

MBChB Open Day - Student Experience and Q&A



Hello and welcome to today's MBChB Student Experience Q&A Session!



In this session, we'll be joined by current MBChB medics:

Abbie

Alicia

Bryonny

Charlotte

Rosie

plus Lorraine Brown, MBChB Head of Operational Delivery, and members of the WMS Marketing and Events team to help field any non-student experience type questions that may arise.



A reminder that you can check out the MBChB Student Experience presentation here:

<https://youtu.be/WZaOwAGDKxo>

WMS Virtual MBChB Open Day - Student Experience Presentation

Our second year medic Abbie gives you a snapshot overview as life as an MBChB student at Warwick Medical School.



We'll do our best to answer all of your questions during today's session but if we don't get time to answer everyone's question, you can email us at wms.events@warwick.ac.uk and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.



Just to highlight, the questions you ask in today's session will be made available post-event so please do not share any personal data as part of this chat.



We're going to handover to Abbie now who's going to start off today's session, we hope you have a great session :)

1-July-2020



Hello All! My name is Abbie and I am a second year here at Warwick. Joining us we also have Rosie who is also a second year and Charlotte, Alicia and Bryonny who are first years ! Ask away !



Do you have any advice on how to be a successful applicant? Especially the interview



While studying how much space time do you have for yourself? Are you able to have a part time job or attend any social/sporting clubs?



Around What period do you find out if you have been successful after MMIs in December?



What advice do you have for anyone who is from a humanities background? I'm a bit nervous about it!



To the students from a non-science background, how have you coped with first year? What has been most challenging, and have you felt supported by the uni?



Do you have any advice on how to be a successful applicant? Especially the interview

I think my advice would be that if you're in the interview and you mess up one MMI station, try and remain calm and go into the next station with a clear mind. It is an opportunity to start again and even if one station goes wrong you can bring it back on the next station :)



I did a humanities undergrad at Warwick - if i'm honest I don't think I met a single med student while I was there! Do you feel disconnected from the rest of the campus/student base? How about to the PG community?



Were you successful first time applying to medicine?



Is it possible to live on student finance and the NHS grants/loans etc without a part-time job?



Around What period do you find out if you have been successful after MMIs in December?

The admissions staff will release the initial date of results, but these come out over many weeks, months even.



We've had a few questions about non-science - I am typing a common answer now :)



Is it possible to live on student finance and the NHS grants/loans etc without a part-time job?

Hey, it definitely is, as someone who isn't amazing with my finances, I have found it easy to live on the student finance and maintenance loan in first year. I know a few people with a part time job but most people in my year haven't needed a part-time job :)



While studying how much space time do you have for yourself? Are you able to have a part time job or attend any social/sporting clubs?

Hi! You DEFINITELY have the time to do things for yourself! A lot of medics have part time jobs and almost everyone is part of at least one society/sport! Personally I do a uni sport, two societies and two other medic sports and have managed it all (definitely requires time management skills). I'd actively encourage you to join societies and sports as its a great way to meet people and make the most of your time at med school! If you have any specific questions about societies/sports feel free to ask :)



Were you successful first time applying to medicine?

I personally was, but some of my coursemates applied at undergrad and one friend applied to WMS four times! It is about knowing if medicine is truly what you want to do and being persistent.



Were you successful first time applying to medicine?

And if you are unsuccessful, learn and improve from their feedback



What is an MMI? is it a group interview? I don't really understand what 'stations' etc mean



An MMI is a multiple mini interview. This means that you go round several stations on your own with a different interviewer for each station or room. There will be other people in the room but you won't be interviewing with them, they are usually a short interview answering specific questions and then you move on to the next 'room or station' and answer the next interviews questions. :)



Non-science are hugely supported here. Before you start the upper years who are also non-scientists run pre-sessions covering basic elements before the degree even begins. During the degree we have a huge non science support that is just for students from a non-science background again, run by the upper years who were also non-scientists. This creates a safe space for you to ask anything you like. After block one however, you can't really tell who are the science backgrounds to the science backgrounds. Science backgrounds don't hugely support. I did a neuroscience and it only helped a little for the Neuro block and past first year, it doesn't matter at all! The exam is 40% (ish) non-science topics so it's not all heavy science :)



Is there much financial support?



Please see our fees and funding page <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/med/study/ugr/applying/fees>

Fees and funding

Tuition fees for the first year of the MBChB programme will be £9,250. Fees are expected to rise annually in line with inflation.



What advice do you have for anyone who is from a humanities background? I'm a bit nervous about it!

From Abbie: Non-science are hugely supported here. Before you start the upper years who are also non-scientists run pre-sessions covering basic elements before the degree even begins. During the degree we have a huge non science support that is just for students from a non-science background again, run by the upper years who were also non-scientists. This creates a safe space for you to ask anything you like. After block one however, you can't really tell who are the science backgrounds to the science backgrounds. Science backgrounds don't hugely support. I did a neuroscience and it only helped a little for the Neuro block and past first year, it doesn't matter at all! The exam is 40% (ish) non-science topics so it's not all heavy science



To the students from a non-science background, how have you coped with first year? What has been most challenging, and have you felt supported by the uni?

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What have been the biggest challenge in completing the medicine degree and how have you over come them?



I would say probably finding the right balance between getting the work done but also enjoying myself and doing the things I want to in my free time. It's a balancing act especially in first year, but its really important to keep doing the things you love, as you'll be more productive when you work and you'll end up doing better in the long run :)



Thanks @Abbie!



How many students on the grad course have done an arts degree? and any advice for those applying with one in order to be competitive



From Abbie: Non-science are hugely supported here. Before you start the upper years who are also non-scientists run pre-sessions covering basic elements before the degree even begins. During the degree we have a huge non science support that is just for students from a non-science background again, run by the upper years who were also non-scientists. This creates a safe space for you to ask anything you like. After block one however, you can't really tell who are the science backgrounds to the science backgrounds. Science backgrounds don't hugely support. I did a neuroscience and it only helped a little for the Neuro block and past first year, it doesn't matter at all! The exam is 40% (ish) non-science topics so it's not all heavy science



anddd.. how can I find out about what kind of funding is available for the course?



Please see our fees and funding page <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/med/study/ugr/applying/fees>

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how long do you spend at each station?



For our MMI it was 8 minutes for each station with about 1 minute in between. But be aware things may change year on year



Can you give any information about what the content/topics/themes or other hints and tips about the MMI's?



Hi ! I am really sorry but we can't say anything about the MMI as we have signed non-disclosure agreements. There are tips online however one the application page for WMS and the Medic Portal is a great free resource :)



What questions/scenarios were you faced with in your MMI?



Hi ! I am really sorry but we can't say anything about the MMI as we have signed non-disclosure agreements. There are tips online however one the application page for WMS and the Medic Portal is a great free resource



How easy is it to make friends? Also what do most people opt in choosing accommodation? halls or private student accommodation?



Hello, I'd say its so easy to make friends, on this course you are with other people all the time and you are constantly split into different groups. There is so much opportunity to make friends. As social sec I will be doing my best this year For example, and this will happen each year to hold events to make it even easier to make friends, (obviously COVID-19 Dep) So there are lots of events to get involved in too to help make friends. Lots of people decide to find houses together in the local area such as Earlsdon or Leamington, but many people also opt to live in student accommodation and medics are placed together in for example places like Tocil on campus or in a big group accom in Leamington :)



I did a humanities undergrad at Warwick - if i'm honest I don't think I met a single med student while I was there! Do you feel disconnected from the rest of the campus/student base? How about to the PG community?

You can definitely end up in a WMS bubble which, whilst amazing, isn't for everyone. I chose to be part of a uni a capella group so I could meet non medics! We have also managed to get the uni to recognise us as post grads (even though the course is technically undergrad) so we can now use the post grad hub space etc!



Would you say studying medicine has had an impact on your relationships with friends and family?



I would say it's really important not to get too caught up in the med school bubble, as it can be quite intense when everyone around you is doing medicine, so try not to forget that there is life outside med school! My biggest piece of advice would be to be really open with your friends and family if you are struggling, as their support will be really important throughout med school! Let me know if that doesn't answer your question or if you have any other questions :)



Are you satisfied with how Warwick has been supported you during the pandemic? Was communication consistent?



Hi
Warwick have been really supportive in my opinion. We get weekly updates from WMS about what is going on which have been really nice to have. We have also been constantly updated with what is going on with our degrees and how it is being changed. As a second year we have had our degree shifted around slightly so we have been supported with our research modules online which have been moved and our clinical modules pushed back. I'll let the first years talk about their experiences :)



Can you recommend any decent places to live in close proximity to the med school? Do many people have long commutes?



So there are several place to live around the med school, however there are people who do decide to commute and it is totally doable.
Earlsdon is a popular spot in Coventry where many first years decide to live in student houses, it is about a 10 minute drive to uni.
Some people decide too live in Conley or Tile hill again in student houses, this is also around a 10 minute drive or 20 minute walk to uni.
Leamington is lovely however a bit further away, if you are at uni all the time like in first year it is a longer drive to campus, however lots of people in first year lived in the student accommodation house here and found it easy to drive into uni.
I personally lived in Kenilworth, there are a few student houses around here but it is a ten minute drive to campus and is lovely.
I also know people who commute from oxfordshire, and from places such as Bedfordshire and other places a bit further in Warwickshire like rugby and nuneaton and found it easy to engage with the course :)



It might be a cliché, but how easy is it to make friends? Do medics mostly make friends with medics?



From Bryonny : Hello, I'd say its so easy to make friends, on this course you are with other people all the time and you are constantly split into different groups. There is so much opportunity to make friends. As social sec I will be doing my best this year For example, and this will happen each year to hold events to make it even easier to make friends, (obviously COVID-19 Dep) So there are lots of events to get involved in too to help make friends.



Really interested in the experience of non-science background and how you've navigated the challenges? And also being a bit older i.e. 30s instead 20s.



I'll answer the second part as there have been other non-science questions answered (feel free to ask more if we haven't covered what you wanted). With regards to being a bit older that's completely normal at WMS, there are plenty of people in their 30s and many with kids who are all really engaged in the med school life! If you are a parent I have an email of someone who can provide advice on that as well if you would like :)



Hello :) Was wondering what the student support here is like. Are there supervisions/small group sessions/ time to ask questions and get in depth feedback on our learning?



We have CBL which allows a safe space with a small group of peers where you can definitely ask qs you wouldn't want to ask in front of the cohort. We also do anatomy and physiology workshops. Lecturers are very accessible via email and I went and had a meeting with the lecturer of a topic that was completely baffling me. WMS also has a strong history of Peer Teaching, where older years teach on key topics in the evenings (this is of course opt in, but I would highly recommend!)



It might be a cliché, but how easy is it to make friends? Do medics mostly make friends with medics?

Just to add to that you can also make non-med friends from Warwick uni by joining the uni sports or societies as well, which can be a great way to get out of the med school bubble!



Ah thank you so much @Bryonny! I was utterly confused by what this meant!



As a student, is there anything that you feel is worth reading/ preparing/ doing before starting 1st year to help yourself with study?



Hi Rebecca ! I would say just enjoy your relaxation time. Warwick takes you from thr group up so don't worry about preparing for the course :)



would you say the course is theory or practise based?



First year is (understandably) text book heavy. You are predominantly based in the medical school. This all changes when you move into second year, where you transition into being on full time placement in the hospitals.



Why did you choose WMS compared to other GEM programmes?



I personally chose WMS because of the large cohort, I think making friends during medical school is so so important and having such a large cohort really helps that. You get to meet people from all different backgrounds such as non-science or healthcare position, people who are more mature or just out of uni, whereas for me there was only a small number of graduates on other courses. I also really liked how anatomy was going to be taught such as the plastinates used (like that of body works) I also loved how many societies and sports you could get involved in as a medic at WMS. :)



For Non-science students : Our non-science rep rosie is here - She is just having some difficulties so hang in there :)



During the first and second years, what resources, books, apps, websites have you found most useful?



I would say definitely don't rush into buying any textbooks before you start the course, as there are often online free resources for textbooks that you can use (and there's also a great library you can use). Throughout the year you will start to figure out which (if any) textbooks you might want to buy. Even for the stethoscope there is often a discount given in your first week so most people bought them after the course started



Sorry what does CBL stand for? thank you.



Case Based Learning. This basically means over the course of a week we are given a case split into three parts, this will be related to the block you are working on at the moment and will relate to lecture you are doing. As a group you come together to help figure out the anatomy, physiology and then diagnosis and best management plan for this case :)



What counts as non-science? Since I have a masters in Physics however this I don't think will have much overlap with medicine science it is mostly maths, also my course has had no essay writing will this also be a disadvantage?



So we say that it is non-biological sciences. We often say that physics and chemistry are applicable but for some reason we often have more art graduates



Thanks for the info about non-science students! Is being a non-science applicant considered at interview stage, i.e. you might be asked less scientifically specific questions?



Hi Zoe ! It's just a standard interview for everyone! Don't worry, you will not be at a disadvantage :)



Bryonny - speaking of anatomy classes/body works... is real body dissection/prosection used?



No we do not do real body dissection, we use the plastinate models and fresh tissue specimens to learn anatomy within an anatomy lab at UHCW hospital as well as lectures and anatomy sessions on Mondays. :)



what are your holidays like? do you get proper holidays or is it cut short by placements?



So in first year your year is relatively similar to a normal uni course, with about 3 weeks for Christmas, 4 weeks in Easter and consolidation weeks in between each block. You then have a long summer after first year. From 2nd year to 4th year the holidays are reduced down to closer to a normal job, with relatively long Christmas holidays but shorter summer holidays (so not at all following normal uni timetable). However, given Covid this may change as the course has had to be adjusted! You can find the specific term times on the website as well :)



Hi everyone, I just wanted to know how your required work experience placements have helped you in your degree so far? Thank you :)



Personally I would say it got me comfortable being around illness but also taught me to interact with people as humanely as possible and see past their diagnosis. Work experience is also a great time to enjoy the health care environment but be free of academic pressure!



Oh also in terms of practicality, how easy is to get around if you don't have a car?



I currently do not have a car and manage to get round ok, there will be a lot of carpooling, the bus network and trains in this area however are actually really good. However traffic can be bad sometime. Coming from living in London for a little while before I too was worried about travelling without a car but for my first year I have managed ok! Not too sure about second and third year, however I intend to carpool again :)



Whats the demographics of student base? Is there an interesting mix of ages, educational backgrounds, work backgrounds etc?



As a graduate entry programme, we have a diverse student demographic. It would be fair to say that the majority of students come straight from their first degree, but many have previously worked as a healthcare professional or something else entirely. Some have PhDs and some are considering a change in career later in life.



In the clinical placements how did you personally find it in the aspect of patient care and learning different procedures? Was there any worries in preparation for this?



Hi So we don't technically start placements till second year but in first year you learn all your clinical skills so you are prepared!
The doctors at the hospitals are also lovely so will support you every stage of the way. I personally felt prepared enough to go in for placements !



Since there is a lot of community visits, hospitals, etc, would you say that having a driving license is essential?



I would say it is absolutely not an essential! Whilst it is definitely handy, a lot of the cohort will have cars and we all try to car pool anyway to save money and help the environment :)



What kind of things would you say really have helped you whilst you've been at Warwick? I know there is required work experience, but is there anything you individually found particularly useful that wasn't necessarily obvious? Maybe a sport or hobby?



I would say definitely join lots of sports and societies (even try something you've never done before)! They are a great way of creating a real support bubble around you with people in older years to get advice from. If you have any questions about specific sports or societies feel free to ask, there are loads! Student seminars (run by 2nd years teaching the first years) are also an excellent way of going over some of the more tricky content from the course :)



How many students on the grad course have done an arts degree? and any advice for those applying with one in order to be competitive

Hi Zoe, I am one of the Non-science teachers and an English lit graduate myself. Warwick is so open to arts graduates and doesn't require you to do any more work than other applicants. you just need the relevant entry requirements and a good idea of what you have learnt from work experience and why you want to be a doctors



Does Warwick purely look at VR of the UCAT or considers the overall score when selecting candidates



All of the UCAT is considered!



Does NHS roles count towards the work experience requirement?



Absolutely! I worked within the NHS as a HCA before coming to Warwick, I worked both in theatre or as bank on the wards to gain experience to get into Warwick. I believe that the role has to be somewhat clinical so working or volunteering directly with patients If in the NHS. :)



If you wanted to start a family during your studies, due to age and other influential factors - is this possible? Do some people do this?



HI !
One of my friends has been able to start a family whilst at Warwick and many others have managed it with families too!
Communication with Warwick is key but they can be flexible :)



What's the age range like? Appreciate most people will be going straight from first degree into med without much break in between but be good to know about students who have had a longer career and a change to go into medicine a bit older. Anything anecdotal would be interesting!



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I would say it is absolutely not an essential! Whilst it is definitely handy, a lot of the cohort will have cars and we all try to car pool anyway to save money and help the environment



As part of the MMI do you have 1 to 1 interview where you are asked questions about yourself, motivations, how well you know the University, what the course entails etc.... or is it just scenario based?



We've attached a link to information on the MMIs now :)



When do we need to book accommodation by for 2021 entry?



Hi All accommodation information is on the website :) It's best to check there as it may change with COVID :)



Are there a lot of students who have just graduated from their first degree when they start the course?



Yes! About a third of our year (I am in first year) are straight out of university (whether that be undergrad or postgrad).



Have you found that the age demographics have worked well with the course? I will be 26 if I start next year and I have a bit of anxiety that everyone will be much younger. What are your thoughts on the cohorts you are in? Is it a good mix - would I feel disconnected?



There will be people of all ages on the course!! I am currently 24, there are lots of people younger than me but also lots of people older than me too. There is such a big age range there are people in their thirties with children, people in their late 20s and people straight out of uni! Please don't worry you will make friends with people of all ages!! :)



As part of the MMI do you have 1 to 1 interview where you are asked questions about yourself, motivations, how well you know the University, what the course entails etc.... or is it just scenario based?

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/med/study/ugr/applying/applicationprocess/>

Application process

Find out about the application process for the MB ChB at Warwick Medical School.



Are there many Physics/Mathematics/Engineering students on the course, just out of curiosity? I will definitely be part of the non science group if I get in I haven't done biology or chemistry for years. How do people find places to live in first year is it in halls or do you find private accommodation (if so how do you find places to live before knowing anyone there?).



The number fluctuates each year and its quite hard to tell but there are a large number of people from all backgrounds every year. as for accomodation we normally hold an offer holders day and there are facebook groups established for the housing. There are also some accomodation places available. Noone normally struggles to sort out housing once they get an offer and the pages are created.



As part of the MMI do you habe 1 to 1 interview where you are you asked questions about yourself, motivations, how well you know the University, what the course entail etc.... or is it jut scenario based?

Hi Ronsard, there's information about what we look for at our MMIs here:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/med/study/ugr/applying/applicationprocess/>

Application process

Find out about the application process for the MB ChB at Warwick Medical School.



When do we need to book accommodation by for 2021 entry?



The accommodation application deadline is 31 July 2020

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/accommodation/studentaccommodation/apply/20/new/mbchb>

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Since there is a lot of community visits, hospitals, etc, would you say that having a driving license is essential?

I would recommend having a plan to get a car in the later years as it can be a bit more difficult with placements further from the uni. It's not essential, it just makes life a tad easier :)



Thanks @Rosie !



Thanks for the info about non-science students! Is being a non-science applicant considered at interview stage, i.e. you might be asked less scientifically specific questions?

Hi I am one of the non-science graduates at warwick. The interview is standard for everyone and they have taken this into account when they made created the interview questions meaning no extensive scientific knowledge is required that you wouldnt have



I would be travelling to the university, it is a 50 minute drive. Do you feel this could put me at a disadvantage, are the days long? Do you know anyone who doesn't 'live in' and it works ok for them?



There are definitely a couple of people who commute over an hour to get in to uni. It is definitely a challenge for them but they make it work! The days in first year are generally 9-5 in first year, and you don't need to come in on the wednesday as that is self-directed study.



What are you expected to do during clinical placements?



Hi Placements don't start till second year as such but in first year you have bedside teaching where you see a patient in a group of 6(ish) and talk over them with the consultant. In second year you further develop your clinical skills and begin to learn the treatment pathways etc. :)



What was studying for and taking the UCAT like? I've just started doing times mocks and its amazing how difficult it is to answer enough questions in time (not to mention accurately...)



It was an "interesting" time ! I personally used modify a lot as it replicated the UCAT system perfectly. Don't worry about the timings, keep practising and it will come ! This is coming from someone who dropped maths after GCSE! Practise Practise Practise is my biggest tip :)



Very interested in arts graduate perspective especially in terms of the first year's learning when studying medicine (both the challenges and indeed the pros of coming at medicine from this background), thanks. I can see a lot of cross over in terms of investigative thinking, etc. But in terms of the hard science, a reality check (!) would be helpful.



Hi, it is definitely a challenge coming from an arts background but there are people from all different background with gaps in their knowledge too. There is plenty of support particularly from peers. The first few weeks can feel a bit overwhelming particularly since the content in block one often overlaps with other courses but there is plenty of time to get your head around everything. It is a course that considers the fact it has non-science students in it and it is definitely possible. The content isnt very complex most of the time there's just lots of it. Its also just nice to have new perspectives and ways of thinking in different seminars



When it comes to finding accommodation for the first year, would there be support to find other people from the course to live with?



Definitely, From a current student/medsoc perspective we try to provide support to find people to live with, for example we have lots of facebook pages that can help you find housemates to live with that you can interact with different people and we facilitate that, people also post if they have found a house and are looking for housemates on a specific housing page.
I know that normally (without covid-19) the offer holder day is a perfect way to meet people to live with and a lot of the cohort I'm currently in met their potential housemates on that day. The university also provide lots of links on student accommodation, student housing and good ways to find people to live with.
If you do need any support, the current medsoc at the time and the university will definitely provide any support especially if you are struggling :)



Thank you Abbie :) !



You're welcome :)



It's been difficult to get work experience because of corona contagion. Are there any suggestions or recommendations to have relevant experience for applications?



Try not to stress as everyone is in the same boat at the moment! Have a look at volunteer work in your local communities as there are some great schemes going on at the moment. The experience needs to be hands-on with people or patients with healthcare needs, but not all has to be in NHS hospitals. Personally I would recommend having a look at applying to be a healthcare assistant at your local hospital, it's a great way of getting experience in the hospitals and I personally really enjoy it! The availability of experiences might also change over the next few months as lockdown restrictions ease, so it would be best to keep looking/searching.



What sort of part time jobs do people do? And how many hours has been ok to deal with alongside studying?



I personally found that, if possible, it is better to avoid working too much in first year because there is a lot of work to do outside of the 9-5. Financially people should be getting just enough to manage anyway. If you have time to work before and save that is the better option. There are people that work and I think that you have to find the balance for you and what you can do but I would recommend working as little as possible



Brilliant, thanks Bryonny



What sort of part time jobs do people do? And how many hours has been ok to deal with alongside studying?
100% agree with Rosie. There is a lot more time in second year to earn a little !



As a second degree, what is the financial support like? Do you feel that the funds you get support you completely in terms of essentials throughout the course?



Personally, I think the Financial support is good especially in first year, the student funding I received this year has done me well getting through the year and definitely help with anything that is essential plus any socialising or extra curricular stuff you want to do! That being said some people do get part-time jobs to help out with any extras such as tutoring, online work or bank jobs such as HCAing etc :)



Hi Alicia, thank you



Thanks Bryonny!



As a second degree, what is the financial support like? Do you feel that the funds you get support you completely in terms of essentials throughout the course?
In second year the NHS bursary kicks in. It replaces some of the maintenance loan from SFE and some students have seen different amounts to what they get from SFE. However, it isn't too dramatic a change and there is a bit more time in second year for part-time work so don't panic.



Thanks @Bryonny @Alicia!



@Alicia just seen your reply thanks



I know that personal statements aren't usually considered at the application stage - maybe they are at interview stage (not sure), but what is a good way to stand out in a personal statement?



Personal statements are always important, for me they provided an opportunity to add a bit of 'me' into my application. It sounds cheesy but it is so important that when you read it, you can hear your voice coming through. Everyone that reads it will have their own opinion on it and whilst constructive criticism is important, being true to yourself and conveying your message is more important. Having said that it is important to demonstrate what you've learnt from your experiences, not just that you've had them - especially as a post grad!



Brilliant, thank you all for answering the Q's! Super helpful :)



Brilliant, thanks Bryonny
No worries! Glad to help :)



Brilliant, thank you all for answering the Q's! Super helpful :)
You're welcome! Feel free to ask anything we're here to help :)



I have studied a business degree and really keen to get into WMS. Do you have any advice on how to tailor your background in the interview or where to find top tips? Similar to Zoe, I'm looking to be competitive and what to get my purpose, experiences and transferable skills across in the best way



I think the reality is that you should more be focusing on the skill you have gained from experience and previous degrees in the context of the values that WMS set out on the website that they look at in interview so things like teamwork, communication, respect etc. your background won't make you immediately better or worse than others, it's more about what you bring as an individual and what you have learnt as well as why you want to do the degree. Think about your personal strong points and skill and times you demonstrated them. Be yourself as well because interviewers can see straight through a fake answer



In the previous live chat the course staff said they don't consider the personal statement



Hi Andrew
I would always write your statement as if they are going to read it. It's an opportunity to show your true self AND helps you at the interview stage as it allows you to collect all your thoughts together.



Thank you. Just one on financial support, are there any links to understand the support given in terms of fees/ funding over the 4 years?



Please see our fees and funding pages <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/med/study/ugr/applying/fees>

Fees and funding

Tuition fees for the first year of the MBChB programme will be £9,250. Fees are expected to rise annually in line with inflation.



Do you have many medical socials such as balls, nights out etc throughout the degree? Thank you



YES! There are sooo many night out and balls!! For example there is usually a welcome ball for the first years, a winter ball and a Summer ball For all years/ for when each year finishes exams. There is also a graduation ball in fourth year.

As for nights out, I can assure you there are many, medsoc are very good at organising a great freshers week as well as events throughout The year. One of the best events is Drs and Nurses which is held every year and has attendance from most years and even alumni and is a night not to be missed.

As it is such an intense course it is important to blow off steam and there are loads of fun nights out, pub crawls, film nights and sober socials that can be enjoyed on this course! Hope that helped :)



In the previous live chat the course staff said they don't consider the personal statment

At WMS we do not consider the Personal Statement, but remember if you are applying to other medical schools you may need to supply a personal statement.



There's about 15 minutes' left of today's chat so please do ask any questions that you may have! If you haven't had chance to ask your question, you can always email us at wms.events@warwick.ac.uk :)



I understand that some content is taught via CBL. I had this in my previous degree but found that certain students or sessions I was grouped with weren't great at teaching in a peer to peer format. Does CBL content get taught or covered in some way by lecturers?



CBL is used mainly as a great way of consolidating the knowledge taught in lectures and putting it into a lot more of a clinical context (making links between the different things that have been taught). There are always facilitators in the session to make sure you are covering the right things and that you have covered everything you need to know. Most people have a really good experience in CBL, so don't worry about it too much! It's another great way of finding friends in med school and people to ask for help on things you may be struggling with.



how do you find the clinical placements? what kind of responsibilities would you have as a student, is it mostly observing clinical staff? do students get the opportunity to do any night shift placements? :)



Clinical placements kick in second year but you do have some bedside teaching sessions in first year that are led by consultants. As a student you are there to learn so you can do anything from taking a history to any clinical skills. It's up to you and you go in each day deciding what you want to get done. I really enjoy placements as I love having a good natter with patients and 9/10 they love talking to you to as they are bored in hospital!

Nights and weekends kick in third year but there's nothing to stop you in second year turning up later and doing a night stint. It really is your medical degree to do with what you want :)



I know there is an ethics session later, but I was wondering what your experiences of it has been? Is it always practical ethics or do you learn ethical theories as well? Is it very well integrated into the rest of the course?



Greg (who is taking the session later) is honestly brilliant. He runs 'Values, Laws and Ethics' - a theme that runs throughout our four years at WMS i.e. very well integrated. Whilst I wouldn't say we learn ethical theories in the sense it is not such examinable content, Greg always gives context to the core material we are learning that is directly health care related. I would definitely ask Greg your questions later if you are given the opportunity :)



@Rosie, thanks. Trying to ascertain whether the challenge as an arts grad is volume and tonnes to learn (do-able) or whether an entirely different type of intelligence is required (less so!) Want to understand the challenges realistically, which leads to another question: what chances are there to resit if you didn't pass an exam at any stage?



It is a very different type of learning and they amount of hour, for me was very different. I think thought that learning is learning and if you have an interest in science then you are likely to be able to adapt. I would do some research into ways of studying and taking notes as you will likely be doing it differently. The challenges are, learning a very new language that others have had some introduction to, getting back into being in lectures for a lot of time and then doing work on top of it and learning how to revise a different kind of topic. All of this will be supported and is very possible. If you fail first sit exams there is a retake for all candidates. If second sit is failed then opportunities to resit the year are given to those with extenuating circumstances on a case by case basis but there is no more change of a non-science failing that others and often non-science grad seems to do very very well



First year is mostly study (less clinical placements)... how do you find it? Was it as manic as undergrad trying to get the info into your head in time for a test? At my undergrad, lecture slides were packed with info, and pages long. Lecturers would mostly whizz through and not usually finish.



First year is definitely intense as you have a lot of content to learn but they teach it in a "spiral way", meaning you cover things again and again until it becomes really embedded. The lecturers teach at the right level meaning things are explained clearly assuming no prior knowledge. There are also loads of resources to help with learning, from student seminars, to non-science teaching, and anatomy/physiology days (all taught by the students in the years above which most people find extremely useful!)



Ah thanks @Charlotte!



can you recommend any other sources to help with preparing for UCAT other than modify?



There are lots and lots of free resources so don't get trapped into paying for the expensive materials. The green books, the Medic Portal, PostGradMedic (YouTube) and any past paper sites are amazing. The only paid thing I would recommend is Medify. It's brilliant and replicates the website used for UCAT. Literally, it's all about practise practise practise. Focus on the theory, the speed will develop over time :)



Also wondering if you have any tips about finding work experience roles, or roles within the NHS like HCA (as for these I have mostly found they ask for previous nursing experience) am struggling to see how I can find something useful with no previous clinical exp!



Hi, I will give you an insight on what I did to find experience. So I applied to HCA roles within the NHS, they usually accept you and train you up even if you have no previous care experience but the application can be long for each role, just write why you want to be a healthcare assistant and how passionate you are about helping people out and what insight you expect to gain from the experience/the differences you want to make and that should help!

I would also say volunteering is soooo helpful for example you can volunteer within the NHS, and there are roles in the current pandemic you can volunteer with, you can volunteer as a carer or within a care charity, for example I volunteered as a befriended to an elderly woman with dementia, i went round once a week for a chat a cup of tea and to help around the house! You can also shadow Doctors or healthcare professionals although this only counts for a small amount of house, I shadowed a GP, cardiologist and orthopaedic surgeon in the past and this can give you a great insight into how these specialities work. There is lots more you can do for example my friend volunteered with people with learning difficulties or disabilities and you can also work in care homes or volunteer there too! Hospice work also always needs volunteers, if you are worried about anything you undertake not counting towards your hours you can always check the Warwick admissions website for guidance!! :)



Thanks @Abbie :)



Also wondering if you have any tips about finding work experience roles, or roles within the NHS like HCA (as for these I have mostly found they ask for previous nursing experience) am struggling to see how I can find something useful with no previous clinical exp!

I worked for two weeks in an palliative care home voluntarily but was a HCA and theatre support assistant for 2 years before medical school. There are lots of online free virtual experiences at the moment but i can see someone else has answered very well!



Thank you both!



Thank you so much! This was very helpful



Thank you all! This has been so useful



We are so glad we could help!! :)



Really helpful, thanks everyone for their questions and answers!



Glad to hear it was useful!



Thank you all. Very helpful



Thank you! Really helpful :)



Make sure you check out the PowerPoint after this chat! It's got loads of awkward jokes and inside info on what it is like to be a medical student here! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZaOwAGDKxo&feature=youtu.be>

WMS Virtual MBChB Open Day - Student Experience Presentation

Our second year medic Abbie gives you a snapshot overview as life as an MBChB student at Warwick Medical School.



Thank you all, best of luck for the rest of you degree



Thanks everyone!!! :)



Thank you!



Thank you all, best of luck for the rest of you degree
awwww thanks ! Going to need it !



Thank you!



Anyone a career changer? If so how have you found your decision?



I went from english literature to medicine and honestly it was the best decision i ever made. I was difficult and scary at times but i honestly feel like I have found what I love and thrive in. Making a change is hard but rewarding. I was worried that I would get to medical school and not love it as much as I thought and thats obviously a slight possibility but ifelt I would rather try and change than never try and like I said, the best choice ever!



Sorry, I joined the end of this as I am currently at work. Do you know if there is any support for GEM parents?



Good luck to everyone with your studies, application and everything else.



Good luck to everyone applying in the future!! Thanks for your questions!! :)



Sorry, I joined the end of this as I am currently at work. Do you know if there is any support for GEM parents?
Hi - if you email this email address , they will put you in touch with someone who is a parent and happy to help !
wms.events@warwick.ac.uk



Sorry, I joined the end of this as I am currently at work. Do you know if there is any support for GEM parents?
We have a small number of students who are parents or become parents during the course, there is some flexibility around location of placements and childcare, there is also a Nursery on the University campus and at UHCW.



Neha - I was working in the city for two years until now... so maybe the switch to something more 'humane' is self explanatory :) what about you??



Does anyone want to connect on LinkedIn?



Good luck all of you! Remeber you can get in touch with any of us through the medical school and we are always so happy to help you!



Thank you :)



Happy to help anyone ! Just email the events email and they'll put you in touch with us after today :)



Thanks for your questions today and remember any unanswered questions can go to wms.events@warwick.ac.uk !



Thank you, its been really helpful and interesting!