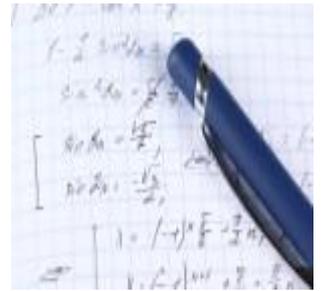


## MARLING SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

### Competitive Applications and Courses at UK Universities



## Document Scope

*This document covers those universities and courses where there is intense pressure on places. There are often formal interviews and there are aptitude tests taken for certain subjects and certain institutions. This document is designed as a support and reference guide for universities who require/have additional entry requirements over and above the UCAS application.*

*Many courses at the majority of universities are accessible to students who present a good UCAS application, are studying the required subjects for that course and achieve the required grades in these subjects; such courses do not require an interview or additional testing. **The UCAS application process** (relevant to all applicants to UK universities) is described separately in the Next Steps University and Careers Guide.*

## 1. Applying to University

There are currently more than 370 universities and other institutions offering higher education in the UK offering upwards of 37,000 undergraduate courses to choose from (UCAS 2016). Selecting the best combination of course and location requires a certain amount of research and careful consideration of a number of factors to help you decide.

### Choice of Course

The UCAS website Unifrog and SACU is a good place to start, offering advice on choosing subjects and careers, useful search tools and links to other helpful sources of information. Information is also available in the library, the 6<sup>th</sup> form centre and each school department.

### Choosing a University

The choice of where you are going to study for three or more years should take into account factors such as: the nature of the course and student views on it, how much you like the campus or city where you will be based, general student satisfaction ratings and academic rating in relation to your potential. There are various league tables which look at different combinations of academic and non-academic factors. One well respected source of information is the Times Higher Education world rankings <http://uk-universities.timeshighereducation.com/> where you can see rankings of UK (and other) universities using various criteria. If you are concerned about choosing a university in relation to your potential UCAS points score, you might want to look at the average entry tariff table (these are the scores achieved by admitted students). Not surprisingly Cambridge then Oxford are the top two in the UK but others are not far behind. To put all of this in perspective and to take an extreme example, if you investigate past Nobel Prize winners from the UK, you will see that they graduated from a variety of universities. Following universities on Twitter is another useful way of gathering information which may help you make a choice.

### UK University Groupings

The **Russell Group** is a UK member based organisation which is “committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector”. This group is often mentioned by the media in relation to excellence in UK universities. A list of Russell Group universities can be found on page 19.

**The Sutton Trust** was founded in 1997 and works to “combat educational inequality and prevent the subsequent waste of talent”. More recently (In 2011) The Sutton Trust 30 was identified as a grouping of “highly selective” (their term) universities comprising those institutions in Scotland, England and Wales with over 500 undergraduate entrants each year, where it was estimated that less than 10 per cent of places are attainable to pupils with 200 UCAS tariff points (equivalent to two D grades and a C grade at A-level) or less.

These universities have a higher proportion of students from independent school backgrounds and might therefore be seen as being less accessible. The Trust has been working in various ways with the group of 30 universities to redress this balance.

Both the Sutton Trust and Russell Groups include Oxford and Cambridge (collectively known as Oxbridge) and there are many common members between groups (see Appendix 1)

Universities not in these categories are in the majority and will offer many excellent courses run by highly qualified academics. Many universities often have distinct strengths in certain subjects which attract good students. It is also worth considering the Open University where study is home based and the numbers enrolled are 10 times higher than a typical university.

### **Selection Processes**

At Oxford and Cambridge the ability to achieve high grades such as A\*AA is not in itself adequate to obtain an offer and interviews are carried out before offers are made. These are supplemented in many cases by tests (depending upon the course).

Oxford and Cambridge are not unique in using interview and additional selection procedures. Medical courses require interview and testing and the same is true for many law courses, as well as teaching and nursing for example.

It is not possible to quickly summarise the position for all other universities and you need to check what it says on their websites; however the following statements can be made:

- Sutton Group/ Russell group universities are more likely to interview/ test candidates
- Interviews/ tests can be part of the admissions procedure in some cases at other universities too e.g. if you want to study medicine or architecture
- Whilst some interviews are genuinely used in the selection process, many are simply an opportunity for you to meet the university staff and are more of a public relations exercise.

It is best to think in terms of competitiveness of courses rather than just how competitive entry to a particular university is. If you are desperate to study at a particular university it would be logical to choose a less competitive course; however you would have to be sure that you were happy to study it and that you could convince that university you had an interest in it. It is worth looking at emerging subject areas which are not yet popular but might be key in the future economy. Offers for such courses are often relatively generous. Unifrog offers information on the places to applicants ratio for each University.

## 2. Oxbridge Applications

Oxford and Cambridge are widely regarded as the UK's most prestigious universities due to their history and academic excellence. They also score highly when ranked against other world universities for factors such as teaching excellence, research quality and citation of publications. As a consequence, entrance to their undergraduate courses is highly competitive across all subjects. This is not just in terms of numbers but because all the candidates will generally be extremely able. It is only possible to apply to one or other of the two institutions on your UCAS form in one application round. UCAS applications must be submitted by the date of October 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 for entry the following October (2018).

Many A Level applicants are predicted to achieve top grades, and many also have excellent references. It is therefore not possible for Oxford or Cambridge to select the best students based on their UCAS applications alone. Each university has taken a slightly different approach to differentiating between applicants. Both universities agree that the most important decision a prospective applicant has to make is the degree they wish to study, not which university. Candidates should look at the individual university websites and also consider attending an open day before making a decision. Teaching methods are very similar at both universities, as students will attend lectures, classes and laboratory work, as appropriate for their course. Unlike at many other universities, students at Oxford and Cambridge also benefit from highly personalised teaching time with world experts in their field. The only difference is in the name: Oxford refers to these sessions as 'tutorials' while Cambridge calls them 'supervisions'. Both universities use the college system. Colleges are independent self-governing academic communities giving a more intimate feel to large universities. It is worth noting that Durham University also has a collegiate system.

At Oxford the final degree classification result is usually based on the examinations taken at the end of the final year. Cambridge students, in contrast, are assessed through examinations in more than one year of their course.

A comparison between the two institutions is shown overleaf.

University of Oxford	University of Cambridge
<p>There are 38 independent self-governing colleges at Oxford, 35 of them offer undergraduate courses. The university states that the idea that some colleges are easier to get into is a myth. Most courses are offered at all the colleges but not all.</p> <p>Oxford state on their website that they “pick the best and brightest students purely on their academic merit and passion for their chosen course”. In order to get an interview, your UCAS form needs to suggest that you will be able to achieve the grades needed, generally between A*A*A and AAA and can demonstrate a strong interest in the course. Extended Project Qualifications may help. Many courses require applicants to take a test or submit written work as part of the application process. Around 80% of applicants are asked to take a test as part of their application. Tutors review each UCAS application, along with any test or written work, and then decide on a shortlist of candidates who will be invited to interview.</p> <p>Detailed information is available on the courses and the percentages of applicants being offered interviews and places. Oxford invites circa 10,000 students to interview for 3,500 places. Where applications are around three per place, over 90% of applicants are shortlisted. For the most competitive degrees, where there may be as many as 10 applicants per place, this may be only 30%, to allow those who most closely meet the selection criteria to have multiple interviews. You will find out whether or not you have been shortlisted in late November or early December. If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to attend a particular college in December. The college will provide free accommodation and food while you are there. You will be interviewed by tutors and a decision will be made by mid-January.</p> <p>Application can be to a particular college or it can be an open application where the university chooses a college for you. Either way your application can be seen by more than one college and you may receive an offer from any of them.</p>	<p>There are 29 undergraduate colleges at Cambridge. An application, as with Oxford, may be to a specific college or may be open. If open, the application is allocated by computer to a specific college. As with Oxford you need to check whether your subject is available at a particular college.</p> <p>For 2017 entry, Cambridge is introducing a system of common format written assessments for applicants. Written assessments will be undertaken either pre-interview (see next page for detail ) or at-interview *, depending on the course applied for. They form part of a holistic assessment of applicants, rather than being a stand-alone mechanism for interview selection. Pre-interview assessments will be scheduled in early November, on the same day as the University of Oxford’s pre-interview tests.</p> <p>Around 80% of applicants to Cambridge are interviewed. Applicants who are invited to interview in Cambridge are normally interviewed in one College often on a single day. In some cases students are invited to travel to Cambridge the day before their interview and stay overnight in the College. A College may be impressed by a student’s application but be unable to make an offer because of the strength of the competition at that College. In this case the application will be placed in the ‘Winter Pool’ and perhaps picked up by another College, who will make the applicant an offer or may ask them to attend a second interview in January.</p> <p>*Courses with at-interview written assessment include:</p> <p>Archaeology, Architecture, Classics, Computer Science, Education, History of Art, Land Economy, Law, Linguistics, Modern and Medieval Languages, Philosophy. Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion. History and Modern Languages (pre-interview written assessment also required)</p> <p>A standard offer for Sciences at Cambridge is A*A*A* and a typical offer for Arts courses is A*AA. 1 in 5 applicants are made an offer.</p>

### 3. Competitive Courses – additional testing

The table below summarises the requirements to take additional tests as part of the application process in certain subjects. It is important that you do a number of practice tests. Details of how to access this practice material and advice on preparing for them follows in this section. You should also approach your A Level teacher/s in the relevant subject – they will either be able to help you themselves or suggest who will be able to do so.

ADDITIONAL TESTS REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN COURSES See separate sections for key dates		
Subject	Institution Requiring Test	Test Name
Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic	Cambridge	Cambridge test – Reading Comprehension (60 mins) and Critical Response to text (60 mins)
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies	Cambridge	Cambridge test – Reading Comprehension (60 mins) and Critical Response to text (60 mins)
Chemical Engineering	Cambridge	Cambridge test – Assessment in chosen route, either Natural Sciences or Engineering.
Chemistry	Cambridge	TSA Section 1
Classics	Oxford	CAT (Classics Admissions Test)
Economics	Cambridge	Cambridge test – Problem-solving/maths MCQs (80 mins) Essay (40 mins)
Engineering	Cambridge	Maths/Physics MCQs (80 mins) Engineering specific questions (40 mins)
English	Oxford and Cambridge	ELAT (English Literature Aptitude Test)
Geography	Cambridge	Cambridge test - TSA section and Comprehension (80 mins) Data response (40 mins)
History	Oxford	HAT (History Aptitude Test)
History	Cambridge	Cambridge test – Reading Comprehension (60 mins) and Critical Response to text (60 mins)
History and Economics	Cambridge	Thinking Skill Assessment (TSA section 1) and HAT
History and Modern Languages	Cambridge	Cambridge test – Comprehension (60 mins) and Essay/text Response (60 mins)

History and Politics	Cambridge	Cambridge test – Reading Comprehension (60 mins) and Critical Response to text (60 mins)
Human, Social and Political Sciences	Cambridge	Cambridge test – Reading Comprehension (60 mins) and Critical Response to text (60 mins)
Law	Birmingham, Bristol, Durham, Glasgow, Kings College, Nottingham, Oxford, SOAS, UCL	LNAT (National Admissions Test for Law)
Law	Most Cambridge colleges	Cambridge Law Test
Maths	Warwick (Encouraged at UCL, Kings, Imperial, Loughborough, Bristol, Bath)	STEP (Sixth Term Examination Paper)
Maths, Computer Science	Oxford, Imperial	MAT (Maths Aptitude Test)
Maths	Cambridge	75 minutes per section. Duration of test 2 ½ hours.
Medicine/ Dentistry	Many- see Appendix 3	UKCAT (UK Clinical Aptitude Test)
Medicine/ Dentistry/ Veterinary	BMAT is required at Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial, Royal Veterinary College and UCL <a href="http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/images/84608-courses-requiring-bmat-2013.pdf">www.admissionstestingservice.org/images/84608-courses-requiring-bmat-2013.pdf</a>	BMAT (Biomedical Admissions Test)
Modern Languages	Oxford	MLAT (Modern Languages Admissions Tests)
Natural Sciences	Cambridge	Cambridge test – Maths/science MCQs (80 mins), In depth science questions (40 mins)
Oriental Languages	Oxford	OLAT (Oriental Languages Aptitude Test)
Philosophy Theology	Oxford	Philosophy Test
Psychological and Behavioural Sciences	Cambridge	Cambridge Test – TSA section (40 mins), Maths/science MCQs (40 mins), Essay/text response element (40 mins)
Physics Engineering	Oxford	PAT (Physics Aptitude Test)
Theology, Religion and philosophy of Religion	Cambridge	At interview assessment
Various	Oxford, Cambridge, UCL- check individual institution/course	Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA)
Veterinary Medicine	Cambridge	Natural Science Admissions Assessment.

**Key 2017 dates for 2018 entry (Please note that this does not cover all university open days).**

**YOU NEED TO CHECK with your chosen institution for the test dates relevant to your course. The table below will give you an initial guide but dates are sometimes amended and it is essential you double check all dates directly with them.**

**Always check you will meet the individual course requirements with the exams you are taking and any additional requirements such as a specified number/ grade of GCSEs that are sometimes required by individual institutions. Check directly with the admissions service for your chosen institution/course before applying if you are in doubt about whether you will meet the requirements or not.**

Date	Process	Subject	Activity
April 2017 onwards	All	All	University Open Days – <a href="http://www.opendays.com">www.opendays.com</a>
April 2017	Cambridge	All	Book Open Day
2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2017	UKCAT	Medicine/ Dentistry	Registration Opens
Mid June 2017	UCAS	All	UCAS Apply opens
28 <sup>th</sup> June and 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Oxford	All	Oxford Open Days
6 <sup>th</sup> July and 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Cambridge	All	Cambridge Open Days
3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2017	UKCAT	Medicine/Dentistry	Testing Begins
July 2017	UCAS/ Marling	All	First Personal Statement Draft
1 <sup>st</sup> August 2017	LNAT	Law	Registration Begins
September	All	All	More University open days- see <a href="http://www.opendays.com">www.opendays.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> September 2017	LNAT	Law	Testing begins
1 <sup>st</sup> September 2017	PAT; ELAT; HAT;MAT; MLAT; CAT; OLAT; TSA(Oxford) Philosophy and Theology	Various	Candidates can enter
1 <sup>st</sup> September 2017	BMAT	Medicine/ Dentistry/	Candidates can enter

		Veterinary	
15 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Oxford	All	Oxford Open Day
19 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	UKCAT	Medicine/Dentistry	Registration and Bursary closes
1 <sup>st</sup> October 2017	BMAT	Medicine/ Dentistry/ Veterinary	Standard entry closes
3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2017	UKCAT	Medicine/Dentistry	Last testing date
15 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	Cambridge	Various	Registration deadline for Cambridge pre-interview assessments
15 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	UCAS	All Oxbridge and other Medical/ Dental/ Veterinary	UCAS application deadline
15 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	BMAT	Medicine/ Dentistry/ Veterinary	BMAT late deadline
20 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	LNAT	Law	Oxford deadline for test
2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2017	BMAT; PAT; ELAT; HAT;MAT; MLAT; CAT; OLAT; BMAT; TSA; Philosophy and Theology	Various	Testing
8 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	TMUA	Mathematics	Test date
24 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	BMAT	Medicine/ Dentistry/ Veterinary	Results released
29 <sup>th</sup> November	TMUA	Mathematics	Results released
November 2017	Oxbridge; Competitive courses preparation	Various	Mock Interviews and presentations (Marling)
December 2017	Oxbridge	Various	Interviews
15 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	ELAT, TSA	Various	Results

## Subject specific tests

As well as the more well-known tests described below, there are many specific set by institutions for particular courses: see [www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/entry-requirements/admissions-tests](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/entry-requirements/admissions-tests)

### Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science

#### Does it matter where I study?

Courses are offered at a range of institutions including both Russell Group universities and others. These courses are highly competitive at undergraduate level and selection is based upon testing and interview prior to any offer being made. You can assume that if you are admitted and qualify from one of these institutions you have met the rigorous standards applied in the profession. As one doctor put it “nobody asks you in the operating theatre which university you went to”. Please note that all courses have an early UCAS deadline of October 15<sup>th</sup>.

One of two tests must be completed.

**The UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT)** is used in the selection process by a consortium of UK University Medical and Dental Schools. A list of those institutions and courses requiring the test in 2017 is given in Appendix 3.

Having determined whether you will need to take a test, you need to consider factors including the following: the test centre location, whether you are eligible for a bursary. You must register between 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016, book a test and then take that test between the start date of 3<sup>rd</sup> July and the closing date of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 (for 2018 entry).

**The BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT)** is required for undergraduate entry to Medical, Veterinary and also some Biomedical Science courses at the following institutions:- University of Oxford, Royal Veterinary College, University College London and Imperial College London.

From November 2017, applicants wishing to study Veterinary Medicine at Cambridge will now need to take the Natural Science Admissions Assessment. Applicants are no longer required to take the BMAT.

The table below summarises information about the two tests (2017 dates).

	<b>UKCAT</b>	<b>BMAT – September Test (check BMAT website for universities accepting September test)</b>	<b>BMAT – November Test</b>
<b>Cost</b>	£65 (3 <sup>rd</sup> July – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2017) £80 (1 <sup>st</sup> September – 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2017)	£80	£45
<b>Registration Opens</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2017	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2017
<b>Registration Closes</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	18 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2017
<b>Deadline for Payment</b>	On booking	Online booking	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
<b>Test Date</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2017 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2017	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2017
<b>Results Date</b>	Same day as test	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2017

More information on the BMAT can be found at the following links:

Advice and Guidance

<http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/images/238518-bmat-preparation-guide.pdf>

Papers and resources

<http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/bmat/preparing-for-bmat/>

More information on the UKCAT can be found at the following links:

<https://www.ukcat.ac.uk/ukcat-test/ukcat-preparation/>

Advice and Guidance

<https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/ukcat/>

## Other useful information

### ***Medicine***

A copy of a short hand-out written by a Bristol doctor who also interviews for medical school is attached as Appendix 2.

A number of organisations offer courses, interview help etc. for aspiring medical students. Residential courses can be costly.

Medical schools are moving or have moved to the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) format where you spend seven minutes at eight different stations dealing with a separate task. It is essential to practice the appropriate interview scenario:

See for example:-

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2013/oct/07/interview-for-medical-school>

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-mds/courses/undergraduate/Medicine-and-Surgery-MBChB/web-info-interview-5-year-2015-16-v3.pdf>

### ***Veterinary***

Veterinary medicine may be studied at Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, London (the Royal Veterinary College) Nottingham and Surrey .

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons offers advice at

[www.rcvs.org.uk/education/i-want-to-be-a-vet/](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/education/i-want-to-be-a-vet/)

### ***Dentistry***

A list of dental schools is given in Appendix 4 and on the British Dental Association website

[www.bda.org/students/careers-education/dental-schools/school-contact-details](http://www.bda.org/students/careers-education/dental-schools/school-contact-details)

## Law

According to the National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT) website “LNAT was developed by a consortium of UK universities as a fair way to assess a candidate’s potential to study law at undergraduate level, regardless of their education or personal background. The LNAT is designed to be a test of aptitude, rather than educational achievement. The skills that candidates need to do well in the LNAT, are also the skills that they need to do well in legal education.”

Registration for the test starts on 1st August for the academic year in which you intend to submit your UCAS application. Testing starts on 1<sup>st</sup> September and the deadline for completion depends upon the University. For Oxford, it is October to tie in with the earlier UCAS deadline and for other universities January.

The **Cambridge Law Test** is used by most of the Cambridge colleges as part of their admissions process, complementing interviews and academic performance. Applicants who are called for interview will sit the test while in Cambridge for interview.

## Maths

**The Maths Aptitude Test (MAT)** has been developed by the University of Oxford and is also used by Imperial College. The test is set at test centres and the registration deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> October. The test is taken on 2<sup>nd</sup> November in Year 13.

The other Maths test (**Sixth Term Examination Paper- STEP**) is taken later with registration up to April and the test being taken in June.

**The Following admissions tests apply to Oxford University courses only and are taken at test centres (most tests can be taken at Marling School). Registration is from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and the test is taken on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.**

Physics/Engineering (PAT)

English (ELAT)

History (HAT)

Modern Languages (MLAT)

Classics (CAT)

Oriental Languages (OLAT)

Philosophy and Theology

**For more information and past papers take a look at the links below:**

Preparing for TSA

<http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/thinking-skills-assessment/tsa-oxford/preparing-for-tsa-oxford/>

<http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/thinking-skills-assessment/tsa-cambridge/preparing-for-tsa-cambridge/>

Preparing for the MAT

[http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/how\\_to\\_apply/MAT\\_test.html](http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/how_to_apply/MAT_test.html)

Preparing for STEP

<http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/step/preparing-for-step/>

Preparing for the HAT

<http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/history-aptitude-test-hat>

Preparing for the PAT

<http://www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduates/applications/physics-aptitude-test-pat>

Preparing for the ELAT

<http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/elat/preparing-for-elat/>

Preparing for the LNAT

<http://www.lnat.ac.uk/how-to-prepare/practice-test/>

**You must ensure that you have reviewed all listed content on the admissions test syllabus. Some of these topics may not be covered in class before your test date so you must check and seek assistance if required.**

## 4. Interviews

This section covers University interviews but much of the information applies equally well to job interview. The information to follow should be read in conjunction with the Next Steps Careers and University Guide. You can view a University interview as preparation for future job interviews.

The purpose and nature of interviews vary from course to course and institution to institution. For some courses (medicine, teaching, law, or institutions e.g. Oxbridge) it is a critical part of the selection process. For other courses, it is a form of marketing by the University and might be described as an “informal” interview. They want to get you to the University and treat you well so that you choose to go there. Sometimes the institution indicates that it is highly likely that you will be offered a place following the visit, but of course you still need to make a good impression. You will also get a feel for the institution.

Formal interviews are of course intended to find out about your reasons for wanting to study the particular course at the University and to test your ability to think and articulate your arguments.

### Preparing for Interview

Good preparation can help you with interviews. The following should be part of this:

- Re-reading your personal statement which explains why you are there in the first place
- Think about why you want to study the subject
- Practice answering common interview questions, both general and subject specific
- Practice thinking and talking at the same time!
- Read widely around the topic – note anything of relevance in the news
- Be prepared to describe yourself
- Prepare to explore your own responses with interviewers
- If you say you have read particular books in your application, your familiarity with them may be explored
- Arrange a practice interview

There are some great subject specific videos on YouTube and the University websites showing examples of both good and bad interview. Here are links to a few:

## Oxbridge Interviews

Interviews for Oxford and Cambridge are designed to assess your academic ability and your academic potential. Tutors are looking for an enthusiasm for your subject and a capacity to think independently and to engage with new ideas beyond the scope of your school syllabus. The interviewer is thinking, 'Do I want to teach this person?' They are checking for the limits of your knowledge and then to see how you react to new information.

Much of the teaching in Oxford and Cambridge colleges takes place in small classes (tutorials or supervisions), so the interview is designed to assess your ability to study, think and learn in this way. In many respects, your interview will be like a mini tutorial or supervision. The interviewers will be looking at how carefully you listen to questions, and how you attempt to answer them. The questions will be challenging and you may well find that you don't know the answer to some of them – that's because the tutors are trying to stretch you in order to assess your potential. They are not trying to catch you out and there is not necessarily a right or wrong answer: they are more interested in how you use what you already know and apply reason and logic to an idea you have not encountered before. Do not expect to get everything 'right' but think about how to react when you don't know the answer. Don't stick to your answer/argument 'no matter what'. Show you can listen, think, absorb information, calculate new information, ideas and respond.

Detailed advice and guidance on interviews for Oxford and Cambridge is available via the university websites:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/interviews?wssl=1>

<http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/interviews/what-do-interviews-involve>

There are many examples of subject specific video clips of mock interviews available on YouTube. Here are few links:

A Good Interview for Oxbridge Economics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzwxQ164FE0>

A Bad Interview for Oxbridge Economics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snol9dlz6Ds>

History Mock Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5Q4S0aKzOk>

MML Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDCbD1BSg0c>

Modern and Medieval Languages Mock Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUfxaLa1X2s>

Physics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpi6-23PTYg>

Chemistry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAfURiwmE2k>

Natural Science

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIM\\_OD1uR50](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIM_OD1uR50)

Engineering

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCY3qdog8yE>

Chemical Engineering

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PnWizvKvIw>

Law

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTMEwoTDJlg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSNjT-PirNE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nhmci9NhB6c>

### **The interview itself**

Think of it as a conversation and be yourself: the interviewers want you to act naturally. Don't imagine that they are trying to catch you out.

Do give yourself time to think about your answer rather than rushing in; if necessary clarify the question. Remember there may not be a right or wrong answer.

Do talk: if you say very little (due to fear of saying something wrong) you will disadvantage yourself against more forthright candidates.

If you find yourself delivering long answers, try to summarise what you have said at the end in a sentence or two rather than just tailing off.

Make sure you consider your body language. If you shuffle around, or fiddle with your hands it is off-putting for the interviewer. Make eye contact particularly with the person who has asked the question when you are answering it.

It is becoming more common for students to be interviewed in a group with other candidates. Make sure you prepare yourself for this possibility.

Be prepared to answer factual questions, comment on case studies, perform auditions, describe fieldwork/practical investigations/experiments etc. according to your chosen degree topic.

The more competitive the place, the more obscure/lateral the questions.

You won't be expected to have knowledge of the college, its history, famous alumni for example, but you should know why you've applied to that college.

## Appendix 1

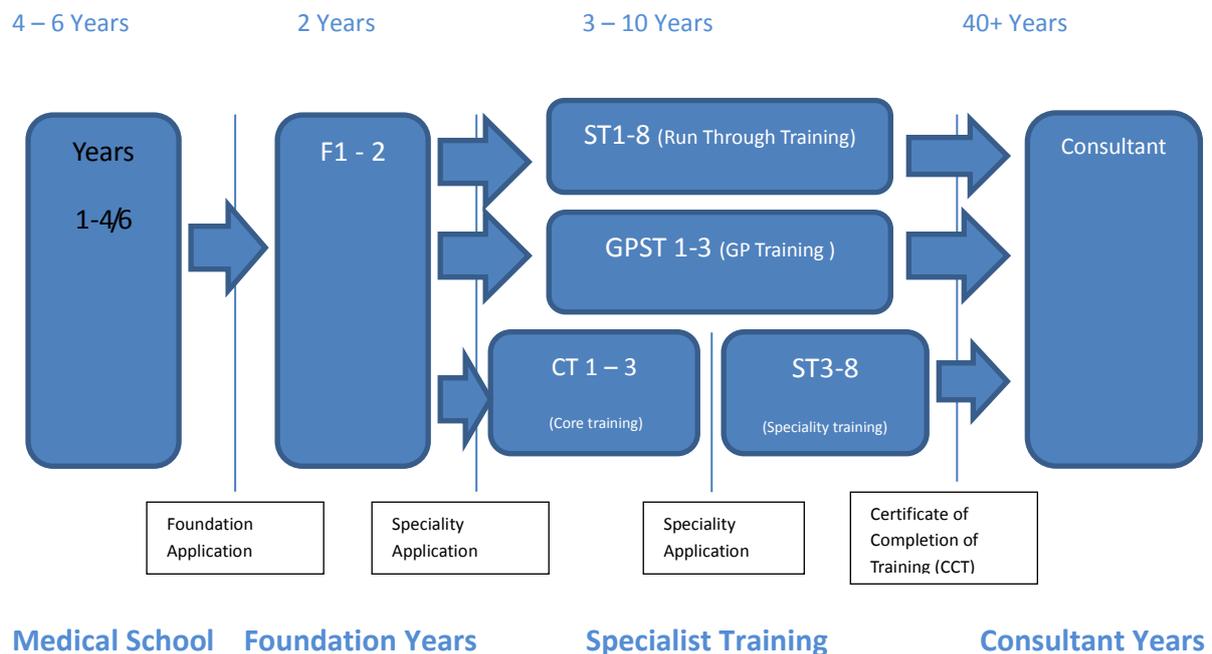
<b>Russell Group Members (alphabetical)</b> (Note- unlike Sutton Trust it includes Northern Ireland)	<b>Sutton Trust 30 (alphabetical)</b>
University of Birmingham University of Bristol University of Cambridge Cardiff University Durham University University of Edinburgh University of Exeter University of Glasgow Imperial College London King's College London University of Leeds University of Liverpool London School of Economics & Political Science University of Manchester Newcastle University University of Nottingham University of Oxford Queen Mary, University of London Queen's University Belfast University of Sheffield University of Southampton University College London University of Warwick University of York	University of Bath University of Birmingham University of Bristol University of Cambridge Cardiff University Durham University University of Edinburgh University of Exeter University of Glasgow Imperial College London King's College London Lancaster University University of Leeds University of Leicester University of Liverpool London School of Economics & Political Science University of Manchester Newcastle University University of Nottingham University of Oxford University of Reading Royal Holloway, University of London University of Sheffield University of Southampton University of St Andrews University of Strathclyde University of Surrey University College London University of Warwick University of York

## Appendix 2

# A Career In Medicine: Top Tips

Doctors are called upon at the most difficult times in peoples' lives – in times of pain, anguish and despair. They offer hope and comfort during these times because of their knowledge, experience and ability to communicate.

Some doctors love hammering nails into bones, some enjoy looking at cells under a microscope, and others find helping people cope with incurable illnesses very rewarding. You don't have to want to do all three to have a fulfilling career in medicine. However, there are certain attributes that are likely to make you a good doctor and, just as importantly, make you likely to enjoy this career. Medical schools have a clear idea of the type of people that they are looking for. They have a big responsibility, as the large majority of the candidates that they accept will go on to become doctors. As a result, the application process is tough and only the best candidates get offered places.



The Good	The Bad/Ugly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saving/changing lives</li> <li>• Well-respected</li> <li>• Financial and job security</li> <li>• Multiple career paths</li> <li>• Variety of patients</li> <li>• Develops leadership, communication, problem-solving, practical skills</li> <li>• Lifelong learning</li> <li>• Teaching junior colleagues</li> <li>• Technology/constant change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-pressure</li> <li>• Competitive at all levels</li> <li>• Long course</li> <li>• Financial commitment</li> <li>• Private work only as consultant</li> <li>• Cost-cutting/bad press</li> <li>• Lots of exams</li> <li>• Shift work/working nights</li> <li>• Lots of moving between hospitals/departments</li> </ul>

### **Getting In**

Medical schools are open about the type of students that they want, so if you go about it the right way, there's no reason why your application shouldn't stand out from the rest. With the right preparation you can dramatically improve your chances of being offered a place.

### **Work Experience (Diverse and on going)**

Contact your local hospital/GP surgery/careers advisor/ask family friends  
 Set up placements to experience different departments and specialties  
 Understand the roles of doctors at different levels of training/departments and nurses  
 Make sure medicine is for you  
 Make sure you have evidence of volunteer work

### **Where to Apply**

Think about where you want to spend the next 5 years (if not longer)  
 What are the hospitals in the area like?  
 What type of course is it?  
 Is there cadaveric anatomy teaching?  
 Is there any interesting research at the University/hospitals?  
 Are there strong sports teams/union groups/interests outside of work?  
 How big is the University? How big is the medical year?  
 Is it campus-based?  
 Is intercalation offered?

### **UCAS/Personal Statement (Submit it early)**

Make it personal, using examples to highlight how you possess the skills to become a doctor  
 Diverse work experience showing appreciation of different roles/specialties  
 On-going vocational work (e.g. work as an HCA, work in care facility)  
 Academic & extracurricular achievement

**Interview Questions (Practice, practice, practice)**

Why medicine?

Tell me about your work experience

Tell me about your interests outside of school

Tell me about an interesting medical journal/news story (get a copy of recent BMJs or student BMJs)

How long does it take to become a consultant?

What happens after you graduate?

What is the training structure for medicine/surgery/GP?

How do you deal with stress?

What is your main strength/weakness?

What is your unique selling point?

Why be a doctor, rather than a nurse/physio/volunteer?

What do you think you will bring to the medical school?

Why do you want to come to this medical school/University?

Tell me about the course structure at our medical school?

When and where do you undertake hospital placements in the course?

Give me an example of your leadership/communication skills

What do you know about "insert topical news story" (e.g. Mid Staffs)?

Ethical questions e.g. 'pros/cons of organ donation, parent refusing treatment of child etc'

[www.getmeintomedicalschool.com](http://www.getmeintomedicalschool.com)

**Features:**

- Online interview questions bank with explanations
- Interview Courses
- Mock Interviews
- Ultimate Guide to Applying Book

**MMIs**

Multi Mini Interviews (MMIs) are a type of interview used by an increasing number of Medical Schools, such as Cardiff, Lancaster and Keele. Instead of sitting opposite a panel of interviewers, you will take part in a series of exchanges that test your ability to make ethical judgments and solve problems.

MMI interviews consist of several short practical assessments, usually less than 10 minutes each. You'll be presented with a scenario before each mini interview, so you will have a bit of time to prepare an answer.

Then you'll either be asked a question by an interviewer, or have to engage in a role-play scenario with an actor whilst an interviewer watches.

Here are the key things you need to know about MMIs:

- MMI interviews will probably take about 2 hours
- Each mini interview will take no longer than 10 minutes

- Most universities will have around 10 MMI 'stations'

MMI interviews could take a variety of forms. It varies from university to university, but you might face some of the following:

- You will be presented with a set of instructions that describe a situation involving an ethical scenario, which you will then be asked to discuss or try and solve
- You will be given a scenario involving an actor — for example, you might have to break some bad news to them or gather specific information
- You may be given a task involving teamwork with other applicants
- There might be a station where you are asked a traditional interview question or given a reading comprehension exercise
- You are given a sheet of data and asked to provide analysis of it

### Example MMI Interview Scenarios

Example 1: An actor plays the role of your elderly neighbour. You have just accidentally run over your neighbour's cat whilst reversing your car. You have 5 minutes to break the bad news to her.

This role-play tests insight, integrity, communication skills and empathy.

Example 2: You are given details of 15 individuals, including their age, sex and occupation. A nuclear attack is imminent and you are only allowed to save 5 of them from destruction. Which ones and why?

A prioritisation exercise. The emphasis is on problem solving and rational thinking under pressure.

Example 3: Without using your hands, explain how to tie shoe laces.

Tests verbal communication skills, the ability to break down the task into a series of small steps and your ability to check that the listener is understanding what you are saying.

### Preparing for an MMI Interview?

MMI interviews can be daunting, especially for students who are used to working hard for exams and traditional interviews.

The right kind of preparation will make all the difference. We've put together a list of things you can do to make sure that you shine at interview:

- Know what to expect. Find out everything you can about the MMI process at the Medical School at which you are interviewing.
- Use your work experience. Lean on the experience and use specific examples when giving a response.
- Make sure you understand key ethical concepts relating to medicine, like the 4 pillars and patient confidentiality.

- Know what it takes to be a good doctor. Make a list of qualities and practice demonstrating them in your responses.
- Keep up to date with medical news. Questions may be inspired by stories or debates in the media.
- Practice giving 8-minute presentations in response to common MMI questions. This will help with time management on the day.

<https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/medical-school-interview/mmi-interviews/>

## Appendix 3

## UKCAT Universities

<http://www.ukcat.ac.uk/about-the-test/who-should-take-the-test/>

University	UCAS Course Code
University of Aberdeen	A100, A201
University of Birmingham	A100, A200
University of Bristol	A100, A108, A206, A208
Cardiff University	A100, A101, A104, A200, A204
University of Dundee	A100, A104, A200, A204
University of East Anglia	A100, A104
University of Edinburgh	A100
University of Exeter	A100
University of Glasgow	A100, A200
Hull York Medical School	A100
Keele University	A100, A104
King's College London	A100, A101, A102, A202, A205, A206
University of Leicester	A100, A199
University of Liverpool	A100, A200, A201
University of Manchester	A104, A106, A204, A206, B840
University of Newcastle	A100, A101, A206
University of Nottingham	A100, A108
Plymouth University	A100, A206
Queen Mary, University of London	A100, A101, A110, A200, B960
Queen's University Belfast	A100, A200
University of Sheffield	A100, A200
University of Southampton	A100, A101, A102
University of St Andrews	A100, A990
St George's, University of London	A100, A900
University of Warwick	A101

## Appendix 4

# UK Dental Schools

### **Belfast**

The Queen's University of Belfast, School of Dentistry, Grosvenor Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT12 6BP

Tel: 02890 632 733

Website: [www.gub.ac.uk](http://www.gub.ac.uk)

### **Birmingham**

School of Dentistry, St. Chad's Queensway, Birmingham B4 6NN

Tel: 0121 237 2761

Website: [www.dentistry.bham.ac.uk](http://www.dentistry.bham.ac.uk)

### **Bristol**

Dental School, University of Bristol, Lower Maudlin Street, Bristol BS1 2LY

Tel: 0117 928 9000

Website: [www.dentalschool.bristol.ac.uk](http://www.dentalschool.bristol.ac.uk)

### **Cardiff**

Wales College of Medicine, Dental School, Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 4XY

Tel: 02920 742469

Web: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/dentistry](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/dentistry)

### **Dundee**

University of Dundee, Dental School, Park Place, Dundee DD1 4HN

Tel: 01382 635976/7

Website: [www.dundee.ac.uk/dentalschool](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/dentalschool)

### **Glasgow**

University of Glasgow, Glasgow Dental School, 378 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3JZ

Tel: 0141 211 9600

Website: [www.gla.ac.uk/schools/dental/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/dental/)

### **Leeds**

School of Dentistry, Leeds Dental Institute, Clarendon Way, Leeds, LS2 9LU

Tel: 0113 343 6420

Website: [www.leeds.ac.uk/dental](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/dental)

### **Liverpool**

School of Dental Surgery, University of Liverpool, PO Box 147, Pembroke Place, Liverpool L3 5PS

Tel: 0151 706 5298

Website: [www.liv.ac.uk/luds](http://www.liv.ac.uk/luds)

### **London King's College**

King's College Dental Institute, Floor 18, Guy's Tower, Guy's Hospital, London SE1 9RT

Tel: 020 7188 1164

Website: [www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/dentistry](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/dentistry)

### **London Barts and the London**

Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry, Turner Street, London E1 2AD

Tel: 020 7882 2240/2243

Website: [www.mds.qmul.ac.uk/dental](http://www.mds.qmul.ac.uk/dental)

### **Manchester**

School of Dentistry, The University of Manchester, JR Moore Building, Manchester M13 9PL

Tel: 0161 306 0231

Website: [www.dentistry.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.dentistry.manchester.ac.uk)

### **Newcastle**

School of Dental Sciences, University of Newcastle, Framlington Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4BW

Tel: 0191 208 8347

Website: [www.newcastle.ac.uk/dental](http://www.newcastle.ac.uk/dental)

### **Sheffield**

School of Clinical Dentistry, University of Sheffield, Claremont Crescent

Sheffield S10 2TA

Tel: 0114 271 7801

Website: [www.sheffield.ac.uk/dentalschool](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/dentalschool)

### **Plymouth**

Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry

Peninsula Dental School Education Facilities

Damerel Close

Madden Road

PL1 4JZ

Tel: 0161 306 0220

Website: [www.plymouth.ac.uk/schools/peninsula-school-of-dentistry](http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/schools/peninsula-school-of-dentistry)

## Appendix 5

**Further examples, of interview questions. Note that these are examples of past questions and may not refer to current events but give a flavour of the kind of questions you may be asked.**

### General Questions

Employers/academics always bemoan candidates' lack of specific knowledge about their institutions, particularly because this information is so easy to discover.

Why this University?

What attracted you to this course or department?

Have you researched different options?

How did you research your choices?

How do we differ from... (University)?

What is the value of ... (subject)?

Why should we offer you a place?

What will you do if you are not offered the place?

What extra value could you offer the University?

What 3 skills will you bring to us?

What training could/should we offer you?

Where have you gained information about this course?

Have you visited this University before?

What are your current salary expectations?

What do you consider to be the long-term financial implications of your course?

Have you considered sponsorship?

If you were not enjoying your course at the end of your first month, what would you do?

What work experience do you have? How was it arranged?

What kind of work do you enjoy most?

What will you find most challenging about this course?

Which A level subjects do/did you enjoy most?

Which A Level subjects do/did you enjoy least?

What have you studied most recently, in ... (subject)?

How confident are you of achieving your required A level grades/a good honours degree?

How do your A levels complement your intended degree choices?

How does your degree relate to your career aspirations?

Has your school/University/first job lived up to your expectations?

Do you have any plans for a gap year?

How would a gap year benefit you?

What similarities are there between school and University?

How do you expect school and University to differ?

What qualities make a good student?

How will being a student/employee benefit you?

What career do you have in mind?

Why do you think you will be successful this time?

How could we improve our Open Days/Website/Brochures?

### **Art / Design / Fashion / History of Art**

(Bring your portfolio to discuss at the interview: occasionally you might be asked to complete a drawing task)

Why have you chosen a Foundation course?

Did you prefer working in 2D or 3D?

Do you consider yourself an artist?

Who/what inspires your work?

Are you willing to experiment?

Are you able to take advice?

How would you redesign the casing for a PC?

How does your 'A' Level work match your chosen option?

Is computer animation going to kill off the model-maker?

What are the current trends in Art/Design/Fashion?

Which galleries or exhibitions or collections have you seen recently?

How would you compare the Tate Modern and the British Museum?

Modern Art, Tate Modern, Modern Tat?

Discuss the décor of this room.

What are the relationships between perception and creativity, and between vision and photography?

'Immoral to the core' is this a valid criticism of antique collectors?

Are you broadminded? What are your views on shock art?

What opportunities exist abroad for artists and designers?

### **Biochemistry / Biological Sciences / Genetics**

'It is life but not as we know it.' Is mankind being reshaped?

Describe the structures of a cell of your choice. How do animal cells differ from human ones?

Why is research becoming more human and biochemical?

What are the effects of the 'Human Genome Project'?

All hail the ant! Why!

How far should regenerative medicine go?

What are your views on genetic engineering? What are the acceptable and unacceptable uses?

How might the public be allowed to make an educational decision on genetically modified foods?

How has our understanding of the gene changed since Darwinian times?

What are the benefits of sunlight?

### **Business Management / Economics and Finance / E-Business**

Can you explain the success of the internet in Business?

What are e-trading platforms?

Can you explain EDI/XML communications?

How have events in Japan and the Far East affected British businesses?

'A single currency should not be considered for 10 years. Discuss!

Within the new single currency, would it be feasible for different countries to set different interest rates?

How does a government drag a country out of a recession?

What are invisible exports?

What is a cash-flow system?

What criteria should be used to gauge a fair pay rise level?

What are the qualities a good manager needs?

How might you save an ailing firm?

Should reducing inflation be a major goal for a government?

Should a government subsidise agriculture?

The Port of Antwerp: How do you think this might be an ideal Business Studies case study?

Business parks and superstores devastated town centre trade, but will 'online' shopping condemn them in turn?

With rising living standards, falling unemployment and low inflation, have we ever had it so good?

How close are we to another 'Black Wednesday'?

Is the study of economics an art, or a science?

How would you solve unemployment?

Discuss Keynesian economics.

What are the main branches of accountancy?

What makes a successful accountant?

Can you relate economic concepts to everyday life?

What business plan would you have to revive an ailing dot.com?

What are the common causes of business failure?

How do you explain the collapse of Pension shares?

Do women or ethnic minorities face a 'glass ceiling' in business?

Do businesses and companies have a social responsibility to their local community?

Do ethics ever play a part in business decisions?

How do you view the last budget/mini-budget?

## **Chemistry**

How helpful is the periodic table?

What is the difference between metal and non-metal pollution?

What is an enzyme?

Describe the most challenging practical you have been involved in?

How would you test a sample from a river that has turned blue?

## Classics

Who do you admire most: the Athenians, Spartans, Alexandrians or Romans? Why?

What strikes you most about the ancient world?

The ancient myths: the first soap operas?

Is Virgil merely Homer in disguise?

Classics: Dead languages with no relevance to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century ahead?

Is literature in translation worth the paper it is printed on?

How can Latin or Greek help you?

Is Aristophanes a suitable 6<sup>th</sup> Form read? How far is it influenced by tragedy?

## Computer Science

What use are computers?

What opportunities are there left on the internet?

Has the net had its day?

What will happen when all current domain names are filled?

How can we police the internet? Should ISPs be accountable?

Has the internet increased, or decreased human relationships?

If Microsoft can be hacked into, should we worry about the whole PC network?

Do you envisage computer viruses ever meeting their match?

What steps can the individual take to avoid computer viruses?

Will digital TV kill off the PC?

Can computers continue to halve in size, yet double their speed?

Can machines think?

What experience of programming do you have?

Are cyber nerds ever needed?

What major developments do you see in the future of the PC?

**Dentistry**

How dangerous are Mercury amalgam fillings?

Should fluoride be added to the water supply?

How are dentists paid?

What makes a good dentist?

What would you do to the NHS with one million pounds?

Why are dentists leaving the NHS?

Are you dextrous? What proof do you have?

What causes tooth decay?

What are prosthetics, periodontics and orthodontics?

How would you prevent dental disease in young children?

**Engineering**

Explain the various forms of engineering available. What work is entailed in these disciplines?

Is this the type of work you envisage after graduating?

What steps have you taken to arrange receipt of a bursary or scholarship?

What is the tail-plane on an aeroplane for?

Explain the purpose and design of a flying buttress.

Would a driver, transporting a cargo of birds, pass safely over a bridge when 10 kilograms over its weight limit, if he beat the side of his lorry with a stick?

What can you say about elasticity?

What practical engineering experience have you had?

How are Mathematics and Physics applicable?

**English /Drama (NB Audition possible)**

What do you read in your spare time?

Where does your love of literature stem from?

What is your favourite book / play / character / emotion / author / genre?

Who/what do you most look forward to studying in greater depth at University?

Is a great novelist a great teacher?

Are the soaps as prestigious as Shakespeare?

How relevant to our society are the 'Classic Texts'?

How can poetry entice you?

Who currently holds the Booker Prize? How much credence should be given to this and other awards?

Do the Arts matter?

What is the value of poetry?

Which modern authors will last?

What value does the theatre hold?

Which author or poet would you choose to inspire a younger student?

Which character have you most enjoyed playing?

Are song lyrics the poetry of the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

Would you want to be Poet Laureate?

### **Environmental Sciences**

What potential environmental issues do you notice on your daily journey?

In a world of pesticides and genetically modified food, is anything safe to eat?

Is it too late for environmentalists to save the planet?

What is the solution of pollution?

Are you a doer, or a thinker?

What is the most environmentally prudent method to dispose of our rubbish and chemical waste?

Are bypasses and relief roads a breath of fresh air?

### **Geography**

Can humans influence climate?

'Floody hell' how can we protect Britain and the rest of the world from the climate's ravages?

What problems lie in predicting climate change?

What happens if rural and urban policies are separated?

What fieldwork have you done?

Do you like Human Geography, or Physical Geography best? Why?

Are there any other stories of geographical interest in the news at the moment?

Explain today's weather in simple meteorological terms.

What interests you locally?

### **Geology (sometime a map is used)**

Describe the earth's structure.

What causes volcanoes?

What is your local geology?

What fieldwork have you done?

How would you determine the age of this sample ... e.g. a rock?

### **History and Archaeology**

What have we learnt from the past?

Does historical fact exist?

How do power and authority or patriotism and nationalism differ?

What is the relevance of history in modern society?

What makes history – men or movements?

Which historical figure best matches you own character?

When was the monarchy at its strongest?

Give an example of Imperialism?

### **Law (prepare for a case study, aptitude test or written exercise.)**

Is entrapment just?

What impact will the Human Rights Act have on our legal system?

Why have you chosen to train as a solicitor rather than a barrister?

What lessons have been learnt from the death of Stephen Lawrence?

Do you feel qualified to represent someone from a different community?

Why might solicitors shun legal aid work?

What challenges will the legal profession face in the next 3 years?

What legal cases have you read about recently?

How would you prosecute a cyber-squatter?

Should a defendant have a right to silence until guilt is proven?

How do you view petitions for 'Sarah's Law'?

How realistic do you feel televised crime dramas are?

What do you know about ... e.g. 'common / corporate' law?

What areas will you study in your training?

How do you expect your training to progress?

Would you be able to defend someone you knew to be guilty?

Should prostitution be a criminal offence?

What are your views on the legalisation of cannabis?

Have you ever broken a law? Is breaking a rule different?

Do intention and foresight differ?

Do you feel racism, misogyny and homophobia exist in the police force?

Comment on current developments in international law.

Should adoption be open to gay couples?

How would you define negligence?

Which branch interests you most?

Does a pupillage seem attractive?

How could we solve prison overcrowding?

Have you visited the courts? What did you see?

If you could change any law, which one would it be?

### **Marketing / Advertising (NB creative element to interview)**

What is the difference between marketing and selling?

How strong is the power of advertising?

Is advertising fair? Is sales pressure justified?

'Anything, anytime, anywhere!' Is this an accurate reflection of modern marketing?

How would you advertise internet banking?

What campaign would you use to produce a new chocolate bar?

How relevant are the 4 Ps (price, product, promotion and placement)?

How do the 3 Cs (customer, company and competition) affect you?

Could you advertise a product you knew to be inferior?

How would you promote the involvement of women in Science and Engineering?

Are we too easily offended by advertising? (Use a relevant example to enhance your case.)

How does image affect profitability?

### **Mathematics**

'Forget music. Forget fashion. Advanced mathematics is where it's at and Britain is leading the world.' Discuss!

Is Mathematics a language or science?

How have you read round your subject?

Name a famous mathematician? How did they gain their reputation?

Do mathematicians make the best chess players?

### **Media / Journalism**

How will newspapers survive the threat of the new media?

Do we create heroes so that we can knock them down again?

Is the PCC (Press Complaints Committee) a 'toothless tiger'?

Digital TV: an immoral development?

'Calamity Corporation': is this a fair description of the BBC? Do the licence payers deserve more?

Can journalists/reporters afford to have a conscience or be sensitive?

'Nail the bastard!' Was this a responsible front-page headline?

Are tabloid journalists less intelligent than those working for the broadsheets?

Compare 2 films you have seen recently? Does analysis spoil your enjoyment of them?

Outline the differences between the media in Britain and another country of your choice?

Outline a typical journalist's day

'All game-shows and repeats': is this an accurate reflection on Sky's services

What does the freedom of information bill mean for Journalism?

How do the main national dailies differ?

Explain the success of Coronation Street and the Archers?

### **Medicine and Related Areas – (Nursing / Pharmacy / Physiotherapy)**

Why are you applying to be a doctor and not a scientist?

After you qualify, what stages of training will await you? How long will each be?

What opinion of old people do you have?

Will it be another winter of discontent in the hospitals?

Why do you want to be a doctor rather than a physio?

How helpful/worrying is the spread of health websites?

How safe are long-haul flights? What dangers come from constricted space?

What risk/benefits are there in reducing the Medical degree by a year?

How do you see the role of the GP developing?

Are consultants the scourge of the NHS, or its linchpins?

Should a patient's partner/immediate family have the right to know their condition?

How safe are over-the-counter cold and flu remedies?

Is there a cure for rheumatoid arthritis?

What do you know about the NHS?

Why do you want to become a doctor rather than a nurse?

Do any of your family work in the NHS? What advice have they given you?

Should a doctor fear litigation?

Would you treat a patient suffering with Ebola?

Should doctors ask for consent before testing for AIDS?

What characteristics does a good doctor/dentist/optician/nurse/physiotherapist etc. have?

Should doctors be allowed to strike?

What would your friends say were your character strengths?

What are your views on private medicine?

Is screening viewed with suspicion?

What is the most important medical advance of the last 3 decades?

Explain the government's current health policy?

Who is the current Health Secretary? If you were stuck in a lift with them, what issues would you raise?

Suppose 4 patients have end-stage kidney failure: a 26 year old mother with 3 children, a 49 year old woman caring for her elderly mother who has been paralysed since a stroke 2 years ago, an 18 year old History Student and a 22 year old man with severe learning difficulties. If you only had 1 kidney for transplantation and 1 dialysis machine, how would you allocate them?

How demanding do you feel your training will be?

What factors would influence your choice of drug to prescribe to a patient?

Are pharmaceutical companies altruistic?

What are your views regarding euthanasia?

What is primary care?

Does NICE have a valid role? Is its cost justifiable?

What would an aspirin tablet consist of?

Would you prescribe Relenza, Ritalin or Viagra?

Where do you feel medical research should be funded?

What are the causes of .....?

What is ... e.g. amniocentesis, and ECG etc.?

Should animals be used in research?

Do nurses deserve a pay rise?

'Casualty': a reality or fiction?

How valuable is homeopathic/alternative medicine? Is it a case of con or cure?

How will Integra benefit burn victims?

Are all vaccinations safe?

Are locums and/or newly qualified doctors safe?

### **Modern Languages**

How do you best learn a foreign language?

How will your language work be of benefit in the future?

What opportunities have you found regarding travel abroad?

What exchange programmes have you been involved with?

What foreign newspapers or magazines do you read?

What issue in France/Germany interests you most?

Which foreign language have you always wanted to learn?

### **Music (Very often an audition)**

Which is the more therapeutic? Playing music, or listening to it?

Is 'pop' necessary to liven up music lessons?

The most censored of all art forms?

Does music match, or create moods?

What are you studying at the moment?

How is music just like poetry?

How closely linked are ambient and classical music?

Pick one composer, and explain the influence they have had over their audience?

Do you like competition/public performance?

Are popular performers of classical music a step in the right direction?

### **Oceanography**

How can this study be of relevance to mainland Britain?

What has influenced your interest and what qualities are necessary for success in this field?

What environmental issues irk you?

Is Oceanography a political discipline?

Explain your practical involvement?

### **Optometry**

What advances have been made over the last 5 years?

How would you create perfect vision?

What would be the typical eyesight difficulties of an 8 year old girl, 20 year old student and 45 year old factory worker?

### **Philosophy**

What background reading have you done for your degree choice? Who is your favourite philosopher? Why?

What is your utopia?

Do you control your future?

Imagine a car's brakes have failed: the driver sees a pedestrian crossing ahead with 10 people going across the road. He can divert to a side road where a workman is working. If he chooses the latter and kills the workman, would the driver be guilty of murder?

What is the difference between knowledge and belief?

Are being tactless and insensitive the same?

### **Physics**

What do you plan to do after graduating? Does research appeal?

How able a mathematician are you?

What research material have you read? Where do you see Physics being applied in daily life?

Comment on the discovery of the tau-neutrino.

How can computers help your study of Physics?

What has the Institute of Physics offered you?

### **Planning / Surveying**

Is it possible or wise to build on flood plains?

What equipment will a surveyor use in his/her daily business?

Does bureaucracy help or hinder the planner?

### **Politics**

How relevant is a politician's background/private life? When does hypocrisy matter?

Do governments have an obligation to consider the welfare of all their citizens?

Is the House of Lords still valid?

Define 'capitalism'.

Do we still have 3 major political parties? What do you predict their manifestoes will include?

What is a political decision?

Would you enjoy the role of spin doctor?

'Whoever is in power, the Civil Service runs Britain.' Discuss!

Is socialism dead? Are Labour plain-clothed Tories?

Why don't democracies fight against one another?

Should our monarchy give way for a republic?

### **Psychology**

Is it possible to form an impression of a criminal from the form of the crime?

Are IQ tests reliable?

What have you read about Psychology?

What stereotypes exist? How?

Do prior expectations of a test's results matter?

Which type of Psychology interests you most: child, behavioural, clinical, occupational, educational or criminal and why?

How should aggression in children be handled?

### **Radiography**

What has impressed/depressed you most about your experience of radiography departments?

### **Religious Studies**

What is meant by 'self' in Buddhism?

What is the perfect creed?

Do you have any strong religious convictions?

Do you envisage your beliefs being changed by the end of the course?

'A world without religion would be a world without war'. Discuss.

### **Science (General)**

What is the most important scientific fact you know?

Why do scientists carry out experiments?

What do you do when results do not coincide with what you were expecting?

Is Science cumulative?

Should Science be left to scientists?

Can hydrogen ever replace fossil fuels?

How does making a scientific discovery compare with creating a poem or novel?

What challenges await Science in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

### **Sociology**

Will the state provide for you as a pensioner?

In France, the poor have been offered a free holiday in August where resorts/sites have spaces. Should those on benefit in Britain receive a similar right to leisure? Or is our unjust society allowing them to fall further behind?

How can we justify the feeling of relief when disaster has fallen upon others?

Does the welfare state provide sufficient help?

How can we solve the issues of housing the homeless and asylum-seekers?

How do you view older people and disabled people?

Can Human Rights be the death of you?

‘Children need to be more active, digging in the dirt or interacting with puzzles or humans.’  
Discuss.

What is the most traumatic experience you have had?

Which Law would you change to make our world a better place?

### **Speech Therapy**

Have you visited a speech therapy clinic?

How is the violin being used to help patients with speech disorders?

What type of speech problems are there?

What makes a good speech therapist?

### **Sports Science**

Does listening to the right music enhance an athlete’s performance?

Creatine and similar performances enhancing chemicals: essential or killers?

Football: a game for overpaid thugs, increasingly watched by the moneyed masses?

Has professionalism killed the spirit of rugby and do you see the 2 codes combining?

Does a healthy body produce a healthy mind?

Is sledging now part of any game, at any level?

Have the Athletics Authorities’ drugs testing methods lost all creditability?

### **Teaching**

Is ‘Performance Related Pay’ possible?

What makes a good teacher?

What is important in the teaching of infants?

Does the state system hold children back?

Should teachers ever strike?

Name a popular children’s author. Why are they successful?

How would you cope with slow learners? Is streaming right?

Which subjects would you offer? What is the National Curriculum?

What are your opinions about independent education?

Is one teacher ever worth more at recruitment level than another?

Which teaching age group appeals to you most? Why?

Why do people never forget their school days?

What is your favourite school memory?

Would you teach adults?

Should boys and girls be taught separately?

Should teachers have the right to strike?

Are teachers or police more important to society?

### **Veterinary Science**

What was your best/worst experience on work experience?

What are your views on vivisection?

Should there be a vet NHS?

What is the greatest breakthrough in treatment of animals of the last decade?

Should quarantine laws have been relaxed? Should pets have passports?

What are your views on intensive factory farming?

Can you justify money spent training you to be a vet? Shouldn't this money be used for research into the causes of human illness?

What are your views on the BSE problem and European attitudes to BSE?

Are you a vegetarian?

What types of operation have you seen?

What will you do if you don't receive any offers?

What are currently the key animal welfare issues?

Is there a poultry scandal to come?

### **Over to you ...**

Always have some interesting questions to ask but avoid ones answered online or in a brochure/prospectus. Use questions to demonstrate your skills.

Consider two stages to your questions: seduce and impress with your insight, before asking something challenging. You might try an academic question which you half know the answer to.

How many new students will you take?

What new resources do you hope to have? (e.g. lecture, theatres, labs, libraries)?

Why should I study here?

What pastoral care system do you adopt?

Do all new first year students receive automatic accommodation?

How do the locals react to the students?

What rating did the Department/University receive most recently?

What businesses link do you have?

Which employers rate this course/University?

## Appendix 6

**UNIVERSITY INTERVIEW FEEDBACK FORM**

Please complete this form after you have attended an interview at University.  
Your feedback is very important in helping us advise future applicants.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 State the Institution and course you have applied to.

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

College (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Course \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Interview \_\_\_\_\_

2. A) Were you required to send off any work?  
If yes give details

Yes	No
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- B) Was your submitted work discussed as part of the interview?  
If yes, give details

Yes	No
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3. How many interviews did you have and what duration? Give the names of the interviewers if you remember them.

4. Were you required to sit any tests or review any articles prior to the interview? If yes give details

Yes	No
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5. Did the interviewer raise issues from your personal statement?  
If yes give details

Yes	No
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6. If you applied for deferred entry (GAP year) – how did the interviewer respond to this?

7. What were the main questions or subject areas discussed at your interview?

8. What advice would you give candidates applying for the future?

9. Was your application successful?  
What offer were you made?

Yes	No
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