



Study Medicine in Dundee

University
of Dundee



dundee.ac.uk/medicine

Learn in Dundee

The University of Dundee – one of the world’s top 250 universities (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023) – is renowned for its excellence in both teaching and research. We’re located in Scotland’s fourth-largest city, Dundee, on the picturesque banks of the River Tay.

We’re a progressive, future-focused institution, and understand the importance of preparing our graduates to shape the world in which they live. That’s why we emphasise the importance of collaboration and flexibility throughout our teaching, and why our graduates leave Dundee prepared to take on the challenges of the modern world.



We are ranked:

- World Top 150 for Medicine
(QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023)
- 3rd in UK for Medicine
(Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023)
- QS 5 Star rated for our Medicine MBChB course
in 2022
- Top in the UK for Medicine Graduate Prospects –
Outcomes (Complete University Guide 2023)

The School of Medicine is located just under 3 miles from Dundee's city centre at the internationally-renowned Ninewells Hospital. The majority of teaching takes place here, which means that your studies are centred around life in a working National Health Service (NHS) hospital. This clinical exposure will underpin your knowledge and ensure you develop into a well-rounded junior doctor, well prepared to practice.

We're known for having a welcoming student community, and because students spend the majority of their time within the School, you will get to know your peers across year groups. We have lots of student medical societies, which means you can meet with other students to learn more about branches of medicine that are of interest to you.

The Dundee MBChB curriculum

With around 190 students in each academic year, Dundee's five-year curriculum has an engaging, focused structure that will ensure you graduate as a well-rounded junior doctor, ready to meet the challenges of this role.

One of the advantages of studying medicine in Dundee is that the medical school is fully integrated into the main teaching hospital (Ninewells) and this is where the bulk of teaching will occur. The learning environment is modern and supportive and is complemented by several peripheral hospital sites and general practices located throughout Tayside and Scotland.





Our curriculum ensures you will meet the outcomes specified in “Outcomes for Graduates” (GMC, 2018) and encompasses

- outcome-based education
- integration of basic sciences and clinical exposure to a wide range of clinical presentations
- multiple approaches to teaching and learning
- advanced assessment techniques
- spiral curriculum: continuous revisiting and reassessment of your knowledge that will allow you to broaden and deepen your existing skills throughout your studies.

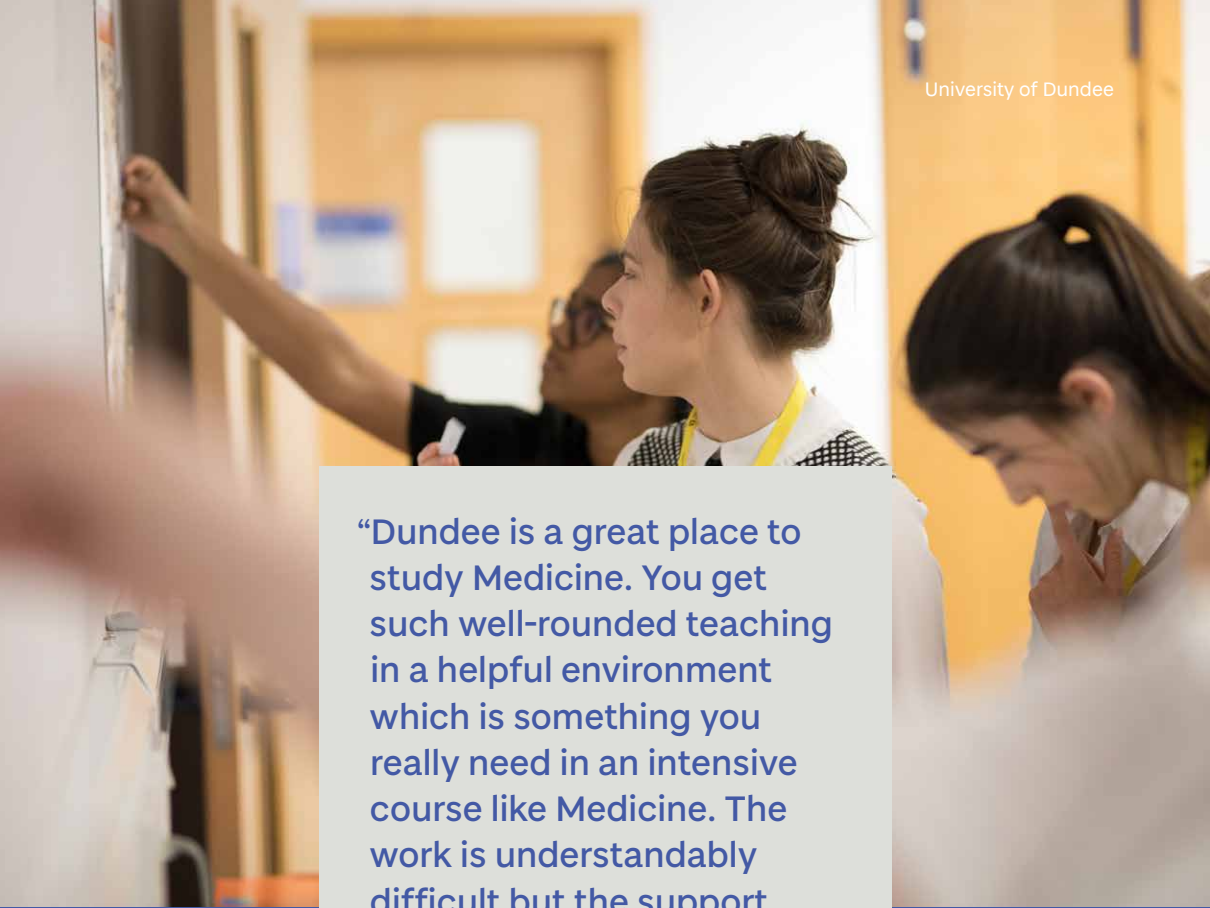
Years 1-3:

Foundations of Medicine and Systems -based Teachings

The Years 1-3 teaching begins with a 12-week Foundations in Medicine block. You will be in contact with patients from early in the course - and this first-hand clinical contact will give you a real sense of what it is like to work in a healthcare setting.

There is a strong emphasis on integrating your understanding of basic science with its clinical application. You will develop an understanding of the basic principles of normal structure, function, disease mechanisms, and behaviour, and you will effectively build your knowledge of core clinical presentations like chest pain and shortness of breath.





“Dundee is a great place to study Medicine. You get such well-rounded teaching in a helpful environment which is something you really need in an intensive course like Medicine. The work is understandably difficult but the support from all the staff is second to none! I’ve met some of the most amazing people while studying here and look forward to the next few years.”

Eimear O’Connell
MBChB student

Systems-based teaching

Throughout your first three years, you will learn about body systems and how they work, each year building on your existing knowledge through our spiral curriculum.



This learning is underpinned by teaching of anatomy by dissection, allowing you to gain an in-depth understanding of the human body.

Dundee's anatomy teaching is world leading as we use cadavers embalmed using the Thiel method.

This method of embalming preserves the flexibility of the tissues, allowing for a realistic, life-like dissection experience. For this reason, Thiel cadavers at Dundee are also used by postgraduate surgical trainees learning how to do surgical procedures.

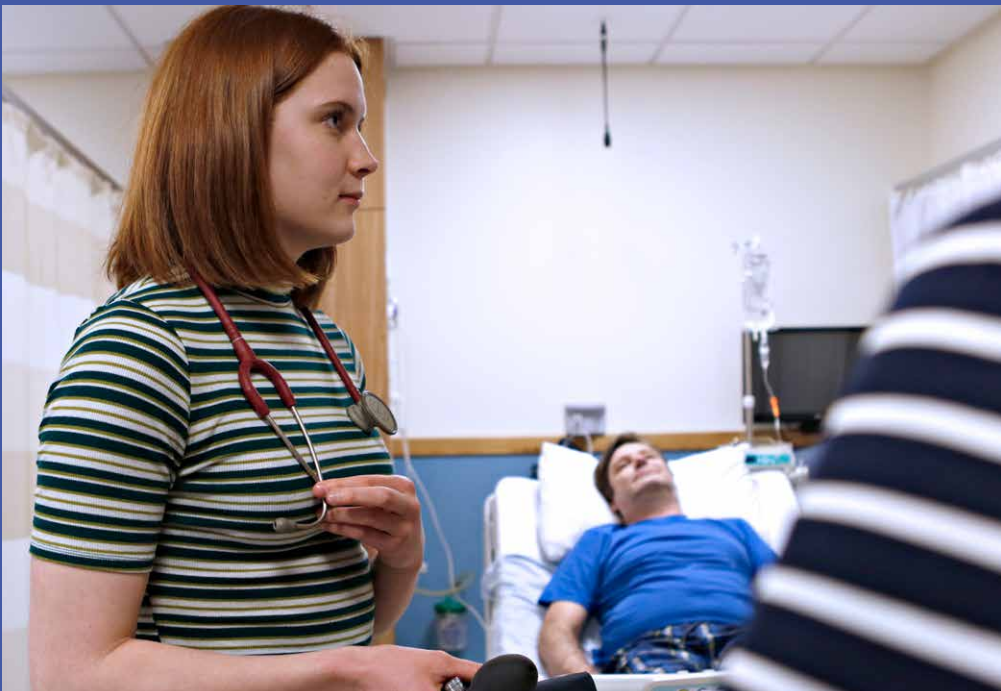
Our systems-based programme focuses on the body's organ systems, using common core clinical presentations to help you develop

a practical, problem-focused approach to learning. Your learning will incorporate lectures, tutorials, training in clinical skills and student selected components (SSCs) which will complement the development of your vocational skills.

From first year onwards you will receive teaching in clinical history taking and how to perform a clinical examination. Dundee is unusual in teaching this at such an early stage, and it pays off subsequently: our students are well-placed to get the most out of their clinical placements in fourth and fifth year, and beyond as foundation year doctors.

Your learning will ensure you can:

- consult in a patient-centred manner and carry out an appropriate clinical examination
- demonstrate a safe and systematic approach to developing a differential diagnosis
- search for evidence to inform your decision-making
- recognise the role of other professionals in the healthcare team in the delivery of evidence-based patient care
- recognise when to use health promotion and prevention strategies most effectively
- be aware of the effects of different healthcare settings on the process of care
- recognise the diversity of investigative and therapeutic options available
- continue to develop a strategy for identifying your own learning needs
- demonstrate an awareness of individual and population health issues
- understand the meaning of medical professionalism and be able to demonstrate attitudes and behaviours consistent with the General Medical Council's expectations of a medical professional.



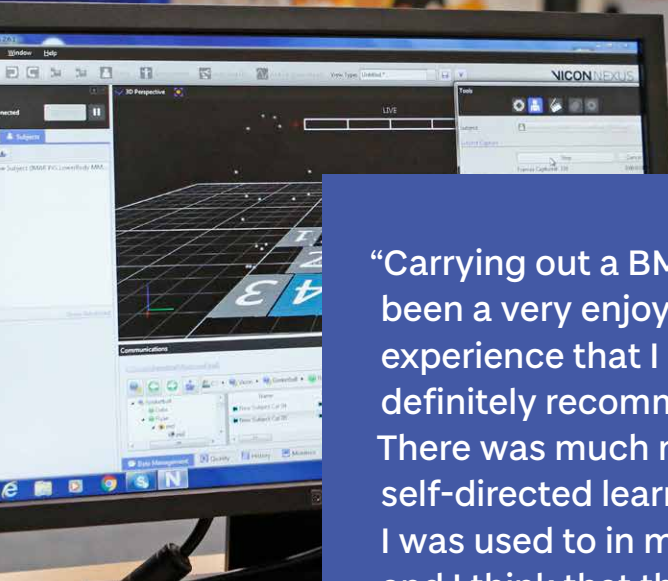
Intercalated BMSc

Students can opt to undertake a one-year BMSc degree to study a topic in more depth after completing Years 1-3.



Courses currently offered include:

- BMSc Anatomy
- BMSc Applied Orthopaedic Technology
- BMSc Cardiovascular and Diabetes Medicine
- BMSc Forensic Medicine
- BMSc Genetics, Cancer and Personalised Medicine
- BMSc Healthcare Improvement
- BMSc Human Reproduction, Assisted Conception and Embryonic Stem Cells
- BMSc International Health
- BMSc Medical Education
- BMSc Neuropharmacology and Behaviour



“Carrying out a BSc has been a very enjoyable experience that I would definitely recommend. There was much more self-directed learning than I was used to in medicine and I think that this has been a great way to improve skills such as time management and knowing when to seek advice.”

Frances Feeley
BSc Applied
Orthopaedic Technology

Years 4-5:

Following Years 1-3, our curriculum focuses on developing your practical skills in preparation for your role as a junior doctor. During Years 4-5, you will take advantage of a wide range of clinical learning opportunities.

After a generic skills block covering the basics of learning in a ward environment, you will cover clinical practice, student-selected components (SSCs), clinical placements and final preparation for practice.

The aim of Years 4 and 5 is to ensure that you are well-prepared for the roles and responsibilities you will have on graduating. You will gain experience in a variety of hospitals and primary care centres where learning is focused around a wide range of core clinical presentations, looking at the patient as a whole rather than focusing on a specific disease entity. This strategy will enable you to ensure patients' concerns and problems are central to your practice.





Preparing for practice

Towards the end of Year 5, you will complete a final series of placements to prepare you for practice as a foundation doctor.

Student assistantships

You will undertake two foundation assistantship blocks: one eight-week medicine and/or surgery placement and one four-week general practice which will prepare you for your role as a Year 1 foundation doctor. These assistantships link theory and practice in relation to your future role in service delivery. You will be supported by an individualised learning plan developed with your supervisor. You will participate in the delivery of patient care as part of the healthcare team, spending one month in acute care. In final year, we also offer an opportunity to complete a regional residency, in a partner Health Board in Scotland.

Electives

All students have the opportunity to undertake a six-week elective during their final year. These can be organised anywhere in the world, and you can choose your own learning objectives. Many of our students go overseas – around half to developing countries – and Dundee has led the development of a responsible electives programme, which includes opportunities for extended attachments in Malawi or Zambia.

Student-selected Components (SSCs)

SSCs are an important part of undergraduate training in Dundee, and are consistently enjoyed more than any other part of the curriculum by both staff and students.

Students have the opportunity to pursue topics of particular interest or to get an early taster of disciplines and areas that will be covered in more detail later in the course.

SSCs also allow students to develop skills essential to their professional development, including information handling, critical thinking and independent learning.

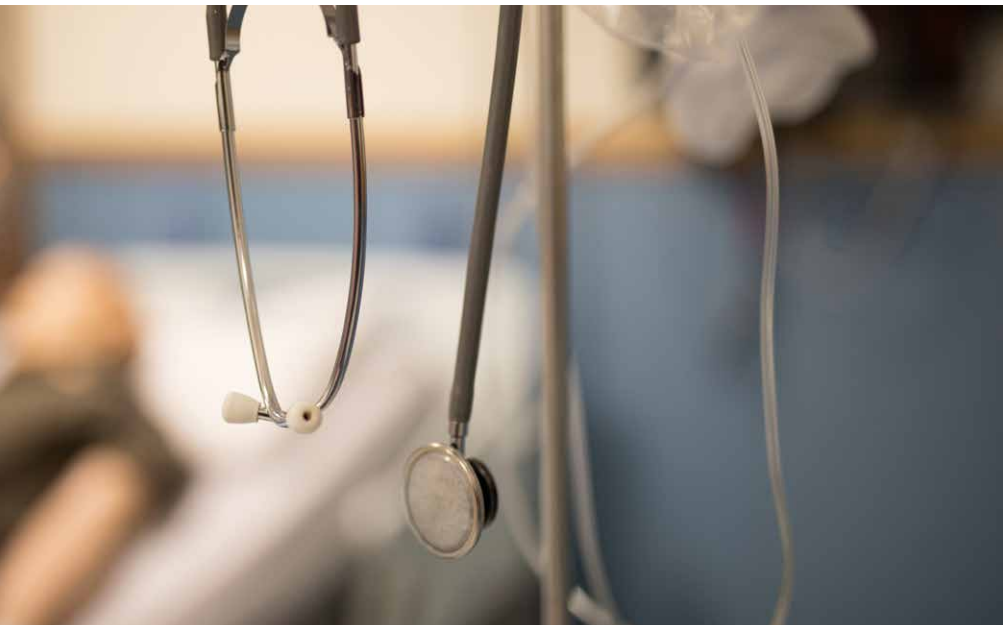
The possibilities for SSCs are varied, however recent students have been involved in:

- In-depth study of a range of clinical specialities, including laboratory disciplines, for example, pathology, microbiology and biochemistry
- Preparing teaching materials and visiting schools to talk about what it's like to study medicine
- Creating learning aids through podcasts and apps
- Arts-based modules that cover medicine in literature and the history of medicine
- Healthcare improvement and service design.

Teaching and assessment

In the early years, you will be taught through lectures, small group discussions, practical skills sessions, and on the ward. Over the course of your studies, you will spend up to 25% of your time in primary care with two one-month placements in GP surgeries during Years 4 and 5.

You will develop your clinical skills in our state-of-the-art Clinical Skills Centre. This will enable you to train in consultation skills, physical examination, and practical procedures in a safe, simulated environment from a very early stage in the curriculum. As a final year student, you will also refine your clinical skills through participation in a ward simulation exercise which resembles the clinical environment as closely as possible.





We also offer online support and a wide variety of digital resources for your guided and independent learning, all of which are accessed from our dedicated online platform.

Assessment of your performance is made using a range of methods including:

- online knowledge assessment
- anatomy spot assessment
- the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
- portfolio assessment

These assessment methods are designed to assess your mastery of the curriculum goals plus test your knowledge, skills and attitude. You will progress through the curriculum at a rate appropriate to your needs, receiving feedback on your performance, and being encouraged to self-examine your own competence.

Clinical Skills Centre

The University's Clinical Skills Centre has been delivering state-of-the-art clinical skills and simulation-based education for several decades.

Procedure rooms are used to deliver training from the basics of medical practice –infection control, assessing and documenting vital signs, communicating with patients and other healthcare professionals – to more specific clinical skills.

The Centre also has a multipurpose simulation suite and immersion room, which allows students to participate in simulated exercises including trauma victim and cardiac arrest scenarios, and managing a deteriorating patient.



Applying to study with us

MBChB

Up-to-date entry requirements and details of how to apply for our MBChB course are available at uod.ac.uk/medicine

Gateway to Medicine

This one-year programme is run by the School of Medicine and aims to prepare students for Year 1 of the standard MBChB course. It gives an opportunity to consolidate understanding in chemistry, physics and numeracy and to study modules in life sciences, anatomy and psychology. Students also undertake dedicated School of Medicine modules including Context of Healthcare and an Introduction to Clinical Studies. For further information, visit uod.ac.uk/gatewaymed

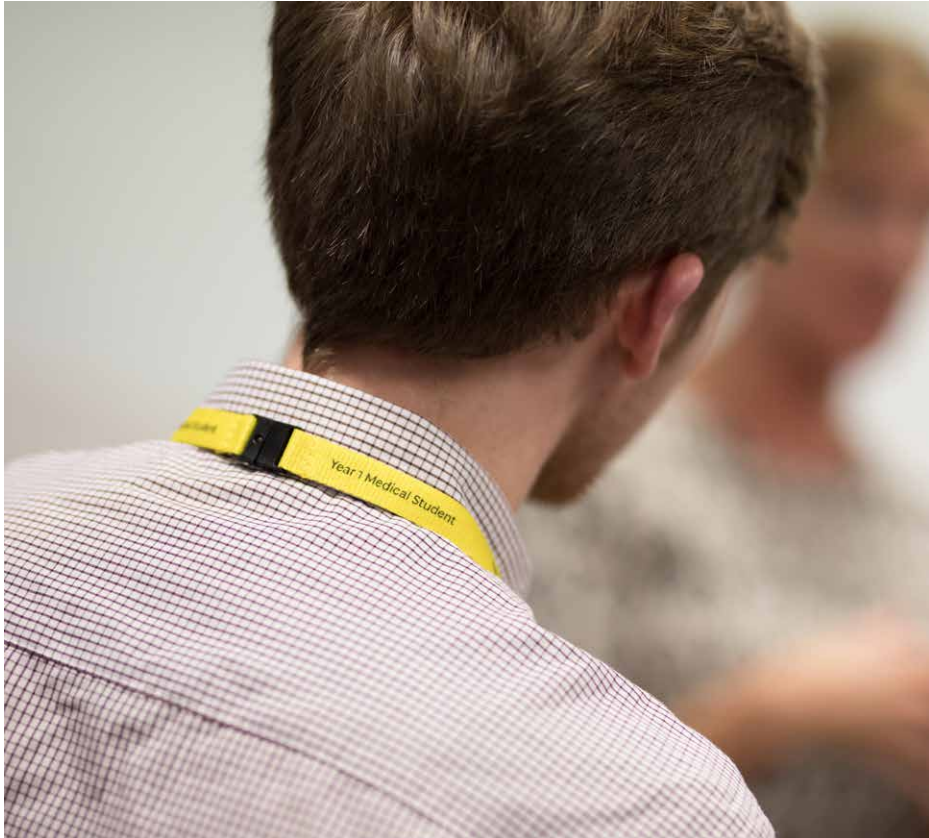


ScotGEM

We are also offering, in conjunction with the University of St Andrews and the University of the Highlands and Islands, a four-year graduate-entry medical programme tailored to meet the contemporary and future needs of the NHS in Scotland. For more information, visit uod.ac.uk/scotgem



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Find out more

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