

Work Experience FAQs

Why must my work experience be within three years of application, I have gained extensive work experience that falls outside of these dates?

We believe that recent experience is indicative of your recent motivation for, and insight into, a career in medicine. You may have experience from before this which is relevant, and you can use this to illustrate your answers at interview, but it will not count towards the 70 hours minimum we expect to see at this stage.

Why must my experience demonstrate two **different experiences?**

We expect our candidates to build a broad portfolio of experiences as this will provide a better insight and understanding of the demands and requirements of a training and a career in medicine. We believe there is little benefit in repeating the same experiences when a more varied portfolio would provide a wider range of different perspectives.

I work at a school with children who have a disability/special education needs, would this be acceptable work experience?

We do not accept teaching or tutoring as a valid work experience, however, if this role involves looking after disabled children or children with special needs, assisting them with their daily tasks and domestic care, then this would be acceptable. The latter is an example of what we would class as hands-on care.

What is hands-on-care?

To fulfil our requirements your work experience must demonstrate hands on care of people/patients with healthcare needs. This may be performing basic tasks of caring for patients, which also include helping them get out of bed and going to the toilet, feeding, washing and dressing. In a healthcare environment you may be performing observations, dressing wounds or administering drugs. You will most certainly be dealing with the emotional needs of individual patients.

Why does shadowing only count for 20 hours (out of a minimum of 70 hours)?

We believe that observation of health care and healthcare practitioners can provide you with some insight into a specific role or area of a hospital, however, it does not provide you with the same insight as providing hand-on care for people/patients with healthcare needs.

Where can I find a work experience placement?

There are a number of online resources available to medical school applicants in providing guidance and advice on gaining work experience and the expectations of UK Medical Schools.

- The BMA [Work Experience Advice for Students](#)
- Medical Schools Council [Guidance on relevant experience for applying to medical school](#) (2017 update)
- NHS Health Education England: [Health Careers: gaining experience](#)
- GAP Medics: [International Medical Work Experience](#)
- The Student Room: [Medicine Work Experience](#)

I am an overseas applicant, how can I gain experience of the NHS?

Work experience in the NHS is not expected for overseas students, however, we strongly recommend that you gain an understanding of the UK health service via your own research.

Why are clinical trials or clinical research which involve patients not an acceptable experience?

Experience that does not provide direct hands-on care of people/patients is not acceptable. Work not carried out in a healthcare environment will not provide you with the insight and realistic understanding of the role of a doctor and the values required to practise medicine.

How do I tell you about my work experience?

At the point of application, all applicants will be provided with a link to a separate online survey, where you will be required to provide us with details of your work experience placements, including a named contact who can confirm what you did and for how long. You will be required to upload verification of your work experience placements via the online portal. This must include written evidence of the number of hours, dates and your role. All work experience verification must be on the official letter headed paper of the organisation that you worked for. We therefore strongly recommend that you ask for references at the time of your placements, or soon after.

A template letter for this can be found [here](#).

How do I evidence my work experience?

When attending Selection Centre candidates will be required to bring with them original copies of the verification of work experience placements previously provided (see above).

Email verification will be accepted but must come directly from your employer, we cannot accept forwarded messages. If you do not provide this evidence on the day that you are required to attend the Selection Centre your application may be withdrawn.