weaknesses?”

Professionalism

- Demonstrate that you are punctual, well-presented, and well-mannered and can articulate well
- Interviewers will assess this based on your appearance and behaviours during your interview

Example questions:

- “How will you know if you are being a good doctor?”
- “How would you respond if a member of your team was being uncooperative?”