

Updates in Relation to COVID-19

COVID-19 is continuing to have a significant impact on UK University admissions processes, which will last for at least the next academic year. Warwick Medical School (WMS) are aware of uncertainty and confusion amongst those applying to the MBChB in 2020 (for entry in September 2021). WMS is continuously monitoring the situation, and would like to update you with the current position and guidelines. Note: Due to the fluidity of the COVID-19 situation the information below is subject to change.

2020-2021 Admissions Cycle (Entry September 2021)

The 2020-2021 application cycle will currently proceed as normal: all published MBChB admissions criteria remain in place. Updates relating to UCAT and WMS work experience requirements are below.

UCAT

UPDATED 24/08/20

UCAT have published an online statement about testing in 2020 (see <https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/ucat-2020/>). Registration for UCAT is now open, with the test window from 1 August to 3 October 2020 and you are encouraged to book and test early. You can choose whether to take the online version of the test or to attend a test centre. Please review the UCAT webpage regularly for updates, and continue your preparations for this assessment.

WMS Work Experience Requirements (Applications for 2021 Entry)

UPDATED 13/05/20

WMS will now accept relevant work experiences conducted over the past 4 years (from 15th October 2016 to 15th October 2020).

WMS are aware that certain hands-on work experience placements involving patients or people with healthcare needs might have been altered, and in some cases cancelled. Despite this, and given applicants previously had a 3 year, and now have a 4 year period (from 15th October 2016 to 15th October 2020), in which to conduct the required work experiences, there are currently no changes to the published work-experience requirements. All applicants will need to have met these requirements by the application deadline of 15th October 2020.

Relevant work experience roles that fall under the 'Key Worker' classification (UK Government defined) are still available. If you are undertaking such a role at this time, or in the near future, please ensure that you are medically fit and able to do so in light of COVID-19.

We recognise that many of our applicants want to be, or are currently, involved in the national response to COVID-19. We both encourage and support such activity, therefore for the 2020-2021 admissions cycle we will also accept the following work experiences with start dates from 1st February 2020:

- NHS 111 Operative
- NHS facility/hospital patient-facing support staff/volunteer (must fall under the Key Worker category)

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- St John Ambulance: for placements/activities related to COVID-19 (either directly or backfilling patient care)
 - Volunteer under the NHS Volunteer Responders (GoodSAM) scheme launched by UK Government in March 2020: specifically involved in **hands-on** patient assistance, and the care of vulnerable patients in the community

Please contact us (mbchb.admissions@warwick.ac.uk) if you are undertaking other forms of hands-on care of patients or people with healthcare needs related to the national COVID-19 response that are not covered in the list above.

Additional Work Experience now being accepted

Updated August 2020

In addition to our published criteria, and the COVID-19-related updates detailed in the previous section, we will now also accept the following work experiences:

- Roles performed at distance and not in person (e.g. via telephone, video call, etc) that provide, as part of broader remit, experience of healthcare provision, triage or advice. Examples include Nightline, Samaritans and GoodSAM. The role must involve some form of healthcare provision, and not simply be a general conversation (e.g. “how are you?” calls). Given the variability of these roles, their total contribution toward the 70h minimum is capped at 20h and you must be able to provide evidence of having performed at least 60h of actual work within the role.
- The shadowing of healthcare professionals in an online format provided the course/experience provides an opportunity for interaction, discussion and reflection that is in some way assessed and certified by the course/experience provider. The hours associated with such an experience must be evidenced within the certification, and total shadowing hours are capped at a maximum of 20h.
- St John ambulance volunteer (or equivalent), with log-book evidence of providing hands on care to people or patients with healthcare needs. Only the time spent caring for people or patients, and not the time on shift, will be considered.

Evidence must be provided to demonstrate the number of hours and type of work that was completed as part of your work experience. This applies to all work experiences undertaken.